

FBC-11/17/85-8:30 AM
Pastors Class
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From Tape/mc

ROMANS - LESSON #29

"THE BE (HAPPY) ATTITUDES OF PAUL"

Romans 15: 7-33

Rom. 15 at V. 7. Our subject today is the 'Be Happy Attitudes of Paul'. Now I'm not talking about the beatitudes of Jes. Notice I said 'The Be (Happy) Attitudes of Paul'. In the lesson we're going to study today, there are eight great principles that Paul built his life on. We'll summarize these at the end. I love the part of the Epistles that are personal. Where the writers just open their heart and let us look on the inside to see what makes them tick. Now you see, up unto this point, Paul has been presenting deep doctrine, which is very vital.

When he comes to the end, he begins to talk about himself. Begins to tell us what made him tick. And you see, Paul was just a man of flesh and bones like you and I and he did this through the Grace of God. And you and I can apply these eight principles to our lives. Now what we're gonna need to do is to expound the Scrip. quickly and then look in Summary at these eight principles, which motivated him. Let me say before we start at V. 7 that there was a little controversy going on in the church at Rome between the Jewish membership and the Gentile membership.

Paul is trying to bring them together and encourage them to be one in Christ. He talks about that in V. 7 through 12. He says

V. 7 (read) 'wherefore receive' means 'take into your hearts'. He says 'receive one another into your heart just as Jes. received us to the glory of God.' How did Jes. receive you and me? Jes was perfect and Jes. was sinless but He receive us just as we are. Isn't that wonderful? Thank you for that amen. You see, people are different. Different backgrounds, different understanding but Jes. received us. We are to receive one another. I thought of Jes. and the woman taken in adultery, in John 8.

She was really taken in adultery and these people bring her into the presence of Jes, demanding that she be stoned and He said 'well, he that is without sin, let him cast the first stone'. How many stones can you and I cast this morning? I can't cast any stones. I'm not without sin. The only person that could have cast the stone at that woman was Jes. but He didn't cast it. You say 'you mean Jes. believed in adultery?' NO, I don't believe Jes. believed in adultery but He believed in forgiveness and He's forgiven me. He's forgiven you if you're saved!

Just as I was. We are to forgive one another and we are to receive one another in the same way that Jes. has received us. I think if we follow this principle, that we're never gonna have problems, with people. Really! It's one of the greatest things I've ever read. Now in V. 8 through 12, he talks about that he was a minister both to the Jews (that is, Jes.) and also to the Gentiles. In

V. 8 (read) 'of the circumcision' means to the Jews. Jes. first went to the Jews He was circumcised as a Jewish boy at the age of 8. He was actually baptized to identify with sinners. He was not a sinner but he submitted to baptism to identify Himself with sinners. He observed the kosher laws. He never had ham and eggs for breakfast. He ministered to the Jews, where they were, to try to reach them. But not only to the Jews but in

V. 9 (read) that's Jes. speaking - Ps. 18: 49. Paul is quoting from the Jewish O.T. to show that Jes. was also the minister to the Gentiles.

V. 10 (read) this refers to Deut. 32: 43.

V. 11 (read) this refers to Ps. 117: 1.

V. 12 (read) quoting Isaiah 11: 10. You see Paul proves by the O. T. Scrip.

that Jes. is the Savior and Lord of the Gentiles. And is come to them just as He has to the Jews. But no more than He did to the Jews and so He's saying 'get your act together; you all have the same Savior and He has the same love toward you and you ought to be able to work out your problems.' Now in the next verse, we have a great prayer. Sometimes when I'm in meetings abroad, people will come to me and say 'sign up, sign my Bible; especially young people' This is the verse I put in the Bible.

re 13 - my autograph v. 13

V. 13 (read) 'the God of hope' but it's really THE HOPE in Greek. Here's a great name for God, isn't it? The God of THE hope. You feel discouraged today? Oh, there's a lot to discourage us. People can mistreat us, misunderstand us, we can get in financial problems that are just killing. Our children can disappoint us. Listen, God is the God of THE Hope. When we feel hopeless, that's not Gods will. He's the God of THE Hope. We're said to be living in the most hopeless age in history and someone said 'that's because of the nuclear threat'.

