

# ADDICTED THEMSELVES TO THE MINISTRY

## 1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-24

Text: 1 Cor. 16:15

(1 Corinthians 16:15) "I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)"

Introduction:

Notice the words used in this verse. This family had addicted themselves to the ministry.

That word addict we hear a lot of today. We hear of those being addicted to certain things and programs designed to help addicts deal with their problems.

According to Tabor's Medical Dictionary addiction means to have a "physical dependence on a substance, with use of increasing amounts. Mosby's medical dictionary defines it as: compulsive, uncontrollable dependence on a substance or habit or practice to such a degree that ceasing causes severe emotional, and mental reactions.

Imagine for a moment if all who were in a Bible believing church would become addicted to the ministry, what would happen.

How does one become an addict?

## **1. EXPERIENCE.**

A. In order to become addicted to anything one must have an experience with it.

B. In order for one to become addicted to the ministry one must have an experience, which is Salvation.

1. That is why there is so many who fall by the wayside is because they have never had an experience with Christ.

## **2. EVOLVING**

A. Once one has experienced the substance, it evolves or grows into a greater desire.

B. Again once one has trusted Christ as their Saviour, they then need to evolve or grow.

1. Desire to grow

2. Desire to serve

3. Desire to win others

4. Desire to give of themselves

### **3. INVOLVED**

A. Once one experiences something and it evolves most of the time that person becomes involved with whatever his addiction is.

B. The same is true for the Christian.

1. Experience (Salvation)

2. Evolving (Growth & Maturing)

3. Involved

a. Bus ministry

b. Soul winning

c. Whatever one can do.

### **4. ENGROSSED**

A. Once one has experience, evolved, become involved, they then become engrossed.

B. The Christian should become engrossed in the ministry.

Close:

Stephanas was one of the first converts of the region. They had moreover addicted themselves to the ministry to the saints, to serve the saints. They disposed, and devoted themselves to serve the saints, and to do service to the saints.

We too need to become addicted to the ministry.