

**"Looking at the Apostle's Heart"**

**Part 2**

**Romans 1:8-15**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study we looked at the details of Paul's heart which we could see within the introduction of the book of Romans. We looked at Romans 1:8-12 and we could see several points.

**I. The Apostle**

**A. Paul was a Thankful Apostle.**

**Notice Romans 1:8**

**B. Paul was a Willing Apostle.**

**Notice Romans 1:9**

**C. Paul was a Longing Apostle.**

**Notice Romans 1:9-12**

**1. He longed to walk in the will of God.**

**Notice Romans 1:10**

**2. He longed to exercise his gifts to edify the church.**

**Notice Romans 1:11, 13**

**3. He longed to have fellowship with the believers at Rome.**

**Notice Romans 1:12**

As we continue there is yet another longing which Paul had.

**4. He longed to see fruit from his ministry.**

**Notice Romans 1:13**

Paul had desired to visit the church at Rome but up until the time this letter was written he had been hindered from making the journey. He did not just desire to make a social call but he desired to go to Rome to have fruit among the believers there. Paul was a man who desired to exercise his gifts in a way that God would use them to bring about fruit.

**Application:**

As we journey through this life our goal as believers should be to produce fruit as we exercise our spiritual gifts. Let me show you what Jesus said concerning spiritual fruit in the lives of His disciples.

**John 15:1-8**

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

*<sup>2</sup> Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

*<sup>3</sup> Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

*<sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

*<sup>5</sup> I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

*<sup>6</sup> If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

*<sup>7</sup> If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

*<sup>8</sup> Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit: so shall ye be my disciples.*

The statement in verse 8 is in the present tense and it means to bear fruit CONTINUALLY.

**John 15:16**

*<sup>16</sup> Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*

It is God's desire that we as believers live our lives in a way that we continually bear spiritual fruit.

Now it is important to know that in the Bible spiritual fruit is listed in 3 categories.

**a. The spiritual fruit of ATTITUDE.**

**Galatians 5:22-23a**

<sup>22</sup> *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

<sup>23</sup> *Meekness, temperance:*

b. The spiritual fruit of ACTION.

1. Our Lifestyle

**Romans 6:22**

<sup>22</sup> *But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.*

2. Our Words

**Hebrews 13:5**

<sup>15</sup> *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.*

3. Our Giving

**Philippians 4:16-17**

<sup>16</sup> *For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.*

<sup>17</sup> *Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.*

c. The spiritual fruit of SOULS.

**Romans 16:5**

<sup>5</sup> *Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my well-beloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.*

Notice Romans 1:13 again.

This is most likely the fruit which Paul was speaking of here in this text. Paul longed to go to Rome which was the hub of the Roman Empire and there preach the Gospel among the people. Paul knew the words which were recorded by Matthew and John.

**John 4:34-38**

*<sup>34</sup> Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.*

*<sup>35</sup> Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.*

*<sup>36</sup> And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.*

*<sup>37</sup> And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth.*

*<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.*

### **Mathew 9:36-38**

*<sup>36</sup> But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.*

*<sup>37</sup> Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;*

*<sup>38</sup> Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

Now as we get back to the text we shall 3 marks of Christian maturity in the life of Paul.

#### **D. He was an obligated Apostle.**

#### **Notice Romans 1:14**

In Romans 1:14-16 we find the 3 "I AM's" of Paul. Here in verse 14 we see the first I AM when he tells his readers I AM debtor. It is another way of saying I AM CONCERNED FOR OTHERS. The word "debtor" refers to one who is "under obligation" or one who is "bound by a duty". Paul understood that he had within him the most important message the world would ever hear. Let me show you the words of William McDonald:

*"Anyone who has Christ has the answer to the world's deepest need. He has the cure to the disease of sin, the way to escape the eternal horrors of hell, and the guarantee of everlasting happiness with God. This puts him under solemn obligation to share the good news with people of all cultures."*

Besides having the message of hope within him he had been given a ministry.

**2 Corinthians 5:17-20**

*<sup>17</sup> Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*

*<sup>18</sup> And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;*

*<sup>19</sup> To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

*<sup>20</sup> Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.*

Paul viewed himself as the chief of sinners. He knew he did not deserve God's free gift of salvation. But he had it and he knew it was available to all who would believe. This verse proves that salvation is available to all for Paul tells us he was under obligation to the Greeks and to the Barbarians. The Greeks were the civilized and the Barbarians were the rough, uncivilized peoples. He also states that he was debtor to the wise and the unwise. These were references to the educated and the uneducated. Those in Rome would have understood this verse to mean that Paul was under obligation to ALL who were under the Roman rule. He had the message that could set the prisoner free from the bondage of sin, it was the message that could save the sinner from the fires of hell, and it was the message that could bring everlasting joy and contentment to the depressed and discouraged. He was therefore under obligation to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To the people of the Roman Empire there may have been several classes in society but in the mind of Paul there were only two groups of people in the world, the saved and the lost. He carried with him a great burden to reach as many as he could with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**1 Corinthians 9:16**

*<sup>16</sup> For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!*

**Application:**

This OBLIGATION which Paul had for the lost is something that should be found in every one of us who know Jesus Christ. We have within us THE MOST VALUABLE message in the world.

**2 Corinthians 4:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

To remain silent with the message of the Gospel is to withhold life from those whom we know. To remain silent is the far worse than standing on a street corner and allowing a blind man beside of us to step off the curb into the path of a semi-truck. We have the message of life and we live in a world that is dying. We have been commissioned to spread the Gospel. We not only can do this with our words but we can also contribute by giving our finances and our time.

This now brings us to the second "I AM".

**E. Paul was a READY Apostle.**

**Notice Romans 1:15**

Paul was not just a man who was concerned for the lost he was READY and WILLING To give his life to reach the lost with the Gospel. One of Paul's companions named Epaphroditus also had the very same eagerness when it came to serving the Lord.

**Philippians 2:25-30**

<sup>25</sup> Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

<sup>26</sup> For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

<sup>27</sup> For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

<sup>28</sup> I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

<sup>29</sup> Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

<sup>30</sup> Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

The 3 "I AM's" of Paul here are 3 marks of the believer whom God uses. The first "I AM" comes natural. It is natural to be concerned for those who surround us. I think it is safe to say that we are all concerned for someone who does not know the Lord.

But it is the second "I AM" that we struggle with. The reason is because even as believers we can have "I" problems. Let me show you the words of Ray Stedman on this very thought.

*"Here is where the great struggle begins. Paul could say, "I am eager to fling myself into this thing." Most Christians are not ready to make that statement. The Christian life is very predictable. In a sense, you can trace its workings: It begins with the non-Christian, who says, in great, large, capital letters: "I." This is the trouble with men -- "I" trouble.*

*Then, as one becomes a Christian, another note is added. It becomes: "Christ and I." But that is still not right.*

*As that Christian life grows and develops, the "I" becomes smaller and smaller until, at last, there is just "Christ" -- "Not I, but Christ".*

#### **Galatians 2:20**

*<sup>20</sup> I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

*This describes the committed person, who is no longer thinking about what he is going to get out of it, or what blessings are going to be given to him, or what glory, admiration, or advancement he can get out to the Christian cause -- but only "Christ."*

#### **Conclusion:**

I will leave you with a short conversation between D. L. Moody and another individual.

*D. L. Moody said to a man, "Why don't you try doing so-and-so?" The man replied, "I've been aiming to do that for a long time." In his blunt way, Moody replied, "Well, brother, it's about time you quit aiming and started firing."*