The nuclear threat is very real. We ought to pray for our President. I'm gonna do that in the morning service and tonight and on the 19th and 20th, this church will be open day and night for people to pray and we're having a meeting in the morning at 6: 45 at the Sheraton; they're asking a few of us to participate. You be there, if at all possible. 6: 45 - it'll end at 7:30 - just to pray for the Summit, the Legislators, Chad Colley. There'll be Catholics and Protestants and Jews praying - oh, yeah. The Nuclear Threat is real and if we've ever prayed in our life, we ought to pray for the Russians. Ought to pray for our President.

But that's not the reason; The real reason for the hopelessness of our day. The greatest reason is that people have got their eyes upon material things rather than the God of THE Hope. The early Xtns had nothing to hope for, externally, they were persecuted and killed and a cruel dictator sat in their Washington, but they were filled with hope. You and I can be filled with hope, if we have Him,

because He is the God of THE Hope and so the prayer is 'now the God of THE Hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound (or overflow or
bubble over) in hope, through the power of the H. S.' Isn't that a wonderful
word?

V. 14 (read) 'persuaded of you' or 'concerning you'. This indicates that Paul
knew something about those people at the church at Rome. He'd never been there.
How did he know? Evidently the members of that church were writing him. There
are some who believe that people he had won to Christ, in other parts of the
Roman Empire, moved to Rome and started this church. And there was a steady cor -
respondence between these converts of his as to what was happening in Rome. And
this is quite possible. We know from V. 14 that he really knew some very specifi
things about the nature of that fellowship.

He says 'ye are full of goodness and that means you have the right motive' - your
hearts are right. AND then he says that you're full of knowledge - that means
the knowledge of the things of God. You are really Bible instructed. Then he
says 'you are also able to admonish one another'. You have the sense, the wisdom
under God, to counsel one another and to work out your problems. That's a great
thing; to have the right motive. He says they had that. And to be filled with
the knowledge of God and to have the ability to work out their problems.

You know Xtns can work out their problems. I say 'if a man is saved and his
wife is saved, listen, there's no need for them to get a divorce, if they're will
ing to pray and read the Bible'. Listen, Xtns have the wherewithal to live, if
they'll just use it. We don't use what Gods given to us. I've never had a coupl
in my life, to come to me who are about to divorce, who would ever say 'we've
spent a lot of time in prayer and Bible study'. They almost always say 'no, we
haven't prayed; haven't read our Bible. We're not even in church'. Well, listen
if you find a person starving to death and you say 'well, have you eaten any food

'NO, I haven't eaten anything in a year'. Is that surprising? All of us can see that. But people don't seem to understand that they have to take the medicine if it's gonna cure them. How wonderful it is, what Paul is saying here. He's saying 'listen, you have within you what it takes to work out your problems.' I believe this. I just believe we need more faith in what JC can do for us.

V. 15 (read) 'in some sort' or 'certain points' he's saying. 'Putting you in mind' or 'bringing to remembrance certain things'. He says 'I'm writing to you because I have a special ministry'. 'Writing to you Gentiles' he's talk about not. Because God's given me a special word why His Grace to you.

V. 16 (read) the word 'minister' there is the word 'Priest'. Now it's very important what Paul is saying. He says 'I am a Priest of JC to the Gentiles'. Now why is he calling himself a Priest? You say 'well, I thought the Priesthood was done away with'. Well, it HAS been done away with as an approach to God but see, the Bible says you and I are priests. 1 Pet. 2: 9. This puts our lives on a marvelous plane. Paul says 'I'm a Priest and I'm gonna offer up my ministry as a Priest unto JC'. Who is a Priest?

✓ One who offers up sacrifices unto the Lord. The Levitical Priests offered up animal sacrifices. You see, it's our privilege to offer up something better. To offer our lives to God, as a sacrifice. Paul says 'my ministry to the Gentiles is a ministry that I want to be such that I can just offer up to God, as a sacrifice, which He will receive'. You see, it begins when we offer our bodies as a living sacrifice and when I offer my body a living sacrifice unto God, then everything I do is something I can offer to God, whether it be singing a song or whether it be working in a plant; supervising people, being a husband, whether it's washing dishes.

