

Glen Park Gospel Church
Tuesday Evening Bible Study Group Notes

Rev Chris Trinham

Studies in Romans Series 6

No 35

Bringing Things Together

Scripture Reading: Romans 15:1-13

This study completes our survey of the doctrinal and practical teaching that Paul brought to the Roman Christians. The remainder of the letter consists of personal comments, greetings and explanations which we must leave for another time.

We have seen that Paul runs in parallel a letter directed to the Gentiles (Greeks and Barbarians) in the first part and to the Hebrew Christians in the other part. In this section he joins these two tributaries into one stream which ends in praise to God

All of God's Word Was Written for You v4. Paul has just quoted Psalm 69:9, and applied it to Jesus, one of more than a dozen such quotations from it in the Bible. E.g. John 2:17. Psalm 69 is Messianic and its words point to Jesus in both the Old and New Testaments. Paul in this instance points to Jesus as our example. He tells us that Jesus did not please Himself, but bore the reproach of His Father. Therefore we ought to take his example into our lives and not please ourselves, but our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Scripture was written for we who follow after. Logically, all writing anywhere is for future readers. The Bible teaches us by example both good and bad: it records God's promises: it explains the nature of things: it is a map and guide for our pilgrimage. It teaches us to wait patiently on God.

The Purpose of the Scriptures is to Give Hope v4. Hope is valid expectation. In the Bible hope is a certainty, not a wish as it is in our everyday use. More precisely the Greek text reads 'the hope', the specific hope of that which God has

prepared for those who trust Him, in Christ. The historical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is God's seal that our hope is guaranteed. Our hope will be fulfilled when Jesus comes again and we are also raised in His likeness.

For the Jew 'the hope' is Messianic, that is someone who would come and restore the kingdom which was promised to the Fathers long ago. Although they did not accept Him, Jesus is that Messiah, God's anointed.

He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. John 1:11 NASB

The Method of the Scriptures is

Instruction v4. Not all human teaching is wrong, neither is it necessarily correct. Jesus was caustic in his denunciation of those who taught their own tradition as the word of God. He made clear God's purpose in providing the Bible for us:

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life. John 5:39&40

The overall purpose of Scripture is to point to Jesus Christ and to teach us to trust Him in every aspect.

The People of the Old Testament Scriptures are Jewish v8. From the calling of Abraham to the death of Jesus Christ (who was sent only in ministry to the household of Israel - Matthew 15:24 & 10:5&6), there has been a process of selection (see Romans 9:4&5).

Each stage shorter and narrower; a people (Hebrew), a tribe (Judah), a genealogy (David), a family (Joseph & Mary) and a man (Jesus). God's focus zooms in on Jesus, the Christ. The Jews mistakenly thought it was all about them.

But Jesus's sacrifice was for all mankind. He consistently called himself the son of *the* man, rather than the son of David. In v9 'So that' should read 'but that', for Paul chose a conjunction of comparison. V8 and v9 stand in comparison.

Although Jesus came only in ministry to Israel, He came for the redemption of all peoples.

God's Heart is For the World v9.

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son . . . John 3:16.

Again:

In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now He commands all men everywhere to repent. Acts 17:30.

For this reason he calls to our attention, both Jew and Gentile, to witness the testimony of the Scriptures, showing that from the beginning, God's heart is for the world, for all men and women and children everywhere, and this is why

Bible quotations in this study are from the NIV, except as otherwise acknowledged.

He chose to work through the Hebrew people.

In this verse the word gentiles is from the Greek word *ethnos* (plural) or ethnics, meaning foreign nations. It is also used in vs9,10,12 twice, 16,18,27 & chapter 16:4 in this way. so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy; as it is written:

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing to your name" v9.

This quotation is taken from:

Therefore I will praise you among the nations, O Lord? I will sing praises to your name. Psalm 18:49.

This theme of world wide praise is repeated in the next three verses:

Verse 10, Deuteronomy 32:43

Verse 11, Psalm 117:1.

Verse 12, Isaiah 11:10.

Paul Sought to Conform to the Role God Planned for His People

v15&16. He saw his role as a Jew to be a priest to the Gentiles in order that they might know of and come to Him for cleansing from sin and acceptance into His presence; that the earth should be filled with praise to His name. This was God's declared purpose for His people. See Exodus 19:5&6 & Isaiah 61:6.

A Benediction. In verse 13 Paul concludes with a blessing. May you be included in it:

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit v13.

Welcome

Glen Park Gospel Church

Lower Road, Eltham North

Sundays 10.30 am

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