

11/15/87

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

"Jews and Gentiles in One Fellowship"

Romans 15:8-13

INTRODUCTION

1. Where are we in Paul's argument? Well, take vv. 1-3. They affirm that even as Christ pleased the Father, so believers are to care for one another and not please themselves.

2. Both strong and weak believers are to be joined in praise to God (vv. 4-6). The appeal in v. 7 is direct and positive.

3. Now comes an explanatory proof of the truth presented in v. 7. The clarification helps forward the issue of interpersonal dynamics among the saints. Look at it--

1. SIGNIFICANT MEANINGS vv. 8, 9a

The phrase "now I say" actually notes "what I mean is this." The subject of chapters 14 and 15 is still being discussed. This is the explanation for what has preceded. Let's look at it--

a. For Jews v. 8

1) Christ a Minister The noun is the same term as used for deacon (1 Tim. 3:8) and ministry (12:7). More significant is the verb which is in the perfect tense--He became and still is! Circumcision is clearly a reference to the Jewish nation. This was our Lord's priority--the nation (Mt. 10:5, 6; 15:24). While we must submit fully to this statement, don't be drawn into the folly of the Bullingerites. Some of these see a "Jewish Body" and a "Gentile Body." They say the Gospels, Acts, Romans, Corinthians, in fact, all but the prison epistles, do not belong to the Church. Beware!

William R. Newell ^{on} Romans

2) For God's Truth The glory of God has been mentioned (v. 7); now it is His truth. Jesus' role is "for the sake of" God's truth.

Heb Rev

3) To Confirm Promises The promises are all to be fulfilled, hence Christ is here indicated as making them sure, unwavering. The "fathers" are Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Thus, Christ's role is for truth to affirm promises for Israel.

God's Truth
Berean's
Leptreme
desp-
ensuring

b. For Gentiles v. 9a

1) Jews → Gentiles. It is the Jews who relate to God's truth. It is the Gentiles who get a result of Christ's rule and relate to God's mercy. Jewish future comes from promises; Gentile salvation from God's mercy!

God's Mercy

2) Gentile Goal Simply--to glorify God for His mercy. The verb glorify is in tandem with the verb

"confirm" (v. 8). Both are objects of one preposition.
NOTE: A clear understanding of Jewish and Gentile distinctions is a necessary item for dispensational interpretation of the Bible--a system of interpretation which truly upholds the literalness of the Word of God and sees the glory of God as the ultimate goal of creation.

2. SCRIPTURE MEANING vv. 9-12

The phrase "as it is written" is perfect tense, therefore, something that stands written past, present, and future (always).

a. Psalm 18:49

God
to
Gentiles

This is a messianic cry for David is a type of the Lord Jesus. It is a celebration of God's work and it is done among the Gentiles (cf. Ps. 22:22).

b. Deuteronomy 32:43

Gentiles
rejoice
with
Jews

The Church was begun at Pentecost. Since God called Israel to repent (Acts 3:26) and the national door of Israel didn't close officially until Acts 28:25-28, Gentiles were called to rejoice with His (Jewish) people.

c. Psalm 117:1

All
Gentiles
praise

This is the shortest of all Psalms. What God did for Israel reaches to all nations. With no distinct notice of Israel as a people, this passage calls for direct praise from the Gentiles. "People" is plural, therefore, a reference to Gentiles.

d. Isaiah 11:10

Cause
for
praise
is
Messiah

Here is a Millennial passage. Then a descendent of Jesse will be the rallying standard of Gentiles the world over. How blessed is the Gentile who now learns to "hope in Christ" (Eph. 1:2) before He rises to reign! So be it.

NOTE: 1. Above references carefully selected and built up as a whole. 2. Progress in selection. 3. O.T. already had Jews/Gentiles joining in praise to the Lord. If so then, why not believers in the Body now?!

CONCLUSION Here is a special prayer (v. 13). It includes 1. The source of blessing--God. 2) The character of blessing--all (singular, this "every") joy and peace. 3. The measure of blessing--fill you. 4. The purpose of blessing--that ye may abound in hope. 5. The sphere of blessing--in the power of the Holy Spirit. 6. The channel of blessing--in believing. This one verse is the highest development of Christian experience revealed in the Book of Romans.