

Romans 15:17-22

Paul - “I Was Really Busy”



Paul has concluded his arguments.

DELAYED

Now he is wrapping things up. He had been very preoccupied with personally checking on the condition of the churches in Asia minor, most of which he had started. He was trying to establish a stronger theological foundation and make the needed course corrections in each church that would keep them true to the real gospel. So he had kept delaying his planned trip to Rome. After hearing reports, from people he knew and trusted, of conflict and division in the church in Rome, this letter had to take the place of a visit. Thankfully, this phenomenal treatise, the book of Romans, was the result, and the *total* church, through every age and era, has benefitted and been well-guided by it!

Paul would eventually make it to Rome, but when it finally happened, it would be as a prisoner awaiting trial.

Vs. 16 – “... a minister of Christ...with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God...(with the goal of) making unlikely people (gentiles) an “offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit”.



He is a commissioned man carrying out his God-given mission to tell others of the Creator’s efforts in and through Jesus to win the hearts and minds of people to Himself. But Paul was not more commissioned than you or I are! Jesus left the exact same instructions for all who follow Him!

Vs 17 – “... *I glory in Christ Jesus, in my service...*”

No one could deny Paul’s tenacity in promoting and propagating the gospel throughout the Roman empire. It was the only thing worth being proud of. No one could argue that he was not an tireless and effective gospelor!

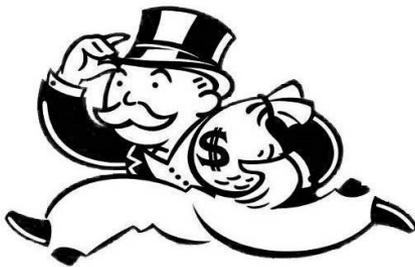


What are you proud of in your life? What in your life is *worth* being proud of?



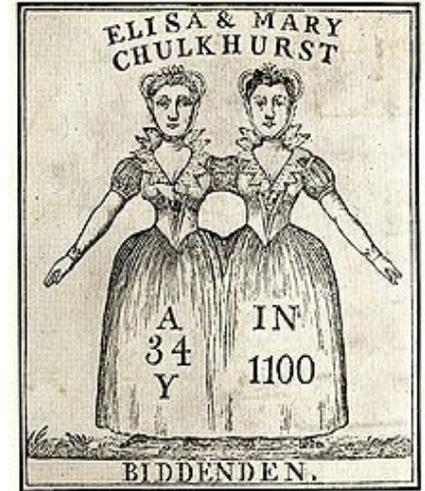
Vs. 18 – “*I will not venture to speak of anything except...*”

25, 50, 100 years from now, no one will remember you were a beauty queen, a football star, a senator, filthy rich, have your walls papered with degrees, or ate 25 hot dogs in 10 minutes and got your name in Ripley’s Believe It or Not! Only that which is connect with God and eternity will be remembered – and forever!



Vs. 18 cont... “...*by what I’ve said and done...*”

“Said” and “done” have a symbiotic relationship. They are connected/ conjoined inseparably!



~ **Doing without saying is largely ineffective.** The gospel is essentially cerebral. It is a story! It’s details must be told!

~ Conversely, **saying without doing** is the antithesis of the gospel! It constitutes hypocrisy which sours people against Christ and turns them away from His church! Everyone despises a hypocrite! When a hypocrite speaks the gospel, people despise the gospel because they despise the hypocrite!

Vs. 19 – The signs and wonders that had accompanied Paul’s ministry among the gentiles had verified that what Paul taught was approved of by God. If God had disapproved, none of it would have happened!

Jesus used miracles the same way. He would teach that He was God - which was insane - but then he would heal incurable diseases, give sight to the blind, provide hearing to the deaf, recreate lost limbs, and raise the dead! When he did these incredible miracles, even His greatest skeptics and worst enemies had to at least pause to consider more carefully His outrageous claims and their own opposition to Him!



Vs. 20 –

He liked teaching people that began with a clean slate – people that had not been first taught or mis-taught by others. It saved a lot of time and aggravation. The gentiles were sponges, soaking up the simple gospel story of Jesus without filtering it through a separate truth grid. The hardest people to win to Jesus are people that are mis-taught Christians. Once it get's inside them, people usually cling to their erroneous and unbiblical traditions and beliefs like they are the *most important* of Christian beliefs.



Vs. 21, 22

Paul had continued to delay his trip to Rome. He knew a lot of people in Rome that he would have loved to see. But he was too busy with what had to be done to do what he really would have liked to do. For him, it was all about accomplishing the work of God, even Rome, but for the present he had to go where the need was greatest. Everything else had to wait.

It is usually the opposite with most Christians. My stuff comes first and the things of God are just going to have to wait. If everyone had Paul's mentality/urgency we would have conquered the world with the love of Christ 10x over!

