

THE BOOK OF ROMANS
THE GOSPEL IS OUR CONFIDENCE-PT 7
ROMANS 1:9-13

INTRODUCTION

In the early part of this Chapter, we have seen the **APOSTLE PAUL** affirming the **GOSPEL** of **JESUS CHRIST** and his **CONFIDENCE** in it!

We have been looking most recently at how **PAUL'S CONFIDENCE WAS MADE REAL BY THE PERFORMANCE OF THE GOSPEL**— That is, by **WHAT THE GOSPEL HAD DONE IN HIS LIFE AND HAD DONE IN OTHERS' LIVES!** (That it includes our lives as well!)

We last saw how *THE GOSPEL WAS THE BASIS OF PAUL'S THANKSGIVING FOR THE CHURCH AT ROME!*

Apart from their **FAITH** in the **GOSPEL** and the **GOSPEL'S** effect on them by their **FAITH**, there would have been **NOTHING** about them for **PAUL** to give **THANKS** for! The **GOSPEL** made their lives **THANK-WORTHY!**

Now in the verses before us in verses 8-13, we see this:

THE GOSPEL WAS THE BASIS OF PAUL'S DESIRE TO MINISTER TO THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST AT ROME. (Vs 8-13)

I. PAUL HAD A STRONG DESIRE TO MINISTER TO THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST AT ROME! (Vs 9-10, 15)

A. When It Came To Ministry, PAUL Was ALL-IN! (Vs 9, 15)
(i.e. There was **no** **HOLDING BACK** there was **no** **SLACK!**)

From what we read in the **BOOK** of **ACTS** as well as **PAUL'S EPISTLES** we know that to be true! **He was NOT a slacker!**

However, the **ROMAN CHURCH** did not have the benefit of having the **BOOK OF ACTS** or the **PAULINE EPISTLES** to know that! So **PAUL** expressed it here in the strongest terms that he could to them in this **EPISTLE!**

In order that this **CHURCH** might know how earnestly **PAUL PRAYED** for them and how deeply he **YEARNED** to see them, he invokes **GOD** as his witness! (Vs 9a)

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PAUL said that he **SERVED GOD** with his **SPIRIT!** (vs 9b) That means that his **SERVICE** to **GOD** was **not** an **outward show** to be seen of men— because even cold dead religion can serve idols and other gods which are not **GOD!**

In contrast, **PAUL'S SERVICE** for and to **GOD** sprang from deep within his **SPIRIT**—A **SPIRIT** that had been changed by the **GOSPEL** of **JESUS CHRIST** so that he was **ALL-IN** when it came to the **GOSPEL** and **MINISTRY!**

B. Look At The Nature Of PAUL'S PRAYERS For This CHURCH! (Vs 9c-10)

PAUL was clear here in *Verse 9* that the **CHURCH** at **ROME** was **CONTINUALLY** in his **PRAYERS!** “...without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers.”

PAUL was a **PRAYING SERVANT** of **GOD!** **PRAYING** was part of the **GOSPEL MINISTRY** that was given him! He mentions here his **PRAYERS** for the **CHURCH** at **ROME.** This is not unusual as **PAUL** mentioned his prayers for four other **CHURCHES** in the **EPISTLES** he wrote them as well! (*Ephesians 1:15-16; Philippians 1:3-4; Colossians 1:3-4; and 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3*)

To begin with, we see here that **PAUL'S PRAYERS** involved asking **GOD** to allow him to have a prosperous journey to **ROME**, if it was in **GOD'S** will for him! (Vs 10)

Now, if the **APOSTLE PAUL** made requests according to the will of **GOD**, then it has to be important for us as well!

James 4:15—“For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”

Let me say this: I've seen far too many **BELIEVERS** who make their own decisions to do things **WITHOUT PRAYING.**

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They do that and then they find that those things **THEY CHOSE** were NOT in the **PERFECT WILL OF GOD** in their lives or the **TIMING WAS ALL WRONG** and they wind up outside of what was **GOD'S BEST** for them!

Now, they could have avoided those wrong steps if they had they just **PRAYED FIRST!** Oh how we need to **PRAY** and **NOT MOVE** without **FIRST SEEKING THE LORD** and having the **LORD'S PEACE** in our **DECISIONS!**

When we **PRAY to the LORD** one of at least three things can happen:

1. **GOD** can say **"YES!"** and opens the door! With that the **LORD** gives us **HIS PEACE** as we walk in **HIS WILL!**
2. **GOD** can also say **"NO!"** and **HE shuts the door!** And that **"NO!"** may or may not be a final **"NO!"** But listen, we need to be careful that we don't pry open doors that the **LORD** has shut for our own good!
3. Sometimes **GOD** says **"WAIT A WHILE!"** and **shuts the door for the time being!** Which is what we have here. **PAUL** just kept praying that the **LORD** would make a way! And the **LORD** did make a way later!

