

Week 3: Paul and Mission Theology

1. Overview of Paul's Mission Theology

- 1) Paul believed in the universality and power of the gospel, preaching salvation to both Jews and Gentiles.
- 2) For Paul, mission was not merely evangelism, but participation in God's redemptive work.
- 3) His epistles consistently reveal his missionary zeal and theological foundation (e.g., Rom 1:5; 15:18–21).

2. Paul's Understanding of His Calling

- 1) The Damascus encounter (Acts 9) was not just a personal conversion but the beginning of a missionary commission.
- 2) God called him as a “chosen instrument to carry [His] name to the Gentiles” (Acts 9:15).
- 3) Paul describes his ministry as a “priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God” (Rom 15:16).

3. Theological Foundations of Paul's Mission

1) Eschatological Perspective:

The church, living in the last days, must proclaim the gospel to all nations.

2) Lordship of Christ:

Because the risen Christ is Lord of all nations, all must hear the gospel.

3) Guidance of the Holy Spirit:

Mission work is led and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:2; 16:6–10).

4. Paul's Mission Strategy

1) Urban-centered approach:

Establishing churches in major cities to spread the gospel (e.g., Ephesus, Corinth).

2) Tentmaking ministry:

Maintaining economic independence to preserve the purity of the

gospel (1 Thess 2:9).

3) Teamwork:

Collaborated with Timothy, Luke, Barnabas, and others to carry out mission as a community effort.

5. Paul's Letters and Mission

- 1) All of Paul's letters are pastoral and missional in nature.
- 2) He encouraged local churches to serve as bases for gospel expansion.
- 3) From Jerusalem to Rome (Rom 15:24, 28), and even to Spain, he envisioned taking the gospel to the ends of the earth.

6. Conclusion

- 1) Paul's mission theology interprets the essence of the gospel, the church's calling, and God's redemptive plan through the lens of mission.
- 2) It challenges today's church and theologians to recover the true essence of mission.