

Preparations For Missions

Romans 15:1-13 -- 11/29/2015

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP

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Romans 15:1-13

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. ³For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me." ⁴For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. ⁵Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. ⁸Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, ⁹and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written:

"For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name."

¹⁰And again He says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!"

¹¹And again: "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!"

¹²And again, Isaiah says:

"There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope."

¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let's look back at where we've come from and what we've learned so far

1. The Great Foundational Doctrines of the Faith

- a. God's Salvation revealed in the Gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16-17)
- b. God is Creator (Romans 1:18-22)
- c. Humans are fully sinful and depraved and due God's Wrath (Romans 1:18-3:31)
- d. Forgiveness, Redemption, Justification by Faith in Christ as a free gift (Romans 3-5)
- e. Sanctification, Growing in Christlikeness until Christ takes us home (Romans 6-8)

2. Israel is still a part of God's Overall Plan of Redemption (Romans 9-11)

3. Our **personal** responsibility of personal, individual Faith in Christ as fully surrendered, growing and transforming disciples of Christ → Our Personal Relationship with God **and** His Word (Romans 12:1-2)
4. **Our Relationship** to our fellow believers in our local **church** family, within the Body of Christ (Romans 12:3-21)
5. **Our Relationship to Government and** God's Ideal of Government (Romans 13:1-7)
6. **Our Relationship to people around us** that may be outside of Christ, how we are to deal with our past **and** the blatantly sinful world around us (Romans 13:8-14)
7. How do we relate to and love our **Quirky Christians** brothers and sisters (Romans 14)

Romans 15:1-13 – Preparations for Missions

- 1. The Strong supporting the weak . . .** (tying in what was taught in Romans 14)
If our goal in life and within our local church family is to Glorify Christ, we will not be living for ourselves. We will not be focused on ourselves, our own things, only the things of our earthly human family ... but we will also focus on loving one another in the body of Christ ...
We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. ²Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. ³For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” – this means we are looking out for and bearing with one another even if it costs us something . . . just like it cost Christ ... are you **STRONG**?
Christ wants you strong, so that you have help others. Are you up for the challenge, or are you just thinking about yourself, your “world”, your life? **Rise to the Challenge, on your KNEES Dying to self**, selfishness, self-centeredness is the first thing we must do ...
→ **Full Surrender** to Christ and His Mission based upon His Holy Word, the Bible
- 2. Like-Minded → Based upon God’s Holy Word ... we must be in Unity with God’s Word.**
HOPE ... based upon the Bible, from the patience and comfort of God’s Word . . .
Hope is like FUEL for the Fire of Obeying Christ ... Hope, Vision, Expecting God to Do
This will cause Our Minds and Our Mouths to Glorify God . . .
⁴For whatever things were WRITTEN BEFORE were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort **OF THE SCRIPTURES** might have **HOPE**. **⁵Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be LIKE-MINDED** toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, **⁶that you may with one MIND and one MOUTH glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.** → **The Proclamation of the Gospel**
- 3. Receive One Another**, regardless of our differing backgrounds – **Preparations for Missions**
⁷Therefore, receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.
⁸Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, ⁹and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written:
Promises Fulfilled to Israel ... and Mercy unto the Gentiles... to the Glory of God.
As God opens the doors for the Gospel to more and more people groups, the people coming to Christ may be quite different than us ... in how they look, their culture, and in many other ways
The Great Promise of God reaching the Gentiles with His Salvation through Israel . . . :
“For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name.”
¹⁰And again he says: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!”
¹¹And again: “Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!”
¹²And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall HOPE.”
Why would anyone want to be a part of a bickering, backbiting church? But a Loving Church, that is what folks are looking for. They want God’s Love and need His Truth, as well.
- 4. FUEL → HOPE** in the Power of the Holy Spirit ... **JOY and PEACE** in Believing ...
He reiterated this as a Pronouncement of Blessings ... why?
¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
The **MISSION**, the **GREAT COMMISSION**, is what he just reiterated in verses 9 - 12, from the Scriptures ... He was Quoting the Old Testament Prophecies of the Fruit of the Messiah’s Earthly Ministry . . . most did not understand that the Messiah would use His followers to accomplish His Full Ministry of the Spread of God’s Salvation to the Gentiles.

Paul gave us an Example of what The Patience and the Comfort of the Scriptures he was referring to ... Old Testament - from the God of all HOPE ...
HOPE → For the Mission ... not only Paul's Mission but for that little church in Rome, for their mission of the Gospel to reach their neighborhoods for Christ.
The Mission of the Spread of the Gospel ... we, Christians need HOPE, JOY, PEACE and Strong Faith ... we need FUEL for the FIRES so that we can have the Courage and the Encouragement to Spread the Gospel ... so we need Supernatural Power from God ...
We need that kind of overwhelming Supernatural Power of God ... which is His Holy Spirit pouring Himself into us – pouring into us → God's HOPE, JOY, and Peace that Enables us to TRUST HIM as we Obey Him with Spreading the Gospel ... do you see this?
Holy Spirit Empowered **ENCOURAGEMENT** . . .

CALL TO ACTION ...

1. We, together, as a local church family must show God's Love toward One Another and be accepting of one another. That doesn't mean we accept sinful behaviors or attitudes, but we accept one another. Prayerfully Love and Care for one another ... the Atmosphere of God's Love is what folks are really looking for out there.
2. We've been called by God to Spread the Gospel of Christ to the Lost ...
We must do so in the Power, Encouragement, Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace of the Holy Spirit ... or it will be empty effort.