

**Volume 5, Day 23: Concerned About My Reputation
or His Purposes**

"We are made as the filth of the world." 1 Corinthians 4:9-13

These words are not an exaggeration. The reason they are not true of us who call ourselves 'Christians' is not that Paul failed to understand how true they are. He did recognize that we have too many concerns about how people think of us. We are all but **obsessed with the reputation** we have with those around us. We want to be respected, admired and likely even emulated. The last thing we want people to consider us is trash in the dump. "Filling up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ," that is the 'criminal' image of His crucifixion. These afflictions are not evidence of being a 'Christian.' The evidence is simply living your life solely for the purpose of God in salvation. It is being **"separated** unto the gospel."

"Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you," says Peter. Yet many 'Christians' pray away these very trials which are intended by God to help us become mature in faith. We have a definite aversion to adversity. We also simply refuse to accept it as a **blessing from God, the evidence of our love for God and in His purposes for our lives.**

You can be saved by the skin of your teeth if you like. You can refuse to let God count you as one 'separated unto the gospel.' Or you can side with Jesus against the mainstream of humanity. When we are truly intimately passionate with God, we will not care that we are treated as the scum of the earth as long as the Gospel is proclaimed. A true servant of Jesus Christ is one who is willing to go all the way to their own death in order to promote the 'Kingdom of God. This is the reality of the gospel of God. The marvel of the Redemptive Reality of God is that the worst and the vilest person can never extinguish or even thwart His love for them.

My Confirming Scriptures:

Aligning Experiences:

DEEPER Every Day -- John Henry Alan