

THE ROMAN REVEALING
Theme: The Reign of Righteousness
From the Sermon Notebook of Dr. Doyce H. Nolan

SUBJECT: WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE

SCRIPTURE: ROMANS 1:8-15

Sermon No. 2

Date: January 28, 2007

Introduction

In my life, I have been blessed by the Lord to have been in the company of some great men of God. R.G. Lee, W.A. Criswell, Vance Havner, J. Washington Watts, Freeman Fenerty, and Stephen Olford, and Adrian Rogers. These men, who by the lives they have lived, the message they have preached and the motives from which they served the Lord have made an indelible impression on my life.

These men demonstrated to me the truth, that regardless of what we do, our motives should always be pure.

I believe the Apostle Paul was this kind of a man. He was the living example of what a genuine Christian should be. Let's place ourselves alongside the great Apostle and see how we measure up.

I. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE THANKFUL. (8). First, I thank my God, through Jesus Christ, for you all...that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world;

1. Paul Had a Thankful Spirit. He did not begin the Roman church. It was started by converts of Peter's ministry. These people were the talk of the entire world. Everywhere Paul traveled, the people were talking about those Roman believers. Instead of being

jealous, Paul was thankful! He could praise the Lord whether it was part of his ministry or not!

2. We Should Be Thankful People. How does one go about cultivating a thankful spirit? The answer lies in placing Jesus Christ at the center of all you do. If it takes material and physical blessings to make you thankful, then you are likely to be depressed and defeated. The secret lies in being satisfied with Jesus,

3. These People Were Known For Their Faith and Lifestyles. The same should be true of every individual. Whether we are at home, on the job, at the market, or anywhere, there should be that testimony that marks us as belonging to the Lord Jesus Christ.

II. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE COMMITTED.(9).

For God is my witness, whom I serve the Gospel of his Son; with my Spirit; that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

1. Paul Was Totally Committed to the Lord. (9a). **For God is my witness, whom I serve the Gospel of his Son; with my Spirit;** Paul was a living witness to total surrender. This explains the reason behind Paul's great success. When nothing else matters in your life but what matters to the Lord, His work will get done.

2. Paul Felt a Devotion to the Lord. **For God is my witness, whom I serve.** Notice the word "serve". It is the same word that is translated "worship" in other parts of the New Testament. There is no greater form of worship that can be rendered unto the Lord than pure, heart felt service and devotion to the Lord.

III. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE PRAYERFUL.(9b).

that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

1. Paul Had a Ministry of Prayer. He made prayer a priority and the Roman believers were never taken off Paul's prayer list. Paul was a man of prayer. His praying wasn't selfish, but rather it was always spiritual and it was on behalf of others instead of himself.

God would have you and me involved in a prayer ministry touches the lives of others.

IV. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE SURRENDERED.

(10). Making request, if by any means not at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

1. Paul's Desire Was to Travel to Rome, but he was willing to lay aside his own plans so that he might know and do the will of the Lord.

2. Paul Had a Heart That God Could Use. It is a heart like the one Jesus had. A heart that knows no higher goal than pleasing the Father at all times. John 4:34 **My food is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.** God give us a heart like that! Imagine what the Lord could do with a church filled with people who were totally sold out to the will of God!

V. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE USABLE. (11). For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established.

1. Paul Wants to Share God's Gifts. It is as if Paul is telling the Romans, "God has blessed me with some special things. I want to come to Rome and share them with you so that you might grow in the things of the Lord." It tells us in no uncertain terms that Paul wanted to be usable to the Lord in His work.

2. Paul isn't Referring to the Actual Gifts of the Spirit. They are given only by the Spirit of God. Neither is he referring to the gift of salvation that can only come by faith in Jesus. What Paul is saying is that he is willing to come to them and be used of the Lord as the Lord sees fit.

There is a great need today for people in the church and community who are not primarily interested in their own agenda, but who's main goal is just to be usable to the Lord.

VI. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE HUMBLE (12). *That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.*

1. Paul Knows the Lord's Blessings Goes Two Ways. Paul's ministry was not all about himself. Not only will he be a blessing to the Romans, the Romans will be a blessing to him. He is just as aware that they have things to share with him also.

VII. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE FRUITFUL. (13). *Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that often times I purposed to come unto you, but qwas lethitherto, that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.*

1. Paul is Interested in Glorifying The Lord. He has been used of the Lord to bear fruit all over the known world. Paul says that he

would like to travel to Rome so that he can get some fruit there also. His desire is not to build up himself, rather it is to glorify the Lord!

1. When the Scriptures Speak of Spiritual Fruit: 3 things.

a) Attitudes. Galatians 5:22-23 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

b) Activity. When a believer lives for the Lord, there will be activity in that life and fruit will be borne for the glory of the Lord. Three ways activity translates into fruit are these:

i. Holy living Romans 6:22 Being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

ii. Praise Heb. 13:15 By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

iii. Giving Phil. 4:16-17. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desired a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

c) Addition. Acts 16:5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily. This refers to the addition of souls into the Kingdom of Heaven. This is the fruit that Paul was after. He wanted to go to Rome and win some to Jesus for the glory of the Lord.

Years later when he wrote to the Philippians from Rome, Paul was able to praise God for fruit even among the members of Caesar's household.

The fruit we bear for the Lord is manifested in our attitudes, our activity, and in the addition of souls to the Kingdom of Heaven. We need to remember that our fruit glorifies God like nothing else can, **John 15:8. Herin is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**How does the Christian go about bearing fruit? **John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth fort much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.** So, we bear fruit simply by abiding in the Vine.

VIII. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE OBLIGATED. (14).

I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

1. Paul Felt a Deep Debt to Those Who Needed to Hear the Gospel Message. This debt Paul felt is seen in every area of his ministry. Here is a man who is driven by his ministry. How else could he endure the things he had endured for the cause of Christ?

If you are a true Christian you hold in your heart the remedy for the disease that is killing people. Everyone of us needs to remember that we owe a debt to every person who lives around us. he is "ready" to go to Rome to preach. The word "ready" means "eager". Paul is saying, "I can't wait until I get to Rome so that I can preach the Gospel there also." In other words, Paul is excited about his call and his commission. He is an excited Christian!

IX. V. 15 EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE EAGER.(15).

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

1. Paul is "Ready" to Go to Rome to Preach. The word "ready" means "eager". Paul is saying, "I can't wait until I get to Rome so that I can preach the Gospel there also." In other words, Paul is excited about his call and his commission. He is an excited Christian!

Where are those who get excited when it gets close to church time? Where are those who would rather miss out on anything than they had to miss out on something God is doing? We need believers in this day who are excited about the things of God.

Would you describe your life as one lived in eager anticipation of doing the Lord's will? If not, there should be some changes made.

Conclusion

Paul represents what every Christian should be. During this message the Holy Spirit has caused you to examine your own life. The Holy Spirit has shown you areas that need to be improved. The Holy Spirit has shown you areas that need to be surrendered. I invite you to come before the Lord. He, and He alone, can and will meet your need!