

# ROMANS

THE GRACE OF GOD: A JOURNEY OF DISCOVERY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

## Paul, The Minister to the Gentiles

• Romans 15 : 14 - 33 •

Week 25

### DEVOTION

Have you ever longed to travel to see people you love, but circumstances keep getting in the way? What were those circumstances, and how did they compare to Paul's?

Parents, how often have you told your children to look both ways before crossing the street; or 'hot, hot, hot' when they come near the stove? Why did you have to keep reminding them? How is the desired response similar to the response Paul hopes for as he gives bold reminders to the Gentile believers in Rome?

As we embark on this passage, think of everyday situations, especially our interactions with those we love, as it can help us understand how Paul is feeling, and why he does and says certain things.

Paul longs to visit the Gentile believers in Rome. He invites them, in fact urges them to join him in his desire by praying for him. What a privilege for the believers to be invited to be involved in the success of Paul's ministry and his travels to see them. In fact, Paul is very reliant on their prayers, as there are possibly many in Jerusalem who still don't trust him after knowing him as a persecutor of Christians. He's at risk every step of his journey and has suffered persecution, shipwreck, imprisonment, beatings and more. He knows it's the prayers of the saints that make his ministry successful and keep him safe.

Paul tells the church in Rome that he must first deliver contributions from the believers in Macedonia and Achaia to the believers in Jerusalem. Note that these are contributions given by Gentile believers to Jewish believers. There is unity when Christ is the common bond.

There's much to contemplate, and here we are covering only a few of the lessons that present themselves from this portion of God's Word.

### Monday

**Read: Romans 15:14; Revelation 2:19; Revelation 3:1b-2; Revelation 3:15-16; Hebrews 5:13-14**

Paul encourages the Gentile believers in Rome by telling them that he is convinced of their goodness, knowledge and competence to instruct. It reminds me of the words written to the seven churches in the book of Revelation.

1.If Paul came to Valley Church today, what would he say to us concerning our goodness, knowledge and competency to instruct? Is goodness or good works enough?

2.How can we move toward a goal of being filled with God's goodness, knowledge and competency to instruct? Where do we start?

## Tuesday

**Read: Romans 15:15; Romans 1:6; Romans 1:12; Romans 2:1; Romans 3:22-26; Romans 4:5; skim the first 14 chapters and find more reminders. There are many.**

Paul says he has written boldly to the Romans to remind them of some points. Check chapters 1 - 15 of Romans to discover some of these reminders.

1. Which of these points are you in need of reminding?
2. Looking back on the readings in question 1, why is it so important to be reminded once we have knowledge of these things?

## Wednesday

**Read: Romans 15:16; 1 Peter 2:9**

When we think of a priest, what's the first responsibility that comes to mind? Offering sacrifices on the altar?

1. Is Paul saying that he is a priest in Romans 15:16? If so, what qualifies him to be a priest, and what is his responsibility as a priest of God?
2. How similar are our responsibilities to Paul's as the 'royal priesthood' of God?
3. What are the advantages we have as priests under the New Covenant that people in the Old Testament didn't have?
4. What are the sacrifices we bring to the altar?

## Thursday

**Read: Romans 15:17-21; Isaiah 52:15 (referring to Christ)**

Paul recognizes that it is only Christ Jesus who accomplishes the work that he does in proclaiming the gospel to those who have not heard.

1. What do we learn about Paul's ambition? (15:20)
2. I have a feeling that Paul's life verse is verse 21 of Romans 15 (or Isaiah 52:15). Do you agree or disagree? Why do you think it's so important to Paul to preach to those who have never heard?
3. Do you have a life verse? How does it affect your walk to have or not have a life verse? Do you have a different way of using God's Word in your daily walk?

## Friday

**Read: Romans 15:30-33; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5**

Let's look at the importance and privilege of praying for each other, including those in ministry. Paul finishes chapter 15 with an admonition to the Gentile believers to pray. He recognizes that their prayers protect him in his struggles, give him joy and peace, and make his ministry successful.

1. What difference do you think it would make if the body of Christ at Valley Church prayed for our leadership every day? What about praying for those we know in the body of Christ?
2. How does Paul's admonition help us to view prayer as an important, priority ministry, resulting in encouragement, safety and peace to those for whom we pray?
3. What are some of the possible struggles of the Valley Church leadership where prayers for encouragement, protection, peace and success could help?