

Hymns 44, 495, 502, 572, 619, 689, 702

Sunday Evening 7/2/ 2023

“Taught by God’s Word”

Romans 15:4-13

I. The Bible (Scripture) is our teacher –

⁴ For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, ... Romans 15:4 A (NKJV)

Question 3 What do the scriptures principally teach?

The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man.

1. The Bible teaches us doctrine that we might know God, and have life (salvation) –

³ **And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3 (NKJV)**

2. The Bible teaches us duty, that we might obey and glorify God -

⁸ **He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8 (NKJV)**

Paul would have his Roman readers, who read his letter Romans, which is Scripture itself, read all of the Bible ...

II. The Bible (Scripture) is our patient and comforting counselor -

that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Romans 15:4 B (NKJV)

When I read these words, I could not help but personify the Bible. The Bible is patient with us. It is a Comforter to us! I could picture the Bible with glasses and a kind face, a soft voice and a large SOFA, for me to lay down on!

In fact, for me I am blessed with a Bible I often read on a King size bed, and another water-proof Bible I can read in my pool! God is going to require a LOT of me –

⁴⁸ **... For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more. Luke 12:48 B (NKJV)**

III. God is He Who speaks to us with the patience and comfort of Scripture –

⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you ... Romans 15:5 A (NKJV)

1. Note that the same words used to describe Scripture patience and comfort :4 describe God :5.

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IV. As we are taught God's Word, by Scripture and God's grace, and granted by God:

1. We become or should become "like-minded" –

⁵ Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, Romans 15:5 (NKJV)

A. Doctrinal agreement as we learn and agree on Biblical Truth –

From Scripture we learn MANY different things: we learn about God's grace but also about His wrath ...

We learn God is all-knowing, infinite, eternal, unchangeable ...

We learn Jesus is God's Son and born of a virgin!

We learn about circumcision, the Passover, baptism and the Lord's Supper ...

We learn about the sabbath and the Lord's Day, about God creating the Heavens and earth, and us in six days ...

MANY THINGS could mean many things we might disagree about, but, if we are all learning from the SAME BIBLE, we should expect the same doctrine / learning ...

B. Patience with each other, a desire to comfort and encourage each other as we all KNOW God has been patient with us -

Yet, patience is needed among us, because we are not all at the SAME PLACE in our Christian walks, and some have different backgrounds.

Like-minded means = Agreement

But "like-minded toward one another" means a like-minded grace and patience especially to those who are at beginning stages of learning!

2. We become those who speak to each other like the Scriptures and God Himself speaks to us!

A. This is definitely a Preacher Thing ...

B. But definitely NOT a Preacher ONLY THING –

¹³ but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13 (NKJV)

C. A good- friend is better than a professional counselor Thing –

²⁴ A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Proverbs 18:24 (NKJV)

Hymns 44, 495, 502, 572, 619, 689, 702

3. *This is a glorify-God thing –*

⁶ that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:6 (NKJV)

V. *We glorify God with our unity and diversity –*

⁷ Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. ⁸ Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* to the fathers, ⁹ and that the Gentiles might glorify God for *His* mercy, as it is written: *“For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.”*

¹⁰ And again he says: *“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!”*

¹¹ And again: *“Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!”*

¹² And again, Isaiah says: *“There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”*

¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:7–13 (NKJV)

1. *Receive one another can be in reference to stronger / weaker brethren Paul discussed before ---*

2. *Here though we see “the circumcision” mentioned verse :8 and Gentiles highlighted with quotes from the Old Testament in verses :9 - :12.*

3. *Jews and Gentiles both are expected to glorify God for His mercy - :9*

4. *Here Paul than emphasizes Old Testament verses that mention the Gentiles –*

:9 -

⁵⁰ Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name. 2 Samuel 22:50 (NKJV)

⁴⁹ Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name. Psalm 18:49 (NKJV)

:10 –

⁴³ “Rejoice, O Gentiles, *with* His people;... Deuteronomy 32:43 A (NKJV)

:11 –

1 Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! Psalm 117:1 (NKJV)

:12 -

¹⁰ “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.” Isaiah 11:10 (NKJV)

2. *Of course, HOPE is promised to the Gentiles who were once considered without hope, because they were without God -*

¹¹ Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Ephesians 2:11–13 (NKJV)

Hymns 44, 495, 502, 572, 619, 689, 702

3. *Diverse and yet unified praise continues to this day and will into eternity –*

⁹ And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, ¹⁰ And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth.” ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!” ¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: “Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!” ¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.
Revelation 5:9–14 (NKJV)

Henry D. – Elder, Dutch, Angry, Pushed Sunday Evening Attendance, hired prisoners and shared the Gospel with them ... was known for honesty / integrity in doing his work

Chieko K. – Japanese Quiet, shy, Sunday Morning / Evening / Wednesday Morning / Evening constant attendance, witnessed through faithfulness and crafts!

Erica O. – Jamaican – stern, EARLY to worship services, walked 3 miles per day into 90s, baked cakes, grew roses, led among the women, made sure the pastor did not forget things!

Rynthia J. - Jamaican Lady ---- member here / member of one of my first churches David C. All American Boy - died at 17 --- Both were JOY FULL HOSPITAL VISITS! Rynthia also had her funeral Super Organized!

Ralph G. - Long term elder faithfulness, a fighter for the faith ... glorified God as a head of a household loving his wife and family – 8 children!

Michael A. - Ukrainian could talk for hours without STOPPING ... much of it praising God!

Norma B. could barely talk because of disability, she was hard for many to understand. Yet, if you did understand her, you realized she had a great mind and a commitment to God. Despite a difficult life it was RARE when you ever caught Norma not smiling!

We serve and rejoice in the God of Hope –

³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13 (NKJV)

Arnold A. Brevick