

"The Doctrine of Consecration"**Part 5****Romans 12:1-15:7**

Introduction: Tonight, as we return to our study of Romans, we are stepping back into chapter 12 where Paul is discussing the subject of spiritual gifts. Paul has given to us a short list of gifts in this passage. Last week we began to look at the gifts which Paul has listed for us. In this passage Paul is writing concerning the subject of service. He wrote concerning worship in verses 1-2 and then in verse 3 he wrote concerning the proper attitude of the believer. As we then come to Romans 12:4 the subject is service and the exercising of our spiritual gifts.

Notice Romans 12:4-6a

These verses explain to us that we are all of the same body, but we have spiritual gifts that differ. When we exercise these gifts and God chooses to use us to edify the body of Jesus Christ, we are to be sure to give all the glory to God. He gave us the gifts, He gave us the grace to exercise the gifts, and it is His power which has brings forth fruit as the gifts are put in use.

1 Corinthians 4:7

7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

I. The Introduction to Christian Service**Part 5****Romans 12:1-8**

Last week we started to examine the gifts listed here in this passage in close detail.

1. The Gift of Prophecy.**Notice Romans 12:6b**

The gift of prophecy was the ability to deliver divine revelation. This gift existed within the early church before the New Testament Bible was completed. In the early church the prophets played a very important role. The New Testament church did not have a New Testament Bible, so they needed New Testament Truth to follow. Therefore, the Lord provided prophets to deliver His revelation of Truth to the church. The prophets did not just speak concerning future events. They also delivered Truth for present circumstances.

There is something else here that we did not look at last week which deserves our attention. It is the phrase at the end of the verse.

"let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith:"

The statement "proportion of faith" is what I want to look at for a few moments. This is the statement from which we get the theological term "analogy of faith" or "analogy of Scripture". The analogy of Scripture means that Scripture is to be interpreted in the light of Scripture and in accord with Scripture. In other words, it means that the proper interpretation of a verse will always be in agreement with the whole of the Bible. The Bible will never contradict itself. Let me give you an example; there are those who teach that only those predestined for salvation before the creation of the world can be saved. They will use Ephesians 1.

Ephesians 1:4-5

⁴ *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:*

⁵ *Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,*

There are those who will use these verses to teach that only the chosen who were predestined for salvation can be saved. But this teaching is not in harmony with the entire Bible.

Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

John 3:16-17

¹⁶ *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

¹⁷ *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

From these verses we can clearly see the contradiction of the teaching which is completely unacceptable. This teaching makes it look like the Bible contradicts itself. This is also seen when people teach that a believer can lose their salvation. There are verses that are crystal clear that we are secure in Christ, but there are people who pick certain verses to

teach that a believer can lose their salvation. Verses like we see at the end of the Parable of the unforgiving servant.

Matthew 18:34-35

³⁴ And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.

³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

Then we read what John wrote.

John 10:27-29

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Getting back to the phrase at the end of verse 6, we could say it speaks of consistency. So how does this apply to the person exercising his or her spiritual gifts?

The meaning is, that the revelations of the "prophet" were not to fluctuate according to his own impulses or independent thoughts but were to be adjusted to the truth revealed to him as a believer. The prophet was to exercise his gift in faith.

The gift of prophecy no longer exists but for the church today the application is that our differing gifts are to be exercised in faith. Regardless of situations and independent thoughts we may have we are called to exercise our gifts in faith.

2. The Gift of Ministry.

Notice Romans 12:7

This is the ability to see things which need to be done and then to do them. The person who does this with the proper spirit does not seek to get attention. They just do what needs to be done so that Jesus Christ will be glorified in what they do and so those who deliver the Word of God will be free to do so.

This now brings us to where we stopped.

