

The Gospel and God's Righteousness (21)

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[Romans 1:1-17](#)

(Continuation from 01/03/16)

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.

4. [\(Romans 1:10-13\) Gospel— Witnessing— Evangelism— Ministry: the gospel stirred Paul to seek people personally.](#)

Romans 1:10-13 (NASB)

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

¹¹ For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established;

¹² that is, that I may be encouraged together with you *while* among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

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He did not leave the ministry and the sharing of the gospel up to others. He became personally involved, so much so that he begged God to give him opportunity after opportunity—even to the point of letting him travel to the capital of the world itself to share Christ with its citizens. Note how deeply he was stirred: he made a request—if by any means, now at last—that he might be allowed to preach the gospel at Rome.

The point is forceful: Paul was stirred to seek people, for he longed to reach people for Christ.

1. Paul wished to *impart some spiritual gift* to the believers. **Why?** So that they might be more deeply established in the faith. The term “**spiritual gift**” (*charisma*) means “**a gift of grace**”. The term often refers to specific gifts given by the Holy Spirit (**Romans 12:6-8**), but here it means *the truths* of the grace of God, of His spiritual blessings to man revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 12:6-8 (NASB)

⁶Since 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.*

Very simply, Paul longed to share the truths of the gospel with the believers at Rome. God’s spiritual blessings were overflowing in his heart, and he was aching to share the gift of God’s blessings.

Thought 1. What an indictment against us! How many of us are so full of the gospel that we are aching to share it? How many of us even know the gospel that well, know God's gifts and blessings well enough to be overflowing with them?

Ephesians 1:3 (NASB)

³Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ.

2 Timothy 2:24-25 (NASB)

²⁴The Lord’s bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged,

²⁵*with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth.*

1 Peter 5:2-3 (NASB)

²Shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to *the will of God*; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness;

³*nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.*

Note that God’s spiritual gift establishes the believer. The word “**established**” (*stērichthēnai*) means “**to fix, set, make fast, strengthen**”. Note the descriptive picture behind each word.

2. Paul wished to be *encouraged together* with other believers. The word “**comforted**” (*sumparakaleō*) means “**to be strengthened and consoled together**”. Paul expected to be taught and strengthened by the believers as well as to teach and to strengthen them. There was to be a mutual sharing among all. Paul expected all believers to be actively sharing the gospel. He even expected them to share with him so that he might grow and be more firmly rooted in the faith.

Thought 1. How many believers are actively grounded enough in the faith to share with Paul? What an indictment! Yet the *expectation* is that we are to be deeply rooted, ever studying the Word and learning. How much we need to awaken and arise from our slumber.

Colossians 2:7 (NASB)

⁷ Having been firmly rooted *and now* being built up in Him and established in your faith, just as you were instructed, *and* overflowing with gratitude.

2 Thessalonians 2:17 (NASB)

¹⁷ [God] Comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

3. Paul wished to bear fruit among them (see [Deeper Study # 2, Bearing Fruit—John 15:1-8](#) for more discussion).

Paul wished to bear the fruit of.....

a. converts ([Romans 1:13](#)).

Romans 1:13 (NASB)

¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles.

b. righteousness ([Romans 6:21-23](#)).

Romans 6:21-23 (NASB)

²¹ Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death.

²² But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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- c. Christian character, the fruit of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)).
[Galatians 5:22-23 \(NASB\)](#)
²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,
²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Note Paul's world-wide vision. He wished to bear fruit among the citizens of Rome as well as "among other Gentiles."

Thought 2. How desperately God needs men, women, boys and girls with a world-wide vision!

[John 4:35 \(NASB\)](#)

³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, and *then* comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.

[Matthew 9:37 \(NASB\)](#)

³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.

[Luke 10:2 \(NASB\)](#)

² And He was saying to them, The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

[Galatians 6:9 \(NASB\)](#)

⁹ Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.