

ST. PAUL AND THE MISSION OF THE SEVENTY

OUR knowledge of Christ's sending out of the Seventy (or Seventy-two), and our information concerning His instructions to them, come to us from a Q passage found in Luke 10. The purpose of this note is to suggest that Paul was familiar with this Q material.

Thus in 1 Cor. 10²⁷ Paul writes: 'If one of them that believe not biddeth you to a feast, and ye are disposed to go, whatever is set before you, eat, asking no questions for conscience sake.' In Luke 10⁸ we read: 'And whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you'.

In 1 Cor. 9¹⁴ Paul expressly claims the Lord's authority for the principle that they who proclaim the gospel should live of the gospel. This is a clear reference to Christ's words as they have come down to us in Luke 10⁷ (Matt. 10⁹⁻¹¹).

Another echo of the instructions to the Seventy is to be heard in 1 Thess. 4⁸: 'Therefore he that rejecteth, rejecteth not man, but God, who giveth his Holy Spirit unto you'. Compare Luke 10¹⁶: 'He that heareth you, heareth me, and he that rejecteth you, rejecteth me; and he that rejecteth me, rejecteth him that sent me'. (Cf. Matt. 10⁴⁰.)

In his speech to the Ephesian elders (Acts 20²⁹) Paul says: 'I know that after my departure there will come grievous wolves in among you, not sparing the flock'. Have we not here an echo of the Lord's words as they came to be recorded in Luke 10³: 'Behold I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves'?

If we compare 1 Cor. 1¹⁸⁻¹⁹ with Luke 10²¹⁻²² (Matt. 11²⁵⁻⁷) we see that the general thought is similar both in Paul and in Q: viz. God reveals Himself, not to the worldly-wise, but to the simple and humble, through Christ alone. We may note a resemblance of phrase between Paul's 'it was God's good pleasure' (1 Cor. 1²¹) and the Lord's 'yea, Father, for so it was well-pleasing in thy sight'.

But the kind of resemblance that we find in all these passages is not such as would suggest a dependence of the evangelists upon Paul, but such as would indicate Paul's acquaintance with the oral tradition which eventually became incorporated in Q. A. W. ARGYLE