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**PAUL'S MISSIONARY PREACHING
METHODS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR
MISSION OF CHURCH IN AFRICA.**

**AN ESSAY PRESENTED TO THE FACULTY
OF THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY
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**IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE
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ABSTRACT

This project is intended to find out Paul's missionary preaching methods in his missionary enterprises and is aimed to be a model for the contemporary churches in Africa today. On the other hand, it is motivated by the desire to have biblical preaching strategies that will be contextual to the lives of the people in our missions activities.

The methods employed in this work is analytical, descriptive and comparative by investigating the various circumstances of preaching opportunities opened to Paul. In addition the writer consulted a number of relevant books on missions and preaching approaches from Pastors.

The work is divided into five chapters. Chapter one deals with the challenge of preaching, motivations, significance, and methodology, scope of the study and definition of key terms. Chapter two talks on Paul's background, life, and ministry. Chapter three looks at foundations of missions. Chapter four speaks about Paul's missionary preaching methods while chapter five deals with the implications of Paul's missionary preaching methods for the church in Africa.

It is found that Paul employed various approaches to his preaching depending on the enlightenment of his audience. These includes apologetic defense of Christian beliefs; theological explanation of new life in Christ; social concerns of the church; and the meaning of the gospel to diverse people the Jews, the Gentiles and philosophers.

CONCLUSION

Having seen the many challenges that confront Christian missions in Africa today, the churches in Africa can pattern their missions activities after Paul's missionary preaching methods to reach the millions of unreached people of Africa with goodnews of Jesus Christ.

From this study we have shown the differences in some Christian methods of preaching, some preachers adopted antagonistic approach which led to their being expelled from their mission fields whereas others adopted a persuasive and logical presentation of the gospel with consequent result of establishing churches in their areas.

The main concern of this work however is to study Paul's preaching methods which led to the establishment of churches among the Gentiles, the conversion of Jews from Judaism to Christianity and establishment of churches among the philosophically oriented Greeks.

Paul was concerned with the situations of the people to the Jews he addressed them according to the culture of the Jews, sometime making reference to their history to open up their minds to the gospel. For the Gentiles he made references to the natural phenomena, which are well known to them. Thus linking Jesus Christ to the divine power that is in operation on the universe, that is the "cosmic Christ" when Paul however, address philosophically oriented Greeks he employed some Epicurean philosophy of the

³¹ Enyinnaya

divine relation with the mundane creations to demonstrate Christ power over the forces of evil by his death on the cross. Thus demonstrating the reality of the cross rather than justice of the cross. He claimed that God has used the foolishness of this world to convince the wise men of this world.

Missionary Methods: St. Paul's
Dutton Press, 1953