

Lesson 25 - Romans 15:14-33

PART 3: PRACTICAL HORTATORY AND CONCLUSION 12:1 - 16:27

COMMENTS ON ROMANS 15:14-33

PAUL'S CONCLUDING PERSONAL REMARKS TO THE ROMAN BRETHERN

Paul begins in verse 14 his final section of the book of Romans. He will give personal greetings and comments to individual brethren, interspersed with some concluding commands on the necessary attitudes to take toward false brethren. He will teach them how Righteousness is Represented.

14 And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,

16 That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

Paul has just finished speaking about proper attitudes toward other brethren, now he writes words of encouragement toward the Roman brethren. It seems from Paul's letter that the church at Rome didn't have any major problems. Paul always sought to compliment to those whom he was writing. He didn't find it necessary to compliment them early on because he was not going to rebuke them, like we find him doing in the case of Corinth and the churches of Galatia.

Paul wrote these brethren to remind them of things they already knew. We need to be reminded often. We need to get back to teaching first principles. Many have thought they are to basic don't need. Think let's get into speculations about Ezekiel or one of the prophets while brethren are going into digression because of a lack of a balanced Spiritual diet. (2 Peter 3:11).

Paul was appointed as an apostle to the Gentiles. (Acts 9:15; 13:46,47). Why because the Jews would listen to him.

17 I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.

18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,

19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Paul will not glory in his own accomplishments, but in what God has done through him. (1 Corinthians 1:31).

He would not discuss the work of other brethren, only those that God is doing through him. He wants their prayers as he goes to Spain. Just as today when we pray for those going overseas to preach in possibly hard, difficult places.

Verse 19: The might signs and wonders - miraculous work that he has done as an apostle. (2 Corinthians 12:12). Paul gives the range or area in which he has thus far worked. Illyricum was a part of Macedonia.

20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

21 But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.

22 For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.

23 But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you;

24 Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company.

Different preachers have different fields of work. Some, like Apollos seem to work well with congregations already begun. They help mature congregations in the faith. Apollos appears to have done just that in Corinth. (1 Corinthians 3:6)

Verse 21: A quote from Isaiah 52:15 to illustrate why he was going to new ground. Paul was instrumental in taking the gospel to other areas.

Paul had already desired to come to the brethren there in Rome. (Romans 1:11-12). He had intended to stop on his way to Spain so he could rest and receive support of them. It is not mentioned if he ever got to Spain.

25 But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.

26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

27 It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

28 When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

He now had the task of going to Jerusalem to carry the contribution of those of Macedonia and Achaia. (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

Verse 27 this debt was a Spiritual debt If the Jews were the safeguards of the promise and the seed of Abraham, they were, the Jewish brethren in Jerusalem were in need, they were, the Gentile brethren could show their gratitude to the Jews by sending money to them at a time of desperate need. The sealed fruit would be the contribution from these brethren (2 Corinthians 9:12-15). Paul repeats his intention to stop on his way to Spain.

29 And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;

31 That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;

32 That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Paul prayed that he might come with a spirit of joy and anticipation at being blessed himself. When he came he was still happy to come and preach the gospel in Rome. (Acts 28:14-15).

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR ROMANS 15:14-33

I. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS GIVING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES.

1. What was Paul confident in? _____

2. What was Paul wanting to do? _____

3. Why did Paul write them? _____

4. What is meant by “all knowledge”? _____

5. What was Paul’s work? _____

6. What is meant by the statement “from Jerusalem and as far round as Illyricum”?

7. Why was Paul hindered from coming to the Saints at Rome? _____
8. What were the saints at Rome going to do for Paul on his journey to Spain?_

9. What is meant by “strive together with me in prayers”? _____

10. __ What effect would prayers have on the disobedient in Judea? _____

II. DEFINE THESE TERMS:

1. Admonish _____

2. Sanctified _____

3. Poor Saints _____

4. Sealed _____

5. Amen _____

III. RESEARCH

Note the three request Paul makes in his prayer: _____

IV. THOUGHT QUESTION

Comment on the phrase "Sealed them to this fruit:" _____
