

Pt 2: Observations from the Apostle Paul's life.

1. HIS UNCOMPLICATED GOSPEL MESSAGE.

- It was simple and clear!
- *2 Cor 1:17-21* Then why, you may be asking, did I change my plan? Hadn't I really made up my mind yet? Or am I like a man of the world who says yes when he really means no? 18 Never! As surely as God is true, I am not that sort of person. My yes means yes. 19 Timothy and Silvanus and I have been telling you about Jesus Christ the Son of God. He isn't one to say yes when he means no. He always does exactly what he says. 20 He carries out and fulfills all of God's promises, no matter how many of them there are; and we have told everyone how faithful he is, giving glory to his name. TLB
- His gospel message was CLEAR and CONCISE
- There was NO DOUBT AS TO HIS MEANING when he presented the good news.
- HIS YES WAS YES – HIS NO WAS NO.
- It was clear and concise. You could not be confused as to the story which he told.
- He states that HE IS NOT LIKE A MAN OF THE WORLD whose YES often means NO.
- HIS YES MEANT YES.
- HE COULD BE TRUSTED WITH WHAT HE PREACHED/SAID - you about Jesus – the Gospel.
- JESUS CHRIST CAN ALSO BE TRUSTED.
- He can be trusted in what he says.
- HE WILL KEEP HIS WORD
- His YES IS YES – not some other meaning.

HIS MESSAGE - GOSPEL – the good news of Jesus Christ is:

(A) **JESUS DIED** for the sins of all people so that they might be forgiven and freed from all guilt and punishment from those sins.

(B) **HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD** – that through his resurrection he brought us into right relationship with himself (justified us).

(C) **HE PROVIDED SALVATION** FOR ALL MEN WHO BELIEVE on his atoning death on the cross.

(D) **HE LIVES - FOREVER** – (TODAY) SO HE IS ABLE to deliver from the FEAR OF DEATH all those who are bound by such fear.

(E) **HE DEMONSTRATES HIS POWER** IN PEOPLE'S LIVES TODAY.

(F) **HE BROKE THE POWER OF SIN** OVER US – the power that controlled us and made us sin

PAUL'S MESSAGE WAS CLEAR

That salvation:

- Is not through church membership.
- It is not through personal good works
- That it is not by being a Jew or being circumcised
- That it is by FAITH – personal believing

- **Through the grace of God – through Christ!**

2. HIS PASSION FOR MISSION - TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

- **READY AND WILLING to preach the Gospel**

Rom 1:15 So, to the fullest extent of my ability, I am ready to come also to you in Rome to preach God's Good News. TLB

- **Desiring to preach in OTHER CITIES BEYOND the where the church gathers**

2 Cor 10:16 After that, we will be able to preach the Good News to other cities that are far beyond you, where no one else is working; then there will be no question about being in someone else's field. TLB

- **Wanting to preach IN PLACES FURTHER AWAY – regions beyond**

Rom 15:20 But all the while my ambition has been to go still farther, preaching where the name of Christ has never yet been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. TLB

- **Desiring to preach TO THE GENTILES (people who are not Jews and considered to be outside the benefits of God's blessings/covenants)**

Gal 1:16-18 to reveal his Son to me, so that I might preach the Good News about him to the Gentiles, I did not go to anyone for advice, 17 nor did I go to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before me. Instead, I went at once to Arabia, and then I returned to Damascus. TEV

- **ALL MEANS - ALL THINGS - to all MEN - TO WIN SOME.**

- **HE WAS PREPARED TO USE ALL MEANS – DIFFERENT KINDS OF STYLES OR METHODS to reach people** with the good news and bring them to Christ.

- **HE WAS PREPARED TO IDENTIFY with all men and come down to their level to win them for Christ.** (But not denying Godly living or principles).

*1 Cor 9:19-23 And this has a real advantage: I am not bound to obey anyone just because he pays my salary; **yet I have freely and happily become a servant of any and all so that I can win them to Christ.** 20 When I am with the Jews I seem as one of them so that they will listen to the Gospel and I can win them to Christ. When I am with Gentiles who follow Jewish customs and ceremonies I don't argue, even though I don't agree, because I want to help them. 21 When with the heathen I agree with them as much as I can, except of course that I must always do what is right as a Christian. And so, by agreeing, I can win their confidence and help them too. 22 When I am with those whose consciences bother them easily, I don't act as though I know it all and don't say they are foolish; the result is that they are willing to let me help them. Yes, whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. 23 I do this to get the Gospel to them and also for the blessing I myself receive when I see them come to Christ. TLB*

- **He sees himself as BEING IN DEBT to preach the gospel to both the civilized and uncivilized people.**

Rom 1:14-17 For I owe a great debt to you and to everyone else, both to civilized people and uncivilized alike; yes, to the educated and uneducated alike. 15 So, to the fullest extent of my ability, I am ready to come also to you in Rome to preach God's Good News. 16 For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is God's powerful method of bringing all who believe it to heaven. This message was preached first to the Jews alone, but now everyone is invited to come to God in this same way. 17 This Good News tells us that God makes us ready for heaven-makes us right in God's sight-when we put our faith and trust in Christ to save us. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scripture says it, "The man who finds life will find it through trusting God." TLB

3. **HE WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING TO JEPODISE HIS JOY AND SATISFACTION THAT HE GOT FROM PREACHING THE GOSPEL**

1 Cor 9:15-16 Yet I have never asked you for one penny. And I am not writing this to hint that I would like to start now. In fact, I would rather die of hunger than lose the satisfaction I get from preaching to you without charge. 16 For just preaching the Gospel isn't any special credit to me-I couldn't keep from preaching it if I wanted to. I would be utterly miserable. Woe unto me if I don't. TLB

▪ **He gets a special joy out of preaching the Gospel**

*Eph 3:8-9 Just think! Though I did nothing to deserve it, and though I am the most useless Christian there is, **yet I was the one chosen for this special joy of telling** the Gentiles the Glad News of the endless treasures available to them in Christ; 9 and to explain to everyone that God is the Savior of the Gentiles too, just as he who made all things had secretly planned from the very beginning. TLB*

■ WHAT A MAN!

■ WHAT A DIFFERENT KIND OF MAN

■ HOW FAR REMOVED AM I FROM THIS MAN'S PASSION AND JOY

▪ SURELY WE CANNOT HELP BUT ASK OURSELVES what is my inward response to this fact? What is my response to this man's passion and joy to preach?

▪ SHOULD I - DO I - DESIRE TO BE JUST A LITTLE MORE LIKE THAT?

▪ IS IT POSSIBLE TO BE A LITTLE MORE PASSIONATE ABOUT THE TELLING OF THE GOSPEL?

▪ HAVE I BEEN A LITTLE TOO DISCONNECTED FROM THIS KIND OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE TELLING OF THE GOOD NEWS?

▪ HAVE I BEEN TOO COMPLACENT – INDIFFERENT – CARELESS IN MY CONNECTION WITH 'THE SHARING OF MY FAITH' WITH OTHERS?

WHAT A MAN!
WHAT A MESSAGE!
WHAT A CHALLENGE!