

Everyone has a trip they remember vividly. For me, it was my honeymoon in Hawaii. The nature, weather, and atmosphere were all so perfect that my wife and I always dreamed of going back. Years later, we returned with our children. It was still beautiful—but I realized, “This is just a travel destination, not a place to live forever.” Even the most wonderful place has its discomforts and limitations.

But in the Bible, we meet someone who didn’t spend his life traveling to beautiful destinations like Hawaii. Instead, he walked a path full of danger and suffering. That person is the Apostle Paul. Biblical scholars estimate that Paul traveled over 10,000 miles in his lifetime to share the gospel. Why did Paul take on such a risky and seemingly reckless journey?

First, Paul was Driven Not by Selfish Desire but by Divine Mission

Paul wanted to go to Rome, but he knew God’s will was for him to go first to the places where the gospel had not yet been preached. So he set aside his personal desires and prioritized Jerusalem, Galatia, Asia, and Macedonia. He was not led by selfish ambition but by God’s calling.

When I was living on the East Coast, there was a young man who made a six-hour round trip three times a week to attend Sunday worship and midweek meetings. I once asked him how he could do that so faithfully, and he answered simply, “Because it brings me joy.” He was someone who chose obedience to God over personal comfort—someone gripped by mission.

There are many people today who live bound by selfish desires or distorted missions. Some even come to churches to try to convert pastors to their own heretical beliefs. But as true believers of the gospel, what are we willing to do for the real mission God has given us?

Second, Paul was Driven Not Only by Mission but also by Love

On his way to Spain, Paul took a detour in the opposite direction to visit Jerusalem. It was an incredibly inefficient route, but Paul willingly headed there because he loved the believers in the Jerusalem church with the love of Christ. Without love, our devotion and labor cannot endure—and they will never become a source of joy.

Recently, my in-laws came from Korea to visit us and their grandchildren for just two weeks. After a long, tiring flight, they arrived at the airport beaming with joy, hugging the kids and us as if they hadn’t felt any fatigue. Their journey was full of joy because it was made to meet those they loved. Paul was the same. He was able to endure a lifetime of hardship because he deeply loved Jesus and the church.

Mission without love leads to spiritual burnout. But a mission gripped by love becomes a source of joy.

Jesus also came to this world in human form because He loved us, and He willingly endured the suffering of the cross. Without love, that suffering would have been impossible.

The same is true for us. Rather than looking for a more comfortable place or one where we receive recognition, we must ask where we need to be for God’s kingdom and His church. And when we go to that place, we must not serve out of obligation alone—but out of the love of Christ.

Dear brothers and sisters, I bless you to be people not bound only by mission, but also by love. When we fulfill our calling in love, God will surely work through our lives.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

'The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.' (Romans 16:20)

**Bible
Reading**

7/7(Mon)	7/8(Tue)	7/9(Wed)	7/10(Thur)	7/11(Fri)	7/12(Sat)	7/13(Sun)
Psalms 75-78	Psalms 79-86	Psalms 87-90	Psalms 91-99	Psalms 100-105	Psalms 106-108	Psalms 109-115

QT

Quiet Time Passage

7/7(Mon)	7/8(Tue)	7/9(Wed)	7/10(Thur)	7/11(Fri)	7/12(Sat)	7/13(Sun)
Psalms 89:38-52	1 Tim. 1:1-11	1 Tim. 1:12-20	1 Tim. 2:1-15	1 Tim. 3:1-13	1 Tim. 3:14-4:5	1 Tim. 4:6-16

**Sharing
Questions**

1. What mission am I currently bound to? Between God's calling and worldly desires, what do I find myself focusing on more? Share your thoughts.

2. What recent act of love have I carried out? Think back on any sacrificial act of love you've shown to someone and share how that love was connected to your mission.

3. Have I ever taken an inconvenient or inefficient path with joy, like Paul? If you've chosen a difficult path for the sake of the gospel, share that experience and reflect together on what kind of sacrifices and dedication you could offer for the gospel in your life.