

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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ROMANS- Lesson 9 Part 1: PAUL’S PASTORAL HEART

ROM 1:8-12 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the Gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰ always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will, I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you – ¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

IN ROM 1:1, Paul introduced himself as, “**An APOSTLE...**” – which was his official call and gifting. But he was more than that. He was truly a “**TEACHER**” of the highest rank. And he often operated in the roles of “**PROPHET** and **EVANGELIST**” as he carried out his ministry. But Paul seldom used his titles, and usually only in his introductory statement.

What we see, time and again, in his **LETTERS** is, “**The Heart of a PASTOR.**” In writing to the Churches, he has personally founded, he often takes the role of nurturing, feeding, correcting, and protecting that the term of **PASTOR** includes. THIS is what we see throughout the **LETTER TO THE ROMANS**.

IDENTITY WITH HIS AUDIENCE

One of the necessary roles of a Pastor is “Identity with the flock.” Consider Jesus’ words regarding the “good Shepherd.”

JOHN 10:11-15 I am the GOOD SHEPHERD. The GOOD SHEPHERD lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³ He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the GOOD SHEPHERD. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵ just as “the FATHER” knows me and I know “the FATHER;” and I lay down my life for the sheep.”

No “**SHEPHERD / PASTOR**” today is called to “**lay down his life for the sheep**” in the manner Jesus did, YET there is still the element of seeking the good of the flock – not just personal gain: neither in status, nor money.

1 PETER 5:2-3 “...Shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock.

ACTS 20:28-31 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, [of] which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the Church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. ²⁹ I

know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock;³⁰ and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.³¹ Therefore be alert...

2 COR 11:28-29 And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?

COL 1:28-29 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.²⁹ For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

ROMANS- Lesson 9 Part 2: PAUL'S PASTORAL HEART

Look again at the personal pronouns Paul uses as he is addressing the **"FLOCK IN ROME."**

ROM 1:8-12 "... for all of you, ... your faith.⁹ ... I mention you¹⁰ ...coming to you.¹¹ ... to see you, ... may impart to you ... to strengthen you—¹² ... that we may be mutually encouraged ... each other's faith, ... both yours and mine.

These weren't "strangers, an audience, or subjects to teach." THIS was **THE FLOCK**, and although he had never been there, they were **God's Purchase**, and Paul's Shepherd's Heart was concerned for **their** good.

He knew enough of what was going on there to be precise in his message. **There were questions to answer... Scriptural principles to put in proper perspective... doctrinal issues to bring into balance... attitudes to correct... and practical matters to teach and encourage.**

PAUL'S PRAYERS

ROM 1:8-10A First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you¹⁰ always in my prayers...

Paul believed in prayer... and he practiced it. Prayer was an effective way of keeping God at the forefront of all that we receive and do.

Thanksgiving:

In His Letters, Paul was always offering thanks for the Believers, and the Churches. His heart was no longer that of a **"self-important Rabbi"** – **he was changed... humbled... filled with gratification.**

Everything he had, that he was, ALL that was accomplished was because of God's grace IN his life.

In fact, the word for **"thanksgiving / giving thanks"** is **"Eucharisteo – good grace"** – from which we get the word, **"eucharist."** It meant to **"recognize the grace received and speak good of it."**

SO... when we recognize the **"grace"** God has shown us (**in the Body and Blood of the Savior**) we give thanks... Paul consistently does the same as he remembers the Believers and the Churches.

But, Paul also combines multiple petitions with his thanksgivings. As we see later in Romans.

ROM 15:5-6 *May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, ⁶ **that** together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

ROM 15:13 *May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, **so that** by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.*

ROM 15:30-33 *I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, ³¹ **that** I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² **so that** by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ **May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.***

SO THAT Prayers:

Paul also prayed for the Churches to come to maturity, to grow in spiritual truth, and to glorify God through their witness. Our common thought is that our “teaching” and the people’s “commitment” is the way to bring people to maturity. But Paul was not so limited in his process.

Paul believed that “prayer” was a vital element in bringing people to maturity. Prayer calls upon God to do what we cannot... otherwise, why are we praying? SO... he prayed!

We find these prayers throughout Paul’s Letters. Often, even in the midst of a teaching, or sentence, he would offer prayer. These prayers are commonly found with the Greek word for, “SO THAT...” Paul prayed for God to do THIS ... SO THAT the Believers would do / have / recognize / find THAT.

EPH 1:17-21 3:16-19 COL 1:9-12 Are just a few examples.

NOTICE the words “that; so that; so as to...”

And this was such an obvious part of Paul’s life that one of his co-laborers, Epaphras, from the church in Colosse modeled the same habit.

COL 4:12-13 *Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you, **always struggling on your behalf in his prayers, [so that] you may stand mature and fully assured in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him witness that he has worked hard for you and for those in Laodicea and in Hierapolis.***

The purpose of Paul’s prayers was to bring spiritual insight, growth, and stability in their lives.

Prayer AFTER teaching IS FRUITFUL!