3. The Gift of Teaching.

Every believer should be willing to teach to some extent. It could be teaching their children, grandchildren, people you work with or just a friend. There are however people who have the gift of teaching and they are given the ability to communicate the Truth of God's Word. The difference between the prophet and the teacher is the prophet received his message directly from the Lord and the teacher gets his message by diligently studying the Word of God while depending upon the Holy Spirit to give to him the message which he is to share. The prophet gives the Word of God under divine inspiration and the teacher explains the Word of God while NOT under divine inspiration. The message of the prophet was infallible, because it was directly from the Lord, but the message of the teacher can be fallible. Therefore, the teacher needs to walk in close fellowship with the Lord. He must be sure not to hinder or quench the Spirit in his life, for the teacher needs to be led and taught by the Holy Spirit.

The word for "teacheth" is "**Didasko**" and it means to teach a student in such a way that the will of the student becomes conformed to the teaching taught. Teaching that Scripture finds significant is not that which just conveys information but teaching that produces transformation and this teaching produces disciples who "**walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called**". It is important to know that just because someone is placed in a position of teaching does not necessarily mean that person has the gift of teaching. Not only is that person frustrated but they are not effectively building up the body of Christ.

Ephesians 4:11-12

¹¹ *And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*

¹² *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:*

4. The Gift of Exhortation.

Notice Romans 12:8

The gift of teaching helps the believer to understand the Truth of God's Word and the gift of exhortation is coming along side of the believer and helping them to walk in the Truth they have learned. Often times the gift of exhortation is given to the person with the gift of teaching. But at the same time, they are two different gifts. This gift of exhortation is the ability to comfort, to encourage, to warn, to advise, to correct, and sometimes to persuade a fellow believer.

Exhorting one another is something we should all do.

Hebrews 3:13

¹³ But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

Hebrews 10:25

²⁵ Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

This gift as all other must be exercised in love and with patience and in keeping of sound doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:1-3

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

² *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.*

³ *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;*

5. The Gift of Giving.

Notice Romans 12:8 again.

Before we look at this gift let me first of all explain that every believer is to practice giving.

2 Corinthians 9:5-7

⁵ *Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren, that they would go before unto you, and make up beforehand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready, as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness.*

⁶ *But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.*

⁷ Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Ephesians 4:28

²⁸ *Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.*

Every believer is to give when there is a need and they have resources to give. The believer with the "gift of giving" has a special gift of giving away what God has blessed them with. They also have more opportunity and resources to give from.

Notice Romans 12:8 again.

The believer with the "gift of giving" is to do so with "simplicity". This means they are to give "generously". God has provided for this person and they are to use what God has given to them to help meet the needs within the body.

6. The Gift of Ruling

Notice Romans 12:8 again.

The word "ruleth" means "to stand before". This is the gift of leadership, standing before people to lead them in the Truth. Those who have this gift are to exercise it with diligence. They are to give their best to carry out this gift in a way that honors God. It is the gift of being able to take a stand in front of somebody and say, "This is what we are going to do, let's go." The one who has the gift of leadership thus stands before other believers to guide them and to assist them in their spiritual development. Those with this gift are confident in the will of the Lord and they are not indecisive. They know what direction the Lord is leading and regardless of the opinions of the critics they stay the course. Moses leading Israel out of Egypt is a great example of what leadership looks like.

Those who have this gift are to remain steadfast even when they become discouraged and they will become discouraged at times for if they are going to lead God's people, we can be sure Satan will bring a wave of steady attacks.

7. The Gift of Showing Mercy.

Notice Romans 12:8 again.

The person with this gift is someone who is a shining light when you are going through a dark tunnel. This person has the ability to come along side of you in a time of difficulty and help you to be encouraged. This person is to exercise this gift with cheerfulness. To exercise this gift with cheerfulness is to dispel gloom and inspire hope and courage.

Conclusion:

Each of these gifts except for prophecy which no longer exists, are vitally important with in the body of Jesus Christ and that is the point Paul is making. Each believer is used of God in a way to strengthen the church when they exercise their gifts.