We ought to look upon Life as a Priesthood. Something that we can offer to God

and this, of course, gives meaning to life. IF the housewife can think of her work as unto God. If the person working in the plant - working unto God. Something to offer unto God. All of life should be a Priesthood and an offering unto God. Now this is one of the Principles; this is one of the Eight 'Be Beautiful Attitudes of Paul'. We have to have this. People are defeated today over the hum-drum. They don't see any meaning to anything.

'Well, I have to go to work, you know. I have to do this, have to do that. Life is just going to work, coming home and eating, reading the newspaper, going to bed and getting up and going to work'. People who live that way are gonna be defeated. But if we look at LIFE as being a Priesthood, where we're working for God and to the glory of God, it'll change our entire lives and that's what Paul is saying here. In

V. 17 (read) Paul says 'I really have something to brag about and to be proud about, through JC'. Now he's not talking about an ego trip. Do you realize if you are gonna live a successful life, you've got to have pride in your life. Suppose you are a business man this morning. You'll never do anything with that business unless you have pride. Is it wrong? Not at all. If we're doing it unto God.

Suppose you're a S. S. teacher. How are you gonna succeed in that class? You have got to have pride in that class, for the Glory of God. I've never known anyone to be a success who believe and have pride in what they were doing. Paul says 'I glory in what God is doing through me'. But he says in

V. 18 (read) he says 'now I am speaking ONLY Of that which Christ has done through me. I'm not exalting Paul. To make the Gentiles obedient by word and deed, through mighty signs and wonders' and Paul is talking about the miracles which God bestowed upon his apostolic ministry by the power of the Spirit of God!'

Here he's describing the extent of his missionary journies. He said 'I started in Jerusalem, (which would be to the East) he said 'I didn't just start there! I've carried the Gospel in a circle' - this word 'round about' means 'in a circle' from Jerusalem clear to Illyricum and back. What is Illyricum? That's Yugoslavia. Now the Book of Acts, telling about his missionary journies, do not tell us about his going to Yugoslavia. But he went to Yugoslavia.

Went to Yugosla.

Which is on the Adriatic sea, just across the country of Italy - not tremendously far from us. Paul is trying to point out that his missionary journies have taken him from the east to the west. We know just a little bit about his evangelization of the world. It's far GREATER than we read about in the Book of Acts. We just have a LITTLE bit about it in the Book of Acts. He says in

V. 20 (read) says 'my desire has been to preach the Gospel in virgin territory, where Christ has never been named. Isn't that wonderful? Think of the people in the world today who have never heard the Gospel. Think about what a privilege it is to preach in India, where people have never heard the Gospel. So often today, we want to go where the work of God has already been built. I talk to a lot of young preachers and some of them just graduating from the Seminary and I say 'well, what kind of church do you want?' and they say 'well, we want one that is as large as yours'.

I said 'is that the place you think you're gonna start'. 'Well, we'd like to'. I say 'well, you know where I started? I started with a church of 108 members'. We want something given to us, it seems today. But Paul says 'I don't want anything given to me, I want to BUILD something for the Lord', How beautiful this is. Says 'I want to preach the Gospel where it's never been preached' and that is what he did! But he says in

V. 21 (read) this verse is the fulfillment of the prophesy of Isaiah 52: 15 -

that's what he's quoting in V. 21. Now in

V. 22 (read) 'for which cause also' or 'this is why'. He says I've intended coming to you in Rome a long time, but he says 'I've been preaching the Gospel across the world in areas where they had never heard and this has kept me from coming to you'. He says 'I was hindered!! I was delayed'. That doesn't mean he wasn't in God's will. Often we will be hindered. When we're pursuing something worth while. Let not our hindrances stop us. Paul never let his hindrances stop him. There's not anyone who doesn't face hindrances. Satan will see to that; circumstances will see to that; people will see to that.

