

"I WILL NOT DARE TO SPEAK..."

Text: "For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient by word and deed." (Romans 15:18, KJV).

INTRO: In context, Paul is discussing his efforts of preaching to the Gentiles, and the fruit of those efforts. He never loses sight of the authority of God. It is extremely important that we not lose sight of that authority and our need to submit to it. I believe there are several things involved in Paul's statement in verse 18.

I. PAUL WOULD TAKE NO PERSONAL CREDIT FOR THE SERVICE OF OTHERS. Thru Paul's efforts, many Gentiles had been converted to the Lord, but Paul would take no credit for their service to God. Every person who had turned to the Lord had done so of his own free will & Paul had done no more than his duty.

READ I CORINTHIANS 3:5-7

II. PAUL WOULD TAKE NO PERSONAL CREDIT FOR THE WORDS HE HAD TAUGHT. They were God's words. Paul did not dare to speak what Christ had not revealed.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 2:2, 4, 9-13; Gal. 1:11-12

III. PAUL WOULD TAKE NO PERSONAL CREDIT FOR THE DEEDS HE DID. They were the things commanded him by God

For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! (1 Cor. 9:16).

For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake. (Acts 9:16).

IV. BOTH IN WORDS & IN DEEDS, PAUL DID NOT DARE TO GO BEYOND THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN HIM BY GOD.

A. In words. Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself & Apollos for your sakes; that in us ye might learn not to go beyond the things which are written. (1 Cor. 4:6 ASV).

B. In deeds. READ EPH. 2:8-10.

Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (Col. 3:17).

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