

VII. THE PROGRESSION OF MATURATION—THE APOSTLE PAUL

A. The Moving of Paul

1. The declaration of his moving
 - a. The initial announcement of his calling—“he is a chosen vessel unto me” (Acts 9:15-16)
 - (1) To bear my name (Acts 9:15)
 - a) Before the Gentiles
 - b) Before kings
 - c) Before the children of Israel
 - (2) To suffer for my name (Acts 9:16)
 - b. The ongoing announcement of his calling
 - (1) Examples of Paul’s introduction
 - a) He was called to be an apostle and separated unto the gospel of God (Romans 1:1).
 - b) He was called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God (1 Corinthians 1:1; 2 Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; 2 Timothy 1:1).
 - c) He was an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised Him from the dead;) (Galatians 1:1) also it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called me by His grace (Galatians 1:15).
 - d) He was an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 1:1).
 - e) He was a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ (Titus 1:1).
 - (2) Expressions of Paul’s calling
 - a) The means of his calling
 - i) He was ordained (1 Timothy 2:7).
 - ii) He was appointed (2 Timothy 1:11).
 - b) The offices of his calling (1 Timothy 2:7; 2 Timothy 1:11)
 - i) A preacher
 - ii) An apostle
 - iii) A teacher of the Gentiles
 2. The manifestation of his moving
 - a. His self-perception—He saw himself as a debtor (Romans 1:14).
 - b. His concern for others
 - (1) He taught much people (Acts 11:26).
 - (2) He taught in many places (Acts 20:20; 1 Corinthians 4:17).
 - a) In various venues (Acts 20:20)
 - i) I have showed you.
 - ii) I have taught you publickly.
 - iii) I have taught you from house to house.
 - b) In various churches (1 Corinthians 4:17)

B. The Message of Paul

1. The pattern explained
 - a. The truth presented in the biblical order is that doctrine affects practice. Stated another way, what you believe impacts what you do.
 - b. While not a hard fast rule, the order found within Paul's epistles seems to match this pattern with the teaching of doctrinal truths appearing first, followed by the application of those truths in the teaching of sound practice.
2. The pattern exposed (This is just a sampling of Paul's epistles.)
 - a. Paul's letter to the Ephesians
 - (1) The teaching of sound doctrine (Ephesians chapters 1-3)
 - a) God's purpose in Christ (Ephesians chapter 1)
 - b) God's purpose in us in time (Ephesians chapter 2)
 - c) God's purpose in time (Ephesians chapter 3)
 - (2) The teaching of sound practice (Ephesians chapters 4-6)
 - a) God's purpose in us in the church (Ephesians chapter 4)
 - b) God's purpose in us with others (Ephesians chapters 5-6)
 - b. Paul's letter to the Colossians
 - (1) The teaching of sound doctrine (Colossians chapters 1-2)
 - a) The report of Epaphras and the prayers offered for the saints (Colossians chapters 1-2)
 - b) Our doctrinal treasures in Christ (Colossians chapters 2-3)
 - (2) The teaching of sound practice (Colossians chapters 3-4)
 - a) Our practical calling in Christ (Colossians chapters 3-4)
 - b) The prayers requested for the apostle Paul and the report of Tychicus and Onesimus (Colossians chapter 4)

C. The Methodology of Paul

1. Like the Lord Jesus Christ and the prophets of old, Paul used illustrations with which his audience would be familiar.
 - a. A potter and clay (Romans 9:20-21)
 - b. An olive tree (Romans 11:16-25)
 - c. A body (Romans 12:4-8)
 - d. Maturity (1 Corinthians 3:1-2)
 - e. Gardening (1 Corinthians 3:5-8)
 - f. Builders (1 Corinthians 3:9-15)
 - g. A temple (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)
 - h. Leaven (1 Corinthians 5:6-7)
 - i. Running a race (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)
 - j. An uncertain sound (1 Corinthians 14:8-10)
 - k. Earthen vessels (2 Corinthians 4:7)
 - l. A tabernacle (2 Corinthians 5:1-4)
 - m. Sowing and reaping (2 Corinthians 9:5-7)
 - n. Weapons of warfare (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)
 - o. A schoolmaster (Galatians 3:21-25)

- p. An heir (Galatians 4:1-7)
 - q. A building (Ephesians 2:19-22)
 - r. Sleep (1 Thessalonians 5:5-8)
 - s. Soldiers (2 Timothy 2:1-4)
 - t. Vessels (2 Timothy 2:20-21)
2. Paul used questions to provoke his audience to consider and think upon the truths being expounded.
- a. Paul's letter to the Romans
 - (1) "Thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" (Romans 2:3-4)
 - (2) "Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?" (Romans 2:21-23)
 - (3) "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1-2)
 - (4) "What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Romans 6:15-16)
 - (5) "What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? *It is* God that justifieth. Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Romans 8:31-35)
 - (6) "What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid." (Romans 9:14)
 - (7) "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of* the tribe of Benjamin." (Romans 11:1)
 - (8) "For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?" (Romans 11:34-35)

- b. Paul's letters to the Corinthians
 - (1) First Corinthians
 - a) "Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" (1 Corinthians 1:13)
 - b) "For who maketh thee to differ *from another*? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive *it*, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received *it*?" (1 Corinthians 4:7)
 - c) "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize?" (1 Corinthians 9:24)
 - (2) Second Corinthians—"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" (2 Corinthians 6:14-16)
- c. Paul's letter to the Galatians
 - (1) "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men?" (Galatians 1:10)
 - (2) "O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if *it be* yet in vain. He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, *doeth he it* by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" (Galatians 3:1-5)
 - (3) "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16)
 - (4) "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" (Galatians 5:7)
- d. Paul's letter to the Hebrews
 - (1) "For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?" (Hebrews 1:5)
 - (2) "But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?" (Hebrews 1:13)
 - (3) "If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need *was there* that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?" (Hebrews 7:11)
 - (4) "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" (Hebrews 9:14)
 - (5) "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" (Hebrews 12:7)