

Romans: Farewell

(Scripture Here)

Introduction:

1. We are concluding the book of Romans.
 1. Paul's *Magna Opus*, contains deep theological truths and also challenges us to live out those truths.
2. Here Paul is going to give a brief summary of the key theme.

I. Grace Transforms relationships

- A. (Romans 15:1-13)
- B. The Gentiles are not an afterthought.
 1. One of the recurring issues is that the Jews thought of themselves as the "chosen" ones.
 - a) Gentiles were regarded poorly.
 - (1) Unclean, ignorant, lesser than.
 - b) (Galatians 3:27-4:7)
 - (1) The special relationship has been extended to the gentiles through Christ.
 - (2) ALL who are baptized now belong to Christ.
 2. Who are the individuals that we regard as "afterthoughts"?
 - a) Partiality is a serious issue:
 - (1) (James 2:1-13)
 - b) Non-Americans? LGBT people? Criminals? Homeless?
 3. We need to be very careful that we don't do as the Pharisees did:
 - a) (Matthew 23:13)
- C. Our God is a God of Hope
 1. We know the promises of God.
 - a) (John 14:1-4)
 - b) (Philippians 3:20-21)
 2. There is no sin so great that our God cannot forgive.
 - a) Consider the sin of Paul, the sin of David, the sins of Rahab.
 - b) (Romans 6:14)

II. Grace Grants Courage

- A. (Romans 15:14-21, 28)
- B. Paul is spurred to evangelism by his knowledge of Grace
 1. He has traveled the world, and he plans to continue traveling!
 2. Our scope of the Gospel is sometimes too small.
 - a) I'm thankful for what has happened in the United States.
 - b) We are a small fragment of the rest of the world.
 - (1) There are missionaries working diligently throughout the world to share the Gospel.
 - (2) There are Bibles published in nearly 3589 languages... accessible to 97% of the world's population.

- C. We need to realize that wherever we are, we are missionaries in a mission field.
 - 1. There is not a “clergy-Laity” distinction
 - a) (1 Peter 2:9-10)
 - 2. How to be effective missionaries:
 - a) Intentionality
 - (1) Paul made plans to approach his targeted audience:
 - (a) He went to the synagogues
 - (b) He spoke in ways people would understand.
 - (2) Learn to see opportunities.
 - (a) We need to train ourselves to see opportunities as they present themselves.
 - b) Courage and boldness
 - (1) (Romans 1:16)
 - (2) How much do you have to hate someone not to share salvation with them?
 - (3) Where does boldness come from?
 - (a) Knowledge
 - i) Ill. Debate with Noah Wallace in Seminar
 - ii) Articulation requires mastery
 - (1) “Preach from the overflow”
 - (b) Experience
 - i) Evangelism is a skill that requires practice.
 - c) Perseverance
 - (1) Mission work (foreign and local) is extremely taxing.

III. Final Warning

- A. (Romans 16:17-20)
- B. Be careful to avoid what is false
 - 1. (Galatians 1:16)
 - 2. There are always those who will try to manipulate and use others for their gain.
 - a) We need wisdom and discernment
 - b) We need strong leadership
 - c) We need strong membership.
- C. Our desire is to hold to the doctrines given to us.

Conclusion:

- 1. Point One