

## The Heart of A Leader

### *Romans 1:8 - 15*

*<sup>8</sup>First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. <sup>9</sup>God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you <sup>10</sup>in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. <sup>11</sup>I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong— <sup>12</sup>that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. <sup>13</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. <sup>14</sup>I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. <sup>15</sup>That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.*

**In today's lesson (Romans 1:8-15), Paul demonstrated the heart of a leader who longed to know and serve the Lord. In the Bible passages listed above, you will have an opportunity to experience some of what the Bible says about true leadership and how Paul expressed it. David Jeremiah has concluded that the life of Paul can teach us six crucial lessons about good leadership...**

- 1. Leadership is about *people*...Paul loved the Christians in Rome.**
- 2. Leadership is about *prayer*...Paul prayed for people he did not know and had never met.**
- 3. Leadership is about *purpose*...Paul had plans but submitted them to the Lord for divine scrutiny and correction.**
- 4. Leadership is about *persistence*...Paul pressed on in spite of changes in plans.**
- 5. Leadership is about *patience*...Paul bloomed where he was planted and trusted in God's timing.**
- 6. Leadership is about *passion*...Paul was passionate about the lives and spiritual needs of people.**

**As we read today's Bible lesson, we see the excitement that Paul had for the Christians in Rome and the possibility that he might enjoy a visit with them. In verses 8-10, Paul employed four key verbs that suggest leadership. Paul used the words "thank," "serve," "remember," and "pray." Good leaders are grateful. Good leaders will serve...indeed they will gladly do anything they ask of others. Good leaders remember. They remember blessings, people, priorities and, most of all; they remember the Lord. And good leaders pray. They always trust the counsel of the Lord. Good leaders faithfully go to God in prayer for and about all things.**

**Paul was a leader through his strengths, gifts and abilities. He never tried to be something or somebody he wasn't. Paul wrote, prayed, preached and**

taught. God had gifted him in these areas and Paul deployed his God-given gifts.

Real leaders use what God has provided. *How about you? Do you employ and deploy what you have been given?* Genuine leaders develop what God has given to them. They use what they have and they bloom where they are planted.

As Christians, leadership is exercised for two primary reasons. First, we seek to glorify God in all things and through all things. Second, we seek to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

John MacArthur has written *“Even when the Lord is served from the right motive and in His power, there always lingers near a ready temptation to resentment and self-pity when one’s work is not appreciated by fellow Christians and perhaps goes completely un-noticed.”* Paul inspires us in Romans not to grow weary or frustrated. He shows us to serve and to lead in the example of Christ and trust all results to the Lord.

#### Applications...

1. *Discover and develop the gifts God has given to you.* Leaders know who they are and what they have. Leaders never seek comfort or identity in “someone else’s skin.”
2. *Seek simple and small ways to lead.* God will entrust you with bigger ways and more responsibility when you have proven yourself with the small things.
3. *God values servant-leaders.* If you want to lead, be the first to serve. Jesus said to be first, we must be willing to be last.
4. *Leaders require deep roots.* Those roots are grown through Bible study, prayer, worship and serving.

*“If you are praying for something  
and God is not answering your request with a ‘yes,’  
ask what you can accomplish in the meantime and give  
yourself to that.”  
David Jeremiah*