

Paul's Policy Regarding Missionary Endeavor (vv. 20-21)

VERSE 20 And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was *already* named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation (οὕτως δὲ φιλοτιμούμενον εὐαγγελίζεσθαι οὐχ ὅπου ὠνομάσθη Χριστός, ἵνα μὴ ἐπ' ἀλλότριον θεμέλιον οἰκοδομῶ [*conj. de + adv. houto thus + pres.dep.part.acc.m.s. philotimeomai endeavor, make it one's policy, aspire + pres.mid.infin. euangelizo proclaim good news; 54x + neg. ouk + conj. hopou where + aor.pass.ind.3s. honomazo name + noun nom.m.s. Christ + conj. hina so that + neg. me + prep epi + adj.acc.m.s. allotrios another + noun acc.m.s. themelios foundation + pres.act.subj.1s. oikodomeo build*]);

VERSE 21 but as it is written, "THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND (ἀλλὰ καθὼς γέγραπται, Οἷς οὐκ ἀνηγγέλη περὶ αὐτοῦ ὄψονται, καὶ οἱ οὐκ ἀκηκόασιν συνήσουσιν [*conj. alla but + conj. kathos just as + pf.pass.ind.3s. grapho + pro.dat.m.p. hos who + neg. ouk + aor.pass.ind.3s. anangelo inform, disclose; "had no news" + prep. peri + pro.gen.m.s. autos "of him" + fut.mid.ind.3p. horao see + conj. kai + pro.nom.m.pl. hos + neg. ouk + pf.act.ind.3p. akouo hear + fut.act.ind.3p. suniemi understand*])."

ANALYSIS: VERSES 20-21

1. Paul informs the believers in Rome of his policy that guided him as he traveled from place to place evangelizing the Gentiles and establishing local churches.
2. Paul avoided places that others had already evangelized and set up local churches.
3. He would visit places like Jerusalem but would leave these believers to others.
4. Paul took the gospel to "virgin" locations of which there were many.
5. Paul's interest in the Roman church which he did not found does not contradict this as they had no established apostle or pastor.
6. So the epistle to the Romans does not violate his strict policy.
7. He quotes Isa. 52:15 in support of his policy.
8. His understanding is that this prophecy anticipated CA evangelization of the nations.
9. This policy is in line with Paul's call to the ministry (cf. Acts 9:15).
10. 2 Cor. 10:13-15 affirms this uncompromising policy as well.
11. Doctrine of Pastor-Teacher establishes a designated right congregation in a specified location.