

12-27-15

Series: The Book of Romans

The Gospel and God's Righteousness

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(19)

Romans 1:1-17

(Continuation from 12/20/15)

B. Paul's Interest in the Church: Enslavement to the Gospel, Romans 1:8-15

In verses 8-15, Paul's words suggest nine marks of true spiritual service:

Romans 1:8-10 (NASB)

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

⁹ For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the *preaching of the* gospel of His Son, is my witness *as to* how unceasingly I make mention of you,

¹⁰ always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

- 1) a **thankful** spirit (v. 8),
 - 2) a **concerned** spirit (v. 9-10a),
 - 3) a **willing** and **submissive** spirit (v. 10b),
 - 4) a **loving spirit** (v. 11),
 - 5) a **humble** spirit (v. 12),
 - 6) a **fruitful** spirit (v. 13),
 - 7) an **obedient** spirit (v. 14),
 - 8) an **eager** spirit (v. 15).
- A ninth, a **bold** spirit, is mentioned in v. 16a.

Romans 1:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

2. (Romans 1:9) **Gospel— Salvation— Decision: the gospel subjected Paul's spirit to God's Son.**

Romans 1:9 (NASB)

⁹ "For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the *preaching of the* gospel of His Son, is my witness *as to* how unceasingly I make mention of you.

(See below Deeper Study # 1, Serve—Romans 1:9 for more discussion.)

Every man should subject his spirit to God's Son. **Why?** Because of the gospel, the glorious salvation that is in Christ Jesus: the deliverance from sin, death, and hell.

When a person considers that he is enslaved by sin and that he is actually going to die and have to give an account to God, **he is most foolish**.....

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1. not to accept the salvation that is in God's Son.
2. not to subject his spirit to God's Son.
3. not to serve in the gospel of God's Son.

DEEPER STUDY # 1

Romans 1:9 (NASB)

⁹“For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness *as to* how unceasingly I make mention of you.

(**Romans 1:9**) Serve (*latreuō*): means “labor of hire, service that is bought”.

Romans 1:9 (NASB)

⁹“For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness *as to* how unceasingly I make mention of you.

Paul says, “I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son” (**Romans 1:9a**).

Note three points.

1. The believer's labor and service is bought and paid for by the precious blood of Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NASB)

¹⁹ Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?

²⁰ For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Matthew 10:28 (NASB)

²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Philippians 2:5-8 (NASB)

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2. The believer owes his labor and service to the Lord. Once he has surrendered to the gospel, he has no choice. He is to diligently serve and work for Christ.

Galatians 6:2 (NASB)

²“Bear one another's burdens, and thereby fulfill the law of Christ”.

3. The believer is to serve God in his spirit and in his body.

The spirit controls the body. What the spirit does, the body does. Therefore, if the believer is serving God in spirit, he is serving God in body. If a man's spirit is right, then his body will be right. For example, a man may feel bad; he may be down, depressed, and oppressed; but if his spirit is strong, he arises and conquers his feelings. He controls and overcomes the oppressing circumstances, and he lives a victorious day.

But if his spirit is weak—whether at work or at play—he often wallows around in self-pity, grumbling and griping, and living a defeated day. And too often the day stretches into weeks and months until a person's life is down more than it is up: all because the spirit is too weak to conquer.

Thought 1. The point is this: the believer is to serve God in his spirit and in his body.

He is.....

1. to keep his spirit strong,
2. to conquer his emotions,
3. to overcome his weaknesses, the ups and downs of his body.

When a believer does this, then he can serve God to the fullest extent possible.

Romans 12:1-2 (NASB)

¹“Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is your spiritual service of worship.*”

²“And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Deuteronomy 10:12 (NASB)

¹²“Now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require from you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.”