

Dr. Cecil A. Fayard
Elliott Baptist Church
April 28, 2002

A Love for Missions ?

Romans 15:14

INTRO: The Apostle Paul was a man with a heart for missions. His heart was on fire with missionary zeal. Paul knew that God was Sovereign, and he also knew that God's plan for winning the lost was and is the preaching of the Gospel (Rom 10:9-17). That preaching the Gospel is necessary for salvation is pointed out in many places. In II Thessalonians 2:12-14, the sovereign work of God and the necessity of preaching the Gospel is clearly pointed out.

The sovereignty of God guarantees success in missionary work (Acts 18:10). The work of the missionary is varied as is seen in Acts 14:21-23, 27:

1. Vs 21a- The Gospel is preached.
2. Vs 21b- Many are taught.
3. Vs22a- Souls are confirmed in the faith+ made strong, established, more firm.
4. Vs 22b- Folks are exhorted to continue in the faith+
 - A. To admonish,
 - B. To beg,
 - C. To beseech,
 - D. To encourage
5. Vs 23- Ordaining elders in every church.
6. Vs 27- Reporting to the church.

As most of us are Gentiles, we need to thank God or the Apostle Paul. He was sent specifically to preach to our ancestors (Rom 15:16).

I. VS 14, PAUL'S MISSIONARY TACT

A. Paul has been rather harsh with the church at Rome. He has pointed out their faults and failures.

1. Now, Paul, in what some characterize as a tactful, apologetic spirit, points out the grand qualities of the Roman church.
2. Paul was able to preach boldly in the church at Rome because they possessed the character qualities listed here.
3. A strong church can handle strong preaching!

B. A look at the character qualities of the church at Rome:

1. Goodness.
 - a) Goodness means that they lived for the Lord; they were not perfect, but they were good folks.
 - b) As a whole, they abstained from evil and presented their bodies

living sacrifices to the Lord (12:1-2).

c) Their goodness also included being helpful to others, carrying the load for each other (Gal 6:2).

2. Filled with knowledge.

a) The Roman Christians were Bible students. They had a grasp of the truth.

b) They were familiar with the great doctrines of the faith.

3. They were admonished.

a) The church at Rome had folks who could exhort them to do what they ought to.

b) The exhorted kept the folks going in the faith; they did not let the church get comfortable.

c) "The tendency to settle down is natural and must be fought continually. That is why the ministry of exhortation and admonishment is vital to a virile Christianity" (Phillips 253).

d) Admonish carries with it the idea of teaching and helping one another along the right road.

II. VSS 15-16, PAUL'S RESPONSIBILITY REALIZED

A. VS 15, Paul not only wrote boldly; he preached boldly in the name of Jesus (Acts 9:27).

1. "As putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God."

a) He was God called.

b) He was called to salvation.

c) He was called to preach the Gospel (Gal 1:15-16).

d) He was called to be a missionary to the Gentiles.

2. Paul had been sent apart to be an Apostle and to preach (Rom 1:1,3).

B. Vs 16, Paul had a specific call upon his life+ to "be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles."

1. Paul was a preacher called to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles.

a) "Ministering the Gospel of God." The word ministering can mean servant or priest.

b) The death, burial, and resurrection of Christ is the message that Paul proclaimed.

c) The preaching of the Gospel is a sweet savor in God's nostrils (II Cor 2:14-16).

2. Paul's offering to God were the saved Gentiles.

a) Paul had been called by God, and he obeyed the call.

b) Paul's joy was to see Gentiles saved so he could offer them up to God; and so they themselves could offer their lives to God (Rom 12:1-2).

3. "Sanctified by the Holy Ghost."

a) Paul preached the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit separated them

unto God.

b) "The sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit begins with Jew and Gentile, the moment of regeneration when the Spirit of God takes up His abode within the believer" (McGee vol 4, 749).

III. VSS 17-18, PAUL'S MINISTRY ALL OF GOD, ALL OF GRACE

A. Vs 17, Paul is a servant of the Lord Jesus, a servant doing God's will.

1. Paul was not proud. He was humbled by the fact that God was using him.
2. The churches of our Lord would be different today if we could see the need of serving our Lord instead of ourselves.
3. Paul could have gloried in self, but he chose to glory in what God had done.

B. Vs. 18, Paul would not take credit for what others had been used of God to do! He was thankful that God had called him and was using him.

1. When we come to see that salvation is of the Lord, we will give Him the glory.
2. It is God, my Friend, who gives the increase (I Cor 3:6-7). I rejoice when soul's are saved, and I rejoice when God chooses to use me and when He chooses to use another (I Cor 1:31; II Cor 10:17).
3. "To make the Gentiles obedient"-- God calls men to salvation, and He calls them to obedience to Him (6:17).
4. "By word and deed"-- Paul's life and message matched. He practiced what he preached.

IV. VS. 19, PAUL DEPENDED ON GOD

A. Paul saw results in every place he ministered because of his complete dependence on God.

B. Paul had spiritual power because God is the source of power.

1. MacArthur says: "Before the full gospel message was recorded in what we now call the New Testament, God often used signs and wonders to authenticate true preaching and teaching" (335).
2. The main truth that we need to see here is not signs and wonders but "the power of the Spirit of God."
 - a) Paul preached not just in word but in the power of the Spirit (I Thes 1:5).
 - b) Friends, the greatest sign and wonder ever seen is that of God taking an old dead sinner and giving him life eternal (John 5:24-25).
3. Paul said: "I have fully preached the Gospel of Christ." Paul always preached a crucified, buried, and risen Christ everywhere he went.

V. VSS 20-21, PAUL'S MISSIONARY GOAL

A. Vs 20, His main goal was to reach the unreached with the Gospel. He was a missionary with a missionary heart.

1. Some churches want to get all their members from other churches. We ought to want to see the lost saved.
2. Paul's desire was to preach the Gospel!

B. Vs 21, Paul quotes Isaiah 52:15. This was his missionary motto.

1. God will use the preaching of the Gospel to open ears and eyes to the truth.
2. II Cor 4:3-7.

CONCLUSION: May we be a missionary -hearted folk: missions at home and abroad.