

Sermon #2, Romans 1:8-15  
September 22, 2005  
Pastor Wesley G. Rowe  
Calvary Bible Church

For those of you who were here last week, you will recall that I showed you that Chapter 1, vv. 1-17 is broken down into 3 parts.

## **AN OUTLINE OF THE INTRODUCTION (VV. 1-17) TO THE BOOK OF ROMANS**

- 1.) Section 1 is the salutation (vv. 1-7).**
- 2.) Section 2 (vv. 8-15) is the expression of why Paul desires to visit the Roman Christians.**
- 3.) Section 3 (vv. 16-17) is the synopsis of the Gospel which is the main message of the rest of the Book of Romans.**

Today we will be looking at the second part, but before we do, I want to briefly remind you of what we learned from vv. 1-7.

In vv. 1-7, we find mention of 6 persons or groups of persons. PAUL, GOD, CHRIST, SPIRIT, GENTILES AND CHRISTIANS AT ROME

And Paul tells us important information about all 6 persons in his personal greetings, but let me remind you of 4 of them.

### PAUL

- 1.) Paul, A Servant Of Christ Jesus.
- 2.) A Called Apostle ("sent one")
- 3.) Set Apart For The Gospel of God
- 4.) Paul Recognized That God's Grace And Calling In His Life Was Received For A Purpose (v. 5).

### GOD

- 1.) God is the author of the gospel which Paul preached.
- 2.) God had the message of His gospel written down in the Scriptures.

### JESUS CHRIST

- 1.) Had a human nature.
- 2.) Had a divine nature.

### CHRISTIANS AT ROME

- 1.) Called To Belong To Jesus Christ
- 2.) Loved By God
- 3.) Called To Be Saints

Now having reviewed that, follow please as I pick up the text in vs. 8 and read through vs. 17.

Learning to play hurt. I don't know if you have ever heard the term, but certainly every athlete has heard it at one time or another, "playing hurt" or "learning to play hurt." You ever heard that term?

There are many ways that you can be hurt, most of the time in the Christian life it is emotional hurt. In sports or at a job, you can be hurt in a lot of ways. When serving the Lord, hurt is usually emotional hurt.

It appears that the people to whom Paul is writing are hurt. And you know why they are hurt? They think that Paul has overlooked them and forgotten them and considered them to not be real important! Paul has been a Christian for 20 years and

Rome is the greatest city on the face of the earth and Paul, the great Apostle to the Gentiles, that they had heard so much about had “dissed” them. He had never visited them and they were hurt. They thought that it meant that Paul had not wanted to visit them. I want you to notice that no less than 4 times in vv. 8-14, Paul informs the Roman Christians that he wanted to see them. Vv. 8-10, vs. 11, 13, vs. 15. Paul keeps coming back to this theme that “I long to see you,” “I don’t want you to think I didn’t want to come”, I’m eager to come;” “Now at last the way is opened for me and I am coming.”

But you know what? Though the Roman Christians were hurt due to not understanding why Paul had not come to see them as we will see in a few minutes, they did continue on in their own faithful service to Christ. Look at vs. vs. 8. Let me ask you something. Is yours? Are you known as a believer who can deal with pain and hurt and go on for Christ so that your witness for Christ is not damaged and your service to Christ is not broken? Folks, one big mark of spiritual maturity is learning to play hurt.

Now why hadn’t Paul come to see them up to this time? What had delayed Paul for 20+ years? The text tells us. Look at vv. 13-15. Now keep your finger here and go back with me to nearly the end of the book, Chapter 15. Look at vs. 23.

**PAUL HAD NOT COME TO VISIT THE ROMAN CHRISTIANS FOR 20+ YEARS BECAUSE HE WAS SO BUSY SERVING THE LORD ELSEWHERE AND BEING SUCCESSFUL AT IT THAT HE COULD NOT GET AWAY!**

Now why did Paul want to visit the Romans? He gives us 2 reasons.

1.) PAUL WANTED TO BEAR FRUIT IN ROME THROUGH PREACHING THE GOSPEL (Vv. 13-15).

2.) PAUL WANTED INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE ROMAN CHRISTIANS SO THAT THEY AND HE COULD PROSPER MORE IN THE LORD (vv. 11-12).

**PAUL BELIEVED THAT EVEN HE; AN AGED CHRISTIAN COULD BENEFIT THROUGH FELLOWSHIP WITH LESS MATURE CHRISTIANS!**

Griffeth Thomas said, “STRENGTH AND COMFORT ARE TO BE FOUND IN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP. SO IT HAS EVER BEEN, SO IT EVER WILL BE, AND THE MORE FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR FELLOW-CHRISTIANS WE HAVE, AND THE MORE WE REALIZE THE FULL FORCE OF THE TERMS, ‘BROTHERS’ AND ‘SISTERS’, THE STRONGER OUR LIFE WILL BE. EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS RECEIVED SPIRITUAL BLESSING IN ORDER TO IMPART IT.”

Calvin said, “IN CHRIST’S CHURCH NO ONE IS SO POOR AS NOT TO BE ABLE TO CONFER UPON US SOME IMPORTANT BENEFIT; BUT OUR PRIDE HINDERS US FROM REAPING THESE MUTUAL BENEFITS. LET US NEVER FAIL TO MAKE THE VERY MOST OF FELLOWSHIP WITH ANY WHO ARE IN CHRIST.”

- Let us never fail to make the very most of fellowship with any who are in Christ.”
- Paul was always looking for opportunities to bear fruit for God. The bearing of fruit is what had prevented Paul from coming to the Roman Christians.
- Vs. 14, Paul realized that due to God’s call on his life, he had a debt to pay. It must be paid to two races of people, civilized and uncivilized, and to two capacities of men, intelligent and ignorant.
- Vs. 14, Paul is saying that he is under obligation to preach to all classes of men. Paul’s commission was a general one, confined to no one nation or class of people. Because Paul was bound to all men, he was ready to preach to those at Rome too.
- Paul was not afraid of traveling to Rome. There was nothing in that great city and no one living there whom the message of the gospel was not for.
- Vv. 8-15 breathe the spirit of love to the Roman Christians.
- The faith of the Roman Christians was of such a character that others took note of it and talked about it.
- Paul served the Lord “in his spirit” as opposed to an external, outward service.

-The gospel of His Son means that gospel concerning His Son.  
-“Now at last” –Paul had looked forward to it for a long time, but only now was it made possible by the will of God.  
-Paul wanted to bring something to them that would strengthen their faith. Paul knew that through them interacting with one another, they would strengthen one another in the faith.  
-Paul hoped to see them that he might do them some good-that he might contribute something to their spiritual lives. But that wasn’t the only reason that Paul wanted to see them. Paul hoped to receive some benefit from them. Paul had been saved for 20 years and was the great Apostle to the Gentiles, but he still believed that he could get something from other believers that would profit him.