

Sermon Series: Romans

Sermon Text: Romans 1:14-16 Gospel Duty, Zeal, and Hope

Christ calls you, the Apostolic Church, to a gospelizing duty, zeal, and hope.

- You, the Apostolic Church=The office of Apostle died with the Twelve and Paul. The Church continues on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). The doctrine and life of the Church is therefore Messianic and Apostolic in content and form.
- Gospelizing=The more common word is “evangelizing” or “evangelism.” This word, however, is often used today of preaching the gospel to the unconverted, distinguishing it from the ongoing training in Christian thought and life often called discipleship. In our text the word is not limited to the former but encompasses both activities.

1) Christ calls you to the glad duty of impartial gospelizing (1:14).

- a) Glad Duty: “I am under obligation”
 - i) Not constrained by any merit of humanity
 - ii) Constrained by Christ (see 1:1 “a slave of Christ Jesus”)
- b) Impartial Gospelizing: “both to Greeks and barbarians, both to the wise and to the unlearned”
 - i) Greeks=wise, learned (well-ordered life; reason)
 - ii) barbarians=unlearned (low-ordered life; passion)
- c) **Application:**
 - i) What diminishes your joy in gospelizing? How can you increase your joy in gospelizing?
 - ii) What are the temptations to partiality? How can you kill the sin of partiality in gospelizing?

2) Christ calls you to the ready zeal for continued gospelizing (1:15).

- a) Ready Zeal: “I am eager to preach the gospel”
 - i) ready=prepared
 - ii) zeal=strong inner compulsion
- b) Continued Gospelizing: “to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome”
 - i) you=Christians/the Church; predominantly Gentile
 - ii) in Rome=capital city; cross-section of whole Empire
- c) **Application:**
 - i) What are the hindrances to preparedness? How can you be better prepared for gospelizing?
 - ii) What are the hindrances to zeal? How can you stir up your zeal for gospelizing?

3) Christ calls you to the glorious hope of empowered gospelizing (1:16).

- a) Glorious Hope: “I am not ashamed of the gospel”
 - i) not ashamed=no fear of being disappointed or put to shame
 - ii) temporal “shame” contrasted with eternal glory (cf. 5:1, 5; Phil. 1:20; 2 Tim. 1:8-12; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Rom. 8:17-25)
- b) Empowered Gospelizing: “it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek”
 - i) gospel=power of God for salvation (cf. Isa. 55:11)
 - ii) everyone who is believing=complete salvation of Church (effectual calling/regeneration, justification/adoption, mortification/sanctification/perseverance, glorification/resurrection)
- c) **Application:**
 - i) What discouragements do you face in gospelizing? How can you overcome those discouragements with hope?
 - ii) How is the gospel working in your life/family/church?