

PAUL'S AMBITION TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

Romans 15:20-29

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul fully preached the gospel *vs. 19*
 - 1) He preached to the Jews
 - 2) He preached to the Gentiles

- B. Preaching the gospel to the Gentiles was spiritual ministry.
 - 1) They were debtors to the Jews
 - 2) They would minister to the Jews in material or carnal things.

- I. Paul's Life Ambition Was To Preach To The Heathen Nations *verse 20*
 - A. *"Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named,"*
 - 1) *"strived"* = φιλοτιμεομαι = "to love, to honour, esteem or respect", "to be ambitious"
 - 2) *"In all this it has been my ambition to preach the good news only where Christ's name was unknown."* Gspd

 - B. *"lest I should build upon another man's foundation"*
 - 1) *"So as not to build on foundations other men had laid"* Gspd
 - 2) *"foundation"* = θεμελιος = "laid as a foundation, therefore that which is fundamental"

- II. Because Of This Desire, Paul Preached To The Gentiles *verse 21*
 - A. *"But as it is written, to whom he was not spoken of, they shall see:"*
 - 1) *"They to whom no tidings of him came shall see"* Alf
 - 2) *"They who have never been told of Him will see"* Gspd

B. *"and they that have not heard shall understand"*

- 1) "And they who have never heard will understand" Gspd
- 2) *Isaiah 52:15 - "So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider."*
- 3) "sprinkle" = "to scatter about"

III. This Ambition Had Kept Paul From Coming To Rome
verse 22-24

A. *"For which cause also I have been hindered from coming to you."* vs. 22

- 1) "hindered" = εγχοπτω = "a trench cut in the way of an enemy to impede him"
- 2) "This ambition is the reason why I have so frequently been hindered from visiting you."

B. *"But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you:"* vs. 23

- 1) "these parts" = κλιμα = "clime or region"
- 2) "But now, since I no longer have room for work in these regions" Rsv. "And since I have longed for many years to come to you" Rsv.
- 3) "no more [place]" = τοπος = "a particular place"

IV. Paul's Ambition To Preach To The Heathens Would Bring Him Through Rome

A. Paul would not come to Rome as his main concern, but only as a brief visit vs. 24a

- 1) *"Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you:"*
- 2) At this time the entire peninsula of Spain was a part of the Roman Empire. [Portugal included]

B. Paul would make it his purpose to pass through Rome
vs. 24b

- 1) "for I trust to see you in my journey"
- 2) "And to be sent there with your support" NEB
- 3) "After I have had the satisfaction of seeing you
all" Phi

V. On His Way To Rome, Paul Would Minister To The Jews In
Jerusalem *verse 25*

A. "But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints"

- 1) "minister" = διακονεω = "to render service"
- 2) "Just now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem, to
take help to Christ's people there" TENT

B. The gifts were from Macedonia and Achaia *vs. 26*

- 1) "pleased" = ευδοκεω

(eudokeo) (No. 4, with eu, well, prefixed). Here, the good and right thing is not merely understood, as in No. 4, but actually asserted, it seemed good, where stress is laid on the resolve and its willingness and freedom, marking the design as something good, either in reality or intention.

- 2) "contribution" = κοινωνια = "act of sharing",
"partaking", therefore "distribution"

C. "It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are"

- 1) "Yes, they were glad to do so" TENT
- 2) "debtors" = οφειλετης = "the one who owes anything
or is under obligation on any account", The idea is
that the debtor must pay the debt.

D. "For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their
spiritual things,"

- 1) "partakers" = κοινωνεω = "to share common"
- 2) "spiritual" = πνευματικος = "determined or influenced
by the Spirit"

E. "...their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things."

- 1) "duty" = οφειλω = "to owe", "to be indebted"
- 2) "minister" = λειτουργω = "to perform some public service"
- 3) "carnal" = σαρξ = "of flesh, fleshly"

VI. Paul Will Come To Them verse 28-29

A. Paul must do this service first vs. 28

- 1) "performed" = επιτελω = "to bring through to an end"
- 2) "sealed" = σφραγιζω = "to make fast with a signet"
- 3) "fruit" = καρπος = "that which is dry and ripe"

B. God will bless their visit vs. 29

- 1) "And I know that," Asv
- 2) "I will come with Christ's fullest blessing"