

Romans: The Gospel

Fullness of the Blessing: The Gospel

Romans 15:22-16:27

Romans, finished! 9 months, baby - <i>fullness of blessing</i> did it birth something in you?	The Gospel! Good news! Of what? ... Not your religion, God's work for you & in you!
Study up! 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus next	[Pray]

:22-24 Hindered Paul wanted to go to Rome, but couldn't The call and ministry demanded he be elsewhere - third missionary journey Paul felt called to go to Spain That'd be the opportunity to go to Rome (in his plans) Making opportunity to see people • Business trips, friends, family • Making most of journey • Folks back East Like Paul, If you love someone, you'll figure it out • Other believers? • Those ministered to / with? • Do we forget, not make the time? Some drift is natural, but others, connection remains despite distance	Paul's bold to say, help me go to Spain Not begging, knew they'd <u>want</u> to help Their heart, and their wallet, was for ministry <i>Remember Romans 10, going and sending</i> Proverbs 25:19 - Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble Is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint. The blessing and relief to have friends who share the vision, we can count on: personally & together in the <u>work of the gospel</u> <i>Spreading the gospel takes work</i> <i>The Holy Spirit's leading</i> <i>Open doors</i> <i>Willing hearts</i> <i>Hands to the plow</i> 3+ journeys - how much effort, danger, expense - let alone in his day. • Antioch eastern HQ • Hoping Rome western HQ?
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:25-27 Paul wanted to go to Rome, planned for Spain - but the next stop: <u>Jerusalem</u> • 3 missionary journeys, possibly 4 • Rom. written towards end of 3rd, 57 • Goes to Rome as a prisoner 60-61, • After release makes it to Spain during possible 4th 6-10 years later 63-67	Why is he going? To bring money back for the poor Couldn't someone else go? Probably. But Paul was willing & able. Poor in Jerusalem Selling all, didn't work out, the commune where nobody works and everybody shares isn't so great "Occupy til I come" Hard times
A heart for Jerusalem. Where it all started. • Believers should view Israel specially • Entire Bible happens in that region • Not place worship, but healthy love for where God has done and is working	<i>What about the place where you first saw God do a work?</i> <i>OCNY, don't want to live there, but care for the believers, fond memories, grew up, God worked and is working there!</i>
Gentiles: partakers of spiritual, <u>duty</u> to material <i>Cheap tippers, poor service?</i> Don't be a cheap disciple!	Gentiles receiving gospel from...Jews! Which is more important? Spiritual or material? If spiritual, shouldn't be a big deal to repay with material Time, effort, money, help, etc.
:28-29 Again, firm plans: Spain next through Rome Rome was right, timing and events not <u>Our plan vs. God's plans</u> Proverbs 16:9 - A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps. <i>Yiddish - Man plans but God laughs!</i>	The fullness of the gospel in word, in life lived, obedient to God's way God is the author of our lives • He'll give glimpses • "Friend knows what doing" • means of travel, not always our idea God gives Paul a free ride to Rome - as a prisoner (shipwrecked, too! But gospel shared)

It's important that we put our faith in the One who's written the story

Not in how the story plays out

- Healed? In heaven
- Called to go? Not how you imagined

The key is - if it's with Jesus, for the gospel, it'll be a full blessing

Filled, complete

Psa 23:5c My cup runs over.

*Thanking the Lord
Proclaiming his goodness
When accepting how he's filling your life
Situation, in His way*

"Taste and see the Lord is good"

:30-33

Striving together - in prayer

Want unity? Pray together. Pray for one another. Pray for the advancement of the gospel.

It puts everything else in perspective.

Risky to go back...

Jews hated Paul.

Tried to kill him. 1st Journey

Dangerous -

Not because of unreached

But those who heard the message, and refused it

Wanted to do a good job, full, complete

The company of sincere believers is always refreshing - walk away, ahhh (it's why sometimes it takes 3x to leave church!)