But you don't stop because of hindrances. Paul did not stop because of these hindrances. He's on his way. He says then in

V. 23 (read) 'having no more place in these parts' or 'having no more place to work or preach in these parts' - well, does that mean he'd won everybody in Yugoslavia and everybody in Greece and Phillippi and everybody in Asia Minor? No, it doesn't mean that. But it DOES mean that over a very broad area that he had actually preached the Gospel and had finished what God had for him to do and so he's saying 'my work is finished here and having a great desire these many years to come unto you,

V. 24 (read) 'whenever I take my journey into Spain'. Did Paul go to Spain? Well, now, the Bible doesn't definitely declare that he went to Spain, but Paul says in V. 24 'whenever I take my journey into Spain'. In another verse, he is going to indicate that he's on his way to Spain. I really believe he went to Spain. Because he's indicating here that he's on his way to Spain and in his last testimony in 11 Tim. 4: 6 - 8, he says 'I have finished my course'. Jesus said 'take the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth.' What was the uttermost parts of the earth? In those days? Spain. The ancients spoke of Spain

with this Latin phrase: *ne plus ultra* may plus ootra (?) 'nothing beyond'. Spain to them was the uttermost part of the earth. When Columbus sailed - that was as far as they knew the world extended. I believe that Paul finished his course and took the journey to Spain. You say 'when did he do it?'

In Acts 28, he's in prison. That's his first imprisonment. It's agreed by almost all scholars that after two years, he was released and for a time, he was permitted to preach and it was during this release. Then he comes back and is in prison a second time and that's when he writes 11 Tim. 4 and I believe that he went to Spain. He says 'whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you'. It seems that the trip to Rome was incidental to his trip to Spain. That his major objective was to go to Spain and just stop at Rome temporarily.

He goes on to say in V. 24 'for I trust to see you in my journey and to be ~~XXXXX~~ brought on my way thitherward by if first I be somewhat filled (or enjoy) your company for a little while' is what he is saying.

V. 25 (read) now he's speaking of a special ministry, he's going to perform to the Saints in Jerusalem. Now it is not an evangelistic ministry, persay. He describes this ministry in

V. 26 (read) 'Macedonia and Achaia' this would be what is now Southern and Northern Greece. Really where he planted the first church in Europe - Phillippi - would be Macedonia. He says 'those Xtns in that area have made up a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem'. The word 'contribution' there is not the word 'collection'. Now it was a collection of money. These Gentile Xtns in Macedonia or what we would call Greece, had taken up an offering for Paul. But the word 'contribution' here is the word 'kononea' which is the word 'fellowship', which is the word 'sharing'.

Paul says that this money represents 'a sharing of the lives of these Gentile Xtns with the Jewish Xtns'. Now here is one of the most beautiful teaching in the Scriptures on our giving. Our giving ought to be a kononea. It ought to be a fellowship. It ought to be a sharing of our lives. When we give, it's our lives. Next Sunday will be Thanksgiving Sunday in our church. We're gonna ask our people to give a special offering over and above. But not just an offering - a kononea. A sharing of your life.

A sharing of a part of you to show your Thanksgiving unto God. Now there's a real practical need for it and the need is to make up a deficit in the General Budget of our church of about twenty thousand, but the greater need is for us to share our lives. Paul says these Gentile Xtns have not just given some money, they've shared their lives with you Jewish - with the Jewish Xtns.

V. 27 (read) first part of this verse is saying 'the Gentile Xtns are in debt to the Jewish Xtns'. Why? Next part of verse: 'if the Gentiles have benefited from the Spiritual riches of the Jews, their duty (the duty of the Gentiles) is to minister unto the Jews, in carnal things.' How true it is. How in the world have the Jews ministered to these Gentiles? Well, how had they heard the Gospel? Through a Jewish preacher named Paul. You say 'but I didn't hear the Gospel through a Jew'. YES, you did! YES, YOU DID! You say 'no, I didn't. I was saved under Billy Graham and he's a North Carolinian like you are. He's a Gentile'. NO, you got the Gospel through the Jews.

We got it from Paul, who went to Phillippi and those Xtns went over into Western Europe and went into England and it came to us through the Gentile mission of Christ. Do you realize that in the Hall of Fame, in Washington that the Apostle Paul ought to be standing at the head, even before Columbus? In all probability There would not BE an America, had it not been for Paul. It was through him that the Gospel has come. It's through the Jewish people that we received the Holy

Scriptures. No Xtn in his right mind would be an anti-semit(?). That's ridiculous. That would be like me repudiating my Great-great grandfather. Paul, though, is stating a principle that is so true in life today. If we've been blessed Spiritually, and we have been blessed materially and someone who's blessed us Spiritually, it's altogether in order to help the person in need who is helpless, if we can help them Spiritually. Much of the Kingdom of God has been built upon this principle.

