



Season 8 Podcasts

The 'Servants' of the Gospel

By

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So far in my 8th Season Podcast series I've shared thoughts with you about:

- 8 Rules for Bible Study
- 40 Rules for Ministry
- The Heart of the Gospel
- Defending and Confirming the Gospel
- Your Fellowship in the Gospel
- The Completion of the Gospel
- The Affection of the Gospel
- The Discernment of the Gospel
- The Excellence of the Gospel
- The Sincerity of the Gospel
- The Fruit of the Gospel
- The Advancement of the Gospel
- The Preaching of the Gospel
- Living for the Gospel
- Conduct Worthy of the Gospel

- Suffering for the Gospel
- The Joy of the Gospel
- The Humility of the Gospel
- The Sacrificial Mind of the Gospel
- The Gospel's Name Above Every Name
- The Glory and Honor of the Gospel
- The Power of the Gospel
- The Obedience of the Gospel
- The Gift of the Gospel
- The Light of the Gospel

The next aspect I'd like to share with you is the 'Servants' of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.” Philippians 2:19-20

“Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.” Philippians 2:25-26

At first it was just Saul of Tarsus (Paul) meeting Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus. Three days later it was Paul meeting Ananias. Ananias brought Paul a message from Jesus, along with healing and baptism. Paul later met Barnabas. Barnabas introduced Paul to the apostles of Christ who lived in Jerusalem. (Acts 9)

Through many years of a traveling evangelistic and church-planting ministry the Apostle Paul met thousands of people, but it all began when Jesus met him on the road to Damascus. That's how it begins for all of us. Jesus meets us where we are and works in our hearts and minds to believe that He is the Christ, the Son of God, who died for our sins and rose from the dead. That is the Gospel of Christ. As Paul told the keeper of the jail in Philippi a decade earlier – “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household” (Acts 16:31).

When Paul was teaching at the church in Antioch, Syria, the Holy Spirit said to him and other leaders of the church – “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Notice who did the ‘calling’ to ministry – the Holy Spirit of God. Paul and Barnabas began an amazing journey that would take the Gospel of Christ throughout the Roman Empire. Along the way Paul made many friends and many enemies, but he remained true to that original calling of Jesus on the road to Damascus:

“I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ So I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.’” Acts 26:14-18

Being the Apostle Paul was not easy:

“But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy

Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.” 2 Corinthians 6:4-10

God was always with Paul through those many challenges, and God also sent many people to join Paul in his ministry. Paul called them ‘fellow laborers’ and ‘fellow servants.’ He mentioned many of them by name in his letters. Romans 16 is a good example of some of the people who helped Paul in ministry.

Timothy and Epaphroditus were two of the people Paul could count on to help him, even when he was a prisoner of the Roman government. Both of the men were well known to the Christians in Philippi. Paul was going to send Timothy to the Philippians so that he would know how they were doing. Paul sent Epaphroditus to them because he was their 'messenger.' The Philippians were also deeply concerned about the health of Epaphroditus, so Paul wanted them to know God had spared his life:

“For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.” Philippians 2:27-30

Timothy, Epaphroditus, and the host of 'fellow laborers' and 'fellow servants' who Paul referred to in his letters were vital to the early days of the Christian Church. Their labor and service began the same way – Jesus called them to service. It has been that way in the Church since the 1st century AD, and continues to be true into the 21st century. Jesus is the Name above all names. We all bend the knee to Him and confess that He is Lord to the glory of God.

“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24

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In Christ's Love and Grace,

Mark McGee

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