

An Apostle's Attitudes — from the series *The Epistle to the Romans*

By Stuart Briscoe

Scripture: Romans 1:1-17

There is no denying the remarkable impact of the Apostle Paul's ministry on the first century, nor its continued worldwide influence. Behind such outstanding achievement there lay powerful attitudes. What they were is easy to see.

I. Paul's Realistic Appraisal of Himself. vv. 1-6

- A. A ring of humility—"A servant ("doulos") of Christ Jesus."
- B. A note of authority—"Called to be an apostate."
- C. A sense of destiny—"Set apart for the gospel." See Galatians 1:15; Acts 13:2
- D. A feeling of adequacy—"Received grace and apostleship."
- E. A life of ministry—"To call people...to belong..."

II. Paul's Deep Appreciation of His Message.

- A. The character of His message—"Gospel."
- B. The confirmation of his message—"Promised beforehand."
- C. The content of his message—"Jesus Christ our Lord."
 - 1. His humanity—"Seed of David."
 - 2. His Deity—"Son of God."
 - a. Declared with power.
 - b. Declared through the Spirit.
 - c. Declared by resurrection.
- D. The consequences of his message.
 - 1. There is power for salvation.
 - a. All powerful—"Salvation" = "Safe and sound."
 - b. All embracing—"Everyone who believes."
 - 2. There is righteousness revealed.
 - a. God is "In the right."
- b. God does what is right.
 - b. God makes us right with Him.
 - c. God shows us how to life rightly (by faith).

III. Paul's Profound Affection for His People.

- A. Encouragement.
 - 1. Expressing appreciation—"Your faith is being reported."
 - 2. Engaging in intercession—"Constantly I remember you."
 - 3. Establishing in the faith—"Mutually encouraged."
- B. Energy.
 - 1. "I serve with my whole heart."
 - 2. "I pray the way may be opened."
- C. Enthusiasm.
 - 1. "I am obligated."
 - 2. "I am eager."
 - 3. "I am not ashamed."

Conclusion and application: Paul's attitudes help us to understand his achievements. How do my attitudes compare?