Recently I was preaching in a church and I just shared some about my ministry; the tape ministry I have and a business man in that church came up to me and he says 'well, I've retired, I've made a little money and you've invested a lot of your life in me and I just thought maybe I could invest in your tape ministry and I said 'I think that would be altogether Scriptural and pleasing to the Lord He said 'you've helped me Spiritually. I want to further your ministry, materially'. That wasn't selfishness; that's the way God carries on His work'.

So Paul is stating this great principle here.

V. 28 (read) 'performed this' and that is 'delivering this gift' and 'have sealed unto them this fruit' or 'made sure they receive this fruit'; I will come by you into Spain. Again, he says 'I'm going to Spain'. The more I study this, the more I'm convinced that Paul went to Spain. I just cannot believe anything else. And he goes on to say in

V. 29 (read) now that's a beautiful phrase, isn't it? 'In the fulness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ'. It was a little over 18 years ago that I wrote our church here that I felt led of God to accept their call as Pastor and in that communication, I quoted these words, I said 'I pray that I shall come in the fulness of the Gospel of JC - a - in the fulness of the Blessings of the Gospel of JC'. Well, I just thought when I quoted these words that I certainly

hoped that I would have the blessings of Christ's Gospel. I'll preach it and live it and share it with you and that was valid what I said. But I did not understand the meaning of it in the context because I had not studied it in its context. I just knew that that was a verse and I'd memorized the N. T. but I had not placed it in its context.

XX You know what the fulness of the blessings of the Gospel of JC are? To bring together the Jews, the Gentiles. Paul says the crowning work of the Gospel for me will be to join the Jews and Gentiles. By delivering this special offering to them and their receiving it and bringing them together. Is that a blessing of the Gospel? I don't know a greater one, my friend. I don't know a greater tragedy than for people to be divided. When Jews and Gentiles were brought together at the cross, that was the greatest victory of the ages!

It's a wonderful thing when you see Xtens meeting together; like in this class, from all denominations. It honors the Lord for Xtens to be united; for a church to be united, not fighting one another. The fulness of the blessings of the Gospel of Jesus is the union of people. Of different types: Jew and Gentile. Now He says in

V. 30) (read) 'now I beseech you, brethren (and this is an appeal from his heart for the Lord JC said (or we could say 'in the Name of Jes.) and for the love of the Spirit (because of the love that the Spirit has placed in my heart) that ye strive (that's the word 'agonize') together with me in your prayers to God for me'. He's pleading with these Xtens to join him in the great battle of prayer. Was Paul a man of prayer? The greatest, next to Jes. What kind of praying did he do? All kinds of praying. Sometimes, he, no doubt, prayed short prayers. But he says 'I want you to join me in the greatest battle of the ages and that is prayer'. Prayer is a battle.

The devil doesn't want you to pray. Most of us have one routine prayer in our system. You hear some people pray and they'll pray the same prayer most every time. We've got to get rid of that one routine prayer, if we ever start praying. Tonight I'll begin my series on 'Could You Not Tarry With Me One Hour'? Trying to share with you what I think the Bible and Jes. taught about how to really pray; to continue in the battle of prayer.

I've quoted James 4: 2 all my life 'ye have not because ye ask not' and when I was on vacation, God spoke to my heart and said 'that's only just a little part of what the Bible teaches on prayer'. Ye have not because ye ask not and you know sometimes, you can ask God and He'd give it just like this. I've asked God for things and He's answered it within twenty four hours. But you see, that's only a little bit the Bible teaches. The Bible goes on to say 'ye have not because ye seek not. Ye have not because ye not not'. You see, we give up on our prayers.

We even forget those things a lot of times. Sometimes you can ask but we, in this day and time, with all the problems we have, unless we learn to battle in prayer, we are not gonna be able to live a victorious life. Talking to a young man this week and he says 'I just don't know. I've asked God for His will in my life and I just don't know it and I'm just at my wits end'. I said 'the Bible says 'ye have not because ye ask not' but the Bible says 'ye have not because ye seek not'. Ye have not because ye not not.

