

12-20-15

Series: The Book of Romans

The Gospel and God's Righteousness

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(18)

Romans 1:1-17

(Continuation from 12/13/15)

B. Paul's Interest in the Church: Enslavement to the Gospel, Romans 1:8-15

In verses 8-15, Paul's words suggest nine marks of true spiritual service:

Romans 1:8-10 (NASB)

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

⁹ For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the *preaching of the* gospel of His Son, is my witness *as to* how unceasingly I make mention of you,

¹⁰ always in my prayers making request, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

- 1) a **thankful** spirit (v. 8),
 - 2) a **concerned** spirit (v. 9-10a),
 - 3) a **willing** and **submissive** spirit (v. 10b),
 - 4) a **loving spirit** (v. 11),
 - 5) a **humble** spirit (v. 12),
 - 6) a **fruitful** spirit (v. 13),
 - 7) an **obedient** spirit (v. 14),
 - 8) an **eager** spirit (v. 15).
- A ninth, a **bold** spirit, is mentioned in v. 16a.

Romans 1:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

1. (Romans 1:8) Church— Rome— Testimony: the church at Rome was a great church—so great that Paul thanked God for the church “always”.

Romans 1:8 (NASB)

⁸ First, **I thank my God** through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world.

What made the church at Rome so strong?

Two significant things can be gleaned from Scripture.

1. The believers were living pure lives in the midst of an immoral, base, and unjust society.

The citizens of Rome were known for their.....

1. Immorality
2. License
3. Hoarding
4. Drunkenness
5. Idolatry
6. Greed
7. Gluttony
8. sin and wickedness
9. extravagance
10. fleshiness
11. indulgence
12. materialism
13. partying
14. pride
15. selfishness

Nevertheless, the believers were standing firm for Christ and living pure lives, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need for morality and justice among men.

2. The believers were serving Christ faithfully and laboring ever so diligently for the Lord.

Wherever they were, at home or away travelling, they were sharing Christ and ministering to people—so much so that some of them were known by name all around the world. Paul himself apparently had run across quite a few of them as they were travelling about and ministering.

(See below outline—[Romans 16:1-16](#) for a list of the believers.)

The Messenger's Commendations: One of God's Halls of Fame, ([Romans 16:1-16](#))
[Romans 16:1-16 \(NASB\)](#)

¹ I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea;

² that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.

³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

⁴ who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

⁵ also greet the church that is in their house. Greet Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the first convert to Christ from Asia.

⁶ Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.

⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners, who are outstanding among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

⁸ Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.

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- ⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.
¹⁰ Greet Apelles, the approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the *household* of Aristobulus.
¹¹ Greet Herodion, my kinsman. Greet those of the *household* of Narcissus, who are in the Lord.
¹² Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, workers in the Lord. Greet Persis the beloved, who has worked hard in the Lord.
¹³ Greet Rufus, a choice man in the Lord, also his mother and mine.
¹⁴ Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brethren with them.
¹⁵ Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.
¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

- 1) Phebe: A Christian sister who deserved to be welcomed and befriended ([v.1-2](#)).
Priscilla and Aquila: A hospitable couple, who opened their hearts and home—even at the risk of death ([v.3-4](#)).
- 1) Epenetus: A courageous first convert ([v.5](#)).
- 4) Mary: A lady who labored much ([v.6](#)).
- 5) Andronicus and Junia: Early converts imprisoned with Paul ([v.7](#)).
- 6) Amplias: One beloved ([v.8](#)).
- 7) Urbane: A fellow-worker ([v.9a](#)).
- 8) Stachys: One beloved ([v.9b](#)).
- 9) Apelles: Tried, proven ([v.10a](#)).
- 10) Aristobulus' household: Slaves serving a true Master ([v.10b](#)).
- 11) Herodion: A relative of Paul ([v.11a](#)).
- 12) Narcissus' household: Enslaved “in the Lord” ([v.11b](#)).
- 13) Tryphena and Tryphosa: Two ladies who labored much ([v.12a](#)).
- 14) Persis: A beloved believer who worked hard ([v.12b](#)).
- 15) Rufus: A saintly man ([v.13a](#)).
- 16) Rufus' mother: A mother to God's servants ([v.13b](#)).
- 17) Unknown servants: Unknown but faithful in the fellowship of the church ([v.14](#)).

Thought 1. The Roman church stands as a testimony for every church.

1) No matter how immoral and base, polluted and corrupt a society is, we are to stand firm for Christ.

Romans 12:2 (NASB)

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 (NASB)

¹⁷ “Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate,” says the Lord. “And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you.”

¹⁸ “And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me,” Says the Lord Almighty.”

1 John 2:15-16 (NASB)

¹⁵ Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

2) No matter where we are, at home or travelling away on business or for pleasure, we are to be witnessing and ministering for Christ.

Acts 1:8 (NASB)

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.

2 Timothy 1:8 (NASB)

⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with *me* in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God.

Titus 2:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ These things speak and exhort and reprove with all authority. Let no one disregard you.

1 Peter 3:15 (NASB)

¹⁵ But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always *being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence.

Thought 2. Every church and every believer should have a strong testimony, a testimony so strong that it is talked about everywhere.

Acts 16:2 (NASB)

² And he [Timothy] was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium.

Romans 16:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

Hebrews 11:2 (NASB)

² For by it [faith] the men of old gained approval.