*Northwest Bible Church – Sept. 4, 2005             Worship Service – Alan Conner***Rom. 15:17-21***Characteristics of Paul’s Ministry*

**INTRO**

**I. PAUL ALWAYS GAVE GOD THE CREDIT FOR HIS MINISTRY (vv. 17-18).**
    A. Paul’s boast is “in things pertaining to God” (v. 17). 2Cor. 10:17; Psa. 20:7

    B. Paul’s boast is in “what Christ has accomplished” (v. 18). 1 Cor. 3:5-7.

**II. PAUL’S MINISTRY PRODUCED OBEDIENCE (v. 18).**
    A. Christ’s work has accomplished the “obedience of the Gentiles” (v. 18).

This obedience is the same as the “obedience of faith” (1:5; 16:26) which would include both saving faith and sanctifying faith.

        Theological observations:

        1) “Obedience” implies that the gospel invitation is a command that requires obedience.

2) Faith is the work of God. See verses: Rom. 12:3; Acts 13:48, 16:14; 1 Tim. 1:14; Phil. 1:29; Jn. 6:37; Jam. 2:5; 2 Pet. 1:1; Eph. 2:8-9; etc.

    B. Christ accomplished this through Paul (v. 18).

        Notice the “through me.”

**III. PAUL LIVED A CONSISTENT CHRISTIAN LIFE**        “by word” –
        “by deed” –

**IV. PAUL MINISTERED IN THE REALM OF HIS SPIRITUL GIFTS (v. 19).**
A. “in the power of signs and wonders” (v. 19).

    B. “in the power of the Spirit” (v. 19).

**V. PAUL’S MINISTRY WAS THOROUGH (v. 19c).**
    “I have “fulfilled” (lit) the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem to Illyricum (v. 19).

        What does “fufilled the gospel” mean?

**VI. PAUL’S MINISTRY TOOK THE INITIATIVE (vv. 20-21).**
    A. Paul’s aspiration (v. 20).

B. Paul’s commitment to virgin gospel territory (vv. 20-21).

C. Paul’s life verse (v. 21).

CONCLUSION