

Romanos / Romans 15-16

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ESPA??OL

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This evening we are going to continue on with our VERSE BY VERSE Bible study series through the book of Romans!

And this letter is all about Christian truth, Christian theology, CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE!

And that is why I have titled this series??? DOCTRINE! (TEXT SLIDE #1)

Now tonight we are going to be finishing up our study through the book of Romans.

And because we have two chapters to cover tonight, we are going to SURVEY THROUGH Romans Chapters 15 and 16!

And these two closing chapters of Romans ARE PACKD FULL of important truths and principals for us to learn! (INTRO SLIDE #1)

And as we survey through these chapters we are going to find??? 5 Christian Principals to live by!

And these 5 Christian Principals to live by, are beneficial for every one of us that want to live our lives or Jesus and His Kingdom today!

So let???s get started, and would you please open up your Bibles with us to ROMANS CHAPTER 15, Romans Chapter 15!

And we will begin by reading verses 14 and 15.

Romans Chapter 15, and let???s read verses 14 and 15 together! (SLIDE)

14-15- ??Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another! 15??Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God,

So in each one of our sections of Bible text tonight, we are going to be looking at THE MAIN IDEA that the Apostle Paul brings up there.

And in these verses, Paul brings up the principal of BIBLICAL COUNSELING!

This is talking about the responsibility that EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS, of helping out each other through counseling and encouragement.

And that brings up the first of our five principals to live by! (SLIDE)

Principal to live by???#1- Christians should COUNSEL EACH OTHER! (REPEAT)

Now let???s take another look at what Paul says about this right here in verse 14.

(verse 14) Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another!

What the Bible is teaching us here is that every one of us as Christians should be helping one another.

When we see a brother or a sister in error or in sin or with a major problem, we should not automatically tell them, go talk to the Pastor about it.

The first thing that we should do is to try and help them ourselves.

We should share Scripture with them and pray with them.

That is what Biblical counseling is all about!

Now Paul tells us here where we should get our opinions and wisdom, do you see it there in your Bible?

Start of verse 15 Paul writes??? Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God,

We need to take our opinions and get our wisdom from the writings of Paul and the other Bible writers right here in our Bibles.

Here at our church we believe in Biblical Counseling.

My wife and I and Pastor Fernando and a few others have been trained in Biblical counseling!

Pastor Fernando has been teaching courses right here in our Bible college designed to help believers counsel other Christians!

Every year we host a bilingual Biblical counseling conference right here at our church and it is absolutely free.

And so that should be important for every one of us.

Because as we read here, BGod has called YOU AS A CHRISTIAN, to get involved and to counsel the Christians that need help that are around you!

Let???s continue on by skipping forward to verse 19, where we will read verses 19 and 20 together. (SLIDE)

19-20- ??in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. 20??And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man???s foundation,

So in these verses, Paul the Apostle, reveals to us His plan and philosophy of missions and church planting.

And that brings up the 2nd of our five principals to live by! (SLIDE)

Principal to live by??? #2- Our Missions and Church Planting Philosophy! (REPEAT)

Now take a look at what Paul says about this right here in verse 20.

(verse 20) And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation,

Paul was a missionary and church planter.

And as Paul mentions here, his main goal in planting a church and doing missions work, was winning NON BELIEVERS over to Christ!

Paul would go to areas and present the Gospel to non believers, and that is how Paul would build the local church!

And that is why, all of the church planters that go out from our church, agree to share the Gospel at the end of every sermon just like we do here.

Because we know that the main way God builds up His church, is as non believers come and hear the Gospel and repent and believe!

And usually, as we will see in the book of Acts, Paul would plant a church there.

Now let me tell you another reason why this principal is so important for us in our church here at Calvary Chapel Rosarito

Because God has given our church a special calling not to only reach out to and help the people that live here in Rosarito, but to move beyond that.

And when our church sends out missionaries and pastors to plant churches, we aren't going to have them start a Calvary Chapel church down the street here in Rosarito.

Instead, we will SEND THEM OUT to go to a city or an area that doesn't already have a Calvary Chapel church.

We want to plant churches in cities that don't have churches that are teaching verse by verse through the Bible.

We want to plant churches where there aren't balanced churches that worship in Spirit and in truth.

And we have a bunch of men and married couples that are preparing to go out and preach the Gospel and plant churches just like Paul did.

And as they go out, if you feel called to go out with them and help them minister in that city and plant

that church, GO FOR IT!

Let's continue on by skipping forward to verse 24, where we will read verses 24 to verse 28 together. (SLIDE)

24-28- whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your company for a while. 25?But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. 26?For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. 27?It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. 28?Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

So in these verses, the Paul brings up the way that he supported church plants and his other ministries.

And that brings up the third of our five principals to live by! (SLIDE)

Principal to live by??? #3- Christians should BE A PARTNER IN THE WORK OF GOD'S KINGDOM! (with your time, talent, and treasure) (REPEAT)

The things that are most important to us, will show because we will put our time talent and treasure into those things.

And that is why we must choose to decide to invest our time, talent and treasure in the things of God.

Listen to what Jesus said about that in??? Matthew 6:21

???For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.???

As we give to the Lord our time , talent, and treasure, Jesus helps are heart follow and love those Godly things.

Now specifically here in this Bible text, what Paul is talking about is financial partnership and giving.

And let me explain how this would work with Paul and his ministry.

The Christians in the local churches would give to the Lord and worship the Lord first by giving through the boxes at the local churches.

But then they would also take extra financial OFFERINGS, to support Paul as a missionary and the churches that he planted.

And Paul would often collect financial offerings from a church, and take the gift and give it to another church that was hurting financially.

Now let me tell you why this is important for our church.

