

PAUL'S EXAMPLE

Jkroberts_us@yahoo.com
www.pacolethillsbaptist.org

May 27, 2018

Romans 15:15-33

1. Paul wrote this letter to the Roman Church towards the end of his third missionary journey; probably in 56 AD.
2. Because of the people he mentions in chapter 16 it is believed that he was in Corinth when he wrote the letter.
3. This week and next we will focus on Paul's concluding remarks.
4. The Apostle Paul knew that he was who he was by the grace of God (1 Corinthians 15:10), but he was not ashamed to hold himself up as an example.

a. Phil 3:17-18

Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

b. Phil 4:9

The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you

5. I am convinced that what can be said about Paul should be able to be said about us in keeping with the grace that has been given to us. Rom 12:3-8

For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith. 4 For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, 5 so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 **Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to exercise them accordingly:** if prophecy, according to the proportion of his faith; 7 if service, in his serving; or he who teaches, in his teaching; 8 or he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

6. So what can we say about Paul that should be and can be true about us?

I. Paul's preoccupation with God. 14-21

- A. Paul was a man who personified Hebrews 12:1-3.

Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

- B. We do not need to wonder what defined Paul's life; what his defining priority was.

C. Here he wrote about:

1. The grace that was given him by God.
2. The ministry that was assigned to Him by Christ.
3. His reason for boasting in things pertaining to God.
4. What Christ had accomplished through him.
5. The power that was manifested in him and through him.
6. The fact that, by the grace of God, he had fully preached the Gospel of Christ in all of Asia Minor, Macedonia, and the Grecian Peninsula.

D. Paul shared his master motivation by quoting Isaiah 52:15, "They who had no news of Him shall see; and they who have not heard shall understand."

II. Paul's expectancy in Christ. 22-29

A. Paul understood that he could not move west into Italy and Spain until he had completed the work God had for him in the areas mentioned above.

B. But having fulfilled his ministry to one area he was ready to move into areas he had not been.

C. For years Paul had wanted to go to Rome and on into Spain, and he felt that the time had come for him to do so.

D. However he had one last task to perform, and it was a dangerous one.

NOTE: Paul had many enemies in Jerusalem, and he knew he was taking a risk going there.

E. However, he was confident that one way or another he would go to Rome in the fullness of the blessings of Christ.

F. Paul was not a man to rest on his laurels. Phil 3:12-16

Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but **I press on** so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 **I press on** toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; 16 however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

III. Paul's dependency on prayer. 30-33

A. Paul urged the Roman Christians to strive together with him in their prayers to God for him.

B. Paul was specific in stating his prayer requests.

C. Paul also had a specific goal in mind; that he might go to Rome by the will of God.

NOTE: Well, he would go to Rome by the will of God, but his getting there would not be without difficulty and danger.

APPLICATION

1. Several questions come to mind that we each can ask ourselves.
 - a. Have I genuinely repented towards God and embraced Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior?
 - b. What is my reason for living, my master motivation, my ultimate goal in life?
 - c. What has God done in me and with me thus far, what is He doing in me and with me presently, and what is His will for me in the future?
 - d. Who am I depending on, and what part does prayer play in my life?
 - e. To what degree am I cooperating with God related to my spiritual growth?
 - f. Does my lifestyle give credibility to my testimony?
2. When all is said and done, when my race is fully run, will my life be lived in vain, or through Christ will all be gain?