



Gray Areas

Part III

ROMANS 15: 1 – 13

23 FEBRUARY 2020

SERIES: ROMANS: THE ROAD TO RIGHTEOUSNESS

Romans 15: 1 - 4

¹ Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not *just* please ourselves. ² Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. ³ For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” ⁴ For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Romans 15: 5 - 8

⁵ Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷ Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God. ⁸ For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision on behalf of the truth of God to confirm the promises *given* to the fathers,

Romans 15: 9 - 13

⁹ and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written, “Therefore I will give praise to You among the Gentiles, And I will sing to Your name.” ¹⁰ Again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people.” ¹¹ And again, “Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, And let all the peoples praise Him.” ¹² Again Isaiah says, “There shall come the root of Jesse, And He who arises to rule over the Gentiles, In Him shall the Gentiles hope.” ¹³ Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Bear the Weakness

- ▶ The responsibility is for the strong to bear weakness.
 - ▶ The strong are those without convictions in gray areas.
 - ▶ Bear refers to a willing and loving action, not begrudgingly.
 - ▶ Don't just please yourself, please others for their edification.
- ▶ Christ our example, reference to Psalm 69: 9
 - ▶ Paul testifies to this Psalm referring to Christ.

Scripture's Blessings

- ▶ Scripture instructs, encourages perseverance and encouragement in our hope or eager anticipation of God fulfilling all His promises to us.
- ▶ The same mind or uniting together.
 - ▶ God is the God of Scripture and tied together in perseverance and encouragement.
 - ▶ One accord and one voice glorify God together.
- ▶ Accept one another, with all our differences of conscience just as Christ has accepted all of us.

All Nations Come Together

- ▶ Christ is identified as a servant to the Jews confirming all the promises to the fathers.
 - ▶ And for Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy.
 - ▶ In both cases God's mercy and grace saves.
 - ▶ Despite all the differences we are one family.
- ▶ God's intention to save Gentiles is clear from Scripture.
 - ▶ Paul quotes from the Law, Prophets and Psalms proving that God has always intended to save Gentiles.
- ▶ Concluding with a blessing in prayer

Conclusion



- ▶ Choose to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ by willingly bearing the burden for them connected to matters of conscience.
- ▶ Christ our Lord and Scripture gives us all the support to serve in such a way for the glory of God and the uniting of the church.
- ▶ We are all one family of God, one church and will be challenged by matters of conscience, but will act and serve each other in love.