

2PC AMEN (4/30/26) – “A Jesus-Shaped Life”

Scripture: Romans 15:14-33

Introduction

I. Paul’s Jesus-SHAPED CALLING –(v.14-22)

A. Shape of Jesus’s Life

1. Jesus wasn’t merely BORN
2. He was SENT
3. He CAME
4. Jesus WENT
5. Jesus COMING AGAIN

B. Paul’s Calling is shaped similarly (v.16-19)

1. He is SENT FROM God (v.16a)
2. He COMES TO God (v.16b)
3. PAUL’s Ministry is IN God (v.17-19)
4. Completed Mission??!! – (v.19)

C. As Jesus was Always GOING ON, so was Paul (v.20-22)

1. Called to Go Where Christ Has Never Been Named
2. Paul is Doing What Was prophesied of Jesus Himself (v.21; Isa. 52:15)

II. Paul’s Jesus-Shaped MOVEMENT (v.23-29)

A. Text – Paul’s intended travelogue

1. “Back & Forth” – LITERARILY
2. “Back & Forth” – GEOGRAPHICALLY (Stott, *Romans*, 384,386)
 - a. Corinth to Jerusalem (800 mi.)
 - b. Jerusalem to Rome (1500 mi.)
 - c. Rome to Spain (700 mi.)
 - d. To go to Jerusalem rather than straight to Rome/Spain-- 2000 added miles
3. “Back & Forth” – EMOTIONALLY/MOTIVATIONALLY

B. CENTRIFUGAL Force of Gospel – OUTWARD Pull(v.24) [*“to Spain”*]

1. Paul Envisions Rome as his new Base for Pioneering
 - a. His Gospel – at every turn, explicating implications for the Nations
 - i. Our Need is “Centrifugal” (ch.1-3)
 - ii. Justification is “Centrifugal” (ch.3-4)
 - iii. Sanctification “in the Second Adam” is “Centrifugal” (ch.5-8)
 - iv. Predestination is “Centrifugal” (ch.9)
 - v. Global, Redemptive History is “Centrifugal” (ch.10-11)
2. We Don’t Know if Paul ever got to Spain
3. If Paul did get to Spain, He likely would’ve turned the corner and headed North
 - a. e.g. Portugal, France, Germany, Britain, Scandinavia, etc.

C. CENTRIPETAL Force of Gospel – INWARD Pull (v.25-27) [“to Jerusalem”]

1. Hugely Important to Paul (e.g. ch.12:1-15:8)
2. “One-Anothering” Each Other with Material/Spiritual Blessings
3. Extending the Blessings of Christ – INward & OUTward

III. OUR Jesus-Shaped PARTNERSHIP (v.14-15; 30-33)

A. Jesus HAS COME to Us (v.14) “full...filled...able...”

B. Jesus KEEPS COMING to Us (v.15-16) “...reminder...”

1. Shaping “Muscle Memory” – Unconscious Reflexes ... Intuitions ...

So that,

2. WE OURSELVES might be a Thanksgiving Offering (v.16)
 - a. Offered to the FATHER
 - b. Thru Ministry of Christ the SON
 - c. Sanctified by the Holy SPIRIT

C. Jesus-Shaped SENDING Each Other (v.24) “to Spain”

1. Helping the Gospel Keep Going Forward to World

D. Jesus-Shaped LOVING Each Other (v.26-27)

1. Circle of Giving/Receiving/Joy
2. We “Owe It” to One Another
 - a. “[T]he command to give is not compelling us to act against our-selves, even if it often feels like this.... It pushes us to act true to who we most properly are. That’s why we can be obliged to give freely: the obligation nudges us to do what the new self would do if the old one didn’t stand in the way.” (Miroslav Volf, *Free of Charge*)
3. Sharing Joy, Blessing, Refreshment together (v.29,32)
 - a. Miroslav Volf: “... letting our generosity dance together” (*Free of Charge*, 87)

E. Jesus-Shaped PRAYING for Each Other (v.31-32)

1. Trinitarian (v.30; cf. v.15-16)
 - a. Prayer to God (the Father)
 - b. Requested Thru Jesus
 - c. Requested Thru Love of the Spirit
2. “Striving” – there’s a battle afoot (cf. 16:20; Gen. 3:15)
 - a. For Deliverance from Unbelievers (among God’s Covenant People!)
 - b. For Favor with Believers (the gifts would be accepted)
3. God’s Jesus-Shaped Answer (cf. Acts 21-28)
 - a. “Cross”
 - i. Life Delivered from his enemies, shipwreck (barely, repeatedly)
 - ii. Several Years in prison
 - iii. Sent to Rome in chains
 - b. “Resurrection” – Gospel going forth “unhindered” (Acts 28:30-31)

Conclusion

AMEN Action Steps

“Jesus-Shaped Life”

Romans 15:14-33

HEAR the Word

“Open my eyes, that I might behold wondrous things out of your law.”

-Psalms 119:18

1. Paul describes the Romans as “full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another” (v.14). Given that the New Testament didn’t yet exist and no one had Old Testament Bibles at home, what can it mean that they were “full...filled...able”? Be as concrete as possible. And compared to them, how “full...filled...able” are you?
2. Paul describes himself as “proud of my work for God” (v.17). We tend to think of all pride as bad. Yet, Paul here identifies a good kind of pride. What makes for a good pride? As awkward as it seems, what can you be virtuously proud of in your “work for God”?

PRACTICE the Word

“...Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on a rock”

-Matthew 7:24

1. By virtue of supernatural revelation, Paul had a certainty about his calling that the rest of us cannot have. But as well as we know ourselves today – as little or much as that may be – how would you articulate your role (as specifically as possible) in serving and expanding the kingdom of Jesus—through career, play, neighborhood, family, church? If you’re stumped trying to answer that question on your own, ask a family member or good friend: “How have you seen or experienced Jesus using me? Please be as specific as possible.”
2. Given that Kingdom passion will both pull you outward (to the unbelieving world) as well as inward (in love for the believing church), how are you yourself pulled outward (to whom/what) and inward (to your local church)? Again, please be as concrete and specific as possible. And again, please get others who know you to help you discern this.

RETELL the Word

“Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you...”

-Mark 5:19

1. Who are 2-5 unbelievers in your orbit whom you can pray for? How might they get to know you such that they see (in your ordinary life) your commitments to the Kingdom? How might they experience your genuine love for and interest in them and their own life stories?
2. Whom might you invite to “Gathering on the Green” this Sunday night?