"Pass On the Good News"

ROMANS 1:8-17
10-6-2019

***We must pass on to others the Good News of God!**

Be challenged by the example of Paul.

Passing on the Good News to others was:

I. A PRAYER REQUEST OF PAUL (v. 8-10)

A. The Cause of His Prayer (v. 8)

B. The Continuity of His Prayer (v. 9)

C. The Content of His Prayer (v. 10)

Passing on the Good News to others was:

II. A PASSIONATE DESIRE OF PAUL (v. 11-13)

A. When we pass on what God has given to us, others are strengthened (v. 11)

B. When we pass on what God has given to us, others are encouraged (v. 12)

Passing on the Good News to others was:

III. A BINDING DUTY TO PAUL (v. 14-15)

Passing on the Good News to others was:

IV. NOT AN EMBARRASSMENT TO PAUL (v. 16-17)

1. No one should be ashamed of "good news" (this is what the gospel is!)

2. No one should be ashamed of that which saves.

3. No one should be ashamed of that which is for everyone.

4. No one should be ashamed of that which is right (v. 17).

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HRM – 8-27-2022



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INTRODUCTION: Example: "Hand me down" Clothes

Example: The four lepers who found the abandoned Syrian treasure. While they were enjoying it and hiding it away for themselves, they said to each other, "We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace" (II Ki. 7:9).

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Passing on the Good News to others was:

I. A PRAYER REQUEST OF PAUL (v. 8-10)

A. The Cause of His Prayer (v. 8)

God receives the credit (the thanks) whenever our testimony goes forth (NOTE: Paul--rather than praising the Romans for their faith--praises God for their faith. Remember, even our faith is a gift of God [Eph. 2:8] and when we share it and others are convicted and converted by our witness, God still gets the glory!).

We are to ask (make request) in Jesus' name (through Jesus Christ - Jn. 14:14, 15:16, 16:23), and we should also thank the Father through (by means of) Christ.

Someone who is truly saved cannot hide it. It will be known. The evidence (fruit) will be unavoidable.

B. The Continuity of His Prayer (v. 9)

To call God to be your witness shows the sincerity of your statement.

Your spiritual service must flow from your spirit.

Our service must never be motivated or energized by the flesh but by the Holy Spirit who works in conjunction with our spirit.

Paul prayed non-stop for the Romans. This does not mean 24 hours a day, but habitually through the day and week.

C. The Content of His Prayer (v. 10)

Paul prayed that God would open the door for him to go to Rome. His request was unselfish (v. 11).

Even though Paul had right motives, even though he wanted to be a blessing to the Romans, he still was dependent upon the will of God. Whenever you pray, always ask God to do His will.
Don't force God's will. Don't be disappointed when God does not answer right away (even when it is a noble, God-honoring cause you are striving to do).

God has a reason for the delay in answering your prayer (cp. v. 13b).

Paul did not merely pray that God would give spiritual understanding and growth to the Romans, he prayed that he would be the one God would use to do it.

Paul was one who was willing to put "feet to his prayers."

It's relatively easy to ask God to do something. It's not so easy to ask God to do it through you.

It's not too demanding to pray:

1."Lord, save my parents, neighbor, friends, etc."
2."God, meet the spiritual needs of ____."
3."Father, strengthen the faith of ___."

What we fail to do is to pray:

1."Lord, use me to witness to _____."
2."God, give me the opportunity to help _."
3."Father, open the doors for me to strengthen the faith of _____."

It is hypocritical to pray that God would meet the needs of others, when you have the ability and opportunity to do so yourself.

EX: To pray, "Lord, send forth laborers into your harvest field" (Mt. 9:38) and to not be willing to go yourself cannot be a sincere (from the heart) request.

Our prayer should be (as the hymnwriter said): "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace . . ."

Passing on the Good News to Others was:

II. A <u>PASSIONATE DESIRE</u> OF PAUL (v. 11-13)

v. 11

"I long to see you" - I have a continual, strong, compelling, desire to see you.

