

The Apostle Paul

SERMON NOTES

Week 2 September 8, 2024

"Missionary Journeys"

Romans 1:1, 6-7; Acts 13:2-3, 15:19;

1 Corinthians 1:10-11, 5:1, 6:15-16, 19, 13:1-8



- I. **Our Calling – Lessons from the Life of Paul**
 - A. Following Jesus is the _____ call for all Christians.
 - B. Sometimes God gives us a vision and there is a long period of _____ before that vision is realized.
 - C. We're all called to be a _____.
- II. **Our Calling – Lessons from Paul's Missionary Journeys**
 - A. Paul and Barnabas hear their calling in the context of _____.
 - B. James says you can't make it _____ for people to follow Jesus.
 - C. Sometimes _____ is not what we dreamt it would be.
- III. **Our Calling – Lessons from Corinth**
 - A. God is calling us to be _____ and live a life that's pleasing to God in your body and in your secret thoughts.
 - B. We are called to practice _____ love toward other people.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *September 9-14, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

The Apostle Paul believed he was “called” by God to his ministry; and over and over again he tells Jesus followers that they have a calling as well. So have you been “called?” Do you know what your calling is? What can we learn from the Apostle Paul’s calling for our faith journey?

Monday: Acts 13:1-4, 8-15, 26-39

Paul told Jews and Gentiles that he preached new life and forgiveness “from all those sins from which you couldn’t be put in right relationship with God through Moses’ Law” (v. 38). Some early Christians wanted to say besides having faith in Christ, people still needed to keep Moses’ Law. Have you ever heard the idea that salvation takes “faith plus something” (or thought it)? What made Paul’s message especially vital as the faith spread outside the culture where it began?

Tuesday: Galatians 2:19-3:7

Until Paul told them about Jesus, most of the Galatian Christians were going about their day-to-day lives, not following scrupulous religious rituals. So Paul asked, “How did your new life begin? Was it by working hard to please God? Or was it by responding to God’s Message to you?” How would you answer his question? Are the good things you do an effort to impress God and earn salvation? Or a response to God’s grace and forgiveness changing your life?

Wednesday: Galatians 3:26-29, 5:1-6

The kind of faith the “Judaizers” wanted had strong cultural and ethnic effects that divided people. Paul, himself born in that ethnic group and culture, said, “Now if you belong to Christ, then indeed you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to the promise.” He rejected gender, economic or ethnic divisions. Do you ever struggle to accept believers in Jesus from a different ethnic or denominational background? Can we all find unity as “Abraham’s descendants” in Christ?

Thursday: Acts 16:6-15

Paul usually preached first in a synagogue. Philippi, though large, had no synagogue. So, Paul found a place of prayer by the river, and spoke with the women who met there. Lydia, “a dealer in purple cloth”, was one of his first converts. Paul baptized her and her household, and she offered hospitality while they were in Philippi. How good are you at going to unknown territory (physical or mental) if that’s what it takes to carry out God’s mission?

Friday: Acts 17:15-31

Some ideas about “evangelism” would say Paul (and Christians after him) should denounce the Athenians as pagan libertines and idolaters, going straight to hell. Paul’s actual sermon had a respectful, inclusive tone. (In verse 28, he quoted Epimenides, a Cretan philosopher and the Stoic poet Aratus.) Did quoting pagan writers “sell out” his faith? How can learning about faiths and cultures other than your own allow you to create conversation rather than condemnation?

MOVING FORWARD

When we look at the life and missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul we learn a few things about God’s calling in our life. Our primary calling is to follow Jesus, but we are also called to be an encourager for others, to live a life that’s pleasing to God in your body and in your secret thoughts, and, finally, to practice agape love toward other people. And if you do that, you will find that your calling fills you with joy and life.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) primary, B) time, C) Barnabas. IIA) worship, B) difficult, IIC) success. IIIA) holy, B) agape.