

"Closing Remarks"

Part 3

Romans 15:14-16:27

Introduction: Last week when we stopped our study in Romans 15, we ended by considering what it was that motivated Paul and the other Apostles to labor for the Lord as they did.

2 Corinthians 5:14a

¹⁴ *For the love of Christ constraineth us;*

It was the LOVE of Jesus Christ that motivated them to never stop serving. This is why Paul prayed as he did for the believers at Ephesus.

Ephesians 3:18-20

¹⁸ *May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;*

¹⁹ *And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.*

²⁰ *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,*

Paul knew that if these people understood even some of the LOVE that Jesus Christ had for them it would motivate them and if they would surrender completely over to Him, then the Lord could do things through them which they could not even imagine. It would deepen their love for Him.

We also looked in closing last week at what Peter and John said in Acts 4.

Acts 4:18-20

¹⁸ *And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus.*

¹⁹ *But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.*

²⁰ *For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.*

It was impossible to silence the Apostles for they just had to tell of the power of God which they had seen at work in their lives.

This now brings us to where we are today as we shall see how the LOVE of Jesus Christ motivated Paul.

➤ **Paul's Plans**

Notice Romans 15:20-22

We looked at verses 20 and 21 last week in which we were able to see Paul's desire to be a pioneer with the Gospel. He always longed to carry the Gospel to areas that had never heard. In verse 22 we see that it was this desire that kept Paul from visiting the Roman believers.

Notice Romans 15:23

Paul now had "*no more place where he was at*". This means that he had fulfilled his mission in that area. The Gospel had been delivered and now it was the responsibility of the churches to continue to share the Gospel around them and to make disciples of the believers.

Application:

In Paul's life it was always the Lord's work that was top priority. Paul had a great desire to get to Rome and visit these believers, but he would not allow his desired visit to hinder the Lord's work.

I often wonder how much different the church and our world would be if this was true of every believer? Too many times the Lord's work ends up way down the list of priorities or at least second or third behind personal desires. I will go back to what we looked at earlier. This is the result of not knowing the depth of the LOVE of Jesus Christ. It is also the result of not loving Him the way we should. Let us be refreshed on what we considered Sunday morning.

Ephesians 4:30a

³⁰ *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God...*

We are not to grieve the Holy Spirit. We do this when we hinder His ministry through us.

John 16:13-14

¹³ *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

The mission of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ in our lives and when we are not living for the Lord, but we are instead living for our own desires then we can be sure we are grieving the Holy Spirit for He cannot glorify Jesus in us. When we are given over to the Lord our lives will show forth what was seen in the life of Jesus while He was on this earth.

Philippians 2:4-8

⁴ Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Notice Romans 15:24

Paul longed for the company of the Roman believers.

Application:

Fellowship is something that all believers should long for. Anyone who professes to know Jesus Christ and is not involved with a local church and does not long for fellowship with other believers, has a problem. Something is not right.

1 John 3:14

¹⁴ We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴ And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

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.

When we love the Lord, we will have a longing to be with His people.

1 John 4:7-11

⁷ *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.*

⁸ *He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.*

⁹ *In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

¹⁰ *Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

¹¹ **Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.**

Notice Romans 15:25-26

Here we see another result of love in the life of the believer. The saints at Jerusalem were in need of help. Paul remembered what he had been told about the poor by Peter, James, and John.

Galatians 2:9-10

⁹ *And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.*

¹⁰ **Only they would that we should remember the poor;** *the same which I also was forward to do.*

He was determined to deliver to these poor saints the money which had been collected from other churches. Let us consider for a moment what may have caused the difficult situation at Jerusalem. This poverty seemed to exist when the church began.

Acts 2:44-45

⁴⁴ *And all that believed were together, and had all things common;*

⁴⁵ *And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, **as every man had need.***

Most likely the poverty that existed as the church began to grow worse from persecution that followed shortly after. History tells us that the Jews have been persecuted by their own people, disowned by their own people, and often ostracized from their own societies.

John 9:22

²² *These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue.*

This would have certainly added to the poverty. There was also a famine that would have added to the poverty.

Acts 11:27-29

²⁷ *And in these days came prophets from Jerusalem unto Antioch.*

²⁸ *And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.*

²⁹ *Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:*

Possibly some of those who were suffering were suffering because of the persecution Paul carried out before he was saved. Whatever the reason, Paul cared about these believers. He cared because that is what love does when there is a need. But it was not only Paul who cared.

Notice Romans 15:26-27

It verily (truly) PLEASED the saints of Macedonia and Achaia to give to the needy at Jerusalem. They were not shamed into giving and they did not give grudgingly. They gave because they cared, and it was a pleasure for them to be able to give. These people were the living picture of 2 Corinthians 9:7.

2 Corinthians 9:7

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.*

Notice Romans 15:27 again.

As Gentiles they were debtors to the Jews. What does Paul mean by this? As Gentiles they and we are partakers of the spiritual things of the Jews. We are partakers of Jesus

Christ the Messiah and He was the fulfillment of promises made to Israel not us. In John 4 Jesus told the woman at the well that, "Salvation is of the Jews". Their Messiah has become our Savior. We have the Bible which came from the Jews. We are partakers of the New Covenant that was promised to the Jews.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

³² Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

³³ But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

God promised to Israel that He would write His Law in their hearts and that He would forgive their iniquity and never again remember their sin. The saved Gentiles now experience these two promises. Therefore, the Gentiles are debtors to the Jews.

Conclusion:

I am reminded as we read this text that ANY believer can go through a very difficult time just as the saints at Jerusalem did. Therefore, we must be willing to help because the next person who has a need may very well be us.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8

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.

⁸ And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: