

Crystallization-Study – Epistle to the Romans

The Announcing of the Gospel

- The New Testament revelation concerning the announcing of the gospel gives us a very **high standard** and a **perfect example** in the apostle Paul.
 - Paul was chosen by God to be a **vessel**—not a carrier but a vessel to **contain Christ**. We are His vessel to convey Him to people.
 - Paul was appointed to be a **minister** and a **witness** of Christ. We need to serve people with the Christ whom we have **tasted**.
 - God made Paul a **steward** of the grace of God.
 - Paul was **separated** unto the gospel of God. We all need to realize that we were set apart from our mother’s womb to announce Christ as the gospel.
 - Paul was commissioned as a **herald**, an official reporter. Paul was such an official reporter of God’s New Testament economy.
 - God sent Paul as His **ambassador** to the sinners to speak in boldness the mystery of the gospel.
 - Paul says that he was a **laboring priest** of the gospel to offer the Gentiles to God.
- We must speak in **boldness** the mystery of the gospel. We should not be afraid and timid when we go out to announce the gospel.
- We must announce the **contents** of God’s economy.
 - We announce God’s **incarnation** to be a man, His **living** on the earth for thirty-three and a half years, and His **going to the cross** to die an all-inclusive death.
 - On the **negative** side, He terminated everything of the old creation. He also terminated Satan, sin, the world, and the flesh.
 - On the **positive** side, through His death, He released the divine life within Him into His believers to germinate them with the divine life. Then through resurrection and in ascension, He poured out the Spirit and the church came into being.
- We must announce Christ as the **objective Savior** and the **subjective indwelling Life-impartor**.
- The **mystery of the gospel** is **Christ and the church for the fulfillment of God’s eternal purpose**.
- The name Paul means “little”. He was a little man, but he had a big heart.

- Paul **owed** people the gospel. To announce the gospel to them was to **pay off his debt**.
- In announcing the gospel to the Romans, Paul was **not ashamed** of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.
- Paul **enslaved himself to all men** that he might gain the more. This was so that he might by all means save some, doing all things for the sake of the gospel.

The Commission of the Lord as the Christ of God

- Jesus is our Lord and He is the Christ of God, so He has the standing to commission us for His gospel.
 - In **Matthew** the Lord is the King-Savior who commissioned His disciples to go and **disciple the nations by baptizing them** into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This is to bring people out from the nations into the Triune God. **The preaching of the gospel is to bring people into God to make them the citizens of the kingdom of the heavens.**
 - In the Gospel of **Mark** the Lord charged us to preach the gospel, **not just to all men but to all the creation**. All the creation is under the vanity and the slavery of corruption and is waiting for a time when it can be redeemed and saved back to God to enjoy the freedom of God's glory in His new creation.
 - In **Luke**, the Lord as the Man-Savior charged His disciples to **proclaim repentance for forgiveness of sins in His name to all the nations** that the fallen men may be redeemed back to the way of peace that leads them into the blessing prepared by God for them according to His eternal economy.
 - In **John**, the Lord as the God-Savior charged His disciples to **bear fruit for his increase** that His mystical Body, which is signified by the true vine composed of Him and His believers as His branches, may be completed as His fullness, His expression, as the New Jerusalem in eternity.
 - In **Acts** the gospel was preached to **set up the kingdom of God**. We go out to preach the gospel to **extend** the kingdom of God, to gain people so that the kingdom of God may be established on earth.
- We are to proclaim abroad as the gospel the **virtues of God**, who has called the believers out of darkness into His marvelous light for the **testimony** that the believers as God's chosen race who are under God's bright governmental dealing in His house do not **live** and **walk** in darkness but in the marvellous light of God.

- We preach the gospel for seven reasons:
 - To put people **into** God for the **kingdom of the heavens**.
 - For the old creation to **become the new creation**.
 - For the lost man to be **redeemed back** to God's original blessing.
 - To **bear fruit** for the increase of Christ to complete Christ's Body, consummating in the New Jerusalem.
 - To **announce the gospel** of the kingdom of God.
 - To go out to tell people God's virtues, testifying that we as His people do not live in darkness but in the marvelous light. **We are people of light**.
 - To **call the thirsty ones to come and drink** the living water to enjoy the Triune God, who is the very river flowing out of His throne to supply all the redeemed with Christ as the tree of life that they all may be the New Jerusalem as God's enlargement and expression for eternity.

(Crystallization-Study of the Epistle to the Romans – Messages 25-26)