

## “Grace & Peace to You”

# A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

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## ROMANS-Lesson 10, 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. <sup>9</sup> For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the Gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you <sup>10</sup> always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will, I may now at last succeed in coming to you.

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

### A SERVICE OF DEVOTION...

**ROM 1:9** “For God is my witness, whom I serve [in worshipful devotion] with my spirit in the Gospel of his Son...”

**NEB:** “...to whom I offer the humble service of my spirit.”

Paul had a very high regard for the ministry to which he had been called. It was NOT a profession, but a GIFT from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1 TIM 1:12** “I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service...”

In **ROM 1:9** Paul reveals an overlooked truth. The word he uses for “*serve / minister*” is a word that means “*to serve as Worshipful Devotion*” to the one who appointed you. It is the root for our word, “*liturgical*.” This term was used some in government service, but mostly in regard to the deities of the Greeks and Romans. **In the Bible it is ALMOST ALWAYS used in regard to service to God.**

It is used of Jesus' worshipful service in the work of redeeming mankind.

**HEB 8:1-2** Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, <sup>2</sup> a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

And of our “*Reasonable response to the Redemption we have received through Jesus Christ.*”

**ROM 12:1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

It is also a glaring indictment against those who have rejected **THE TRUTH** to pursue sin...

**ROM 1:25** “...because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.”

Paul saw his ministry (APOSTLE, PROPHET, PASTOR, TEACHER) as **a service of devotion coming from his spirit and unto God.**

The **“ministry”** was DEEP within him... not an outward pressure, obligation, or even a response to the needs of the people. **“Service that issues from those perspectives could be disregarded, or even given up.”**

BUT this **“devotion from within the spirit to serve”** was NOT going to be subject to the external issues. His **“service”** was WORSHIP... And He worshiped by SERVING!

## Desire, Dedication, and Delayed Gratification

**ROM 1:10-12** **“Always in my prayers ... ASKING ... that somehow ... by God’s will, ... I may ... now at last ... succeed in coming to you.”** <sup>11</sup> **For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—** <sup>12</sup> **that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.”**

From **ROM 15:20–22** we may assume that the capital city itself had not yet been evangelized. The church there was made up primarily of believers who had heard the message elsewhere. But the story of how they came to faith was widely known throughout the world. The growth of the church has always been contingent upon the openness of believers to express their faith.

## ROMANS-Lesson 10, Part 2: PAUL’S PASTORAL HEART

### 1) What Paul wanted...

**vss. 11-12** **“that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—** <sup>12</sup> **that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.”**

- **[So] that I May Impart...** - **[Metadidomi** - **“That I may with your permission be able to ‘over-give’ to you”** ]– Paul’s desire was for a deep abiding impartation of ALL they would allow him to give Paul is NOT interested in **“just a visit...”**

**1 THESS 2:8** **So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the GOSPEL OF GOD but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.**

- **Some spiritual gift...** – NOT “one of the nine ‘charismata’” but that WHAT he wanted to give them was not from the natural or soulish realm.
  - Paul’s **LETTER** was filled with spiritual truth... but there would be **response / questions / re-educating / clarifying...**
  - but Paul wanted to be there to **“pour-our” spiritual life** for them
- **To Strengthen you...** - **[Sterizo** – **to make stable – fasten in place]** - this **“gift”** would bring **“stability – steadfastness”** – It is ONE thing to be taught and to grow, but to find a place of **“immovableness”** is so much MORE
- **Encourage Together...** - **[Sumparakaleo** - **“encouraged together”** – seeing YOU encouraged affects ME... which affects YOU... - a glorious spiritual cycle that results in achieving MORE than by ourselves’ – **“IF it is not encouraging you, I’m not encouraged either”**

- **By Mutual Faith...** - “each-other’s faith” – The **testimony** / the **expressions** / the **lessons** of your faith... help the **questions** / the **weaknesses** / **doubting** of my faith... AND Mine Yours

**MARK 9:23-24** *And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.”*  
<sup>24</sup> *Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”*

A Paraphrase of this section could read:

*What I mean to say is that when we are together, we will be mutually encouraged by one another’s faith. I will be of help to you, but you also will be of encouragement to me. Your faith strengthens my faith, and I am a stronger person as a result.*

In this heartfelt expression, Paul revealed a **genuine sense of appreciation for the spiritual life of others**. Although he was an **APOSTLE**, sent by God to proclaim the good news throughout the known world, Paul **valued** and **would profit from** the faith of other believers.

## 2) **When he wanted it...**

*“...by God’s will, I may now, at last, succeed in coming to you...”*

**By God’s will** – Paul **COULD HAVE** gone anytime **HE** wanted... but it would **NOT** have been by **God’s Will...** and would **NOT** have accomplished **God’s Purpose**

*(For I long to see you ...)* Now **at last** – The delay was long (**at last**) and the desire was great (**I Long...**) but God’s purpose is **MORE** important than **MY / YOUR** desire

- Paul waited many years... - Doing what **GOD** had put in order for Him... -
- But it didn’t cause the desire to become less... - It is in our control **to keep our passion alive** for the “mission” God has placed upon our hearts... [ **The Nations / China / Legacy** ]
- See **CHAPTER 15** for more on this...

**ROM 15:22-29** *This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you.* <sup>23</sup>  
*But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you,* <sup>24</sup> *I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you ... once I have enjoyed your company for a while.* <sup>25</sup> *At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints.*

<sup>28</sup> *When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you.* <sup>29</sup> *I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.*

**May succeed** – [**Euodoo** - to have a successful journey] – to encounter a good way, not just in travel but in that my journey would be successful – no matter the discomfort endured - Figuratively, **to make prosperous, give success to...**

Paul did not just want to be **“IN ROME”** – It **MUST BE** **by God’s doing**... otherwise there would be **NO success**...

In the NT, only in the pass. - **to BE LED in a good way** - to **BE GIVEN** a **prosperous journey**

ACTS 28:14B -16 “...And so, we came to Rome. <sup>15</sup> And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage. <sup>16</sup> And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who guarded him.

### 3) How He responded...

*Always in my prayers... - Incessantly... and without ceasing... at every time of Prayer* [Proseuche – general word for “Communion / Conversation” with God...]

*“Every time I am in communion with God, I bring this to His attention... ‘Open a way to Rome’”*

*Asking... – “Deomai” – to supplicate, plead – to pour-out-the-heart – God, HELP! I want this but I don’t know HOW you are going to do it... BUT I trust you...*

*“HELP!” – this is the word for emotional prayer... “crying-out to God because of the NEED...”*

Does NOT make it any less powerful or effective in producing an answer...

JAMES 5:16 The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.

This is the “Fervent prayer” It is “Powerfully effective...”

KJV: The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

Lit: The supplication of a righteous person has great power as it is working...