

Journey Through Romans

ROMANS 1:8-13

(Romans 1:8 KJV) "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."

1. *Throughout the whole world:* That is the world of the Roman Empire. The faith of the church at Rome was spoken of throughout the whole Roman world.
 - a. A.T. Robertson writes this in his classic work Word Pictures in the New Testament:
"Throughout all the world...Natural hyperbole as in Col_1:6; Act_17:6. But widely known because the church was in the central city of the empire."
2. There were constantly people coming to Rome – it was the capital of the Empire. You've heard the expression: "All roads lead to Rome." They had an elaborate road system. As people traveled to Rome to trade or for political reasons or to see family, some would encounter the church at Rome. They would carry stories of the faith of this church back to the provinces.
3. Is our faith spoken of throughout the whole world? Is your church's faith spoke of throughout the world? There is one sure way it can be! Get involved in world missions.

(Romans 1:9 KJV) "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;"

1. "whom I serve" = the word *serve* means religious service. It is translated from a Greek word that is used in the New Testament to designate sacred service.
2. "whom I serve with my spirit" – The spirit is the part of man that communes with God. Of course, you can serve God with your body too. But, I think Paul is saying that "I serve him from my inmost being. I serve God with everything I've got!"
 - a. (Ecclesiastes 9:10 KJV) "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest."
 - b. Some men are intellectually lazy.
 - c. Primary duty of pastor: (Acts 6:4 KJV) The Apostles said, "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word."
3. (1 Thessalonians 5:17 KJV) "Pray without ceasing."
 - a. Clarence Sexton illustration.

(Romans 1:10 KJV) "Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you."

1. God had not allowed Paul to come to Rome.
2. Paul eventually went to Rome. He had a lot of trouble along the way. But his journey was prosperous.
3. Illustration: Two churches on the Island of Ireland.

(Romans 1:11 KJV) "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;"

Spiritual Gift = Not talking about gifts of the Spirit. The next verse gives us insight.

(Romans 1:12 KJV) "That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me."

1. Paul wanted to impart to them a spiritual gift by teaching the Word of God. He wanted to establish their faith. Our faith is not established by miraculous signs which pass away, but by the eternal, unchangeable promises of the Word of God!
2. "mutual faith both of you and me" – When we preach, we spread faith in the Word to the congregation. But, the congregation gives us faith as well. We are comforted together as Paul said.
3. Illustration: Gifts sermon at church on the mountain.

(Romans 1:13 KJV) "Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles."

1. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy peace, etc. But the fruit of a Christian is other Christians. Paul wanted to see some fruit among the Romans.
2. Paul was the Apostle to the Gentiles. So, he says, "that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles"

(Romans 1:14 KJV) "I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise."

1. Greeks – Those who spoke Greek and followed Greek culture.
2. Barbarians – Those who did not follow Greek culture.
3. "I am debtor" = I owe the Gospel.
4. We are all debtors!
 - a. (2 Kings 7:9 KJV) "Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household."
 - b. "We do not well, if we do not tell." (Dr. Stinnett Ballew)

(Romans 1:15 KJV) "So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."

"As much as in me is" - (Romans 1:9 KJV) "For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son... Paul said, "With everything I've got, I am ready to preach the gospel"

"To you that are at Rome" – When God would allow him to have a prosperous journey, Paul was ready to go to Rome to preach.

I wonder if we are ready to go where God sends us?