

# *infusion*

Season of Prayer 2008

For State Missions and the Janie Chapman Offering  
For State Missions, Missions Education, and Empowering Kingdom Growth

## Sermon Outline

"Infused with the Good News"

I Corinthians 9:19-23

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**Scripture:** "No man has any hold on me, but I have made myself a workman owned by all. I do this so I might lead more people to Christ. I became as a Jew to the Jews so I might lead them to Christ. There are some who live by obeying the Jewish Law. I became as one who lives by obeying the Jewish Law so I might lead them to Christ. There are some who live by not obeying the Jewish law. I became as one who lives by not obeying the Jewish law so I might lead them to Christ. This does not mean that I do not obey God's Law. I obey the teachings of Christ. Some are weak. I have become weak so I might lead them to Christ. I have become like every person so in every way I might lead some to Christ. Everything I do, I do to get the Good News to men. I want to have a part in this work." (I Corinthians 9:19-23, New Life Version)

### Introduction

Several years ago, a police department unveiled its first 'low-rider' police car. The vehicle had the standard logo for the department, lights, and siren. It also included chrome wheels, hydraulic lifts, and a 500-watt sound system. The car was put on the force to help officers build better relationships with inner-city kids.

In I Corinthians 9:19-23, the Apostle Paul applied the same principle to the Christian's work of evangelism. He wrote: "I have become like every person so in every way I might lead some to Christ." He worked hard at identifying himself with people. He chose to relate to the Jew, the ones who did and who did not obey the Law of Moses, and even the immature believer. He did not *accommodate* them. He always obeyed the teachings of Christ (verse 21). However, he knew he had to *relate* to them. Why? The answer is found in verse 23: "I have become like every person so in every way I might lead some to Christ." Paul was willing to do whatever it took to see people saved.

This year's theme for the 2008 Season of Prayer for State Missions is "Infusion." To be infused is to be permeated with something that alters one's state for the better. The word implies a pouring in of something that gives new life or purpose. When Paul became a Christian, he was infused with the Good News about Jesus Christ. The Good News not only gave Paul new life but a new purpose as well. Because of what Jesus did for him, Paul was willing to do whatever it took for others to hear about the Savior.

God desires that you do what is necessary to relate to people in order to share Jesus with them. You'll have that same "whatever-it-takes" attitude Paul had when you are infused with the Good News.

How do you know if you are really infused with the Good News? You are infused with the Good News when...

- **YOU HAVE A SERVANT HEART (Verse 19)**

Paul wrote, "No man has any hold on me, but I have made myself a workman owned by all. I do this so I might lead more people to Christ." In chapter 9, Paul reminded the church at Corinth that he had a right to be financially supported by them, but he had voluntarily set aside that right for their sake and the sake of the Good News (9:1-18). Paul's own personal rights were secondary to the more important work of seeing people saved. Above everything else, he was a servant.

A servant heart is the heart of the Good News. Jesus said that He came as a servant (Luke 22:27). He lived and died serving. He said His followers were to do the same. In fact, true greatness is found only in serving others. (Matthew 20:26)

How can you serve others and at the same time share Christ? You can take a meal to a new family on your block. You can listen to a discouraged co-worker. You can pray with the person sitting next to you in the doctor's office. You can baby sit for a single mother. When you're infused with the Good News you understand that God places you in the path of people whom you can serve and share Christ. Your job is to have your eyes, ears, and heart open for the opportunities God gives.

(Over)

You not only have a servant heart when infused with the Good News, but...

- **YOU HAVE A BURDEN FOR PEOPLE (Verses 20-22)**

It is obvious when you read this part of the passage that Paul had a great burden for souls. He was willing "to become like every person so in every way I might lead them to Christ" (verse 22). From the moment Paul opened his heart to the Good News, he had a crushing burden to see people saved. That burden motivated him to relate to the people around him. I'm convinced that burden came from his understanding that a person must accept Christ as Savior; otherwise he was doomed to an eternal separation from God.

In a meeting not long ago Charles Roesel talked about ministry based evangelism. During the meeting someone asked him why baptisms were down across the Southern Baptist Convention. His answer got the attention of the crowd: "Southern Baptists no longer believe in hell." He didn't mean intellectually; he meant practically. A couple of weeks later, Fairview Baptist Church had a former pastor preaching at the church. His topic was heaven and the fact that Christians often don't live like there is one. Baptisms are down because we don't have a burden for souls. We don't have a burden for souls because we don't really believe there is a heaven or a hell. Dogmatically we believe in both. Practically, do we believe in either? If we truly believed, wouldn't we do more to see people saved?

Do you believe that there is a heaven? Do you believe that heaven is a place where you will be with Christ forever? Do you believe that heaven is the believer's hope today as well as for eternity? Do you believe that the only way a person is going to heaven is by placing her faith in Christ (John 14:6) and if she doesn't she is going to hell? Do you believe in hell? Do you believe that hell is eternal (Mark 9:48)? Do you believe that hell is a place of eternal punishment (Revelation 20:10)?

If you believe these statements, then you will have a burden. You'll be burdened about your lost relatives, friends, co-workers, fellow students, people around our state, and around the world. That burden will motivate you to do whatever it takes to get the Good News to them.

You are infused with the Good News when...

- **YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR THE WORK (Verse 23)**

Paul wrote that everything he did, he did to get the Good News out. His work as a missionary-preacher was all-consuming. How to get the Good News out was likely the first thing he thought about when he woke up in the morning and the last thing he thought about when he laid down at night. Paul was passionate about the work God had called him to do, and it showed.

No one is more passionate about what he does than Dick Vitale of ESPN. As a broadcaster, he has been an ambassador for college basketball for a long time, but in recent years he has gotten heavily involved in raising money for cancer research through the "V-Foundation."<sup>1</sup> No matter about what sports topic he is talking, he seems to always work the conversation around to cancer research. When you listen to him talk about cancer research, there is no mistaking the passion.

When you're passionate about Jesus, the Good News about Him will come out at every opportunity. As a matter of fact, you'll look for ways to tell others about Him. (Here's a good opportunity to use some illustrations from the packet of State Missions materials or illustrations from your church life!)

The Good News changed Paul's life. He was infused with the Good News and as a result he did whatever was necessary to relate to people so he could tell them about Jesus. Are you infused with the Good News? Do you have a servant spirit? Do you have a burden for people who are lost in your neighborhood, town, and this state? Is your passion to tell people how Christ changed your life and how He can change theirs?

Pray today that Baptists throughout South Carolina will be infused with the Good News. Give to this year's state missions offering and get involved in getting the Good News about Jesus out to our state where so many desperately need to hear about Him.

**Note:** In using this outline, add South Carolina Facts provided to you on the State Missions Facts Sheet in the appropriate places. Refer to the stories in the *Leaders Guide*. Show clips from the State Missions DVD as appropriate. Use current events to illustrate scripture truths.

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<sup>1</sup> The "V" Foundation is named for Jim Valvano, who coached North Carolina State's men's basketball team to a national championship in 1983. You can learn more about the "V" Foundation at [www.jimmyv.org](http://www.jimmyv.org).