

The struggle for a strong church

I. there is a Price to be Paid

2:1 - how great a struggle

1:24 - rejoice in my sufferings for your sake

Paul in a prison of Rome & a prison of
concern

Jer = my eyes a fountain of tears

lucres = blot me out of the book

not for his reputation but their welfare

- a ministry for the Master must be matched
by the ~~spirit~~ sacrificial spirit of the Master

- why pay the price? - it is His Body!

Don't quit.

1. It is interesting
- for all who have not seen my face
the selflessness
2. it is insistent

II. there is Prayer to be made

the hardest work is the spiritual wrestle in prayer -

Peter falls asleep in prayer but quickly picks up
a sword to fight - many will point the church
but not pray for it

- manner of his praying = a wrestling, a conflict -
Rom 15:30

Paul could well write Rom 8:26, 27

- ⊖ a physical conflict
- ⊕ a spiritual conflict = doubt, O's brain