Spirit-led Decision-Making, Session 1

Romans 15:20–24

INTRODUCTION

- Have you thought about the fact that most of the choices you make are not obviously choices between good and evil?
- Most major decisions are kind of not sin and not sin, not sin and sin decisions.
- Is it all God's business, but he gives us a liberty.

1 Paul Purposed in the Spirit to Go to Rome

- What I'd like to do is look at a decision in the New Testament that I don't think it's a decision between sin and not sin.
- When they were accomplished, Paul purposed in the spirit.
- I don't really think God's directing him to make this plan we're talking about here, but he is making the plan.

2 We Make It Our Aim to Please God

2 Corinthians 5:9; Acts 9:15

- Everything he did had something to do with pleasing God.
- Is Paul making a decision to go to Rome? That's a matter of like sinning or not sinning?
- The Lord said to me, "Go, he's a vessel of mine to bear my name before Gentiles."

3 His Reasons in Romans 1

Romans 1:10–15

- Then I may be encouraged together with you.
- I often have planned to come to you but was hindered till now.
- There's some plans we make that are probably pretty good and somehow they don't happen.
- So much as in me is, I'm ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.

4 No Longer Having a Place in These Parts

Romans 15:20–24

- Part of his decision is driven by the fact that he wants to go where Christ has not been named.
- Journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey and be helped on my way there by you.
- Whatever happens, what are you going to do with that? You're going to have to do the best, make the best in your desire to please God.

- God told him to do some things pretty directly, but there are other things he just had to figure out on his own what would be best to do.

5 In and of Itself

- Do you think it would have been a sin for Paul to go to Rome? In and of itself. Doesn't seem like it.
- It's not really going to Rome in and itself. It's something deeper is maybe what we're doing with those decisions.

6 How These Reasons Relate to Each Other

2 Corinthians 5:9

- Are some of these enabling of others? In other words, I do this, but really the reason is because it will help me do this.
- Do you notice that some of these are incidental or tentative? And I mean by that they're less important than others.
- We end up taking on special missions which in some ways ought to have somewhat of a priority over other things in our life because that's something God has given us as a special assignment.
- And then there's one of these that's foundational. Pleasing God. We make it our aim to be well pleasing to God.

MY NOTES