Know that even the timing of things should be placed in the **LORD'S HANDS!**

The **CHURCH** at **ROME** wanted **PAUL** to come to **ROME!** And **PAUL** wanted to go to the **CHURCH** at **ROME!** Up to this point, the **LORD** had said **"NO"**. **PAUL** knew that if it was in the **WILL OF GOD** it would happen in **GOD'S** timetable, not **PAUL'S** timetable or the timetable of the **CHURCH** at **ROME!**

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But, up to this point it had **NOT** been in the **WILL OF GOD!** (*Vs 13a*)

In fact, almost a quarter of a century elapsed from **PAUL'S** beginning in the ministry to the time **GOD** allowed him to go to **ROME!**

And understand that when **GOD** finally allowed the **APOSTLE PAUL** to go to **ROME**, it was as a **PRISONER!** So, there is that! Sometimes the **LORD** answers **PRAYER** in ways that are beyond our ability to comprehend!

So, *PAUL HAD A STRONG DESIRE TO MINISTER TO THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST AT ROME AND PRAYED TO THAT END!*

II. PAUL'S PURPOSES IN WANTING TO GO TO ROME! (Vs 11)

- A. We See PAUL'S First Purpose In Wanting To Go To Rome—SIMPLY, TO SEE THEM! (Vs 11a)**
PAUL mentions that he had *a longing (i.e. "a yearning or a desire")*, to **SEE THEM (i.e. The CHURCH!)**

Not a **CHURCH** building, but **THE CHURCH! THE LOCAL CHURCH** is the **ASSEMBLY OF BELIEVERS WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED OUT BY GOD FOR HIS PURPOSES!**

PAUL knew that he could be an **ENCOURAGEMENT** to this **LOCAL CHURCH** just by his coming to them!

- B. We See PAUL'S Second Purpose In Wanting To Go To Rome—TO EDIFY THEM! (Vs 11b)**
Part of **PAUL'S** longing was his desire to **EDIFY** them and help them in their **MATURITY!** He puts it this way...
"...that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established."

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Let's look at **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** for a minute here.
(*See Ephesians 4:7-13*)

PAUL had some **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** that others did not have.
(**PAUL** had each of the **GIFTS** listed here that were given for **SPECIFIC** purposes as **ALL SPIRITUAL GIFTS** are!)

*1 Corinthians 12:7– “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit **withal**.”*
(*“withal” means “at the same time together”*)

PAUL said he wanted to **“impart”** unto them some **SPIRITUAL GIFT**. What did he mean by that?

We don't get to choose our **SPIRITUAL GIFTS**, and **others cannot choose them for us**—Only the **HOLY SPIRIT** does!
*1 Corinthians 12:11– “But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, **dividing to every man severally as he will**”.*

When **PAUL** said he wanted to **“impart”** unto them some **SPIRITUAL GIFT**, I believe the context shows that his desire was to **“share”** with them according to the **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** that had been given him— *i.e. Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher!*

That is shown by **PAUL'S** end game—**“to the end ye may be established.”** That word **“established”** means **“strengthened.”**

PAUL wanted to **“edify” them** or to help **“build them up”** in **THE FAITH!** Which is the purpose for **SPIRITUAL GIFTS!**

SPIRITUAL GIFTS are not for **US** to selfishly use for our own **PURPOSES** or draw attention to ourselves! But rather, they are to help us do our part to help **BUILD UP, ESTABLISH, and MATURE** others in **THE FAITH!**

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Conclusion

The GOSPEL is the BASIS FOR OUR PRAYER LIFE AS BELIEVERS!

Are you accessing that important PRAYER LIFE as the asset that it is?

Are you “ALL IN” when it comes to MINISTRY for OUR LORD?

Are you SEEKING the LORD in PRAYER to make sure the DECISIONS you make as a BELIEVER are in HIS WILL and HIS TIMING? Or are you one to pry your own doors open or just do your own thing?

As we come together as the LORD'S LOCAL CHURCH here, is your purpose, the LORD'S PURPOSE?

HIS PURPOSE is for us to use the **SPIRITUAL GIFTS** that **HIS HOLY SPIRIT** has given us to do our part to help **BUILD UP, ESTABLISH, and MATURE OTHERS**