Paul's desire to see the Romans was not for selfish reasons (ILLUS: of wanting to go on vacation or visit people for selfish reasons).

He wanted to see them for the purpose that he might share with them ( ) something that God gave him.

"Gift" = the result of grace.

Paul knew that everything he had was a result of grace. It was given him by God. So he thought "why be selfish with it. I want to pass it on! I want others to be blessed with what God has given me."
"Impart . . . <u>some</u> spiritual gift" - What was it?

Whatever it was, its purpose was to <u>strengthen</u> them ("established")

Whatever it was, it would encourage their <u>faith</u> (v. 12)

Whatever it was, it evidently involved the proclamation of the Gospel (v. 15).

Therefore, the spiritual gift that Paul wanted to share was <u>doctrinal</u> in nature. It involved preaching about various facets of the glorious Gospel (v. 15), which would strengthen their faith.

A. When we pass on what God has given to us, others are <u>strengthened</u> (v. 11)

Paul's goal in sharing the blessings that God gave him was so that the Roman Christians might be established (strengthened) by God (passive verb) in their faith.

He lived for the spiritual advancement of others.

The spiritual strength of others should be our concern. Paul was not one who merely lived for his own strength (fortitude).

Rather, he received strength by giving of his strength (NOTE: mutual

encouragement is the result - v. 12).

The sowing and reaping principle applies to all areas of life. You sow hard work, you reap success. You sow into other's lives, your reap in your own. You give of your strength so that others will be strengthened, and you will find that God will give back to you.

Everything we learn about God's grace, we should desire to tell others (like a person who would find the cure for cancer, or like a person who found a buried treasure).

Paul's overwhelming desire was to <u>give</u> for the spiritual benefit of others. He wanted to give of himself. Is that your desire?

B. When we pass on what God has given to us, others are <u>encouraged</u> (v. 12)

When we are used to strengthen someone's faith, we are encouraged and they are encouraged.

No one is beyond the need of encouragement. Not even the Apostle Paul. We receive encouragement when we see living faith in others. And they are encouraged when they see it in us.

The evidenced faith of a new convert encourages those who are mature in the Lord. And the faith of those who are mature encourages the baby Christian. We need each other.

We need to see each other's faith in word and deed. Don't hide what you believe - Let it shine!

v. 13

"I purposed to come" = I had it on my agenda. It was a goal that was "<u>set in front</u>" of my vision. Paul is saying: "I had every intention to come but was hindered."

How many times did you intend to do something that you thought was God's will, but were hindered?

Paul had an eager, zealous, desire to preach the good news to the Romans (v. 15), but was stopped from going there.

Paul had been arrested (Acts 21), tried by the Sanhedrin (Acts 23), by deputy Felix (Acts 24). He was then imprisoned for 2 years and then gave his

defense before Festus (Acts 25) and to Agrippa (Acts 26) before appealing to Caesar (Acts 26:32).

On his way to Rome as a prisoner, he was shipwrecked (Acts 27). And when he finally arrived at Rome, he was for two years under house arrest (Acts 28:30). But God had a purpose in his being hindered - it was so he would have fruit among other Gentiles (v. 13b).

Passing on the Good News to Others was:

III. A <u>BINDING DUTY</u> TO PAUL (v. 14-15)

Verse 14 is tied to the end of verse 13 because Paul is saying, "I wanted to come to you at Rome, but God had <u>others besides you</u> that He wanted me to share the gospel with (v. 13), because I am a debtor to all" (v. 14).

"I am debtor" = I am under a binding obligation.

ILLUS: of the trillion dollar debt of USA. ILLUS: of credit card debts, unpaid bills, etc.

Debts must be paid, no option.

Are you as conscientious about paying a debt to those who don't know Christ as you are in paying your phone, electric, and mortgage bills?

For Paul, spreading the Gospel was an obligation, not an option.

