

Paul's Motivation

Romans 1:8-17

(Read Entire Passage)

- In this passage I believe we see Paul's true Motivation, so this is what we'll preach about... Paul's motivation
- Why was Paul writing this letter?
- Why did Paul long to see the Roman Christians?
- What was the motivation?
- Or what was his motive?
- A motive is something (as a desire or need) that causes a person to act...
- A motive implies an emotion or desire operating on the will and causing it to act...
- We use that word usually from a legal standpoint.
- When ~~ascertaining~~ trying to understand a criminal and his crime, we often ask, "What was his motive? Was there a motive? Was there a reason why he did it?"
- Now in a crime, usually the motive is secret. It's elusive. That's why there's an investigation. They look for clues and leads. And they gather much information and try to piece together like a puzzle what was going on... and people say, "I just can't understand why? Why did he do it?" It's a mystery.
- But Paul has committed no crime, despite the fact that he was incarcerated for some time. He was no criminal and committed no crime, and was not elusive or secretive about his motive...

- He did not try to keep his Motivation from people or the people he encountered...

Vs 13. It says, "I would not have you ignorant brethren! I don't want you to not know why I long to see you... I want you to know, I have no secrets here, no ulterior motive, no hidden motive... I got it all out in the open this is my nature. Here it is!

* There's a few things that Paul wants...

Vs 10: For I long to see you... why? Why do you want to see us Paul...
"That I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established..."

Paul wanted to give them a gift... Not a Christmas gift or a Birthday gift... but a spiritual gift...

- Now 1st all before we get into spiritual gifts, let me say, that this fact, that Paul wants to give them a spiritual gift, tells us ~~us~~ or shows us the good nature of Paul the apostle... Amen?
I think if we can read between the lines, I think we can see that Paul just wants to be a blessing.

- And I think that in itself is a tremendous testimony:

- Paul who once wanted to persecute and deliver to prison these Christians, now wants to be a blessing. He once a curse and a terror to God's people. But on that Damascus Road, he met the lovely Lord Jesus Christ... and it changed his life. Not a curse, but a blessing. Not a terror, but a mentor.

- And not just a testimony of the grace of God, but also lesson on Christian character...

- To be a blessing, to give gifts instead of insults and criticism... The Law of God condemned and offered no help, but the grace of God in Jesus Christ, extends forward a helping hand... It empowers. It is the power of God into salvation... And we see that in the Christian character of Paul, a desire or need to empower... to give... ~~to~~ a spiritual gift, to be a blessing

- To give a spiritual gift, what is that?

Now the tendency for preachers and teachers is to go to the next place in the bible, that it mentions spiritual gifts and glean from there a deeper meaning.

- In this case, this would bring us to Romans 12.

- Where Paul lists the spiritual gifts

Rom 12:6-8 (Road)

Prophecy, ministry, exhortation, giving, ruling, mercy.

1st Question: Are these the gifts he's talking about in Chapter 1.

- I don't think so...

- Though, Rom 12 is surely context key that it's the same book, there is closer context that speaks otherwise.

- ... to the end he may be established ... and a few verses later, Paul says he's ready to preach the Gospel.

- So I would say these spiritual gifts are the ~~benefits~~ ~~long term~~ benefits on the gospel of Jesus Christ...

- The benefits that cause one to be established, grounded, and rooted in the Faith...

- So what are they? Well, they're spiritual, therefore, you can't see them.

- It's a gift a benefit that we experience spiritually

- It's on the inside.

- And the end result is that we be established.

- That means it makes us love God more.

- That means it makes us trust God more.

- It means we want God more than before.

- And that's into the Word of the Mount does it not?

- The trials and troubles many times push us from God. We're so busy with the concerns of this world. We become so worldly minded we're of no heavenly use... Sin creeps into our hearts and minds and we go on day by day strangers to God... To love God more, To need God more... to trust him more...

- Paul says, "I want to help you with that" I want to give you something that will help you to seek the face of God, to seek his presence, I want to help you love God more, I want to help you to trust God more,

It's so sweet to trust in Jesus
Just to trust him at his word.
Just to rest upon his promise.
Just to know thus saith the Lord.
Jesus Jesus ~~Prayer Jesus~~ How I trust thee
How I proved him ever and over
Jesus Jesus ~~Prayer Jesus~~
Oh for grace to trust him more...

- Paul just wants to be a blessing -
- (Buy a work testimony)

- Essentially, I just want you to do good job
I don't want you to mess... We're all in this &
together... Let's get the job done...

vs 12
Muddled
Faint
you
me

Now, Paul wanted to give, but he also wanted to get...

- His motive was not just to give, but also to receive. I never said that he didn't want to receive anything, because that wouldn't be true.

- Vs. 13 (Read)

My purpose is ... to have some fruit...

~~1 Cor 9:14~~ 1 Cor 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel...

1 Th 5:18 Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And the laborer is worthy of his reward...

Paul is saying, I'd like to reap what I've sown...

- There's nothing of selfishness in this at all...

- Reaping is not about getting. It's about joy.

- It's about finally seeing the fruit of your labor. And joy that comes after all the hard work was put into something and to finally see it all come to fruition.

- It's about joy. And thankfulness to God...

- It's about working and wanting to work and wanting...

- And there's power in it.

- unto SALVATION, - This is the full sense of the Word.

Deliverance!

safety

Preservation

Healing

Security

- Salvation has several sense.

#1 Saved from the guilt + penalty of sin

#2 Being saved from the habit and dominion of sin

#3 To be saved in the sense of entire conformity to Christ

- So that's about everything there. So when Paul says it's the power of God unto salvation...

- He means that the ~~Gospel~~ the preaching of the gospel will benefit anybody, will solve any problem, will handle any situation...

- God has got the Power...

Jesus said that All Power was given unto him...

Luke 4:18

= There is POWER in the Gospel...

- Heal the broken-hearted

- Broken

- Deliverance to the captive

- Bound

- Recovery of sight the blind

- Blind

- set at liberty them that are bound

- Bound

- The Gospel has got the power to handle all of it...

- That's Paul's motivation. He wants those benefits to be partaken of by the Romans.
- That's the spiritual gift I want to give you.
And when they come to pass, when your faith comes to fruition, that's the fruit I want to have.

- I want to reap what I sow. I'll sow the seeds of the Gospel and I'll reap the fruit of salvation.

1 cor 9:14 "They which preach the Gospel, should live of the gospel"