

Sermon Outline August 14, 2016
“The Path to Hope & Glory” Romans 15:1-7

I. The Path to Hope & Glory: Is a path filled with unselfish encouragement and edification –

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.² Let each of us please *his* neighbor for *his* good, leading to edification.³ For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” (Romans 15:1-3 NKJ)

1. *Paul has already define the strong and weak in terms of “faith” and in regard to eating meat (offered to idols) –*

A. *The strong person is the one who “believes” he can eat all things -*

For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats *only* vegetables. (Romans 14:2 NKJ)

B. *He believes he can eat all things, even meat offered to idols, because an idol is NOTHING -*

Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that *there is* no other God but one. (1 Corinthians 8:4 NKJ)

C. *However, not every believer is at the same place in regard to knowledge and faith -*

However, *there is* not in everyone that knowledge; for some, with consciousness of the idol, until now eat *it* as a thing offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled.⁸ But food does not commend us to God; for neither if we eat are we the better, nor if we do not eat are we the worse.⁹ But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.¹⁰ For if anyone sees you who have knowledge eating in an idol's temple, will not the conscience of him who is weak be emboldened to eat those things offered to idols?¹¹ And because of your knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died?¹² But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ.¹³ Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble. (1 Corinthians 8:7-13 NKJ)

2. *Pleasing your neighbor, rather than yourself, is different than pleasing men rather than God, these things show us both the*

flexibility and rigidity of the Gospel –

A. *In Romans 15:2 Paul talks about pleasing our neighbor for his good ...*

B. *However, he tells the Galatians not to be man-pleasers –*

As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.¹⁰ For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ. (Galatians 1:9-10 NKJ)

(1) *Our first aim ought to be to please God rather than ourselves or men –*

(2) *Our second aim is to forego what we may please ourselves with for the spiritual good or edification of our brother or sister!*

3. *Christ did not please himself – Romans 15:3*

3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” (Romans 15:1-3 NKJ)

This verse is taken from Psalm 69 –

Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; Shame has covered my face.⁸ I have become a stranger to my brothers, And an alien to my mother's children;⁹ Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, And the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. (Psalm 69:7-9 NKJ)

A. *These verses prophesy about Christ as a God-pleaser not a man pleaser, His zeal, for God's house, was part of the reason He was reproached!*

B. *However since His work on earth, ultimately His death on the cross to cleanse us from our sins was not about His own pleasure but ours, pleasure = salvation, He (Jesus Christ) is our example of unselfishness – see also Philippians 2:1-11!*

II. The Path to Hope & Glory: Is a path we navigate only with the direction of Scripture / The Bible –

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Romans 15:4 NKJ)

NUN. Your word *is* a lamp to my feet And a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105 NKJ)

All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for

reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17 NKJ)

Paul was taught by and taught from the Scripture! He used the Old Testament, as we see from verse :3, a quote from Psalm 69, even to teach about Christ!

1. *In Romans 15:4 He tells us Scripture gives us HOPE –*
 - A. *This is hope for a promised land, a better place, a place filled with people, even with the children of Abraham, the children who believe, children of faith –*

Therefore *it is* of faith that *it might be* according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all¹⁷ (as it is written, "I have made you a father of many nations ") in the presence of Him whom he believed-- God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;¹⁸ who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." (Romans 4:16-18 NKJ)

B. This place and life we hope for is eternal –
in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,³ but has in due time manifested His word through preaching, which was committed to me according to the commandment of God our Savior; (Titus 1:2-3 NKJ)

2. *About this hope Scripture teaches us to be patient through the patience ... of the Scriptures*

A. We need to be patience because our path is difficult –
"Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. (Matthew 7:14 NKJ)

B. We need to be patient with each other, because we are imperfect –
Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;¹³ bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*.¹⁴ But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. (Colossians 3:12-14 NKJ)

3. *However, Scripture not only teaches us to be patience, it also provides us COMFORT -*
that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

<A Psalm of David.> The LORD *is* my shepherd; I shall not want. (Psalm 23:1 NKJ)

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever. (Psalm 23:6 NKJ)

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God."⁴ "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."⁵ Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." (Revelation 21:3-5 NKJ)

III. The Path to Hope & Glory: Is a path of joint prayer and dependence upon God -

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,⁶ that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁷ Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. (Romans 15:5-7 NKJ)

1. *We should pray for like-mindedness toward one another, that we would be patient with and encouraging to each other :5*
2. *We should aim to with one mind and one mouth glorify God:*
 - A. *This means we need to know the Scripture – “one mind”*
 - B. *This means we need to make known the message of the Gospel - “and one mouth”*
3. *The way we receive and treat each other can glorify God - :7*

Note, it is the God of patience and comfort Who grants us these things, He enables us as we travel through this wicked world –
But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 NKJ)

Arnold Brevick