

**"The Benediction"**

**Part 2**

**Romans 15:8-13**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of Romans we looked at Romans 15:8 and it was in this verse that we were able to see the mission of Jesus Christ when He came into this world.

**Notice Romans 15:8**

The word "minister" means "servant". Jesus came as a Servant of the Jews for the Truth of God to confirm the promises made unto the fathers. Jesus was the fulfillment of the promises to the fathers of the nation of Israel. They were promised a Messiah and a King. Jesus Christ was their Messiah, and He was their King. His birth showed that God was True to His Word. When He made a promise, He would fulfill that promise no matter how diligent Satan was in his efforts to stop the promises of God.

So, if Jesus came to the Jews, because to them was the promise of the Messiah and to them was a promise of the King and the Kingdom, then how do the Gentiles get to have Him as a Savior? What is our claim based upon? Israel's claim was based upon the promises and the faithfulness of God, but the Gentiles had no covenants or promises.

**Notice Romans 15:9a**

Here is the claim of the Gentiles, MERCY. Mercy is not getting what we deserve. We deserve eternal damnation but because of the mercy of God we have eternal life through Jesus Christ. When He died upon the cross, He did not only die for the Jews, but He also died for the Gentiles. So, because of God's mercy we too have a Savior and when we exercise of faith in His finished work upon the cross we are saved by grace.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

<sup>9</sup> *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Mercy kept us from eternal damnation and grace gave us eternal life.

Paul is reminding the Romans who received this letter that they were shown mercy even when they had no hope.

**Ephesians 2:11-13**

<sup>11</sup> Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

<sup>12</sup> That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

**Notice Romans 15:9a again.**

We are therefore to glorify God on behalf of His mercy, and we can do this by showing mercy to others. The Jews can glorify God because of His promises and His covenants. We can glorify God because of His mercy.

Paul will now continue by taking his readers to the Old Testament to show that mercy for the Gentiles was not an afterthought. This had been foretold in the Old Testament. Paul points this out possibly to keep the believing Jew from being prejudice toward the believing Gentile.

➤ **The Old Testament**

**Notice Romans 15:9b-12**

Paul gives four quotes from the Old Testament and they are progressive in thought.

**Quote #1 - Psalm 18:49 (David praised God among the Gentiles.)**

<sup>49</sup> Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.

**Quote #2 - Deuteronomy 32:43 (Moses exhorted the Gentiles to rejoice with God's people.)**

<sup>43</sup> Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.

**Quote #3 - Psalm 117:1 (The Psalmist commanded the Gentiles to praise the Lord.)**

O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.

**Quote #4 - Isaiah 11:10 (Isaiah foretold of a day when the Gentiles would live under the rule of the Messiah and they would hope in Him.)**

<sup>10</sup> *And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.*

The Bible Knowledge Commentary makes an important statement on Paul's thoughts here:

*"The Old Testament never presented the Gentiles as "heirs together with Israel" ...but it certainly did see them as receiving blessings from God's fulfilling His covenantal promises to His people, Israel."*

➤ **Paul's Prayer**

**Notice Romans 15:13**

There is a great deal of spiritual gold in this verse. Paul begins by identifying God as the God of Hope. Our God is the God of patience and comfort.

**Romans 15:5**

<sup>5</sup> *Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:*

**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort:*

<sup>4</sup> *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*

<sup>5</sup> *For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.*

**2 Corinthians 7:6**

<sup>6</sup> *Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;*

Our God is the God of all comfort and He is faithful when we are cast down to comfort us with the comfort we need. He is also the God of patience and this means that He demonstrates patience as He works with you and I who are sinners.

Our God is also the God of Hope. This means that God is both the **ORIGIN** and the **OBJECT** of our hope. Let us notice the words of Robert Haldane on our God of Hope:

*"God is called the God of hope because He is the Author of all the well-grounded hope of His people. All hope of which He is not the author, in the heart of men, is false and delusive. The world in general may have hope, but it is false hope. All true hope with*

*respect to the Divine favor is affected in the human heart by God Himself. Not only is God the author of all true hope, but He can create this hope in the midst of despair! This is clear evidence that His "hope" is supernatural, not natural, for dire circumstances "naturally" breed in us a sense of hopelessness. Praise God that He is the God of supernatural Hope! The most desponding are often raised by Him to a good hope through grace and the most guilty are in a moment relieved and made to hope in His mercy How remarkably was this the case with the thief on the cross."*

**Notice Romans 15:13 again.**

Paul prays that the God of Hope would fill his readers with JOY and PEACE in BELIEVING. Let us understand that there is no JOY or PEACE without faith. Our Lord desires to give to us that very JOY and PEACE that are His.

**John 15:4-5, 9-11**

*<sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

*<sup>5</sup> I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

*<sup>9</sup> As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

*<sup>10</sup> If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

*<sup>11</sup> These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

When we walk in fellowship with the Lord it is HIS JOY that fills us.

He also gives to us His PEACE.

**John 14:27**

*<sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

**Notice Romans 15:13 again.**

We must not miss the word "ALL". This is the potential for each one of us. That in a world full of gloom and despair that our God will fill us with ALL of HIS JOY and ALL of HIS

PEACE. I can assure you that this is what each of us desires in this world. So, let us not miss that Truth that this is only possible through believing/faith.

## **That is faith in the Word of God.**

### **Notice Romans 15:13 again**

As we read on in this verse, we see the result of being filled with all JOY and PEACE. Paul desires that his readers would ABOUND in HOPE. Let us consider how we abound in hope.

- As we walk by faith, we abound in the hope of Romans 8:28, 35-39.

### **Romans 8:28, 35-39**

*<sup>28</sup> And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*

*<sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

*<sup>36</sup> As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.*

*<sup>37</sup> Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

*<sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,*

*<sup>39</sup> Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

- As we walk by faith, we abound in the hope of 1 John 3:2-3.

### **1 John 3:2-3**

*<sup>2</sup> Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

*<sup>3</sup> And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

- As we walk by faith, we abound in the hope of Philippians 1:20.

### **Philippians 1:20**

<sup>20</sup> According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

- As we walk by faith, we abound in the hope of 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

### **2 Corinthians 5:6-8**

<sup>6</sup> Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

<sup>7</sup> (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

<sup>8</sup> We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

**Notice Romans 15:13 again.**

This all comes to the believer through the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **Conclusion:**

In ending let us notice the words of Newell:

*"It will not do for us to make excuses for ourselves: God is the God of hope! His yearning is to fill you and me with all joy and peace, if we will just launch out and believe. Others just as unworthy as we have believed; we will never become "more worthy" of believing. "This poor earth is a wrecked vessel," as Moody used to say. Man is drifting on into the night, and judgment is coming. All the more, then, may the God of hope fill YOU with all joy and peace in believing, that YOU may abound in hope! Many cherish their doubts, even adducing them as a proof of their humility, which is sad indeed. As Charles F. Deems used to say, "Believe your beliefs, and doubt your doubts; most people believe their doubts, and doubt their beliefs." You can believe. What a wonderful thing to be among those (sadly few!) believers who are filled with all joy and peace and abound in hope!"*