

19 August 2012: Preached by Elder John Leong

Topic: **Apostle Paul's example to follow Christ**

Scripture Text: Romans 15:14 to 16:27

1. The Epistle of Romans has basically 2 parts: Chapter 1-11 on the doctrines of faith, namely, the Just shall live by faith. The 2nd part is from chapter 12 to 15:3 in which the applications of faith are illustrated. In the closing of the Epistle from chapter 15:14 to end of chapter 16, the Apostle Paul shared about his personal life and sent greetings to people special to him. Here we see the example of Paul that he would do what he has said in the Epistle.
2. From chapter 15:15-21, we see and learn from the example of Paul how he responded to God's calling for him to be a preacher to the Gentiles. He was humble, faithful, genuine, persevering in his ministry for the Lord. His work was testified by the power of the Holy Spirit. Paul indeed was not slothful, fervent in spirit and serving the Lord. He was single-minded to preach the Gospel to the lost.
3. From chapter 15:22-33, we learn from the example of Paul that he was always controlled and directed by the will of God in his life. Though he was sharing his travelling plan, he committed every path to the Lord and asked others to pray for him. As he plans, he prays and keep to the focus to preach Christ. When one is in the will of God, there is peace of heart even though the external can be full of turmoil.
4. In the last chapter 16 of Romans, we see many names that Paul mentioned. Each of them was special to him and he commended them for their labour for the Lord and care and support for him. Paul was never an isolationist. He showed true and genuine love for others. The people were in his heart. His example of true love for others is to be emulated.
5. Our lives for the Lord ought to be an example and a good testimony to others. We often say more than we do. Let us learn from Apostle Paul to make our lives count for the Lord and be a blessing to others