

Jennifer Beckford

CS502: The Church as a Social & Cultural Institution: NOS/NA

Dr. Stanley John

March 1, 2023

Interaction Paper # 2 on Ralph Winter

Redemptive Structures in New Testament Times

In this paper, I will emphasize and explore Paul's missionary journey and how he developed the structure of the New Testament Churches. He was ministering to Christians across the Roman Empire, trying to seek lost souls. It might have been a challenge for him to convince the Jewish and Gentile believers in the synagogues he visited. I am sure it was a challenge for him to convince the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus Christ, the Son of God; and that this Christ was even greater than Moses. Paul tried to convince them that this Messiah held the final authority, the Alpha and the omega, the beginning, and the end. Paul understood the Greeks culture and respected it enough to not impose the Jewish way of life. The foundation was laid for Paul to teach and preach the New Testament because of the work that the missionaries and travelers who preceded him had done. Peter declared, "Moses is preached in every city (of the Roman Empire)" (Acts 15:21)." Paul essentially built the New Testament Church, along the Jewish synagogue lines, so as to embrace the community of the faithful in any given place.

"The defining characteristic of this New Testament church was the prototype of the Christian church which included old and young, male and female." Paul built such fellowships with Jews and non-Jewish.

The article further expressed the importance of evangelism in reaching and converting Anglo-Saxons. Augustine's later mission from the South up North evangelized to Western Europe, even Central Europe. I can only imagine the obstacle Paul faced in convincing the Jewish and Gentile believers in the synagogues. I believe that these people were under the impression that Moses is the Messiah. I believe Paul maximized his efforts to gain the Greeks and Gentiles but was cunning enough to attempt to gain the Jews. The Lord certainly directed Paul's steps because the Mosaic Law was never forced upon the Gentiles. Paul was able to utilize the foundation that Jewish evangelism had laid along with the 'New Testament available to him.

I will conclude by saying Paul was empowered by the Holy Spirit to use wisdom to preach the new gospel and he allowed the Greeks to remain Greeks and not be circumcised and culturally assimilated into the Jewish way of life. That was the mighty move of God using him to execute His "will." The monastic (or sodality) pattern turned out to be of greater importance in the early medieval period than it might have otherwise been. Paul's supernatural encounter with the Lord propelled him with his missionary pilgrimage. I applaud Paul for their major contribution to Christianity and to the Redemptive Structures in the New Testament. The New Testament is basically about the redemptive power of God's love and salvation. His desire was for everyone to be saved and acknowledge the truth. He worked diligently to make the world what the Lord intended it to be. Let's be realistic it was evident that the Lord delegated his work. Paul's main objective was to bring about salvation or redemption from sin. He implored all nations to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. As a result, in many places there were both "Arian" and "Catholic" coexisting together in the same areas, simple Christian churches were sometimes across the street from one another but fell under different denominations. Winter

did an excellent job in exploring the mission of Christianity and the foundation or legacy Paul left behind.

Questions

Why did Paul not allow the Greeks to circumcise?

Why was Paul faced with so many challenges?

Did Paul automatically gain power once he received the Holy Spirit?