

# The Soul-Winner's Toolbox

Romans 1:1-16

## A. Introduction

1. 6.5 billion souls populate the earth
2. Just one is of more value than the whole world (Mt. 16:26)
3. Problem: "The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one" (1 Jn. 5:19)
  - 1) Battle waged around the clock, across the world
  - 2) Battle for the souls of men, and the casualties are enormous!
4. Illus. — Pearl Harbor nurses with lipstick
5. What can we do?
6. God knows (Mk. 16:15-16)
7. Preparation is key, so tonight we examine what made Paul an effective soldier of the cross

## B. Discussion

1. **Separation (v. 1)**
  - a. God described Paul as:
    - 1) Servant of Christ
    - 2) Set apart for the gospel of God
  - b. How would God describe you?
2. **Prayer (v. 9-10a)**
  - a. Soul-winners consistently pray for souls
  - b. "Without ceasing" = w/o intermission
3. **Desire (v. 10b)**
  - a. Part of his prayers included opportunity to preach the gospel
  - b. Word carries sense of "begging"
  - c. "Passion excited by the love of an object"
4. **Willingness (v. 11)**
  - a. He had a strong will to work among the Roman people
  - b. Challenges would have been plentiful
  - c. Servant-minded — wanted to strengthen Roman church
5. **Expectation (v. 13)**
  - a. Paul expected results in Rome
  - b. What is our perspective? Pessimism vs. Optimism (cf. 1 Co. 3:5-7)
  - c. One of our tools, prayer — how much do we trust its effectiveness?
6. **Obligation (v. 14)**
  - a. "Under obligation" or "debtor"
  - b. In debt — not a favor, but an obligation
7. **Passion & Readiness (v. 15)**
  - a. "I am eager" — beyond compulsion; passion drives the soul-winner
  - b. Passion w/o preparation can be dangerous (cf. Ro. 10:2)
8. **Boldness (v. 16a)**
  - a. "Not ashamed" — Paul very easily could have been! (Jews cast him off, Gentiles sneered)
  - b. Which parts are we free to omit?
9. **Message (v. 16b)**
  - a. "The gospel of Christ" — the good news proclaimed and proven by Christ
  - b. Ashamed of the doctrine? Ashamed of God's singular power to save

## C. Conclusion

1. How stocked is your toolbox?
  - a. Missing some of these tools?
  - b. Might they need some dusting-off?
2. We'll be held accountable
  - a. Notice, none of these tools center around talent
  - b. Principle of stewardship
3. Deep abiding love and thankfulness is at the foundation of it all
4. It's time to take inventory
  - a. What am I missing?
  - b. Do I care enough to do an inner-search?