

McCoy Memorial Baptist Church

DATE: May 5, 2021

Wednesday Class: "Romans: God's **Good News** for the World"

TEXT: Romans 15:14-16:27

INTRODUCTION: The main body of Paul's epistle is now closed.

1. Introduction or "Prologue" (1:1-17)

Theme = the Gospel; God's Good News for the World (6x)

In the Gospel "a righteousness from God is revealed"

2. Body (1:18-15:13)

This theme—"a righteousness from God"—is developed throughout.

Now, the Great Exposition (1:18-11:36) and the Great Exhortation (12:1-15:13) are over.

3. Conclusion or "Epilogue" (15:14-16:27)

1) Personal information (15:14-33)

Paul picks up where he left off (1:8-13)

*He explains his **boldness** (vss. 14-16), **absence** (vss. 17-22), and **future plans** (vss. 23-33)*

2) Personal greetings (16:1-27)

To individuals at Rome; and from individuals at Corinth.

BEING MINISTRY MINDED (15:14-33)

We learn much from this passage (15:14-33) about personal ministry and missionary work. In verses 14-22 Paul elaborates upon the nature of his ministry. He draws His readers' attention to three significant features of it.

1. His ministry was a _____ ministry (vss. 14-16)

A. Paul's office was that of an _____ (15-16a)

B. Paul's function was that of a _____ (16)

2. His ministry was a _____ ministry (vss. 17-19a)

A. Notice the _____: Christ does it through me!

B. Notice the _____:

1) By what I've said (words) and done (ministry actions taken)

2) By the power of _____ and _____ (2 Cor. 12:12; Heb. 2:1-4)

3) Through the power of the _____ (John 16:8-11)

3. His ministry was a _____ ministry (vss. 19b-22)

"From Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ." This is Paul's succinct and modest summary of ten years of strenuous apostolic labor, including his three heroic missionary journeys.

A. His missionary _____ (vs. 19b)

B. His missionary _____ (vss. 20-22). Compare 1 Cor. 3:5-17; 4:1-5.

C. His missionary _____ (vss. 23-33).

Paul has *reviewed* his past activities (vss. 14-22); then he *previewed* his future activities (23-29) and then *requested* the church's prayers (30-33).

1) From _____ to _____ (vss. 25-27)

2) From _____ to _____ (vss. 23-24, 28-29)

3) From _____ to _____ (vss. 23-24, 28-29)

Personal _____ (16:1-16 and 21-24)

Paul sends greetings **TO** 26 individuals (vss. 3-16). He sends greetings **FROM** 8 individual Corinthians (21-24). In verses 1-2, our sister Phoebe is the one who carries this letter to Rome. Paul encourages the Romans "to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you." What can we learn from Paul's greetings?

1. _____ composition of the church; extremely diversified.

2. _____ of the early church.

House churches are mentioned at least once (vs. 5), probably three times if we add vss. 14-15, and possibly five times if we include the references to "households" in vv. 10-11.

3. _____ are mentioned prominently.

A third of those mentioned are women (ten of them); all the ones described as "hard working" are women (vv. 6, 12); one of the women is called an "apostle" (= church sent missionary; v. 7), & perhaps one a "deacon" (v. 1; cp. NLT and NRSV; also compare the NIV₂₀₁₁ with NIV₁₉₈₄).

CLOSING THOUGHTS (16:17-20)

1. A _____ is issued (vss. 17-19).

Paul issues a threefold appeal . . .

A. An appeal to vigilance

B. An appeal to separation

C. An appeal to discernment

2. A word of _____ (vs. 20).

Paul reminds the Romans about Satan's "soon" defeat and God's enabling grace for all challenges.

3. A closing _____ (vss. 25-27): "To God be the glory! Amen."

A. He is the _____ God

A declaration of monotheism, & His absolute uniqueness. How can I know this only God?" The answer is that God has revealed Himself to us!

B. He is the only _____ God

God's wisdom and knowledge are inexhaustible (11:33); His judgments are unsearchable; and His paths untraceable. See Romans 11:33-36.

C. He is _____

The Gospel is God's power to save (1:16-17). The Gospel is God's power to establish (16:25-27). The Gospel is God's revealed secret ("mystery"; see 1 Cor. 2:5-16).