

“Closing Remarks”

Part 2

Romans 15:14-16:27

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we stopped in Romans 15:17-18.

Notice Romans 15:17-18

Paul loved to boast but not in himself. Here in these verses, he is telling his readers that he would ONLY boast in what Jesus Christ had done through him. Paul was 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.**

Paul saw himself as a channel through which the Lord would work and when He did Paul knew that it was the Lord's power and not his.

Notice Romans 15:17-18 again.

It was the Lord's Words and the Lord's deeds that brought the Gentiles to obedience. The obedience spoke of here is obedience to the Gospel. They were obedient to the Gospel by repenting and accepting Jesus Christ as Savior. But they were not convinced by Paul's Words, but it was by the Words and deeds of Jesus Christ through Paul that brought the salvation. This is exactly WHY Paul would only boast in Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.

² *For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.*

³ *And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.*

⁴ **And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:**

⁵ *That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.*

Paul knew that his Words had no power to save a sinner, but the Words of Jesus Christ did. He also knew that if he allowed himself to be used as a channel that Jesus would continue the building of the church THROUGH him.

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.

Acts 1:1-2

¹The 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:

When Jesus was on the earth, He started the work and now HE continues the work through His church.

Matthew 16:18

¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

As we move on Paul will continue the same thought.

➤ **Paul's Boasting**

Notice Romans 15:19

Through Paul the Lord would work mighty signs and wonders in order to bring the Gentiles to the obedience of salvation. Let us consider some of the miracles done by Jesus Christ through Paul.

Acts 14:1-3

And it came to pass in Iconium, that they went both together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spake, that a great multitude both of the Jews and also of the Greeks believed.

² But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

³ Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Acts 14:8-10

⁸ *And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:*

⁹ *The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,*

¹⁰ *Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.*

Acts 16:25-26

²⁵ *And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*

²⁶ *And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.*

Acts 19:11-12

¹¹ *And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:*

¹² *So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.*

We have considered this thought before it is good for us to be reminded again of what we are about to see. The MIGHTY SIGNS and WONDERS were Apostolic gifts and when the apostles died these gifts ceased. They were used by the apostles to show they were authentic apostles. The New Testament church did not have a New Testament Bible as we do so they followed the doctrine of the apostles.

Acts 2:41-43

⁴¹ *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*

⁴² *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*

⁴³ *And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.*

There were also false apostles sent by Satan to distort the Truth and to deceive the church.

2 Corinthians 11:13-14

¹³ For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

God, therefore, gave the apostles the sign gifts to show their authenticity. These sign gifts were only for the apostles and they do not exist today.

Paul reminded the Corinthians of the same Truth.

2 Corinthians 12:11-12

¹¹ I am become a fool in glorying; ye have compelled me: for I ought to have been commended of you: for in nothing am I behind the very chiefest apostles, though I be nothing.

¹² Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

Notice Romans 15:19 again.

Paul preached from Jerusalem to Illyricum and the distance between these two points was about 1400 miles. Paul did not walk in a straight line however, so he traveled far more than 1400 miles. The verse also tells us that he "fully preached" the Gospel. This means that he completed the mission which God had entrusted to him. He fulfilled his assignment.

Application:

Paul was a very special individual in that he completed his mission. He did what he was called to do in the region which God assigned to him. We also have regions assigned to us. Your region is not the same as mine and mine is not the same as yours. You have an "area" that you work in or travel in and you have contact with certain people. These people are your assignment, and this is your region. This does not mean that you are not to share the Gospel while on vacation or while you are outside your normal routine. But the point we need to understand is that I have contact with people you do not have contact with, and it is my responsibility to "fully share" the Gospel with them. When our lives come down to the end, we certainly want to be able to say, "I fulfilled my assignment."

➤ **Paul's Policy**

Notice Romans 15:20

Paul's policy was to go to places where the Gospel had never been preached before. This is one of the reasons why he was content when his plans did not unfold as he had planned. We can see this as we examine several verses.

Notice Romans 15:23-24

Paul had great plans to go to Rome as a preacher to declare the Gospel and to visit with these saints. But God had another plan. He would not go as a preacher, but he would go to Rome as a prisoner.

Philippians 1:12-16

¹² But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

¹³ So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

¹⁴ And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

¹⁶ The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

¹⁷ But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

¹⁸ What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

The word "**furtherance**" in verse 12 speaks of a "**pioneer advancement**". In other words, Paul is saying that because he went to Rome as a prisoner and not a preacher the Gospel had now reached areas it would not if this did not happen. The pioneer advancement he spoke of was Caesar's palace and the elite Pretorian Guard. If Paul had not gone to Rome as a prisoner, he would have never been able to get in the palace.

Notice Romans 15:21

Paul is quoting from Isaiah 52:15. Let us notice the verse in context.

Isaiah 52:13-15

¹³ Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

¹⁴ As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

¹⁵ So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.

Paul did not quote this verse word for word, but he did relate the principle. The principle here is that because Jesus Christ would suffer for all mankind the Gospel would then go to the Gentiles. Paul saw himself as contributing to this principle. He saw himself as part of the fulfillment of this prophecy. Let us notice what God said to Ananias about Paul.

Acts 9:15

¹⁵ But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Conclusion:

We too have a part in fulfilling prophecy as we carry the Gospel to our family and friends. But many fail to share the Gospel. They know the Great Commission, but the Divine Command does not stir their hearts to obedience. What is the problem? There is a lack of understanding the love of Christ. The Apostles were motivated by the love of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:14a

¹⁴ For the love of Christ constraineth us;

Let us notice 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.