"ye have not bec. ye seek not"

Paul is calling on the people there to seek and to knock with him in the greatest battle of the ages and that is Prayer.

V. 31 (read) his greatest enemy were the Jews and he didn't know whether they would receive this offering or not. It would offend their pride so much. 'And that my service (my ministry) which I have for Jerusalem (he's talking about tha

love offering. You say 'well, they'd be crazy not to receive it'. Listen, religious Spiritual pride can cause us to do all kinds of things sometimes. It takes more grace to receive than to give. These Jews may have said 'well, we'r not gonna take an offering from those dirty Gentiles; that's tainted money'. See? Paul didn't know whether they'd receive it or not. Course he got there, he got in a real hassle, if you read Acts and you know the Roman army marched in and rescued him.

It's amazing how God uses the devil to rescue His servant. But he says 'pray that this will be accepted of the saints'.

SM - Woman who got greener

V. 32 (read) what does he mean 'refreshed'? Spiritually. Did he need their ~~xxx~~ help? Tremendously! But also physically. He needed a rest. That's what our Missionary In Residence program is for - to bring missionaries from across the world and every one that comes, they're tired to death. They say to me 'Pastor, don't expect too much of us at first, we're just too exhausted' and I say 'rest! rest! rest in our home provided by this church for you'. That's one of the reasons God blesses this church like He does because we give. There's a purpose behind these things.

V. 33 (read) Paul - what a man he was. The Be (Happy) Attitudes of Paul. Look at the overhead. What were they?

THE BE (HAPPY) ATTITUDES OF PAUL

#1. POSITIVENESS. Did you know Paul had more trouble and suffered more than any man in history, next to Jes.? Read his account in 11 Cor. 11, but he was totally positive. You don't find him complaining, trying to tear down others, trying to build himself up. When Paul arrived in a city, he was not met by the Mayor who gave him the key to the city. But he was met by the Chief

of Police, who arrested him and put him in jail. But he never uttered one negative word. Are you negative today? If so, you didn't learn it from Jes. and you didn't learn it from Paul. You got it from your Mama and Daddy, probably. But you're to bury it in the bottomless sea. Negativism will destroy you. If you're guilty, you need to repent of it. You need to quit talking negative things. Need to think positively and talk positively.

#2. PRIESTHOOD. Don't look upon your life as a hum-drum. There's a precious gift of God - present your body a living sacrifice, so that you can present to God what you do. You may be in a public servant. Just think about the demands upon the public servants today. Think of the people in Court; the cases that are coming to Courts today. Our Judges are burdened beyond words. But if they can look upon this as being a Priestly service and give it to God. The housewife, with the children, with the chores - my goodness, she'll die unless she can look upon this as being a Priesthood. Offer it to God.

My own ministry would just become hum-drum, if I can't see it as a sacred trust of God that I can offer. The teaching of this class - I must offer it to God. Someone wrote to me recently and said 'I don't know how in the world you manage to teach this class for ten years'. Well, let me tell you, it would become an impossible thing, if I didn't see something just beyond the work and the demand of it. Priesthood.

#3. PRIDE. You say, 'but we don't want pride'. The right kind of pride is a necessity in your life, your business, your family and everything you do. If you have no pride today, you ain't doing anything! I don't mean pride to exhalt yourself but pride in the Lord and pride in what He's entrusted you to I'm proud of this church. I'm proud of this class. If I wasn't proud of this church and proud of this class, if I had contempt for it, I couldn't do anything with it. You can just feel the pride of Paul seeping through, that God's en-

trusted him with so much. We need to be proud and grateful in the right way.

#4. PRAISE. He NEVER thought of not praising God for everything.

#5. POWER. Paul, though he had intellectual power, he had educational power, pedigree power, religious power, all kinds of power, considered himself helpless and hopeless, without the power of God. Now you'll notice that #7 is Prayer.

