

God's Righteousness at Work IX

"Be A Mature Christian!"

Romans 15:1-13

Going Beyond the sermons into the Scripture preached by Pastor Peter Oh on March 19, 2017

Entering In:

*Why do you think God calls a Christian through personal faith to a community of faith (church)?
In other words, why is the church necessary in a Christian journey?*

1. Do you think you are weak or strong in faith? Why?

What are the two *obligations* of the *strong* mentioned in verses 1 and 2?

What does it mean to *bear with the failings* (*lit. weaknesses*) of the *weak*?

- A. Put up with the scruples of the weak.
- B. Carry each one's burdens (cf. Galatians 6:2).
- C. Other

2. Who is the *neighbor* in verse 2?

What does it mean to *please our neighbor*?

- A. Always defer to the whims and wishes of others.
- B. Don't do anything to cause your brother to stumble.
- C. Other

What does Paul say about *pleasing men* in Galatians 1:10? (cf. Colossians 3:22; 1 Thessalonians 2:4).

What different result does "pleasing our neighbor" bring from what "man (human)-pleasing" does?

3. Verse 3b is a quote from Psalm 69:9. Who is "me"?

What does this tell us?

Compare: what Christ was called to bear; what we are called to bear. How does this enhance the force of Paul's exhortation to *bear with the failings of the weak*?

4. What does reading the Scriptures do for us?

If your friend claims that we don't need the Old Testament anymore since Jesus' incarnation, how can you respond to him/her using verse 4?

5. What is Paul's petition in verses 5-6?

How does the petition relate to the two obligations discussed above?

What should result if God answers this prayer?

Does our church need God to answer this prayer for us?

Take some time right now to bring this petition for *our* church to God as a group.

6. In verses 8 and 9, Paul overtly mentions Jews and Gentiles for the first time in this section of Romans. Why do you think he brings this up at this point?

- A. The Jews were the *weak*, and the Gentiles were the *strong* believers.
- B. There was a need in the church to overcome prejudice/discrimination between them.
- C. To help the Jews understand that God's redemptive purpose accomplished through *a servant of the Jews* was worldwide in scope.
- D. Other

The phrase, *servant of the Jews*, is literally translated, *minister of the circumcision*. Why do you think Paul refers to the Jews here as "the circumcision"?

What is the purpose of Christ's office as *minister of the circumcision* for the Gentiles? (cf. Galatians 3:28-29)?

How does it encourage you to know that God foretold Gentile inclusion into His family?

7. Why does Paul quote the Old Testament passages in verses 9-12?

What great truth do they teach?

8. What specific *hope* does Paul seem to have in mind as he concludes this section in verse 13 regarding the Jews and Gentiles? (cf. Romans 11:12, 25; 16:26-27)

What are four essential Christian qualities mentioned in verse 13?

How are they related to each other?

Living It Out:

Who can you make an effort to build up this week and how will you do it?