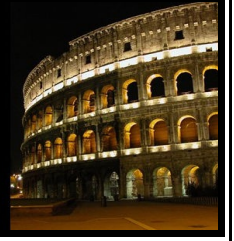


Paul's Epistle to the ROMANS

12/6/2020 AM

"The Obedience of Faith of the Gentiles" Romans 1:8-15



Introduction:

I. PAUL'S INTERCESSION FOR THE ROMAN CHRISTIANS (vs. 8-9)

A. His Praise for Their Visible Faith (vs. 8)

"first, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all"

"because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world"

B. His Prayer for a Future Visit (vs. 9)

"for God...is my witness"

"whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son"

"as to how unceasingly I make mention of you" (I Thessalonians 5:17)

e.g. Ephesians 3:14-19

"in my spirit" (from John MacArthur)

- a thankful spirit (vs. 8)
- a concerned spirit (vs. 9-10a)
- a willing and submissive spirit (vs.10b)
- a loving spirit (vs.11)
- a humble spirit (vs. 12)
- a fruitful spirit (vs.13)
- an obedient spirit (vs. 14)
- an eager spirit (vs. 15).
- a bold spirit (vs. 16)

II. PAUL'S INTEREST IN THE ROMAN CHRISTIANS (vs. 10-12)

A. He Wanted to See Them (vs. 10)

"always in my prayers making request" (c.f. 15:30)

"if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you"

B. He Wanted to Serve Them (vs. 11)

"for I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you"

"that you may be established"

C. He Wanted to Strengthen Them (vs. 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"

III. PAUL'S INTENTIONS FOR THE ROMAN CHRISTIANS (vs. 13-15)

A. His Past Frustration (vs. 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. His Purposeful Focus (vs. 14-15)

“I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish”

I Corinthians 9:16-17

“so, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome”

Conclusion: Paul's motivations are exemplary for us:

- 1) the desire to elevate God's name and glory
- 2) a zeal to preach/proclaim the gospel
- 3) a broad approach to ministry
- 4) a genuine love for the people to whom he is called to minister

Food for Thought:

- 1) What is the importance of “preaching the gospel”? What exactly does that mean?
- 2) Why do you think God called Paul to be the apostle to the Gentiles?
- 3) What sort of “spiritual gift” do you think Paul had in mind?
- 4) How seriously do you seek to visit churches in other places? Why?