

"The Benediction"

Romans 15:8-13

Introduction: In our study of Romans, we have looked at five major Doctrines of God's Word.

1. **The Doctrine of Condemnation - Man's need of righteousness**
2. **The Doctrine of Justification - God provision for righteousness**
3. **The Doctrine of Sanctification - Man's need and God's provision for victory in the Christian life**
4. **The Doctrine of Glorification - The believer's glorious future**
5. **The Doctrine of Consecration - The believer's life of service to Jesus Christ**

Tonight, as we continue Paul's thoughts are still on accepting others despite our differences. His thoughts also look back over all he has taught to these Gentile believers that were in Rome.

Notice Romans 15:7

This was where we stopped last week. Paul was pointing to Jesus Christ as the Supreme Example of how we are to be accepting of other believers with their differences. Keep in mind this has nothing to do with accepting believers who are living in sin.

There are several verses that make this very clear.

Romans 16:17

*¹⁷ Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; **and avoid them.***

1 Corinthians 5:9-11

*⁹ I wrote unto you in an epistle **not to company** with fornicators:*

¹⁰ Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.

*¹¹ But now I have written unto you **not to keep company**, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14

⁶ Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us.

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.

Getting back to Romans, Paul is dealing with differences of convictions on things such as days or food not sin. In verse 7 he reminds his readers how they were accepted by Jesus Christ and as we move on, he is going to go much deeper with this thought.

"The Mission of Jesus Christ"

Notice Romans 15:8

Here in this verse, we are able to see the earthly mission of Jesus Christ. We see that Jesus came as a "servant" of the circumcision, meaning the Jews. His ministry was on behalf of the Truth. He came to confirm the promises that were made to the fathers. The fathers were Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as well as the other giants of the faith. Jesus was the fulfillment of the promises made to the fathers and when He came into this world, He came to confirm the Truth of God in the promises that had been made to the fathers. There are several verses that confirm that Jesus came to the Jews not to the Gentiles.

John 1:11

¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Matthew 15:24

²⁴ But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Let us notice how Jesus instructed the Twelve when He sent them out.

Matthew 10:5-6

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

⁶ But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

This is a shock to many who are not learned in the Scriptures. Many want to resist this teaching but our verse in Romans makes it very clear that the MISSION of Jesus Christ was to go to the Jews and confirm the promises made to the fathers thus solidifying the

Truth of God's Word. Now, it is true that Jesus came to die for the sins of the entire world, and He did.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Matthew 20:28

²⁸ *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

All of this is true but if we understand the Gospels and His ministry in the Gospels, we can see that He came to confirm the promises that were made to the fathers. Now let us raise a question, "What were the promises which He confirmed?" Let us consider a few of the promises that Jesus fulfilled. God had promised that through Abraham ALL the families of the earth would be blessed because from the line of Abraham the Messiah would come.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

² *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

³ *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

God had promised to David that his kingdom would be established forever.

2 Samuel 7:12-16

¹² *And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.*

¹³ *He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.*

¹⁴ I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men:

¹⁵ But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee.

¹⁶ And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever.

Jesus would be the One to fulfill this promise. God had promised a Redeemer to the Nation Israel and He sent the Messiah. He promised a kingdom to His people and He sent the King. Jesus came into the world to exemplify the Truth of God by confirming the promises made to the fathers.

Application:

From the time that God gave the first promise of a Redeemer in Genesis 3 until He was finally born, there was one attack after another brought about by Satan as he attempted to stop the coming of the Messiah. Satan never stopped in his attacks because he did not want Jesus to come and be the fulfillment of God's promises. Satan desired to rule the world and the world's population. If there was no Messiah, then there would be no Savior and if there was no King there would be no Kingdom. But God's promises could in no way be stopped. The application here for us is very encouraging. Every promise in the Bible that pertains to us WILL be fulfilled. Satan in all his power cannot stop God's promises from being fulfilled. Even when Satan gets the masses to move against God's people, such as he did with the Egyptians as they attempted to destroy Israel, even then he can in no way stop God's promises. Jesus had come for the sake of God's faithfulness, to confirm the promises to the Jews. But God had made no such promises and commitments to the Gentiles. The Gentile nations could not claim any of the Covenants because they were all for Israel. Israel could appeal to God based upon His promises and His Covenants. The Gentiles had nothing. So, this then raises several questions, "How did the Gentiles come to have a Savior? How did the Gentiles get a part in the New Covenant?"

Notice Romans 15:9a

Here in this verse, we find the answer. It is because of MERCY that we have a Savior, and we have a part in the New Covenant. It is God's MERCY that has made a way for us to have salvation. MERCY is "not getting what we deserve". If it were not for the MERCY of God, we would all be condemned to the Lake of Fire forever.

Notice Romans 15:9a again.

We see here it is our responsibility to glorify God for His MERCY. Let us consider two ways in which we can glorify God because of His MERCY.

1. We can show mercy to others.

a. To believers.

We are to show mercy to other believers and accept them regardless of their different convictions. We are to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace because in this God is glorified. **To glorify God is to make Him known to the world**. When there is unity among people with differences this shows the world that God is the One Who creates the unity because people that are different are often at odds with one another. Let us notice the Words of Jesus in His High Priestly prayer.

John 17:20-23

²⁰ *Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;*

²¹ *That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: **that the world may believe** that thou hast sent me.*

²² *And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:*

²³ *I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and **that the world may know** that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.*

b. To unbelievers

Another way in which we bring glory to God is to show mercy to unbelievers who do not deserve mercy. They may have offended us, and we find ourselves in a position when we can "get even" by applying pressure on them in some way. But mercy refuses to "get even" and instead mercy shows kindness and love. This is something that truly glorifies God because this is **not** something that is seen in our society today.

There is yet another way in which we can glorify God.

2. By offering forgiveness.

There is little forgiveness today even among God's people. You and I have no right to withhold forgiveness from anyone who offends us in any way. We have received the greatest forgiveness of all because of the MERCY of God. We have had our sin debt

forgiven. For us to withhold forgiveness makes us hypocrites after we have received God's forgiveness.

Matthew 18:23-31

²³ Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants.

²⁴ And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents.

²⁵ But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made.

²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest.

²⁹ And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

³⁰ And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt.

³¹ So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done.

Conclusion:

The Jews could glorify God because He was faithful to His promises and His Covenants, and the Gentiles can glorify God because of His MERCY.

1 Peter 4:15-16

¹⁵ But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters.

¹⁶ Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.