Paul saw himself as a debtor to all <u>cultures</u> and all <u>classes</u>. To: Greeks - wise (educated)
Barbarians - unwise (uneducated)

The Barbarians were called this because of how their language sounded when it was spoken. to a Greek, this speaking sounded like they were saying: "Brrr-Brrr" (idle chatter).

I Cor. 9:16 - "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for <u>necessity</u> is laid upon me; yea, <u>woe</u> is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"

We have no go because we have no “woe”! We don’t realize the seriousness of not sharing the Gospel.

Paul knew that if he did not pay his debt he would be guilty of crime and would stand before God with bloody hands.

Acts 20:26, 27 - "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God."

(cp. Ezek. 3:18)

ILLUS: If you were starving to death, living in poverty, etc., and someone gave you a million dollars that you didn't earn or deserve and said, "I want you to go tell others that I have the same thing for everyone who comes to me, wouldn't you feel a bit obligated to pass the news on??

v.15 - "So" = Because of my debt . . ."I am eager to preach the Gospel . . ."

“I am ready” – Ready = prothumia – literally: to be hot towards; to have an on fire zeal. An eagerness. This eagerness was due to a tremendous burden that Paul had (see: Rom. 9:1-3)

Paul was one who was <u>eager</u> to pay his debts.

Jeremiah said: "Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay." (Jer. 20:9)

Elihu said: "For I am full of matter, the spirit within me constraineth me. Behold, my belly is as wine which hath not vent; it is ready to burst like new bottles." (Job 32:18-19)

Preach – to evangelize with the Gospel. To Gospelize

Are you ready? “be ready always” (1 Peter 3:15); “feet shod with the preparation (readiness) of the Gospel” (Eph. 6:15).

Passing on the Good News to Others was:

IV. NOT AN EMBARRASSMENT TO PAUL (v. 16-17)

To be "ashamed" means - to have a feeling of fear or shame which prevents a person from doing something. To be embarrassed, humiliated, or blush because of something you did that others view as wrong.

The only thing we should be ashamed of if sin (immorality)! (cp. Titus 2:8)

1. No one should be ashamed of "good news" (this is what the gospel is!)

"Gospel" - 1 Corinthians 15:1-3 - Christ's substitutionary death and bodily resurrection.
(Illustrations: The Train; The burn hen; The just king)

Paul said to Timothy: "Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord..." (II Tim. 1:8).

Jesus said - "For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels." (Luke 9:26)

2. No one should be ashamed of that which saves.

"Power" = dynamite - explosive and sustained energy that is able to crack open any hard heart!

Have you ever seen the power of the Gospel? I have seen it change

homosexuals (Albert Candelaria), drunkards, drug addicts (Luis Soto). If it can do that, should I be ashamed of it?

3. No one should be ashamed of <u>that which is for everyone</u>.

Salvation is sufficient for all, but only efficient to those who believe.

4. No one should be ashamed of that which is <u>right</u> (v. 17).

God's righteousness is unveiled in the Gospel of Christ.

Never be ashamed of truth!

People may view the gospel as foolish, but it is their only hope of salvation!

When are we ashamed? When we lack confidence in the trustworthiness of God. We wonder: “is God really going to come through?” or “is this message trustworthy?” YES!!! What is the secret to sharing the gospel without shame? <u>Total</u> confidence in it!

Paul said in II Tim. 1:12 - "I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am <u>persuaded</u> that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."

Because of our oneness with Him, Jesus is not ashamed to call us "Brethren" (Heb. 2:11; cp. 11:16).

ILLUS: If you were drowning and someone rescued you, would you be ashamed of that person? NO! You might be ashamed of your inability to swim. But never of the rescuer!

How could we be ashamed of Christ, who rescued us?

CONCLUSION:

For Paul, passing on the good news to others was:

1. A prayer request of Paul

2. A passionate desire of Paul

3. A binding duty to Paul

4. Not an embarrassment to Paul

POEM - "You lived next door to me for years . . ."

What will you do with what God has given to you? . . . Pass it on!