

The Book of Romans - Part 44

I trust that you are living for the Lord.

The last time in our study of the book of Romans, we left off with chapter 14. We're going into chapter 15 today. The last part of verse 23 says this in Romans 14: *For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

George Mueller, a great man of faith, once said this: "Impressions have neither one thing nor the other to do with faith. Faith has to do with the Word of God. It is not impressions, strong or weak, which will make the difference." He goes on to say, "Faith is not based upon probabilities." In other words, I'll believe it because it will probably take place. Again, Mueller replied, "Many people are willing to believe regarding those things that seem probable to them. Faith has nothing to do with probabilities. The province of faith begins where probabilities cease and sight and sense fail. Appearances are not to be taken into account. The question is whether God has spoken it in His Word."

And that's the reason we're going through the Word of God together. It's because God speaks to us through His Word, and we need to take His Word by faith because we know it is the truth. We know, by faith. Now, we haven't seen God personally with our physical eye. We haven't seen Christ with our physical eye, but we know, according to the Word of God, that God does exist, that He is and that Christ exists. We need to trust Christ by faith in order to be saved, and that's what we've done when we come to Him and we say, "Lord, come into my heart. I receive you as my Lord and Savior." Remember, the last part of chapter 14 of Romans, verse 23, says, *For whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*

Now, as we move into chapter 15, verses 1-13 talk about the fact that we are to follow Christ

in unity. In Romans 15:1-2, it says, *We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification.* The first command here is to put others first, in verses 1 and 2.

This is a strong verb, meaning to have an obligation. We have an obligation to put others first in our lives. We should take a back seat when it comes to, once again, reaching people for the Lord and also when it comes to building up the body of Christ. When I talk about building up the body of Christ, that means soul-winning. It also means to help those young Christians, those immature Christians, come to a full maturity by the way we treat them, by putting ourselves, if you would, last concerning them. We need to put them first and train them in the way that they should go, because the Bible says that we are to... our children... train them up in the way they should go, and that's the way we are to raise not only our own children, but we are to help the children of God grow in His grace and knowledge.

Notice verse 3 now. *For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.* Now, Christ's example in verse 3 is seen in Psalm 69:9, *For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.*

Of course, this is before Christ came into the world. This was a prophetic word that God was giving in relationship to his Son coming into the world. Look later on in John 2:17 and I Peter 4:14 and that will help you understand more about Christ coming into the world and what took place in His life. He was reproached.

Romans 15:4 says, *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.* Now, Paul many times quotes the Old Testament as we go through the book of Romans and his other epistles to the churches. We see here that this verse talks once again about the Scriptures. It says, *That we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.* The Scriptures give us instruction, and we see that in verse 4. As Paul has written here, it's for our learning, the Old Testament.

By no means should Christians limit their Bible study to the New Testament. The Bible says in II Timothy 3:15-17 that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God. All Scripture... that includes the Old Testament... all Scripture is inspired by God.

Verse 5 of Romans 15 says, *Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus.* Being like-minded is made possible through God and only through God. But note the beautiful titles applied to God in this chapter. First, we see the God of patience and consolation. Then we see the God of hope. And then we see the God of peace.

Romans 15:6: *That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.* The purpose of helping immature Christians is so God can be praised. And might I say that everything we do as a Christian, everything that any person is to do is to bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ, to God. The only way a person can do that is, first of all, by receiving Jesus as Savior.

Verse 7 says, *Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.* And here we see that the second command is to accept one another. We are to understand that we are all, once again, saved the same. There is none better than another.

We are all the same, and we are to receive each other. We are to accept one another as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Romans 15:8 says, *Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers.* Keep in mind now that Paul is writing to Jewish believers here and Gentile believers. He's trying to get each one to understand that there's none better than the other. In other words, the Jew is not better than the Gentile, that we're all saved the same, that God does not prefer one over the other, that we're all the same in Christ Jesus.

Now, notice in verses 9-12: ⁹*And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.* ¹⁰*And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.* ¹¹*And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.* ¹²*And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.*

Notice now, he's talking to the Jews, he's talking about the Jew, and he's talking to the Gentiles and he's talking about the Gentiles. And he's using the Old Testament here to help us understand more about salvation.

And as we read these verses 9-12, we understand that Christ's purpose is this... salvation for all people. In Psalm 18:49, it says, *Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.* Remember, the heathen in the sight of the Jew is the Gentile, and that's what it's speaking about here, that the Gentiles would be saved. *Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen....* Because why? They would be saved, and it says they would sing praises unto His name. "By name," it says there in Psalm 18:49.

Deuteronomy 32:43 says, *Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, and to his people.*

In verse 11, we go back and read Psalm 117:1. It says, *O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.* It's everybody. Christ came for everybody, that whosoever would call upon Him He would save them, Romans 10:13.

Now in verse 13 of Romans 15, it says, *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.* What is the result of all of this, of salvation? What is the hope in this life? It is hope. The result is hope. That means a knowledge of knowing that something is going to take place. It also brings us joy and it brings us peace, knowing that we are saved and on our way to Heaven.

Now, in the second part of Romans chapter 15, and that would be verses 14-22, we start with Romans 15:14, and it says, *And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.* Paul had confidence here, and it seemed in verse 14... he said, "I'm persuaded. I know, my brethren." He's speaking not only to the Jews; he's speaking to the Gentile believers. He's saying that "ye are all full of goodness." Why? Because they have been saved, and he says "filled with all knowledge." That means they've been studying the Word of God.

The verse goes on to say "able to admonish one another," in other words, able to cheer each other on, to help each other learn and grow in Jesus Christ.

And what about you today? Do you know Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Have you trusted Him? Do you know for a fact that you're on your way to Heaven? Well, the Bible says that you can know, because when you come to the Word of God, it says that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23 talks about sinners and in Romans 5:8 it talks about God commending His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Christ died for you. As a sinner, you need to be saved. Call upon Him today. Trust Him. It's by and through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that any one of us will ever get to Heaven.

Write to me today, Lewis Woodard, 497 Judith Avenue, Fruitland Park, FL 34731. I'll be glad to send you free of charge a transcript of this program, and also if you're not sure you're saved and on your way to heaven, I'll send you information on that.

Look at our Website. There's a lot of information on there for you as an unsaved person and also for the saved person. www.LRWM.org.

Until the next time when you hear me say, "It is a good life," may the Lord bless you richly is my prayer.