

August 15, 2020

# Playing for Keeps

Don't lose your marbles.

**Acts 20:24**

*However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.*

*In the game of marbles, everything changes when somebody says, "We're playing for keeps." The game changes from a friendly competition where nobody loses anything to a challenge where you could lose all your marbles.*

*In the Kingdom of God, we're playing for keeps. Lives are on the line. At the end of the game, not everyone gets to go home winners. Some will gain heaven while others will receive judgment and an eternal separation from God*

*Paul says in this verse that he MUST do his part so that the people whose lives he can touch don't have to be losers. In his mind, partial obedience, leading to partial fulfillment of the mission equals failure. He is worth nothing to the kingdom if he bows out of his responsibility.*

*Another passage that comes to mind on this topic - What does it profit a man to gain the world and to lose his soul?*

*For the believer in Christ, may the urgency of this topic drive you to reconsider the action you've taken to proclaim God's goodness. May this encourage you to know what God has done for you and to be able to share that story with another. May you be not only prepared to give a reason for the hope you have, but may you be active giving the reason.*

*For the one not yet convinced he needs Jesus, may you realize what God has done for you in sending the ones who have shared His truth with you. Embrace His love for you today. Repent of your sins and receive forgiveness. Your salvation today and the gift of eternal life is for keeps.*