16:1-2

[1-16 in chunks]

Phoebe from Cenchria

- eastern harbor of Corinth
- Romans written while in Corinth, 57
- She delivered letter

Letters of recommendation

- Better than a degree
- **Your name in the Bible?**
- **Fullness of blessing!**

Many women in these lists, vital importance of women, **serving!**

Servant,

those willing to do anything and everything for the gospel

Word also used for deacon

Was she official? Not translated that way

Requirements in Timothy

Vicki

Those who truly serve

don't need a title to truly do it

"Ministry in the Spirit by a woman is different altogether from her taking over authority, or infringing upon the order of the assembly of God." (Newell)"

Many pagan names, no need to change - Like Paul <i>Loa's - Hawaiian I thought!</i>	<i>S,M,A had name changes forced on them to brainwash them</i>
:3-5 Priscilla and Aquila Husband and wife, Acts, Apollos Home church! <i>Hands, steeple, The church is not the building, it's the people!</i> <i>My wife is my partner in the gospel</i>	What's the fruit of ministry? People coming to <u>faith</u>. <i>NY, missions trips, airports, youth group in town - salvation</i> <i>"Lord added daily those who were...saved"</i>
Risked their necks not a glib saying In their age, they actually did risk death	<i>Remember, this is scripture, God's Word, held high, yet composed of: Real letter, real people, real Christian lives</i>
:6-9 • In jail, for a time, with Paul • Of note among the apostles! • Well known for good things with the church leadership Believers before Paul Coming to faith earlier doesn't make you better Even Paul had people he spiritually respected Especially since he rejected so long, his heart seems soft to those who never resisted like he did Best friends? fellow workers	:10-13 Countrymen - boys from your hood Whole households getting saved Acts 16 Twins, parents, children, people working very hard for Jesus <i>The burdens of some ministries, making people do things, the minute a warm body shows up</i> <i>I don't think anyone on this list was compelled by anything other than their love for Jesus because of His love for them</i>

:14-16

**many in every city, in every place,
in every station of life**

A holy kiss -

European kiss, **Our hugs!**

**We are family,
family is affectionate -
but in holy ways**

We'll see later in Timothy

Unity in the churches for other churches!
Because we're believers in the same Jesus!

:17-18

**We need to note - mark, look
at, contemplate - those who
cause division and offense -
contrary to doctrine**

Don't be that guy or gal!

**That's the key - scripture clearly
says this, they clearly reject it,
reform it, rewrite it or use it for their
own gain**

- Some find problem with everyone
- There is no gift of criticism
- But like Mike Winger, others - good

Noted why?

To avoid them

Keep others from being hurt

Maybe even bring them to repent

*Disease, lies, fleshly stuff spreads quickly
weeds, cancer, rot*

Timothy told this is a big part of the fight

We must protect ourselves from bad actors
and doctrine within

:19-20

**When you're faithful,
word spreads too -**

they're disobedient,
but you, you're obedient

Reputation goes before you

Many churches and regions like that

**Focus on the things of God, good things,
kingdom things**

Learn, do

Evil, know it's there, but don't dwell on it

*We tend to know everything about the
Epstein situation, but not enough on
ministries that help kids, prevent abduction,
etc.*

**Don't give up - even in the capital of the
evil empire**

**An encouragement - God will
have the victory over the
enemy, and He'll use you**

That's a full blessing!

:21-24 Timothy is the pastor in Ephesus, we'll learn more about Paul's vision and writing We take glasses and medicine for granted Tertius wrote it down (how cool is that) Gaius, hosted Paul - and a <u>church</u> City treasurers The gospel - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all - Jew, Gentile	:25-27 Establish you - that's the gospel, establishing you in Jesus <i>From there, the church, everything else</i> <i>That's the work of planting - establishing believers - not a building</i> <i>The fullness that continues</i>
My gospel - Romans. Paul's exposition on this <u>mystery</u> of God with us	Preach one thing only, one person Jesus Christ - and how he's revealed in scripture -
<u>Secret since the world began</u> Everything God was leading up to from before Creation to Adam to Noah to Moses to David to Isaiah to John the Baptist - to Jesus' life and death and resurrection <u>Now made PLAIN</u>	Easy to see, meant to be <u>understood</u> God doesn't want to be hidden! The gospel is obvious! He wants a relationship with us - free from sin And religion, works, won't accomplish it It was a mystery before, but not now
The blessing of the <u>full</u> (overflowing) gospel	• Fellowship with God • Fellowship with other believers • God with us - works done • Peace, His Spirit, gifts, calling • A new life • Hope, looking forward to, heaven

Not just getting saved from the old and going to church to say thanks once a week • But a new life lived from that point of salvation • Work done along the way • Blessings in all forms in all ways • Friends in many places and positions who are going the same way • All Concerned for the same work	• Built on and by a personal relationship with the Lord • that grows deeper and more special by the day • Not out of works to please him • But the gospel, • good news that He's the answer for everything The way, the truth and the life And you're set free to go with him on the adventure of your lifetime One that He wrote and planned for you • Like many who have gone • before, alongside, and after • Until we feast forever together
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The focus of the gospel:
V27

To God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.