

Grace and Peace

(Rom 1:7-15)

Read introduction: Rom 1:1-15

- Best to take this next section (v.7-15) together as it is one statement and then expound it in parts
- I. The introduction can be divided into 2 parts: general and specific
 - A) General- v. 1-middle of v.7
 - B) Specific- middle of v.7 -15
 - 1. Up until this point, Paul has approached these Romans generally as he would all saints, but in v.7 he begins to speak more directly to them and about them
 - 2. This statement can be divided into 2 parts
 - i. Things Paul says about the Romans
 - ii. Things Paul says about himself
- II. Although this introduction is not specifically laying out any doctrine, look how full it is of doctrinal things
 - A) New Testament teaches “faith + works” or “doctrine + practice”
 - 1. These are never to be separated
 - B) Our doctrine is to be translated into our life, and if we are sincere, it will be
 - 1. So here we find everything Paul says is due to the doctrine he believed
 - 2. In other words, every word was in light of doctrine believed, Paul practiced what he preached
 - 3. Paul is really just saying “I have you in my heart and prayers and desire to come have fellowship with you”
 - i. But look at the amazing way in which it is said!
- III. Paul’s desire for the Romans is “grace and peace”
 - A) This is a complete statement and there really is nothing to be added to it
 - B) Grace- unmerited favor, kindness and goodwill from God
 - 1. Grace= that which comes to us as a result of God’s love
 - 2. Eph 3:14-21- Filled with fullness of God’s love
 - 3. Eph 1:3- All spiritual blessings (in spite of our sins)
 - i. Heb 4:14-16- Let us come unto throne of grace boldly
 - a) Because of the Lord Jesus Christ
 - C) Peace- absence of restlessness, end of enmity, without strife and uncertainty
 - 1. Grace always leads to peace
 - 2. Grace and peace are like alpha and omega
 - i. Rom 5:1- Peace with God because of the Lord Jesus Christ

- a) 2 Cor 5:21- Peace a result of His grace, and never our merit
- b) Col 1:21- No longer alienated in our mind by our wicked works
 - (1) God does not look favorably on man until he is “in Christ”
 - (2) Man cannot escape his sense of enmity with God until he has had his mind satisfied that God is no longer angry at him
 - (3) “Our souls are restless until they find their rest in Thee”
 - Augustine
 - (a) Do we have this inner peace? If not, then why?
 - (b) Our prayers are a good test. When we get on our knees, do we have to first convince ourselves that God will hear us?
- ii. Phil 4:6-7- Peace of God by abiding in Christ
 - a) Phil 4:11-13- Paul’s peace of God
- D) “From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”
 - 1. Equality of Christ with the Father
 - 2. “Our Father”- Paul doesn’t just say “God” but Father
 - i. All grace and peace are only available to the children of God
 - ii. It is through the knowledge that He is now “our Father” that we can cease from restlessness and anxiety
 - 3. “And the Lord Jesus Christ”
 - i. John 1:16-17- Grace and truth came (comes) by Jesus Christ
 - ii. Eph 1:22-23- All fulness in Christ
 - a) John 7:37-39- Living water
- IV. Paul gives thanks to God for these Romans
 - A) He thanks God and not the Romans themselves for “joining church”, because they didn’t do it, God did
 - 1. Rom 1:7- “Beloved of God, called, saints”
 - 2. Phil 2:12- God worketh in you
 - 3. 1 Cor 15:10- “I am what I am by the grace of God”
 - B) He thanks God for their faith
 - 1. Why not thank them? Eph 2:8-10!!!
 - 2. He doesn’t mean their “special faith”
 - i. 1 Cor 12:9- He doesn’t mean the spiritual gift of faith
 - a) This is that gift of such men as Hudson Taylor and George Mueller
 - 3. Rom 12:3- God has dealt to every man the measure of faith
 - i. The “faith” Paul is speaking of is saving faith that all children of God have from God
 - a) We ought to all thank God that we have faith at all
 - b) 2 Thess 3:2- All men have not faith
 - c) Heb 11:6- Without faith it is impossible to please God
 - C) Paul is thankful “because your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world”

1. “Whole world” means Roman world (hyperbole)
2. Paul undoubtedly means the churches scattered throughout the world, as the lost have no interest in Christ or His church
 - i. 1 Thess 1:8- Same true of Thessalonians
 - ii. “You mean there are some of us even in Rome???”
 - a) “Don’t tell me there are real Christians in Washington DC???”
 - b) Phil 4:22- Saints in Caesar’s household
3. How could this be noised throughout world without radio, TV, or internet?
 - i. Revival needs no advertisement!
 - ii. The Holy Spirit is the power behind the work and He assures the flames spread wherever He desires
 - iii. Example of the Hebrides Islands
4. What was it about these people that spread?
 - i. Matt 5:14-16- Holy Spirit lights in order to shine
 - a) It was the Christian living of these Roman saints that people were talking about, and which caused the lost to take notice in Rome
 - b) Is anyone seeking God because of our light today? Do grace and peace show in us?