

## “DEFINING THE MOTIVE OF MISSION”

### Romans 15:14-21

Message 1898

Every person in doing any task has a motive for what he is doing. Even the most common job is based upon some reason. There is always a reason why a person is working at what he is doing.

What we need to know is how we can define that motive. In some cases a motive may result from there being no options. A person may be assigned a job and be given no choice to do anything else.

In the Lord’s work, it is important that we know why we are doing what we are doing. This message is directed to Christian workers. The Apostle Paul teaches how to define our motives in the work of the Lord in Romans 15:14-21.

*14. And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.*

*15. Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,*

*16. That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.*

*17. I have therefore where of I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.*

*18. 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,*

*19. Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*

*20. Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation:*

*21. But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.*

In order to define the motive of mission we must examine several underlying ELEMENTS.

THE CALL TO MISSION is the basic element in defining the motive in mission. The Apostle Paul thought very deeply about this. He was writing this letter to the Roman believers because he felt called to do that. He said he was persuaded and he did it because he wanted to give them knowledge. He wanted to help them understand, to increase their understanding of God’s will so that they would then be able to teach one another. That is what that phrase means at the end of verse 14: “able also to admonish one another.” Admonish means to teach.

Then the Apostle said he was writing more boldly. He aimed to get the truth out there clearly enough that they could understand what he was writing. So he was writing very boldly so that it would be engraved upon their minds: “putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God.” He was doing this under the grace of God. He said he was called to be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles. He was to minister the Gospel of God to them and he was to build them up and bring them as an offering to God. They would be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. He felt this call.

I bear that home upon your heart. Now, as you think of what you are doing and why you are doing it, be sure that you understand the call to mission: have others always in mind, what you are going to accomplish in the lives of other people. Think less of yourself, accept the call.

THE COMMITMENT TO MISSION is the building element in defining the motive of mission. The Apostle Paul was secure in his commitment: “I will not dare to speak of any of those things which

Christ hath not wrought by me.” He spoke about the power of the Spirit of Jesus being upon him and how he was doing everything for the glory of Christ. Those things pertaining to God, he was doing only because he wanted to glorify Jesus. He wanted to bring glory to the name of Jesus. He was bringing converts to Christ because he was ministering with the power of the Spirit of God. So that all around Jerusalem, all around the area he said, “I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.” He indeed was focusing, he was concentrating upon Jesus Christ and His ministry, His work, His atoning sacrifice. That is the Gospel of Christ. And he was careful not to “build upon another man’s foundation.”

All around he had fully preached Christ. It is very important, friend, for us to give some time and thought to this wonderful plan. How positive are you in your Christian witness? How sure are you? How committed are you that you would carry the Gospel everywhere, preaching Christ, holding fast to the truth, committing everything always to Jesus? Commitment is the building element in the motive for mission.

THE CONFIRMATION OF MISSION is the fruit-bearing element defining the motive of mission. It was Paul’s desire to seek out new places. He said, I have preached all around, everywhere and now I must seek out new places where Christ is not named: “To preach the Gospel, not where Christ was named.” He wanted to go to new places where people had not heard the name of Jesus, where other men had not worked. He was enthusiastic about going where other people had not been. He wanted to build new churches, not to build on another man’s foundation. His goal was to bring the truth to those who had not known so they could see and understand. That is the basic need of the heart.

Now, my friend, I am coming to you with the same kind of commitment. I believe that God has called me to minister to you, to help stimulate your commitment to mission. Together we shall be able by the grace of God to reach others, those who have not yet heard and who have not yet understood. Their basic need is exactly like yours and mine. They need to know Jesus Christ and they need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

And I pray that together as I am ministering to you now and you will minister to your neighbors and friends where ever the Lord may send or take you, that you will have that confirmation of mission as well.

The motive of mission, my friend, must include the call from God, the commitment to Jesus and the confirmation as taught and practiced by the Apostle Paul. As we keep these elements foremost we will find our motive of mission well defined.