

THE SECRET TO PAUL'S SUCCESS **(Romans 1:13-15)**

I. Paul's main desire (vs. 13).

- A. Paul starts out this section by letting the Roman brethren know he had always wanted to come there but, as of yet, been hindered from doing so.
 - 1. Paul's plans were changed at times by the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. Acts 16:6-8.
 - 3. Sometimes, the need of staying in one area kept him from going other places.
 - 4. He stayed three years in Ephesus and spent a good amount of time in Corinth when God told him not to be afraid (Acts 18:9-10).
- B. Paul had planned to go to Rome but had been hindered from getting there and he would tell them later that he planned on coming (1 Corinthians 15:28).
 - 1. This plan would not come to pass either.
 - 2. When Paul came it would not be by way of Spain.
- C. He then tells them his reasoning for wanting to get to Rome.
 - 1. He tells them that he desired to have fruit among them.
 - 2. This was Paul's main desire, to bear fruit for God.
- D. Jesus had given the command to the apostles to bear fruit (John 15:16).
 - 1. This bearing fruit meant converting people to Christ by means of the gospel.
 - 2. This was Paul's main desire: to bear fruit.
 - 3. This was all that Paul cared about doing.
- E. He was strictly focused on bringing the lost to Christ.
 - 1. Paul did this as well or better than any Christian that has ever lived.
 - 2. This is why he was able to become all things to all men.
 - 3. He wanted to save as many people as he could by means of the gospel.
- F. It wasn't about glory and honor for Paul either.
 - 1. Paul cared nothing for those things.
 - 2. It was about saving souls and God being glorified.
 - 3. Nothing else mattered to Paul.

II. Paul's motivation.

- A. Paul had a desire to have fruit among the Romans because of his motivation.
 - 1. His motivation was a feeling of indebtedness.
 - 2. Paul had a debt to pay and the only way it could be paid was by preaching the gospel to others.
- B. Paul had previously lived a life of complete rebellion against God's will.
 - 1. He did not understand that, thinking that living as a strict Pharisee was God's will.
 - 2. This is why he would say he had lived in all good conscience.
- C. When it became evident that he had been fighting against God and killing and imprisoning God's true people, he was devastated.

1. It weighed on him heavily and I believe he felt indebted to those he had harmed.
 2. This motivated him to preach the gospel.
 3. He was ready to preach to whomever he could, wherever and whenever he could.
- D. The phrases Greeks and Barbarians and wise and unwise was a way of saying the same thing twice using different phrases.
1. To a Greek, all others were Barbarians.
 2. To a Greek, all others were unwise.
 3. Romans descended from Greek roots and were heavily influenced by Greek culture thus the reason for this verse.
- E. Paul was letting them know that he had a debt to pay to God and that by preaching to them he knew he was working on that debt.
- F. He was well aware that he could never repay that debt.
1. This is why he would, years later, call himself the chiefest of sinners.
 2. Paul remained indebted to Christ until he died.
- G. We need to think first about what God has done for us and ask ourselves if we are trying to repay that debt.
1. Second, we also need to think about all those who have taught us the gospel and how to be a Christian.
 2. We are indebted to them as well.

III. Paul's readiness.

- A. You can be as desirous and motivated as you want, but if you aren't ready to do something then you won't do it.
1. We can desire to do better at something.
 2. We can be motivated by circumstances to do something.
 3. But if we aren't really willing, then we won't do it.
- B. Paul was willing to go to Rome and preach to the best of his ability.
1. He wanted to be there for those brethren.
 2. Nothing on his part was keeping him from going there.
 3. This is the purpose for him telling them he had planned on several occasions to come.
- C. I believe that implied in the word ready is also the knowledge to teach what needed teaching.
1. He knew what to preach and why.
 2. He knew what to do to spread the gospel.
 3. He knew how to convert people.
- D. Paul was not ready for a place like Rome as soon as he became a Christian.
1. A city that large with the problems he would face would have been discouraging and daunting to someone new to the faith.
 2. He could not have handled it.
- E. He was now seasoned.
1. He had done mission work.
 2. He had been pressed upon by Satan and his allies.

3. Paul was truly ready to go to Rome.