

The Universality of the Saving and Missionary Work of the Holy Apostle Paul among the Gentiles. Conversion of the Roman Proconsul Sergius Paulus

Fr. PhD Senior Lecturer VASILE-DORU FER,
University of Oradea,
doru_fer@yahoo.com

Abstract

The present study seeks to highlight the universality of the saving and missionary work of St. Paul the Apostle, among the Gentiles. In this sense, for a better perception of things, in the first part of the study we will focus on the Pauline missionary foundation of evangelical preaching and its importance in founding and consolidating the Church of Christ. The missionary perspective of the Holy Apostle Paul was primarily of a theological nature, which means that it aimed to open and offer salvation to the Gentiles, regardless of geographical and ethnic situation, but, except for the condition of compulsory circumcision. For the Apostle of the Gentiles, the apology of correction by faith without observing the Mosaic prescriptions regarding the practice of circumcision was the fundamental element of his kerygma. In the Pauline sense, the admission of the pagans into the Church was a fundamental element, this element being presented as a reality which God Himself transmitted by command to the early Church and which He accepted. The preaching of the saving message finds its reverberation in man's response to this call of evangelical preaching, a response that results in faith-πίστις, as a gift of God's grace. This call to faith in Christ and to the universality of salvation present in the Lucanian scriptures highlighted by the coming to faith of the Ethiopian servant, the centurion Cornelius, and the conversion of the Roman proconsul Sergius Paulus, gives us the opportunity to illustrate not only the theological motivation of free reception and unconditional love of the heathen in the Church, but also the missionary foundation of the preaching of the Gospel among the Gentiles.