

Romans 15 – 14 March 2021

“Therefore...” Part 4 “Completing Your Maturity”

Introduction

*Paul wrote Romans as best document on salvation!!

***Rom 12-end** -applying righteousness to all of life

Romans 6:4 – “As Christ was raised up from the dead... even so we also should walk in newness of life.” But how?

*Rom 12 showed us how to apply our new righteousness to ourselves, the church & the world

*Rom 13 showed us how to apply our righteousness to government by being subject to their authority

*Rom 14 showed us how to mature in righteousness. When to call out sin & how to allow for difference liberties

*Rom 15 completes Paul discussion of maturing in righteousness. Are we heading in the right direction and actually maturing?

Today, we'll see **3 indicators that you're heading toward complete maturity**

1st indicator that you're heading toward maturity – You're becoming like Christ in sacrifice (Vs 1-7)

Read Vs 1-2

1. This goes back to chap 14's discussion of limiting our liberties
 - a. In order to not offend our brothers/sisters
 - b. In order to stay focused on the Gospel
2. Conduct your liberties in such a way that helps others, not being concerned with what you want
3. Focus is on what will it take to help them grow

Read Vs 3

1. Prophecy of Christ from Psm 69:9 indicating that to be like Christ mean you even accept abuse in order to give others what they need
2. Read I Cor 11:1 – “*Be ye imitators of me...*”
3. Being like Christ means putting others first

Read Vs 4

1. OT is still for today: teaches us forward thinking

Read Vs 5

1. Growing to be like Christ will make us likeminded with each other
 - a. THAT'S the common ground we seek
 - b. Many churches today have goals of
 - i. Being the best worship music in town
 - ii. Having the best community programs
 - iii. That's great, but don't leave the goal of becoming like Christ in mind and heart!
2. We should be coming into seeing things God's way...that is true wisdom and maturity!

Read Vs 6

1. The goal is to believe, think and speak the same things as the rest of the church
2. Can only do that as we're each being discipled

Read Vs 7

1. Don't let liberty issues keep you apart
2. Come together as Christ has made you 1 w/ Him

2nd indicator that you're heading toward maturity – You're becoming devoted in your calling (Vs 8-22)

Read Vs 8

1. Jesus came to serve Israel; He knew His calling
2. Fulfilled 3rd promise to Israel - being Messiah

Read Vs 9-12

1. Jesus also came so the Gentiles could find mercy, praise & glorify God
2. Jesus fulfilled the prophesy of what He was called to fulfill

Read Vs 13

1. Relationship w/ Christ is leading to good future
2. Read II Thes 1:11-12 – “...worthy of calling...”

Read Vs 14

1. The HS in you has equipped you for a mission and calling too!
2. We're called to help each other

Read Vs 15-16

1. Paul wrote boldly to these Gentiles b/c he knows that he's called to be the Apostle to the Gentiles
2. He endowed with the responsibility to help them come into knowledge of Christ.
3. When you know you're doing what God's mission is for you...you can be bold!

Read Vs 17-19

1. Paul speaks only of what he knows God has been doing directly thru him. (Firsthand info)
2. Paul praises God that He worked thru him as he fully preached the Gospel to the Gentiles
 - a. Read Acts 20:27
 - b. Paul worked hard to fulfill his mission

Read Vs 20-22

1. Don't put your hook in the mouth of someone that has already been hooked. Find your own fish!
2. Don't be arguing w/ Christians, go reach others!

3rd indicator that you're heading toward maturity – You're becoming flexible in service (Vs 23-33)

Read Vs 23-24

1. “No more place in these parts” – He can only stay so long, then has to be flexible to change
2. Paul desires to come see them & plans to

Read Vs 25-26

1. Taking the offering from Greece to Jerusalem
2. When you're poor you learn to flex w/ finances

Read Vs 27-28

1. Gentiles owe gratitude to Israel spiritually
AND materially

Read Vs 29

1. Paul would later come to them, but not the way he may have thought that he would
2. He was taken as a prisoner.
3. Even then, he accomplished much b/c he was flexible enough to deal w/ whatever situation he was dealt

Read Vs 30-32

1. Paul is asking them to pray for the advancement of the Gospel thru Him
 - a. This isn't selfish...it's for the Lord
 - b. Prayer give the Romans a change to join the ministry...and the same for us
2. Remember, this prayer will not be answered w a 'yes'. God denies this prayer.
 - a. We know Paul was flexible to STILL preach the Gospel, even when imprisoned and beaten
 - b. Chuck Smith had a saying, "*Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be broken*"
 - i. When you're rigid, it assumes you know the best path. (Read Prov 20:24)
 - ii. When you're flexible, it says you believe whatever God brings into your life is His will

Read Vs 33

1. What salutation is needed more for the flexible than that of peace?

Conclusion

So, coming into full maturity, what are the indicators?

1. You're becoming like Christ in sacrifice

- a. How are you doing with putting others 1st?
- b. As we each become like Christ, we'll grow closer together ourselves

2. You're becoming devoted in your calling

- a. Jesus and Paul sought to fully complete their assigned missions. Certainly, Jesus did!
- b. You have great purpose, dive deep!

3. You're becoming flexible in service

- a. Can we acknowledge that God knows the best path for my life?
- b. Can we accept that "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord and he delights in His way." Psm 37:23

Next week, Lord willing, we finish the Book of Romans.....with a Communion Service!