

Paul the Visionary

Romans 15:25-33

Introduction

1. Paul's delight: To preach the Gospel of Christ (Rom.15:17; 1:1-2; 15:15b-16a)
 1. Paul's appreciation in being called to Gospel ministry in the introduction to his letter to the Romans (Rom.1:1-2)
 2. Paul's devoting 15 Chapters to an explanation of the Gospel and its implications (Romans chapters 1-15)
 3. Paul's expressed joy and privilege in being able to conduct gospel ministry (Rom.15:15b-16a)
2. The means afforded Paul to serve Christ in reaching the Gentiles (15:18-19a)
 1. By the Holy Spirit: Through the combination of "word and deed" (15:18)
 2. By the Holy Spirit: Through "signs and wonders" (Rom.15:19)
3. Church planting: Paul's methodology in spreading the gospel (Rom.15:19b-21)

Targeting urban centres and leaving the surrounding areas to be evangelised by the churches he had founded (Acts 19:8-10; Col.1:6-7; 4:12-13)

1. What was the basis for Paul's ministry?

1. God promised to save the Gentiles at the coming of the Messiah (Is.52:15 quoted in Rom.15:21; Is.11:10-11; 42:4,6; 49:6; 51:4-5; 60:3)
2. The Jews and Gentiles whom He (the Father) gave to the Son, would be saved (Jn.5:21; 6:37; 10:29; 17:2; 18:9)
3. The time of "Last Days" is a new age for the salvation of Gentiles (Romans chapters 9-11. See especially, 9:24-25; 10:19-20; 11:11-32)
4. Christ's command to preach the gospel to the world (Matt.28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

2. Paul's ministry

1. The length of Paul's Christian ministry
2. What did Paul accomplish in his years of ministry? (Rom.15:19b,24)
3. Paul's positive mindset to ministry (Eph.3:20-21)
 1. "God is able to do far more abundantly than we can ask or think."
 2. "According to the power at work within us!"
 3. God is able to do "more abundantly than all that we *ask or think*"
 4. This is how Paul accomplished incredible things for the gospel (Rom.15:19)
4. Was Paul an exception in approaching ministry in this way?
 1. Thomas the apostle
 2. Bartholomew the apostle

3. God's work amongst us: An example from our own history at WPC Maida Vale

1. God's provision of these facilities here at the Watsonia property
 2. We now have:
4. What do you think God wants us to do? (Lk.16:19-31)
5. Paul: An example in church planting—The mysterious ways of God in ministry (Acts 16:6-10)
1. Timothy's privilege in working with people who were Spirit controlled and experienced teachers/evangelists and church planters (Acts 16:8; 15:40; 16:1-3)
 2. Paul and Silas were doing what God had commanded them to do (Acts 15:40; 16:4)
 1. They are in God's will in getting the gospel out and establishing new churches.
 2. They were backed by the church (Acts 15:40)
 3. Their approach was to target cities of unreached people (Acts 16:4)
 4. The specific cities to target were not known to them—they were prayerful waiting on God for direction
 3. Timothy's first experience: God prohibits Paul from going to Asia-possibly Ephesus (West) (Acts 16:6)
 4. Timothy's second experience: God prohibits Paul from going to Bithynia (North) (Acts 16:7)
 5. Timothy's third experience: Paul takes the team west; not sure as to what will eventuate (Acts 16:8)
 1. The reason they stopped at Troas
 2. There is no indication of any significant ministry taking place along the way!
 6. The distances involved
 7. Summary
 8. Timothy's letter to his Mom
 9. Direction at last (Acts 16:9-10)

Conclusion

1. Staying the course- Perseverance
2. Guidance
3. What is our calling?
4. We are to leave the consequences to God
 1. Paul was prevented from going to Ephesus
 2. He was prevented from going into Bithynia
 3. He did not start a church in Troas
 4. God had called him to Europe where the church prospered in an amazing way!