#7. PRAYER. He didn't think of anything apart from prayer and he was so dependent upon prayer until while he, himself, was a great prayer warrior, he cast himself upon the people. And I want to do that before you today. I want to cast myself upon your mercy to pray for me. I really mean this - to pray for my ministry. To pray for our church. To pray for this class. I cannot do it alone. How we need the prayers of one another and listen, today you need to involve some people in your life in prayer.

If you have an unusual responsibility in life, ask some people to pray for you. Form some prayer groups in this city for them to pray for you. Paul did this. This is the key to success.

#6. PLAN. Was Paul just moving from one thing to another as they came to his mind and just what seemed logical? NO. Paul was following a Plan of God. God had had this Plan for Paul from the foundation of the world. He gave him a copy of it on the Road to Damascus, the day that he was saved. You say 'but that was Paul, not me'. God has a plan for every life. That's what Paul says in Eph. 2: 10 'for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus, for good works, which He foreordained that we should walk in them'. Before I was ever born, God drew a Plan in Eternity for my life.

We'll NEVER succeed until we move in the Plan of God for our lives. That's success - finding out what God wants with our life and getting in on it. Getting in on it. Horace Bushnell preached a sermon nearly a hundred years ago that we still read, entitled: Every Mans Life - A Plan of God. Did you know your life is a Plan of God? God didn't just create you and throw you out into the world. Christ died that we might have a Plan. Not easy to know. It's not easy for me to know. Sometimes I wrestle with the Plan of God. I know the BIG things in it, but if we want to know it, we're not gonna miss on too much.

It's just wanting to do what God wants us to do. Paul was determined to follow that Plan. Now I've already talked about #7. PRAYER.

#8. PERSISTENCE. Did Paul do it overnight? NO. Did Paul do it without any trouble? NO. He was hindered in going to Rome. But he knew God wanted him to go and he knew God wanted him to go to Spain and that's another reason I believe he went to Spain. You can't stop a man or a woman, who knows Jes. and who abides by His principles and who will persist. Do you ever feel like giving up? Of course you do. I've felt like giving up many times.

You ever felt like - you say 'Pastor, have you ever felt like resigning the ministry'? Oh, yes. 'Has there ever been a time you didn't feel like you could go? Yeah. But you see, that's not the point. 'Have you ever been afraid?' Yes. 'Have you ever felt inadequate'? ALWAYS. That's not the point. Have you stayed with it and refused to give up? You see people who give up, they've lost it. They've lost it! It's the people who don't give up and who have these other principles. I will guarantee any young person on earth or any adult on earth, you can't defeat a person.

My son has been kind of a throw to my life and I don't talk too much about my

family; just let me share this with you. He's completed 13 years of training in Medical Science and in the midst of this, he had a great struggle and disappointment in love and several things and he's having difficulty getting into Medical College. I was real close to him and I said 'well, son, maybe you should get you a PHD and you have a Major in Biology and just teach it.' He said 'daddy, I'm not gonna get my PHD in Biology and I'm not planning to teach Biology'.

I said 'well, maybe you could be an engineer. You're good in mathematics and you're practically minded. Why don't you consider that as an out?' He said 'I'm not going to be an engineer'. I said 'what are you gonna do?' Said 'I'm gonna be a medical doctor'. I said 'indeed you will. Nothing on this earth will keep you from being a medical doctor - congratulations! I am with you!' He called me Thursday night and said 'daddy, I'll be in complete surgery in one month and in July, I'll be going to Dothan, Alabama. I have an offer you wouldn't believe that God has opened and led me to'. Persistence; PERSISTENCE.

Many gave up before they ever came into what God has for them. But not Paul. And I hope not you and me today. There are more people failing because they won't stay with it. I want to run these back because these things thrill my heart so much and there is such need in the world today.

Are you POSITIVE in your attitude and words? Do you view life as a PRIESTHOOD? Do you have a rightful PRIDE in what you're doing? Are you PRAISING God? Are you dependent upon His POWER? Are you following His PLAN, as you know it? Are you PRAYING? And are you involving others with you in PRAYER. Are you staying in the battle? This is eight attitudes that will transform a life and that's the reason I call them 'The Be(HAPPY) Attitudes of Paul'. Take these home and ponder them.

Thank you for coming today. Let's stand and pray.