

“Grace & Peace to You”

A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Voice of China and Asia

Bible Class Instructor: *Dr. Geof W. Jackson, Board Member*

ROMANS- Lesson 11, Part 1: UNDER OBLIGATION

ROM 1:13-17 *I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.* ¹⁴ *I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.* ¹⁵ *So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.*

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.* ¹⁷ *For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith unto faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”*

GOD’S TIMING...

ROM 1:13 *I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.*

In the New Testament era, it was God who gave the opportunities. These are often called, “doors.” God had given the general commission to “*Go into all the world...*” and “*You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*” These were the commands that revealed God was releasing this “Gospel” to ALL mankind... everywhere.

Yet, it was God who also would “control” WHEN & WHERE his disciples (*not just Apostles*) would go. This is seen in the use of **Open** and **Closed Doors**.

REV 3:7 *“And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: ‘The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.*”

Open Door: When God gives an opportunity regarding a “time” or “place”

ACTS 11:17-18 *If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”* ¹⁸ *When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”*

1 COR 16:8 *But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost,* ⁹ *for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*

COL 4:2-4 Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

ROMANS- Lesson 11, Part 2: UNDER OBLIGATION

Closed Door: When God determines that the opportunity is NOT for me, or the timing is wrong (it usually indicates something I wanted to do)

ACTS 16:6-10 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Hindered: Can occur in 2 ways:

1) It is something I want to do but God has Opened other doors AT THIS TIME...

ROM 1:13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.

2) It is something I want to do, but Satan is Hindering...

1 THESS 2:17-18 But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, ¹⁸ because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.

It IS God's purpose BUT you need a different strategy / method to accomplish the GOAL

Paul would BEGIN writing LETTERS when He could not be present...

THOSE LETTERS are still effective TODAY!