

# The Gospel and God's Righteousness

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(20)

Romans 1:1-17

(Continuation from 12/27/15)

## 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)**

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

<sup>9</sup> 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,

<sup>10</sup> 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)**

<sup>16</sup> 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.

### 3. (Romans 1:9) **Prayer: the gospel stirred Paul to pray without ceasing.**

**Romans 1:9 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> 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 was a man of intercessory prayer, a man who always prayed *for others*.

**Note two points.**

- 1. Paul called upon God to bear witness that he prayed.

He did not.....

- a. just talk about praying.
- b. just tell people he was praying for them as a courtesy.
- c. just pretend to pray.
- d. just spends a few minutes in a *religious exercise* of prayer.

**Psalm 5:3 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> In the morning, O Lord, You will hear my voice; In the morning I will order *my prayer* to You and *eagerly* watch.

**Psalm 55:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> Evening and morning and at noon, I will complain and murmur, And He will hear my voice.

**Psalm 119:147 (NASB)**

<sup>147</sup> I rise before dawn and cry for help; I wait for Your words.

**Luke 2:36-38 (NASB)**

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with *her* husband seven years after her marriage,

<sup>37</sup> and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

<sup>38</sup> At that very moment she came up and *began* giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**Acts 10:1-2 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> Now *there was* a man at Caesarea named Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian cohort,

<sup>2</sup> a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, and gave many alms to the *Jewish* people and prayed to God continually.

**1 Thessalonians 3:9-10 (NASB)**

<sup>9</sup> For what thanks can we render to God for you in return for all the joy with which we rejoice before our God on your account,

<sup>10</sup> as we night and day keep praying most earnestly that we may see your face, and may complete what is lacking in your faith?

**1 Timothy 5:3-5 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> Honor widows who are widows indeed;

<sup>4</sup> but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.

<sup>5</sup> Now she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day.

2. Paul even prayed for believers and churches whom he did not know. Remember he knew only a few of the believers in the Roman church; he had never met most of them. They were totally unfamiliar and unknown to him, yet he prayed for the church.

**Thought 1.** Scripture is strong in its charge to us.

We are to pray constantly and we are to pray for all believers throughout the world. Our prayers are not to be limited to a few minutes each day nor to our loved ones and close friends.

**Luke 18:1 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> Now He was telling them a parable to show that at all times they ought to pray and not to lose heart.

**John 16:24 (NASB)**

<sup>24</sup> Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.

**Ephesians 6:18 (NASB)**

<sup>18</sup> With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.

**Philippians 4:6-7 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

<sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

**Colossians 4:2-3 (NASB)**

<sup>2</sup> Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with *an attitude of* thanksgiving;

<sup>3</sup> praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word, so that we may speak forth the mystery of Christ, for which I have also been imprisoned.

**1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> Pray without ceasing.

**1 Timothy 2:8 (NASB)**

<sup>8</sup> Therefore I want the men in every place to pray, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and dissension.

**1 Chronicles 16:11 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup> Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually.