

William Carey, a man who was considered the father of modern missions, a man who translated the bible into more than 40 languages and dialects, wrote the following words on his 70th birthday:

"I am this day seventy years old, a monument of Divine mercy and goodness, though in a review of my life I find much, very much for which I ought to be humbled in the dust; my direct and positive sins are innumerable, my negligence in the Lord's work has been great, I have not promoted his cause, nor sought his glory and honor as I ought, notwithstanding all this, I am spared till now, and am still retained in his Work, and I trust I am received into the divine favor through him."¹

How can a man who has done such great things for God look back on his life with this perspective?

Take a look at the following verses written by the apostle Paul and see if he views his life in a similar manner...

✧ 1 Corinthians 15:9

✧ Ephesians 3:8

✧ 1 Timothy 1:15

Why do these "great men" view life in this way. Think back to Sunday's message, did anything that Pastor Brad relate to this topic?

Verse 3:

In light of this verse and the first 12 chapters of Romans (see last week's devotional for further study – available on the back table) why do you think we should not think of ourselves more highly than we ought? Why do you think Paul and William Carey didn't view themselves more highly than they ought?

Verses 4 – 8:

What part of the "church body" do you think you fit best?

How important is your role in helping this body function?

According to this passage is your role any less important than the Pastor's role?

How does this promote the humility Paul talked about in verse 3?

What practical things can you do to better use your gifts and talents? Think of a few things and make it a goal to try them this week.

During the week: Read Luke 18:9-14

¹ Bridges, Jerry. *The Discipline of Grace*. NavPress, Colorado Springs: 1994.