

cometh upon me daily, the care of ~~MMM~~ ~~ADLEMMTMMTMMTMMTMMTMM~~ all the churches." Paul, borne down with the burdens, the labors, the efforts, to help these churches that he had started, to show them the right way; and, then, they were turning against him, and criticizing him, and he has to go through all this account here to show what he'd done for them; and to remind them of how God ~~MMM~~ had blessed his ministry among them. My, how few of us there are that have any compulsion like Paul had.

Paul could have had an easy work. He could have gone into Ephesus, ~~M~~ into the school there, and he could have gone on the rest of his life there very easily. Yes, but Paul had done what he could do in Ephesus: he worked three years there, night and day; he could have gone on and done a lot more yet, but he could go do more, somewhere else. And so he stepped out and went on, and pressed forward, to make every ounce of effort count for the spreading of the Gospel of Christ. The compulsion -- "necessity is laid upon me, ~~MM~~ woe is me if I preach not the Gospel". Paul, constantly looking for someone he could talk to about Christ, looking for someone he could lead to the Lord, looking for a soul in trouble that he could help, and show them the answer to their needs in the Lord Jesus Christ; ~~TMMTMM~~ Paul, considering how to reach people -- as Marty Walsh says, "He was not a soul-chaser, but a soul-winner" -- in this very chapter from which our text comes, I love those ~~MMMMMM~~ words in verses ~~MM~~ 19 to 24. Paul says, "Though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more." Paul, graduate of the University of Tarsus; Paul, a Pharisee ~~M~~ of the Pharisees, trained at the ~~MMMM~~ of Gamaliel; Paul, nothing behind the chiefest of the apostles; made himself a servant unto all, "that I might gain the more. And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are