PAUL: CHAMPION OF EVANGELISM
Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. In the beginning, let me define my terms:
   
   (1) "CHAMPION" means "the best in its field".

   (2) "EVANGELISM" is "the preaching of the gospel to convict sinners".

   1. The evangelist in the New Testament was a messenger of the "good news", the gospel; a preacher of the gospel.

      (1) Philip the evangelist (Acts 21: 8).

      (2) Timothy was to do the "work of an evangelist" -- II Tim. 4: 5

2. Paul said that he was appointed "a preacher, and an apostle" -- I Tim. 2: 7; Gal. 1: 1

   (1) Gal. 1: 15, 16

3. A look at Paul before his conversion:

   (1) He was called "Saul" -- Acts 7: 58


   (3) A Roman citizen; free born -- Acts 22: 25 - 28

   (4) Of the tribe of Benjamin -- Rom. 11: 1

   (5) He was a Pharisee -- Phil. 3: 5; Acts 26: 5

   (6) Studied at the feet of Gamaliel -- Acts 22: 3

   (7) He persecuted the church.

      1. Those who stoned Stephen laid their clothes at his feet -- Acts 7: 58; 8: 1, 3; Acts 26: 9, 10

      (8) He was a tentmaker by trade -- Acts 18: 3

I. THE CONVERSION OF SAUL

1. He was going to Damascus to persecute Christians and bring them bound to Jerusalem -- Acts 9: 1, 2

2. Events on the Damascus road:

   (1) He saw the "heavenly vision" -- Acts 26: 19

      1. As he came near to Damascus about noon --"suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about" him -- Acts 22: 6; 26: 13

      2. He saw and heard Jesus -- Acts 22: 14; I Cor. 15: 8; 9: 1

      3. This was not to save him, but was to qualify him for an apostle -- Acts 22: 14 - 15; 26: 16 - 19; 1: 22

3. What Saul did to be saved:

   (1) He HEARD -- Acts 9: 6

   (2) He BELIEVED -- Acts 9: 6; 22: 10; 9: 18

   (3) He REPENTED -- Acts 9: 9

   (4) He CONFESSED -- Acts 9: 9
(5) He was BAPTIZED -- Acts 22: 16; 9:18; Rom. 6: 3, 4

4. After his conversion he began to preach the gospel -- Acts 9: 18 - 22; Gal. 1: 17 - 18

II. PAUL WAS A CHAMPION OF EVANGELISM BECAUSE OF HIS ATTITUDES TOWARD PREACHING.

1. He felt himself a DEBTOR -- Rom. 1:14

   (1) It was nothing that any man had done that laid this debt on Paul's heart; it was what Christ had done for him that made him a debtor to all men -- Rom. 5:8; Tit. 2:14
     1. We should feel ourselves "debtors".
     2. Men do much good when they feel themselves debtors.

2. He was READY to do what he could to discharge his obligation-- Rom. 1: 15

   (1) Ready to use all his ability --"as much as in me is" -- Rom. 1:15
     1. To be "ready" means to be willing and prepared.
       (1) All Christians are to be "ready" -- I Pet. 3:15
       (2) Many are not ready!

3. He felt COMPELLED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL -- I Cor. 9:16

   (1) If one feels compelled, he will preach the word with urgency, "in season and out of season" -- II Tim. 4:2
   (2) Whether Paul met with friends or foes, he preached the gospel.
     1. He preached the gospel to Felix and his wife Drusilla -- Acts 24: 24 - 26
     2. He preached the gospel to King Agrippa -- Acts 26: 27 - 29
     3. Being in prison did not stop him from preaching the gospel -- Acts 28: 30 - 31
       (1) He wrote letters from prison -- Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, II Timothy

4. Paul was WILLING TO SUFFER FOR THE GOSPEL -- Acts 20: 22 - 24

   (1) A list of his sufferings is in I Cor. 11: 11 - 14; II Cor. 11: 23 - 28; Acts 14: 19 - 20
   (2) Today we must be willing to suffer for the gospel:
     1. Matt. 5: 10 - 12
     2. II Tim. 2:12
     3. I Pet. 4: 16

5. Paul PRAYED FOR THE SALVATION OF SINNERS -- Rom. 10:1

   (1) He wanted brethren to pray for him that God would open a "door of utterance" for him to preach the gospel -- Col. 4: 3, 4; II Thess. 3:1; Eph. 6: 18 - 19
   (2) Christians TODAY need to pray for the salvation of sinners and that doors will be opened to us; we also need to pray for men who preach.

6. Paul was willing to gladly "SPEND AND BE SPENT" for the spiritual good of others -- II Cor. 12:15

   (1) He did not look on his own things, but on the things of others -- Phil. 2:4
   (2) We must be willing to "spend and be spent" for the cause of Christ today.
7. Paul NEVER SOUGHT TO PLEASE MEN or have the glory of men in his preaching -- Gal. 1:10; I Thess. 2:6
   (1) He sought only to please God with his preaching.
   (2) Preaching that pleases God will accomplish the purpose of God and save sinners -- Isa. 55:11

8. Paul believed the ONLY MEANS OF SAVING SINNERS IS THE GOSPEL -- Rom. 1:16
   (1) I Cor. 1:26; II Tim. 4:2
   (2) We must believe the same today if sinners are to be saved.

9. Paul was AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT HE PREACHED -- I Cor. 11:1
   (1) If gospel preaching is to impact the lives of men, the preacher must live it in his own life.
   (2) We today must be examples of what we preach if sinners are to be saved by our preaching.

10. Paul had LEARNED THAT GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS "GREAT GAIN" -- I Tim. 6:6-8; Phil. 4:11

CONCLUSION
1. This lesson has not so much dealt with the success of Paul's preaching, but with the attitudes that made his preaching a success.
2. These attitudes will make our preaching successful today.