Because we have the same calling of planting churches that Paul had, we need to respond generously like this church in Rome responded.

We first worship the Lord as we support our local church, but then we need to be open to giving an extra offering from time to time for some of our church plants and missionaries.

As we send out our missionaries and church planters, we are going to have what we call ???SENDING SUNDAYS??? for them.

And on these SENDING SUNDAYS, you are going to hear all about God???s plans for their church plant.

But then I am also going to ask each person in our church to pray about giving an extra offering to this church plant and the missionaries.

And as we do that, we are partnering with them, and all of their spiritual fruit becomes your eternal spiritual fruit too.

And Paul brings up this topic of spiritual fruit through our giving right here in verse 28, so would you read that with me.

(verse 28)??Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

So that is what Paul is talking about here this process that we call, co-laboring and partnering.

Paul is talking about our privilege and responsibility of not only supporting the local church??? but also of being open to giving offerings to support other churches and ministries too.

Let???s continue on by SKIPPING FORWARD TO ROMANS CHAPTER 16!

And we will continue in Romans 16 by reading verses 1 through 6 together. (SLIDE)

1-6-??I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, 2??that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.

3??Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, 4??who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. 5??Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ. 6??Greet Mary, who labored much for us.

So here in these verses, the Paul brings up the many of the people he knew and the friendships that he had with the people in that church in Rome.

And that brings up our FORTH PRINCIPAL to live by! (SLIDE)

Principal to live by???#4- Work hard to develop relationships and friendships in the church! (REPEAT)

That???s what the first thirteen verses of Romans 16 are all about.

Paul had a bunch of friends in the church.

In fact, here in Romans chapter 16, as Paul closes out his letter to the church in Rome, Paul mentions and greets 33 of his friends that lived in Rome.

And in this simple list of Paul???s friends we find many important lessons for us as Christians.

One of the main lessons for us is on the importance of having friends.

When God saves us, He places us in a church, a spiritual family so that we can have friends and Godly relationships.

And that is one of the reasons that our church is here??? to help you build some Godly and healthy relationships and friendships!

Now, with the size that our church is now, that isn???t always easy to do.

Back when our church was small??? it was easy to make friends, because everyone knew each other.

Back in the old days when we would have an event, everyone would go and we all knew each other.

But that???s not nearly as easy to do now as we are a bigger church.

Because the bigger a church grows, the more effort that we have to put in to develop the relationships and friendships that God wants for us here.

And that is why I recommend that every Christian in our church get involved in ONE SMALL GROUP TYPE OF STUDY each week!

I want every Christian to either go to a weekly men's or ladies Bible study, or go to one of our Friday night groups!

Now our Wednesday night services and our Sundays are very important too but those large services make it difficult to meet other people.

The early church in the book of Acts met for large gatherings in the temple courts, but they also met for small gatherings from house to house.

And it is in the smaller groups and Bible studies, where it is much easier to develop relationships and to make new friends.

Again, our church is here to help you do that, but making friends doesn't happen all by itself.

Each one of us must get involved and be friendly and introduce ourselves to people

SERVING every week here is also a great way to develop new relationships and to make new friends.

Because as you serve you will meet new people that serve with you in that ministry!

So Paul mentions 33 of his friends here in Romans Chapter 16!

And it is interesting that 10 of the friends that Paul mentions here are women.

And that is a reminder for us that women were important to the ministry of Paul, they were important to the ministry of Jesus, and women are very important to our church here.

Our church would fall apart if we didn't have women serving Jesus here.

Could you imagine what our church would be like if we were an all men's church?

First of all, it would smell like a locker room in here, we would have no decorations, (well maybe a Mexico soccer jersey hanging on the wall) and we would have snack and soda bottles all over!

YIKES, that would be a disaster!

Let's continue on by skipping forward to verse 17, where we will read verses 17 to 19 together. (SLIDE)

17-19- Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. 18- For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. 19- For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

So in these verses, the Paul brings up the topic of people that cause division in the church.

And that brings up the fifth and final of our five principals to live by! (SLIDE)

Principal to live by #5- Avoid Divisive people! (REPEAT)

Now take a look at what Paul says about this right here in verse 17.

(verse 17) Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

Unfortunately, in every church there are people that are divisive, including our church.

What do divisive people do?

First off, divisive people never tell you? I AM A DIVISIVE PERSON!

Divisive people constantly criticize and complain about the church and the pastor.

They complain about the preaching and the music and the way that the church runs things.

So the Biblical command is to STAY AWAY FROM those kinds of people.

Do you know why God wants you to stay away from them?

Because this sin of DIVISIVENESS SPREADS like cancer!

And if you hang around and listen to divisive people, their sin and bitterness will affect you, and eventually you will become sinful and bitter with them.

There divisiveness and bitterness will poison your heart and destroy you and make you miserable.

So how should you respond to divisive people?

Well, remember back to Romans 15:14, you should first try to counsel them and correct them.

But then if they won't receive from you, you need to avoid them to guard your own soul from becoming divisive.

Now, is it ok to disagree with things in the church and even with the Pastor, YES it is!

And if you ever have a question about something or disagree with something that we are doing here, don't gossip about it or become divisive over it, just ask us why do you do that?

Jesus loves spreading unity in the church but Satan will always try and bring division.

So all of us need to work together to keep the unity in the church, and to not allow Satan to bring division!

We will finish up our entire series through this book of Romans by reading Paul's closing words together.

And let's read that here in verses 25 to 27! (SLIDE)

25-27- Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

The encouraging and uplifting closing words of Paul for this Epistle of Romans!

And what a Great way this is to close out our 4 month series through the book of Romans!

And church, that's our GOOD NEWS this evening from ROMANS CHAPTERS 15 and 16! Amen?