

Romans – Chapter 1:8-15

GCF Hardcore Bible Study

September 17, 2003

1 Theme

Romans is an epistle (written communication), and Paul continues by offering a thanksgiving and prayer for his readers (this is common practice in Greek letters, except that those usually contain some petition to the gods). The mere fact that the Romans have faith is reason enough to proclaim it all over the world (well, wherever Christianity has been preached) and to thank God for it

2 Theological Applications

What does it mean to serve God?

It's an offering of worship to God.

What does it mean to pray to God?

- Greek word: *deomai* – ask, request, beseech, personal need, cry for help
- Other Greek words for prayer:
 - *proseuchomai* – entreat, to God in general
 - *aiteo* – ask for, request
 - *erotao* – ask, generally used as a question for Jesus
 - *entynchano* – to intercede

3 Paul's reasons for going to Rome

- Impart some spiritual gift
- Have a harvest
- Preach the gospel

God's will: Paul is uncertain about the future, but is confident that God controls his personal destiny on Earth.

4 Spiritual Gift

What is the nature of this gift?

God's special endowment of believers for service to the community of faith. It is some insight or ability, and cannot be specified in this case until Paul sees what their needs are. Greek word: *charisma*

Who benefits from this gift?

Both benefit. Paul recognizes that he and the Romans have different perspectives and gifts that, when shared, bring mutual edification. Also, the Roman church was not founded by Paul, so he doesn't want to over-assert his authority. Greek word: *symparakaleomai* means to encourage together.

5 Harvest

What is it?

Product of apostolic labors. Does it only mean an increase in the number of Christians through evangelization among the Romans? No. It also refers to the strengthening of the faith of the Roman Christians.

What is the purpose?

Paul's obligation. Greeks refers to all Gentiles (which include Romans). Non-Greeks actually refers to barbarians, or the inferior cultures. As to the wise and the foolish, the word for fool (Greek word: *anoetos*) refers to believers that have lost their spiritual way (from a divine viewpoint) and now see things in a distorted fashion. It does not refer to moral judgement.

6 Preaching the Gospel

Why does Paul need to preach the gospel to believers?

Ongoing teaching and discipleship that builds on initial evangelization.