

# I Do Not Count My Life Dear To Me

(Acts 20:24)

- Introduction:
1. Jesus once said that he who loses his life for My sake will find it (Matthew 10:39).
  2. One of the challenges we have as followers of Jesus is to reach the point wherein we can sacrifice our lives for the Lord.
  3. When I say, "sacrifice," I don't just mean to be willing to die for Jesus, but I also mean to be willing to live for him.
  4. "Oh Jesus if I die upon a foreign field someday, 'Twould be no more than love demands, no less could I repay, "No greater love hath mortal man than for a friend to die," These are the words he gently spoke to me, "If just a cup of water I place within your hand Then just a cup of water is all that I demand," But if by death to living they can thy glory see, I'll take my cross and follow close to thee." – Ira Stamphill *Follow Me*.
  5. Let's examine how this goal was lived out in the life of Paul (2 Corinthians 11:24-28).

## I. The Preaching of Paul

- A. (Acts 16:11-15).
- B. Paul came to Philippi and preached at the riverside (Acts 16:13).
- C. There, the Lord opened Lydia's heard by the things she heard and she was converted (Acts 16:14).

## II. The Arrest of Paul

- A. (Acts 16:16-34).
- B. Some men complained about Paul and brought accusations against him (Acts 16:19-21).
- C. As a result, they were beaten and thrown in prison (Acts 16:22-24).
- D. While in prison, he converts the jailer (Acts 16:25-34).

## III. The Release of Paul

- A. (Acts 16:35-40).
- B. Paul seems to have leverage and the upper hand over the magistrates.
- C. This bodes well for the newly formed church, predominately consisting of what seems to be women.

- Conclusion:
1. Paul seems to have taken a beating for the good of the church.
  2. What a price to pay!
  3. The questions are, "Have we lost our life for Jesus?" "Do we still count our life dear?"
  4. The challenge before us is to act in such a way as to demonstrate that Jesus means more to me than my own life.