

LESSON 30: ROMANS 15:1-13
MAY 5, 2021

OVERVIEW

- . How are Christians suppose to behave – Romans 15:1-6
- . We are called to accept others regardless of circumstance – Romans 15:7-13

HOW ARE CHRISTIANS SUPPOSE TO BEHAVE – ROMANS 15:1-6

- . An Old Testament reference – Psalm 69:9
 - . It is characteristic of Paul to nail down an argument with an Old Testament reference
 - . Psalm 69 is one of the great messianic passages of Old Testament
 - . Seven of its thirty-six verses are directly quoted in the New Testament
 - . They furnish themes relating to Christ's work that are expanded in the gospels
 - . It indicates that Jesus was denied and slandered by His enemies – v4
 - . estranged from His own brothers – v8
 - . Made a mockery by the people and rulers – v11-12
 - . Was the theme of songs by drunkards – v12
 - . Each of these points provides examples of the kinds of abuse we should be willing to endure for God and others
 - . If we want to follow Jesus, we should be willing to endure a lifetime of insults
 - . We must behave as Jesus did
 - . We are to bear persecutions patiently that we might please God
 - . This is a great privilege and a daunting challenge
 - . If it were not for the power of Christ within, we would not respond to either, because we would put ourselves first, as the world does, and avoid insults
 - . We must grow in Christ's power by a study of His Word and by close fellowship with Him
- . The encouragement of scripture – Romans 15:4
 - . To have hope is to look at the future optimistically
 - . Romans 15:4 says that a Christian can have hope and even marks out a promising pathway to it
 - . That pathway leads first, through teaching; second, through patient endurance; and third, through encouragement
 - . The teaching of Scripture
 - . This is the first and most important step leading to hope

- . It is through the teaching of Scripture that these other elements come
- . Christianity is a teaching religion
- . Wherever the gospel has gone, it has been followed by the establishment of schools, colleges and other institutions of higher learning
- . It is by these truths taught in the Bible that we learn to have hope
- . These verses teach that the Bible is from God
 - . "All scripture is god breathed"
- . These verses teach that everything in the Bible is profitable
 - . All scripture is for our good
 - . The whole Bible is profitable
 - . Everything it contains is the true Word of God
 - . If we are being led by the Spirit, our thoughts and actions will match what the Bible reveals
- . Nothing in the Bible is without value
- . Patient endurance
 - . The second checkpoint we must pass along the road to hope
 - . We are taught to endure difficulties and problems in life by learning how God has kept and preserved other believers in similar circumstances
- . Encouragement
 - . Jesus walks alongside us to encourage us
- . A prayer for unity – Romans 15:5-6
 - . In His great prayer for the Church in John 17, Jesus asked that the Church might be marked by six important characteristics: joy, holiness, truth, mission, unity and love
 - . "I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one"
 - . "May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that they have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me" John 17:20-23
 - . The ultimate purpose of our unity is that God might be glorified
 - . When Christians appreciate and support one another, God the Father and God the Son are glorified before the watched world

WE ARE CALLED TO ACCEPT OTHERS REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES **ROMANS 15:7-13**

- . "Accept one another then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God" – Romans 15:7
 - . This command follows clearly and obviously from the call to unity in the preceding two verses, since the best way to achieve and maintain Christian unity is to accept those others for whom Christ died

- . A divided world
 - . When Christianity burst upon the world, the world was an extremely divided place
 - . Some of the divisions were nationalistic – Greeks hating the Romans
 - . Some were racial – Jews vs. the Arabs
 - . Many divisions reached back over the centuries
 - . There were rivalries between cities and countries
 - . The sharpest and most intractable of all these divisions was between the Jews and the gentiles
 - . The Jews looked down on Gentiles as spiritual barbarians
- . The remarkable thing is that these divisions did not divide the Christians
 - . Christians simply transcended the divides
 - . The Church, from the beginning, was composed of Jews and Gentiles, slaves and freemen, Greeks and Romans, men and women, blacks, whites, rich, poor and whatever other physical grouping exists
 - . How could such diverse people come together – they knew that Jesus, the very Son of God, had accepted them without prior conditions
 - . Paul reminds us that Jesus has accepted all who seek Him
- . Jews and Gentiles in Christ's fold – Romans 15:8-9
 - . Christ became a servant to the Jews
 - . To confirm the promise made to the patriarchs
 - . So that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy
 - . The fulfillment of the promises to the Jewish patriarchs was not intended for the blessing of the Jews alone but for the salvation of Gentiles too
- . Hope for the Gentiles – Romans 15:9-13
 - . Paul knew that apart from Jesus there was no hope for the Gentiles
 - . Jews had been entrusted with the very Words of God – Gentiles had not
 - . Jews had the covenants, the law, the patriarchs, and the lineage
 - . Gentiles had none of these advantages
 - . Before Christ, Gentiles were excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise
 - . The promise of hope for the Gentiles was deeply rooted in Old Testament scripture and prophecy
 - . Psalm 18:49
 - . Deuteronomy 32:43
 - . Psalm 117:1
 - . Isaiah 11:10
 - . When we realize how many verses Paul uses to make this point, we sense how carefully and persistently he must have had to argue this truth when teaching it to the Jewish and Gentile churches

- . The first benediction – Romans 15:13
 - . There is a sense in which the book of Romans ends with verse 13, because what follows is essentially personal in nature
 - . Yet this is only the first of what are actually three benedictions Romans 15:13, 33 and 16:20
 - . The God of hope
 - . Hope is the key in this verse
 - . God is the source of every good thing
 - . Trust in God
 - . Trust is the necessary channel for these blessings
 - . Empowered by the Holy Spirit
 - . This reminds us that nothing of any spiritual value is possible in and of ourselves
 - . Everything is possible for God who makes them possible for us and in us by His Spirits power
 - . Because God is for us, we can and will both stand firm and triumph gloriously

NEXT LESSON – WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021 – ROMANS 15:14-33