

Sharing Jesus
December 20, 2015

When the angel announced the birth of Christ, this was an announcement of 'good news' for all people - the whole world!

Luke 1:19 And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings.

Luke 2:10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.

The message about birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension and return of Christ is to be shared as 'good news' or 'good tidings' to everyone.

In as much as we celebrate, have fun and enjoy this Christmas season, we also need to think about the fact that God intended it to be "good tidings of great joy to all people".

On this thought, we will spend some time in what the apostle Paul had to say about the sharing the Gospel.

Lets read Romans 10:1-3,13-15

A little background about Paul's Epistle to the Romans.

Romans 10:1-3

1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

Although God had called Paul to be an apostle to the Gentiles, Paul has a great desire for the Jewish people to be saved. And he prayed for their salvation.

Question: As a believer do you have a desire, a passion for people to be saved? Are you praying to see souls saved and brought into God's Kingdom?

Truly - if we do not have this passion and we are not praying for this - **something is seriously wrong with our faith and following of Jesus Christ**. We are missing one of the core foundational building blocks of our Christian faith - that of share Christ with a lost world.

Romans 10:13-15

13 For "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."

14 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!"

Paul then explains the challenge facing people who do not know the Lord:

Somebody has to bring the message of the Gospel, so that people can hear, believe, call upon the Lord and be saved.

We must ourselves be carriers of the Gospel and we must also send others out as carriers of the Gospel.

"beautiful .. feet"

In Vs 15 Paul quotes from Isaiah 52:7

Isaiah 52:7

How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"

"The meaning here seems to be this: Isaiah was describing the certain return of the Jews to their own land. He sees in vision the heralds announcing their return to Jerusalem running on the distant hills. A herald bearing good news is a beautiful object; and he says that his feet are beautiful; that is, his running is beautiful. He came to declare that the long and painful captivity was closed, and that the holy city and its temple were again to rise with splendor, and that peace and plenty and joy were to be spread over the land. Such a messenger coming with haste, the prophet says, would be a beautiful object." (Albert Barnes' Notes on the Bible, 1798-1870)

Paul applies this to the carrying of the Gospel message.

How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the Gospel!

beautiful in whose eyes?

Of course in the eyes of those who hear the good news.

And beautiful in the eyes of the one who sent us to bear the good news to the world.

We need to bear in mind that we bring delight and joy to God when we are carriers of the Gospel.

In today's world, our "beautiful feet" may not necessarily mean the same as the "messenger boys" or "runners" of those days. In our world, we can carry, share and announce the message to people in many different ways. The point is, we are carriers of the Gospel. What tools we use can vary.

Think of ways and means that you can bring the Gospel to people you interact with.

People need to hear the Gospel.

We bring joy and delight to them and to God, when we bring the Gospel to people.

(Next year, we will do a series on "How to win souls and make disciples" where we will get into greater details on this topic).

One other thought before we close.

The apostle Paul, in his epistle to the Ephesians, also writes about the shoes of the Gospel of peace, but in the context of spiritual warfare.

Ephesians 6:15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Our readiness to share the Gospel, our sharing of the Gospel, is part of our warfare against the enemy - personally and corporately. When we share the Gospel we go on the offensive against the enemy. We invade enemy territory. This is one of the reasons why we are here.

Share Christ!

Salvation, Altar Call

Please remind people about Combined Christmas Service 10:30am at APC-Central only.

NOTES : THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

Source: <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/intros/romans.cfm>

Background and Setting

The Epistle to the Romans was written to Christians residing in the city of Rome (1:7, 15). Rome was the center of the Empire and was ethnically diverse. In the first century AD it had a population of around one million people [1] in an area less than ten square miles. [2] Of this large population, it is estimated that there was between 40,000 and 50,000 Jews in the city. [3] The Jewish population dates back to the second century BC as part of the Diaspora. In AD 64 there was a large fire in Rome that led Nero to expulse the Jews. [4] This also resulted in the first major persecution of the Church.

It is unclear how the church in Rome originally began. The best explanation is that the Romans who were present at Pentecost (Acts 2:10-11) eventually made their way back to Rome and started a church in one of the synagogues. However, there are also other explanations. "All roads lead to Rome" was the popular saying that demonstrated the city's importance and accessibility. It should not be surprising that there was already an established church before Paul's arrival. People who may have heard the gospel in Asia, Greece, or elsewhere could have traveled to Rome. In Romans 16 Paul greets several people, with the most notable of these being Priscilla and Aquila. Both Aquila and Priscilla were in Rome until about AD 49 when Claudius expelled all the Jews from the city (Acts 18:2). Paul met the couple when he came to Corinth (ca. AD 51). They did further ministry in Ephesus (Acts 18:19) around ca. AD 53. From there they went to Rome. It is likely that they were not the first ones to bring the gospel to Rome. A church was probably already established as it is noted that Paul greets the church that met in their house (16:5).

Of course the city of Rome was predominately populated by Gentiles and so it is expected that the church was comprised of both Jewish and Gentile believers (cf. 1:6, 7:1). Paul addresses both groups in this epistle.

Date and Location of Composition

Paul wrote the letter to the Romans from the city of Corinth, while he was on his third missionary journey. At the time he was gathering an offering from the Gentile Christians for the church in Jerusalem (15:25; Acts 24:17). This would place the letter's composition date at ca. AD 56.

Paul mentions three people that help to identify the letter's composition with Corinth: Phoebe (16:1), Gaius (16:23), and Erastus (16:23). He sent Phoebe of Cenchrea to the church in Rome as the bearer of the epistle. With her being from Cenchrea, she would have had ties to Corinth because Cenchrea is the port city for Corinth. There was a Gaius referenced in 1 Cor 1:14 as one who lived in Corinth and many

have identified him as the Titius Justus in Acts 18:7. Erastus was the city's treasurer (or director of public works) and in Corinth an inscription was discovered that refers to an Erastus as the city aedile (i.e., an official in charge of public works, etc.), which some have corresponded to Paul's reference to him. [7]

Audience

The apostle identifies his recipients in 1:7 by saying: To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints. His intent was for the Christians in all of Rome to read the epistle. It also seems that there were multiple churches in the Empire's capital because there is made mention of an additional church in the home of Priscilla and Aquila (Rom 16:5).

Purpose

Paul was writing to a church that he had never visited and a casual reading of the epistle does not convey the idea that he was dealing with situational issues (cf. the epistles to the Corinthians). Here Paul wrote with regards to the big picture-laying down the doctrine of soteriology. He wrote that they would know the gospel of Christ. He also wanted to inform the church regarding his future plans because those plans would involve them. At the time of writing the epistle, Paul was about to take the offering that he had collected from various churches to the poverty stricken church in Jerusalem. After that, he intended on going to visit the Roman church for a time to preach the Gospel to them. His subsequent plans were then to go westward to preach the gospel in Spain.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>