

PAUL – THE MISSIONARY – PART 1

--ROMANS 15:14-21—

INTRODUCTION:

Paul now begins in his final sections to draw this letter to a close. In the remainder of the book, he will talk about his ministry, his plans for future missionary work, Then there will be personal greetings from himself and others and finally a closing benediction.

Paul becomes very personal in these final sections and begins by defending the boldness with which he wrote to the church in Rome, a church he neither planted, nor visited. Because of this he did not want to endanger his relationship with this church by having them think that he did not have the right or it was not his place to write to them so boldly. Paul desired to visit the church in Rome so that they could mutually encourage one another in the faith. He begins the defense of his ministry and boldness by commending the church for their spiritual maturity.

I. MISSIONARY APOSTLE (Romans 15:14-15)

- a. As a missionary Paul wore many different hats, the first was bestowed upon him by God, which was the role of an _____.
- b. Paul begins this section by warmly addressing the _____ in Rome as “my brethren.” (Romans 1:8)
- c. Paul then goes on to commend the believers in Rome, apart from any influence from him, he writes that they “...are full of _____, filled with all _____ and able also to admonish one another.” (Romans 15:14b, NASB95)
- d. Paul first said that they were full of _____, this refers to their moral character and how they lived their lives as Christians.
- e. Paul’s second commendation for the church in Rome is for their being filled with all _____.
- f. The third commendation is the result of the first two characteristics of goodness and knowledge working together, Christians possessing goodness and truth are able also to _____ one another.

- g. After commending the church for their spiritual maturity, Paul begins to defend his _____ in writing a letter that some might have felt was not Paul’s right or place since he had not founded the church, nor visited the church. (Acts 9:27; 19:8)
- h. There are no rebukes or reprimands in the book of Romans as some of Paul’s other epistles but there are some very serious and strong _____. (Romans 6:11-13; 8:9; 1 Timothy 4:6; Titus 3:1-2)
- i. Peter also understood the importance of _____ his readers of the truths of the Gospel. (2 Peter 1:12; 3:1)
- j. Paul writes that this boldness with which he wrote was not only to remind them again but also because of the _____ that was given to him by God.

II. MISSIONARY PRIEST (Romans 15:16)

- a. The second missionary hat that Paul wore was that of a _____. (1 Timothy 2:5)
- b. The Lord Jesus Christ is our High Priest, and as believers we are called _____ to God. (1 Peter 2:4-5, 9; Revelation 20:6)
- c. In this same sense Paul was a _____, he did not inherit the priestly office, he was not born into Aaron’s line, he was of a totally different tribe, the tribe of Benjamin.
- d. Paul writes in the end of 15 and through 16, “...because of the grace that was given me from God, to be a _____ of Christ Jesus to the _____, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:15–16, NASB95) (Romans 13:4; Luke 1:8, 23; Hebrews 1:7, 14; 8:1-2, 6; 9:21; 10:11)
- e. In the sense that all believers serve as priests to God and Christ, Paul says, he too ministered as a _____ of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles.
- f. Paul’s role as a missionary priest is not _____ to him alone.

CONCLUSION:

We have two more hats in which Paul wears as a missionary. Lord

willing, we will look at them next week. This morning Paul began by commending the church for their spiritual maturity. Their goodness and knowledge that resulted in them being able to admonish one another. We each have spiritual gifts that God has given us to serve the body of Christ, we need to be exercising those gifts with the measure of grace that God has given us to build up and encourage and warn one another in the faith.

We looked at Paul's role as an apostle of Christ, set apart for the Gospel of God. A role that gave him the authority to write boldly to the church in Rome to remind them again of the important truths of the Gospel. My responsibility as your pastor is to keep teaching you the truths you already know in ways that refresh your memories and that reinforce the truths. We as a body need to be reminding one another of these truths so that we might each grow in the full knowledge of God Word.

Finally, we looked at Paul as a missionary priest, bring an offering of Gentiles that God has used Paul to lead to faith in Christ. An offering that was acceptable to God because of the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those new Gentile believers. We also are priests to God and to Christ and need to take every opportunity to share Christ with those around us so that we too might have an acceptable offering to offer to God when God uses us to lead someone to faith in Jesus Christ. We are the instrument God may use; but the Holy Spirit is the One who has the power to sanctify the person who believes making them that acceptable offering.