



Romans

Right With God

Getting Personal

Romans 14:14-33

Lesson Forty-Six

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Getting Personal

The verses in our study today make two very practical statements. First, Paul said that he was writing them to remind them of important spiritual matters. Second, Paul wrote to them about his intention to visit them, and the things he must do before he came. Paul was getting very personal with the Romans. Read Romans 15:14-16, 20, 25-29, 31, 32.

We see in these verses the humble way Paul spoke at times. Yes, he could be direct, even harsh. But here he is very gentle and gives the Romans credit for knowing what he has been talking about. Michelangelo once was beginning work on a large block of marble. Someone asked him what he was doing. His response was something like, "I am going to release the angel that is in there." Paul was trying hard to bring out the best in the church in Rome.*

He had tried to speak to the difficult problem of whether the Jews were right or not. He had to remind them that the Jews were wrong about some things. He wanted them to see that they all stood on level ground before God, when they had faith in Jesus.

Next, he explains that his personal calling is to be a missionary to the Gentiles. He was, he had said, as Jewish as anyone ever was. But God called him from that life to a task of which the Jews would definitely not approve. He said that his joy in life was bringing glory to Christ Jesus by serving God.

He went on to say that he had been successful in that to which God had called him. The next verses tell us that Paul never claimed personal success. He surrendered to God, and God's Holy Spirit used him. Verse 18, "I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me..." It is easy to imagine watching his face shine as he said, "So from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ."

Paul gave us a special insight into his missionary strategy. He said that he had never wanted to preach to people who were regular church goers. His ambition was always to find people who had never heard about Jesus and tell them the Good News for the first time. He even quoted Isaiah, who in the fifty-second chapter, was talking about Jesus, the "Suffering Servant." Isaiah said that though many had not heard of Jesus, they would see what they had not been told about and hear what they had not heard. Paul is saying that he was just carrying out that mission. He was going where no one had ever heard. He wasn't happy following someone else in ministry, he was a pioneer...out in front in delivering the Good News.

Then, Paul shared with the Romans his great ambition to go to Spain. He told the Romans

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that he fully intends to come by Rome on his way to Spain. He wants to spend time with them, and fulfill his long-standing desire to get to know them and their church.

But first, he had to go to Jerusalem. The churches in Macedonia, most likely led by the church at Philippi, and the churches in Achaia, which is now Greece, had donated money to help the Christians in Jerusalem. Paul was in charge of delivering the offering to them.

Paul makes a plea to the Romans to join him in prayer for his trip and for his safety in Jerusalem. He was aware of the danger, and had even been warned not to go to Jerusalem. Those fears were well founded. When he got there, he was attacked, arrested, and sent to jail in Caesarea. He would stay in prison there for two years. He was finally sent from Caesarea to Rome to be tried before Caesar. He would finally get to see the Romans then.

Scripture Memory: "Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God." Romans 15:17

*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.

For the Teacher:

Lesson Goal: To encourage the student to imitate Paul, witnessing to everyone they meet.

1. Peter had the same attitude as Paul when he humbly assured his readers that he knew that they are not ignorant. He said, "So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory as long as I live in the tent of this body, because I know that I will soon put it aside, as our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me." II Peter 1:12-14 True ministers of the Gospel will always approach teaching with humility. Their attitude will be like that of Paul and Peter
2. Notice three things Paul said about the Christians in Rome: First, they were "full of goodness." Goodness as Paul uses it here, is the highest possible proof of having attained Christ-likeness. Second, they were "filled with all knowledge." This is the direct result of goodness. This is not referring to intellectual knowledge, rather he addresses spiritual discernment. Being smart doesn't mean one is "in Christ." But, spiritual perception, ability to see spiritual things and know what is of God and what is not, is the sign of a Godly person. Third, the church in Rome demonstrated their ability "to admonish one another." Because the Romans were good and had spiritual insight, they were able to teach and guide one another in Christian living. They could even correct one another in Christian love and thus bless each other and the church.
3. Paul, in verse fifteen, said that he had written to them very boldly at points. Some have suggested those locations in this letter are: 6:12-21; 9:17, 18; 12:3; 13:3, 4 and certainly 14:1-15:13. It is interesting to note that this letter includes some of the most profound Christian statements ever written. Paul, however, doesn't choose to call attention to that. Instead, it seems that Paul is willing to allow the letter, and their understanding of it, speak for itself. He has spoken, dictated, some of the most powerful and life-altering words ever recorded.
4. Notice Paul's words related to prayer. He first asks the Romans to "strive" with him in prayer. Verse thirty. Prayer is not always an easy thing. God's answer to this prayer for Paul had serious consequences.

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Student Worksheet

Getting Personal

=Paul was trying hard to bring out the _____ in the _____ in Rome.

=He wanted them to see that they all stood on _____ ground before _____, when they had _____ in Jesus.

=He said that his _____ in life was bringing _____ to Christ Jesus by serving God.

=Paul's ambition was always to find people who had _____ heard about _____ and tell them the _____ for the first time.

=Paul shared with the Romans his great ambition to go to _____. He told the Romans that he fully intended to come by _____ on his way to Spain. He wanted to spend _____ with them, and fulfill his long-standing _____ to get to know them and their _____.

=Paul makes a plea to the Romans to join him in _____ for his trip and for his _____ in _____.

Scripture Memory: "Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God." Romans 15:17

A Roman Road to Salvation:

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." Everyone is a sinner and needs salvation.

Romans 6:23a "For the wages of sin is death." The law of God is unchangeable. If someone sins the penalty must be paid, the payment is death.

Romans 5:8 "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners Christ died for us." God loves us so much, according to John 3:16, that He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins.

Romans 6:23b "But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." The penalty for sin is spiritual death, but God, through the death of Jesus on the cross, took the penalty for the sins of all people, and now everyone can have eternal life. See also, II Corinthians 5:21

Romans 10:9, 10 "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." To personally receive the gift of God, eternal life in Christ Jesus, you trust God to be what He says He is. Believing that "God raised Him (Jesus) from the dead" is to accept all that the Bible says about God and His Son, Jesus. Then you speak (confess) the words, "Jesus is Lord," as a statement of faith. Believing "with your heart" means that you believe with your mind and with everything that you are.

Romans 10:13 "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." You have the promise of God Himself that if you do what Romans 10:9, 10 says, you will become God's child and have eternal life.

Romans 12:1, 2 "I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will." Becoming a Christian is a life-long act of faith and worship.