

"Closing Remarks"

Part 1

Romans 15:14-16:27

Introduction: Tonight, we have come to Paul's closing remarks to the believers in Rome. In these closing remarks, Paul is going to give to these believers, words of encouragement. Paul had never met these people face to face, but he had heard of their testimony.

Romans 1:7-8

⁷ *To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

⁸ *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*

It was not that Paul was gullible and believed everything he had heard but it was that he loved these believers. In 1 Corinthians 13:7 we are told that love:

⁷ *Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.*

➤ **The Commendation**

Notice Romans 15:14

Paul tells these believers that he was persuaded of three things concerning them:

1. They were full of goodness.

Let us consider some thoughts on "GOODNESS". The Bible tells us there is not one "GOOD" person.

Romans 3:10-12

¹⁰ *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

¹¹ *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.*

¹² *They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.*

Romans 7:18

¹⁸ *For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.*

Based upon these verses we can be sure there is no one who is good. So, goodness is not produced by anyone. So, how can Paul say that these believers at Rome were FULL of GOODNESS?

As believers they had the Holy Spirit living in them and it was the Holy Spirit who produced the goodness.

Galatians 5:22

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,*

Ephesians 5:8-9

⁸ *For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:*

⁹ *(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)*

Every believer is full of goodness, it is then our responsibility to live in the power of the Spirit so that the goodness will be seen in us as the Holy Spirit brings forth the fruit of goodness. There are believers who do not live in the power of the Spirit and therefore there is little goodness seen in their lives. They are filled with goodness, but they are not surrendered over to the Spirit.

2. They were filled with all knowledge.

This too is the result of the Holy Spirit living within them. Let us notice what Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 1:4-5

⁴ *I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ;*

⁵ *That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge;*

Because we as believers have Jesus Christ living within us, we have all knowledge. Notice what Paul wrote to the Colossian believers.

Colossians 2:2-3

² *That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;*

³ In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

With all knowledge made available to us we only need to draw near to our Lord to access this knowledge. Many believers use very little of the knowledge available to them.

Illustration:

I had an uncle who lived in disgusting conditions. He wore rags for clothing. When he died it was discovered he had several hundred thousands of dollars stashed away. He never used what was available to him. This is the way many believers live today. We have access to the very Source of knowledge and therefore we must walk close by the Lord in order to access this knowledge.

There is something else here that God placed in my heart to share in line with this thought. Knowledge is not the same as wisdom. Knowledge is the information we need for a situation and wisdom is the ability to put the knowledge in use. We are filled with knowledge because the Source lives within us. But wisdom is something which we must seek.

James 1:5

⁵ *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.*

Proverbs 2:2-10

² *So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;*

³ *Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;*

⁴ *If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;*

⁵ *Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.*

⁶ *For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.*

⁷ *He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.*

⁸ *He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.*

⁹ *Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.*

¹⁰ *When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;*

3. They were able to admonish one another.

The word "**admonish**" means "**to warn**". Because we have within us the Holy Spirit and we have access to all knowledge then we are to watch out for one another, and we are to warn one another when we see another believer headed in the direction of danger.

1 Thessalonians 5:14

¹⁴ Now we exhort you, brethren, **warn them that are unruly**, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men.

2 Thessalonians 3:13-15

¹³ But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing.

¹⁴ And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

¹⁵ Yet count him not as an enemy, but **admonish him as a brother**.

Notice the words of Zeller on warning other believers:

"We dare not depreciate the importance of a warning ministry. Warning is a manifestation of genuine love. The person who clearly sees a danger and fails to warn is not exhibiting love, but hatred. Therefore, a failure to warn God's people is due to one of two things: 1) a lack of love; 2) a failure to discern dangers. God forbid that we should be timid sentinels. It is not easy to give warning, but it is necessary. Preventive medicine may not be pleasant, but it may save us from the operating table or from the grave! People need a strong dose of warning so that they might amend their lives in favor of the Word of God. Are God's people immune to dangers? Are we free from the contamination of subtle errors? Is doctrinal defection an impossibility? Has the god of this age lost all control and influence over our minds? If not, then warning is essential. We must warn one another as we discern dangers that daily confront us. The warning must be factual, specific, relevant, and personal. Error must be exposed. Our unbiblical and slanted ways of thinking must be corrected. Sin must be dealt with. During these perilous times with doctrines of demons on every hand, may God raise up many faithful believers who will warn night and day with tears. And yet, there is danger even in all of this! Warning apart from edification and encouragement is a disaster. The sheep will suffer harm—not from the wolves, but from starvation."

➤ The Reminder

Notice Romans 15:15-16

Paul refers to this very letter that we are studying. In this letter he covered material which these believers had already known, but he also knows the importance of reminding them of these Truths again. There is a need to keep the spiritual Truths of the Bible fresh in our minds. Paul did this because he considered himself a debtor to the grace of God that was given to him. Paul never forgot where he came from and who he was before.

1 Timothy 1:11-15

¹¹ According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

¹² And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

¹³ Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵ This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

Notice Romans 15:16 again.

Paul saw the Gentiles that were saved through his ministry as an offering to the Lord. Paul gave his life sacrificially to the Lord and the saved Gentiles were the fruit of his sacrifices.

➤ **Paul's Boasting**

Notice Romans 15:17-18

Paul is boasting in these verses, but he is not boasting in his work nor is he boasting in what he accomplished through Jesus Christ. HE IS BOASTING IN WHAT JESUS CHRIST HAS DONE THROUGH HIM.

Notice Romans 15:17 again.

Here Paul states that he could glory in the things that "pertain to God". This is what drove Paul to live a life of sacrifice. He cared about what God cared about. Paul's heart would beat with God's heart.

Notice Romans 15:18 again.

Paul is saying here, "I will not even dare to speak of anything except what Christ has done through me, as an instrument in His hands, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles.!"

The words "by word and deed" should be connected to "wrought by me", not to "obedient".

There is so much to see in this verse. Paul saw himself as a conduit through which the Lord could work. The "WORDS AND DEEDS" mentioned here were not the "words and deeds" of Paul, but they are the "WORDS AND DEEDS" of Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:1-2

¹*The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,*

²*Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:*

Luke tells us that when Jesus was on the earth He BEGAN to do and teach. That was just the beginning. He now continues this ministry through His church. The book of Acts is the continuation of the ministry of Jesus Christ. Today His ministry still continues through you and I that know Him as Savior.

Mark 16:20

²⁰*And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.*

Application/Conclusion:

What a privilege we have while we are here on earth! We can be a channel through which the risen Savior works to reach the lost with the Gospel if we are willing to surrender to Him.

"It is told that the change in the life of D. L. Moody came when he went to a meeting and heard a preacher say: "If only one man would give himself entirely and without reserve to the Holy Spirit, what that Spirit might do with him!" Moody said to himself: "Why should I not be that man?"