

You And The Church **Romans 1:8-15**

Many Different Attitudes Toward The Church

Many consider church as a drain on society
Money grabbing, take advantage of feeble minded
Most consider all churches as equal
Others see no need for the church - Find God on your own
Church as very important - Worry about future
Consider Paul's attitude as shown in Romans

Paul Was Positive

Seem to easily see negative
Paul took note of the positive - Commend for spread of their faith abroad
Letter shows he knew they were not perfect
Attitude needs to look for what is right
Certainly there will always be room for improvement and failings that must be addressed
But do we see and promote the positive
Let us learn to be positive, even when speak of those with imperfections

Paul Prayed

Prayer is needed - Paul prayed for all churches - **Ephesians 1:16; Colossians 1:3; 1Thessalonians 1:2**
Prays even for group which he has never met
Knew some members, (see **Romans 15,16**), but never been there
Prays unceasingly
We also need to pray for God to build up and protect churches everywhere
Hard to be critical of those whom we often lift in prayer to God
First impulse when trouble arises ought to be prayer
So, when you sense the church is in need or facing a challenge, or is in danger of digressing, the first thing to do is to pray on its behalf

Paul Was A Partner

Paul wanted to work with this church
Also admits he needs encouragement
Work of saints goes both directions
We need to be partners together
Use your gifts, abilities, to build up
Allow others to help you in the same way
No one in the kingdom of God works or ministers alone
All of us are connected and mutually dependent on each other - **1Corinthians 12:12**
Each member is needed and important
No matter how insignificant you may feel, you matter to this group
We need to be partners in the congregation of the Lord

Paul Planned

Paul's actions were not random, he planned
Given long serious consideration to being with these brethren
Entered a city and started teaching at synagogue, then moved out into the Gentile community
Followed this plan over and over, establishing congregations all along the way
What is your plan for Tanner St?
What do we need? What can we strengthen?
Are you just waiting for someone else to take the lead?
Too often we just stumble along hoping that something good will happen soon

Paul approached his work with a serious, workable plan to encourage others to leave sin and come to the Lord

Let us move beyond just assembling for worship to work together toward growth and knowledge

Paul Had Priorities

Paul knew what was most important

He felt the obligation to tell all about Jesus

He never lost sight of his first calling - reaching the lost

Do we have the same priority? - **Ephesians 4:11-13**

We get caught up in keeping salvation and are not always shining the light to the lost

We are to prepare one another to reach out to the lost.

We must share the good news

Is that the direction we are focused?

Growth will come if we focus on what God has given us to do

Paul was under obligation to share the good news of the gospel

The sooner we rekindle that feeling the sooner the church will thrive

Paul Preached

Paul was eager to preach everywhere

His priority called him to teach

This is also our mission

We all need to spread the Gospel

Share the Lord in action, word and prayers

Let us all make the effort to preach and teach the good news in any and every way we can to everyone we can

You And The Church

How do you feel about the body of Christ?

Are you discouraged, worried or afraid?

Are you tired, or burned out?

Paul's approach to the Romans can give us renewed hope

When we are positive, praying, partners, planning and keep the priority of preaching good news, the church will all of a sudden look better

God will seem powerful and people will be saved

But, what is your relationship to the church?

If you've not been baptized into Christ, you are not yet part of His body

Put your faith in Him, let Him take away your guilt, sorrow, worries

When baptized you will be added to the body of Christ, by the Lord - **Acts 2:47**

Then you too can have the priorities that Paul had

Come to Christ today, repent, and be baptized for the remission of your past sins, continue to worship and serve the Lord according to the teaching of His Word

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