

Text: Living a Life of Great Impact

Pastor Scott Edwards
September 4, 2011
Romans 1

"In a very basic sense, western civilization is a by-product of Paul's letter to the Romans. Nothing was written by man that had a greater impact on modern history." - Richard Halverson

"The most profound writing in existence of all time." - Samuel Coleridge

Like Paul, I must have a...

1. A MISSION bigger than myself

"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God." v. 1

"...to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes through faith." v. 5

2. A MESSAGE that matters

"...the gospel he promised beforehand though all the prophets in the holy Scripture regarding His Son who, as to His human nature, was a descendent of David and through the spirit of holiness, was declared with power to be the Son of God. Through Him and for His name's sake we receive grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles and to the obedience that comes from faith. To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be His saints..." vv. 2-6 (See v. 16,17)

3. A METHOD that uplifts others

"...grace and peace to you from God and from the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ." v. 7

- ENCOURAGES people

"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you..." v. 8

- PRAY for people

"God ... is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers all the times; and I pray that now at last, by God's will, a way may be open to come to you." v. 9, 10NLT

- BE WITH people

"I long to see you so..." v. 11a

- SERVE people

"...that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong. That is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." v. 11,12

4. A MOTIVE that is stronger than any obstacles

"I am obligated" v. 14

"I am eager (ready)" v. 15

"I am not ashamed." v. 16

"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" v. 16,17

"The Fellowship of the Unashamed"

I am part of the "Fellowship of the Unashamed."

The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line.

The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure.

I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, chintzy giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need pre-eminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I now live by presence, lean by faith, love by patience, lift by prayer, and labor by power. My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, deterred, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy, ponder at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I must go until Heaven returns, give until I drop, preach until all know, and work until He comes. And when He comes to get His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My colors will be clear.

Dr. Bob Moorehead

Time with God

Here's a chance to "take it home": Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought-provoking questions about this weekend's topic!

This week's memory verses: *"For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" Romans 1:17*

Monday

Read Rom. 1:1-17. Look back over your notes from last weekend. What appeals to you about living a life that makes an impact?

List four words that describe the type of impact you'd like to make.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Using those four words craft a mission statement that begins: In order to make an impact on my world I will... *Thank God today for the meaning your life has. Ask Him to help you be intentional about making a difference. Pray that people would be encouraged by you today and see Jesus in your life.*

Tuesday

Read Rom. 1:1, 1 Cor. 1:1, 2 Cor. 1:1, Gal. 1:1, 11-16 & 1 Tim. 1:1. Paul was a man who knew his mission and purpose! What was his purpose according to these verses? Why do you think it's important to have a mission that is bigger than yourself? In what way do you feel God has placed a special calling on your life? Does your use of time reflect your life mission? What changes will you make to ensure that your mission doesn't get lost in everyday living?

Thank God today for calling you and giving you the opportunity to make an impact. Ask Him for wisdom to know how to balance the demands of life and make wise choices. Pray for the same enthusiasm the apostle Paul had for living out his mission.

Wednesday

Read Rom. 1:2-6 & Philippians 1:12-21. According to these verses, what was Paul's message of impact? How do you see his commitment to that message in these verses? How did you feel when you realized God's Gospel was meaningful to you? How does that motivate you to share the same message with people around you?

Thank God today for the person (people) who first shared the Gospel with you. Ask God to give you enthusiasm and boldness when sharing the Gospel with others. Thank Him that you have the privilege of being His ambassador.

Thursday

Read Rom. 1:7-12 & Phil 1:3-11. What were Paul's methods of lifting others up? Recall a time when you were on the receiving end of someone with good intentions and harsh methods. What type of impact did that make on you?

Honestly examine the methods you employ to live out your mission and share the message. What can you do to ensure that your methods are ones that lift others up instead of beating them up? How does uplifting others increase your impact? Think of one person who needs to be uplifted today. What will you do to help them?

Thank God today for His grace and mercy. Thank Him for the joy He gives. Ask Him to help you keep your methods in check and be sure that you are showing others the same mercy and grace God has shown you!

Friday

Read Rom. 1:13-17 & 1 Cor. 9:16-19. What motivated Paul? How does having a motivation that is stronger than obstacles help you make an impact?

Be honest, what motivates you to make an impact? How does a pure motivation make a difference? Reread Rom. 1:16-17. How are these verses true in your life? How do these verses motivate you? Thank God today that you can make an impact for eternity. Thank God that His motivation is undefeatable. Ask God to strengthen your convictions and remind you often your mission from Him!

Saturday

Ask the Lord to help you live a life of impact. Read Rom. 1:18- 3:21 in preparation for this weekend's sermon. Pray that the church services will honor God this weekend and that people will come with hearts ready to learn and grow.