

## Called to Gentiles—Paul’s obsession to minister to the Jews

### Called to the Gentiles:

We have overwhelming scriptures that prove Paul was sent and called to the Gentiles, not the Jews. He could minister to the Jews if he bumped into them, but they were not to be the focus of his call and assignment, yet Paul went after the Jews over and over—using a strategy of disputing and reasoning. Reasoning wouldn’t be bad as long as it was with the people God had called him to.

- a) Acts 9:15 *But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:*
- b) Acts 14:1 *And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.*
- c) Acts 22:21 *And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.*
- d) Acts 26:14-18 *And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. [15] And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. [16] But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; [17] Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,[18] To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*
- e) Acts 26:20-21 *But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. [21] For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.*
- f) Romans 11:13 *For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:*

- g) Galatians 2:8 *(For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)*
- h) 1 Timothy 2:7 *Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.*
- i) 2 Timothy 1:11 *Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.*

### **Paul went into the synagogue of the Jews over and over:**

If it was established that Paul was to called to the Gentiles, why then did he keep pursuing the Jews over and over.

Paul was more effective ministering to the Gentiles than the Jews. While with the Gentiles, he had revivals, but while with the Jews, he had riots.

1. Preached in the synagogues

*Acts 9:20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God.*

- a) The issue was not what Paul preached in the synagogues, but who he preached to.

2. Thessalonica

*Acts 17:1-2 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: [2] And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, (Underline mind).*

3. Berea

*Acts 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.*

- i) From one synagogue in a different town to another in a different city.

4. Ephesus

*Acts 18:4,19,26 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks. [19] And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews. [26] And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.*

- i) Reasoned in the synagogues every sabbath.

5. Acts 19:8 *And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.*
6. Acts 21:27-28 *And when the seven days were almost ended, the Jews which were of Asia, when they saw him in the temple, stirred up all the people, and laid hands on him, [28] Crying out, Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place.*
7. Acts 26:20-21 *But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. [21] For these causes the Jews caught me in the temple, and went about to kill me.*

### Paul the disputer

Paul, tried to argue people into to kingdom. People cannot be argued into salvation. People have to choose to be born again. We can't argue the, in.

Almost persuaded me to become a Christian. Acts 26:27-28 *King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest. [28] Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.*

- a) In many cases disputes do not get people born again. They get almost there, but do not get there in most cases.
1. In Jerusalem

*Acts 9:26-31 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple. [27] But Barnabas took him, and brought him to the apostles, and declared unto them how he had seen the Lord in the way, and that he had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. [28] And he was with them coming in and going out at Jerusalem. [29] And he spake boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus, and disputed against the Grecians: but they went about to slay him. [30] Which when the brethren knew, they brought him down to Caesarea, and sent him forth to Tarsus. [31] Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.*

- a) After Paul was allowed in the company of the disciples through Barnabas' help, he started to dispute against the Grecians, but they went about to slay him.
- b) Grecians were Greek speaking Jews.
- c) People went about slaying Paul rather receiving from him because he was disputing.

- d) When a person is bringing no peace through arguments and disputings, we need to remove them and send them a way to Tarsus—their hometown.
- e) Guess what happens after we send him away?
  - i) Churches got rest, throughout Judaea, Galilee, and Samaria
  - ii) Were edified
  - iii) Walked in the fear of the Lord
  - iv) Walked in comfort of the Holy Ghost
  - v) Were multiplied.

2. In Thessalonica

*Acts 17:1-5 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: [2] And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, [3] Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. [4] And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few. [5] But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.*

3. In Athens

*Acts 17:17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him.*

4. In Corinth

*Acts 18:4 And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.*

5. In Ephesus

*Acts 18:19 And he came to Ephesus, and left them there: but he himself entered into the synagogue, and reasoned with the Jews.*

6. In Ephesus

*Acts 19:8-9 And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God. [9] But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.*

Circumcising Timothy and almost made sacrifice

Paul almost made a serious mistake in his effort to reach the Jews. This was not necessary. He should have stuck with reaching the Gentiles.

*Acts 21:17-26 17 And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. 18 And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. 19 And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry. 20 And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law: 21 And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs. 22 What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come. 23 Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them; 24 Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law. 25 As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication. 26 Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them.*



## Quit ministering to Non-receivers

One thing we all need to be aware of as ministers is that there are some people that will not receive. They will reject the Word and we have to be smart and prudent to not waste resources and time reaching those that careless.

There comes a time where you need to move on to the next. This is helpful when dealing with people. Satan will parade people in our lives, and some might be our loved ones.

Mathew 10:14 *And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.*

Mark 6:11 *And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.*

Lue 9:5 *And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.*

- a) It is totally appropriate for you to move on to the next person or next city if people are willing to receive.
- b) Move on from people who are not willing to receive.

One of the temptations you will have is to try to point people to yourself than to the Lord. If you never move on from certain people who are not receiving, you are hindering God from working on and in their lives. People must learn to look to the Lord for help and to meet their needs, not to man.

### Point people to Jesus

A pastor or minister can't do anything or everything. He can't be **all** things to **all** people.

- a) Do not take on people's burdens but **teach and show them in the word** how to deal with the problems they are facing.
- b) One major issue people (especially ministers) have in the body of Christ **is the need to be needed**. I have learned and learning to allow the Lord to work and speak in people's lives. As much as I want to minister to people, I have become aware of pointing people to the Lord and get out of the way especially when they are not receiving.
  - i) Others have a benefit they get from ministering to the non-receivers, so they will keep doing it lest they lose the reward associated to ministering
- c) The teachers teach the general principles of the Word of God, but the Holy Spirit will fill in the blank and gives each individual the specific directions. Giving a specific direction is going too far as a teacher. People must hear from the Lord.
- d) Ministers on many occasions want to feel relevant and because of that they try to do everything for the individual they are trying to help or even appear to be the source of their answers and on many occasions, this sets traps for them such as emotional traps.
- e) We need to turn people over to the Lord and get out of the way. We need to point people to the Lord—**let my people go!!** We aren't the source for the people—the Lord is. We are like a coach that trains, but eventually lets the players go and play. The coach does not play for them. Teaching ought to manifest and glorify Jesus, not self.

*1 Samuel 15:35 And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: Nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul King over Israel.*

There is a time when it's not effective (useless) to try to keep ministering to people. People can get to a point of no return and Satan can our compassion for people against us by keeping us so occupied with people that aren't changing or going to change and waste all the time that could minister to others that do want to change. We need to be prudent to recognize the difference.

- ① Not effective to keep ministering.
- ② People can get to a point of no return.
- ③ Satan can use our compassion against us.
- ④ People not changing and won't have time to minister to those who want to change.
- ⑤ Waste time and resources.
- ⑥ Focus on people that want to change.
  - a) Turn away from argumentative people. They won't receive.
  - b) Turn away from people who are hardened who have rejected the truth.
  - c) David turned away from Eliab his brother. He stopped talking to him.

You can't keep putting seed in a ground that is not bringing forth. It would be insane.