

# A Useful Servant

Acts 20:24

## Introduction

In our text, we find the Apostle Paul in transition. He is leaving the mission field. He is headed to Jerusalem, bearing the love offerings collected from various gentile churches for discomfited saints in Jerusalem. As Paul travels, he stops in Miletus, where he calls together church leaders from throughout the area, from even as far away as Ephesus. Our text is literally a part of his farewell speech to these church leaders.

## ETS

Paul was a useful servant.

## ESS

You and I should be useful servants.

## PQ

What does being a useful servant require of us?

## UW

Things

## TS

I believe that our text bears at least three things that are absolutely essential if one is to be a useful servant. Pray with me, as we discover these three things.

## Body

- I. The first thing being a useful servant requires of us is **“NO WORRY.”**
  - A. Paul said, “none of these things move me...” (In other words, Paul is saying, “I am not worried.” A more literal translation of the text would actually read, “None of the things *they are saying* move me.” Well, what was being said? Paul had been told repeatedly that he would suffer greatly in Jerusalem. Yet, he says, “...None of these things move me.)
  - B. I’m afraid that far too many church folk today are worried about too much.
  - C. Worry is awful sin.
- II. The next thing being a useful servant requires of us is **“NO FEAR.”**
  - A. Paul said, “...neither am I afraid for my life...” (In other words, Paul is saying, “I am not scarred.” Now, it must be realized that Paul knew his life was in serious danger, for he knew the kinds of people he was dealing

with. You see, he, himself, had been one of those kinds of people. Yet, Paul declared, “I am not scarred.”)

- B. I’m afraid that there are far too many scary church folk today.
- C. It has been accurately said, “God can’t use no coward soldier.”

III. The final thing our text offers those of us who would be useful servants is “**A Great Desire.**”

- A. Actually, the fact that Paul had no worry and no fear was born out of the fact that he had a great desire to be used of the Lord. (Notice, the word, “**SO.**” It literally means, **in order that.**)
- B. Paul’s desire was twofold.
  - 1) First, he desired to accomplish his assignment. Did you know that you have an assignment? God saved you to serve.
  - 2) Paul also desired to do his assignment with joy! Do you have joy?
- C. What, exactly, did Paul desire to do? I am glad you asked☺ Paul desired to share the gospel/the euongelion/the good news of the grace of God. The recipients of God’s grace must become the peddlers of that same grace.
  - 1) Grace is, to you, either just a religious expression or it is a real experience.
  - 2) Which is it to you?
  - 3) I’m glad that I’m a recipient of Grace! And, now I just cannot sit, I must serve! Why, I heard my Jesus say, “I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day, the night is coming when no man can work.” There is so much work to be done, so many souls to be won. I don’t know about you, but I want the Lord to use me. Don’t you want the Lord to use you?

## Conclusion

### Recap

If you want the Lord to use you,

- 1) Worry has got to go;
- 2) Fear has got to go;
- 3) You have to have a great desire, a great desire to share the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Illustration

God used Paul, even from a prison cell. God used Paul, and He can use you.

### Invitation

Won’t you allow Him to use you?