

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 16:13-16**.
Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints), that you also be in subjection to such men and to everyone who helps in the work and labors.
- B. A dictionary definition of "addicted" is *to give oneself up to someone or something*.
- C. There are many things which we are addicted to:
 - 1. Food - to an excess this is not good.
 - 2. Recreational activities - to an excess this is not good.
 - 3. Television, radio, books, movies - to an excess not good.
 - 4. Coffee - the non-carcinogen caffeine.
 - 5. Alcohol - mainly for the calories (light beer is a joke).
 - 6. Cigarettes and tobacco products - a carcinogen (nicotine).
 - 7. Illegal drugs - and their abuse to the body.
 - 8. Some legal drugs, cold remedies, even *Roloids*.
 - 9. The "coffee/sleeping pill" syndrome.
- D. But in the case of 1Cor. 16:15 the word "addicted" is used in a good way. These Xians were addicted to doing good.

I. TWO ADVANTAGES OF BEING ADDICTED.

- A. We are to be addicted to X. We are to give ourselves up to do His will and let him rule in our lives (Lk. 9:23; Col. 3:15).
(Lk 9:23) And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."
(Col 3:15) And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.
- B. Paul addicted himself to X, when he said that he crucified his ego (Gal. 2:20).
"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."
- C. First, this addiction caused them to do something. We who are addicted to a particular lifestyle will do something each day according to that life style. In this case it caused the gospel to be preached and the ministering to others (1Cor. 16:15).
Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints),
- D. Some examples of this kind of addiction might be;
 - 1. Ever heard someone singing a hymn and feel the urge to sing along?
 - 2. Ever been in a secular setting before a meal and feel uneasy when no prayer was said?
 - 3. Ever feel uneasy when you cannot make services due to illness or bad weather?
- E. Second, this addiction caused them to have a sense of responsibility.
They were ones who volunteered their services, and did not wait for someone else to go do it. They were "first fruits" (1Cor. 16:15).
Now I urge you, brethren (you know the household of Stephanas, that they were the first fruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves for ministry to the saints),
- F. Some examples of this kind of addiction might be;
 - 1. When a need arises some will always volunteer their services.
 - 2. Have you ever been so concerned about something being done at work or in the church you volunteered the program as well as the services to carry it out?

- G. If one does not feel any remorse about not doing what is right, or pushed by their own desire could it be this person is not addicted? The first Xians were addicted (Ac. 2:42).
And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

II. EXAMPLES OF THOSE WHO WERE ADDICTED.

- A. Here are some examples of those who devoted or addicted themselves in doing good:
1. Isaiah volunteered his services, "Here am I. Send me!" (Isa. 6:8).
Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"
 2. Nehemiah prayed that he would be successful in his mission (Neh. 1:10,11).
"And they are Thy servants and Thy people whom Thou didst redeem by Thy great power and by Thy strong hand. "O Lord, I beseech Thee, may Thine ear be attentive to the prayer of Thy servant and the prayer of Thy servants who delight to revere Thy name, and make Thy servant successful today, and grant him compassion before this man." Now I was the cupbearer to the king.
 3. David, a man after God's own heart, was addicted to doing right.
 4. The good Samaritan was devoted to caring and sharing with those in need (Lk. 10:33).
"But a certain Samaritan, who was on a journey, came upon him; and when he saw him, he felt compassion,...
 5. The poor widow won her case, even against the judge's better judgment, due to being addicted (persistent) to the cause (Lk. 18:2-5).
...saying, "There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God, and did not respect man. "And there was a widow in that city, and she kept coming to him, saying, 'Give me legal protection from my opponent.' "And for a while he was unwilling; but afterward he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow bothers me, I will give her legal protection, lest by continually coming she wear me out.'"
 6. Barnabas was a man full of the HS and faith (Ac. 11:24).
...for he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The point of this lesson is simple, we are people can become addicted to something or even addicted to many things.
- B. What are you addicted to? And you addicted to the work of JC?
- C. Some habits are good and should be cultivated to a strong addiction. Other habits are bad and the addiction should be broken.
- D. Our plea is that you will follow the examples of those just mentioned and those spoken of in 1Cor. 16:15 and be addicted to the work of X.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.