

Serving the Lord in the Spirit

(Rom 1:7-15)

Read introduction: Rom 1:1-15

- We've divided this section (v.7-v.15) into 2 parts: what Paul says about the Romans and what Paul says about himself
- I. Things Paul says about himself (review)
 - A) "First"- He was led and controlled in all he did by the Holy Spirit
 - B) His prayer life was one of constant intercession for the saints
 - C) His full submission to God's will and not his own
 - D) His work and attitude concerning it
- II. Rom 1:9- Description of Paul's work and his attitude in it
 - A) "Serve"- *latreuo*- religious service, always associated with the worship of God
 - 1. This is the word used in the LXX about the priest's service in temple
 - 2. We find that there was an element of worship in all that Paul did
 - i. There is no division between the "spiritual" and the "physical" for the child of God
 - ii. We must be careful not to compartmentalize "life in Christ" and "life in the world"
 - a) James 1:8- A double minded man is unstable in all his ways
 - b) "Beware of the way in which some people can pray like the greatest of saints at a prayer meeting, then lash out like devils at a church business meeting." -Spurgeon
 - B) "With (in) my spirit"- with all his heart and being, in the innermost man
 - 1. Paul's service was in complete sincerity, no dissimulation
 - i. 2 Cor 4:2- Not in craftiness or dishonesty, mishandling God's word
 - a) 2 Cor 2:17- Paul did not "peddle" the word of God
 - b) 1 Thess 2:3-5- Paul didn't use a cloak of words nor flattery
 - 2. Paul wasn't a "professional preacher"
 - i. Rom 1:1- "Called" by God
 - a) You take up a profession, or choose it, preachers are "called" and "chosen" of God
 - ii. John 10:11-13- The true nature of the "hireling"
 - a) 1 Thess 2:1-12- Paul's true service in the phase of persecution proved over and over again his sincerity

- iii. Acts 20:24- Paul's desire to finish his course with joy, he didn't simply go on because he had started in the work, it was his entire life and being
 - a) 2 Cor 1:17- Paul didn't preach simply because he was "announced" or to protect his image and word
 - 1) This in many ways is the biggest danger one faces every time they preach, and the thing that must be guarded against
- 3. Paul's motivation was internal and sprang forth of God and not of his self
 - i. 1 Cor 9:15-16- Woe is me if I preach not the gospel
 - ii. Jer 20:9- Jeremiah burned within when he tried to keep silent
 - iii. Job 16:19- My Witness is on high
 - a) 1 Cor 4:1-5- Paul's concern was not man's judgment, but God's
- 4. Paul served "in his spirit" as opposed to "in his flesh"
 - i. 2 Cor 4:5- "We preach not ourselves"
 - a) Paul was not interested in self-promotion or gain
 - b) 1 Cor 2:2- I determined not to know anything among you but Christ crucified
 - c) 2 Cor 3:1- "Do we commend ourselves?"
 - 1) The flesh is always puffed up, and desirous of vain glory
 - 2) There is always a noted difference in the congregation when a preacher speaks of himself or uses a personal example
 - 3) Paul was careful that when he got done speaking, the people spoke of the greatness of Christ and not Paul
 - d) 1 Cor 13:4-5- Love doesn't vaunt itself
 - 1) Paul was careful to keep himself out of the message, he was never trying to "put himself over"
 - (a) Anytime you mention yourself, there is a perking up among the listeners, and this in turn can lead to wanting to speak more about ourselves
 - (b) The Same applies to the listeners, as they can ruin a preacher when they sit up and take notice of him in the flesh
 - e) 1 Cor 11:11-13- Paul hated the idea of the "Paulites" as much as the "Apollosites"
 - ii. 1 Cor 2:3-5- In fear and much trembling (this is how Paul entered the pulpit)
 - a) Paul was always aware of his own weakness and inability
 - 1) 2 Cor 10:4- We do not war "after the flesh"

5. Paul relied upon the Spirit of God and not upon his own abilities and education
 - i. Acts 17:16- Paul's spirit "stirred" within him
 - a) We can teach the word of God very systematically and mechanically, and be accurate and right, yet still be "after the flesh"
 - b) Rom 8:14- "Led of the Spirit"
 - c) 1 Cor 2:6- Paul didn't speak in the words of man's wisdom
 - d) 2 Cor 11:6- Paul allowed himself to be "rude in speech"
 - e) 2 Cor 10:10- "His speech is contemptible"
 - f) 2 Cor 12:9-10- His strength made perfect in our weakness
 - 1) All these things were true of Paul, and yet he was highly educated and had much learning as well as apostolic power. But he did not use these things to his own promotion
 - 2) Example of Thomas Goodwin, who would remove everything that was eloquent from his sermons
 - 3) We also must beware of the exact reverse form of self promotion and exaltation ("I'm just a dumb country boy, but.....")
 - g) Paul did not allow his zeal to overtake him
 - 1) Gal 4:18- Good to be zealous in the things of God, and no simply zealous for activities sake
 - 2) Rom 12:11- Be not slothful in spirit
 - 3) Though Paul was a very zealous and active man by nature, as we can see from his own statements and activities, he did not allow himself to overdrive the will of god, as he patiently awaited God's making it possible for him to visit Rome.
 - (a) This is an incredible example of the power of God and His sovereignty, that he could subdue the zealousness of Paul, and bend his will to His Own
 - (1) Lyrics to "Oh For A Heart To Praise God"
 - (2) Lyrics to "Give Me The Faith Which Can remove"
 - (3) Lyrics to "All Upon The Altar"