

WHAT EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE ROMANS 1:8-15

Text:

Introduction:

In my life, I have been blessed by the Lord to have been in the company of some great men of God. Men, who by the lives they have lived, the message they have preached and the motives from which they served the Lord have made a great impression on my life.

Paul, a man with his great influence and power in the early church faced temptation to do things from an improper motive. However, I can find no record of Paul misusing his authority or influence for personal gain, or any other impure motive.

In the first 7 verses of this chapter, Paul introduces himself to the believers in Rome. He tells them about himself, the messenger, and about his message, the Gospel of grace.

Now, Paul turns the spotlight upon himself in a very real way. He shares with these people, whom he has never met, the motives behind the letter he is sending.

In these 8 verses, the Apostle Paul reveals 9 traits of genuine Christian character that tell us in no uncertain terms What Every Christian Should Be.

We'll look at these things tonight. May we allow the Word of the God speak to our hearts.

1. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE THANKFUL (VS. 8)

Romans 1:8

⁸First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

As Paul begins writing to the Romans about his motives, he tells them that he is thankful for them.

Paul did not found this church. It had been founded by another. Many men would have been jealous of the blessings that the Romans were enjoying.

Instead of being jealous, Paul was thankful! He could praise the Lord whether it was part of his ministry or not!

We can all learn from this.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

¹⁸In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Also we note something else, we too should be known as people with solid faith.

2. EVERY CHRISTIANS SHOULD BE COMMITTED (VS. 9A)

Romans 1:9

⁹For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Paul now tells the Romans that he is totally committed to the Lord. Every word he uttered everything he wrote, everywhere he went, Paul was a living witness to total surrender.

Romans 12:1-2

¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE PRAYERFUL (VS. 9B)

Romans 1:9

⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

Paul made prayer a priority and the Roman believers were never taken off Paul's prayer list.

We don't know what Paul prayed for but we may find some things in other cases.

Ephesians 3:14-19

¹⁴ For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, ¹⁶ That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; ¹⁷ That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸ May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; ¹⁹ And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

Philippians 1:9-11

⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment; ¹⁰ That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ; ¹¹ Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Colossians 1:9-11

⁹ For this cause we also, since the day we heard *it*, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the

knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;
¹⁰ That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; ¹¹ Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

We should pray for others

4. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE SURRENDERED (VS. 10)

Romans 1:10

¹⁰ Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

Paul didn't stop with prayer for others, but he also prayed that he might be the instrument of God in answering that prayer. His desire was to travel to Rome, but Paul was willing to surrender his will to the will of the Lord.

A heart like Paul's is a heart that the Lord can use for His glory.

A heart that knows no higher goal than pleasing the Lord at all times.

John 4:34

³⁴ Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

John 8:29

²⁹ And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

5. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE USABLE (VS. 11)

Romans 1:11

¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

Paul continues to reveal his heart to the Roman Christians; he tells them why he wishes to come to Rome. He wants to share with them the gifts that God has given him.

Paul is willing to come to them and be used of the Lord as the Lord sees fit. It is as if the Apostle is willing to be used by the Lord in any fashion if it will just help the Romans.

2 Timothy 2:21

²¹ If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work.

6. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE HUMBLE (vs. 12)

Romans 1:12

¹² That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Not only does the Apostle desire to be a blessing to the Romans, but he knows that they will be a blessing to him as well. Notice that with this man, it isn't all about him. He is just as aware that they have things to share with him also.

. It is a shame when people get to the place where they think they have "arrived", and that they cannot be helped by others who aren't as mature in the Lord, as educated or as experienced as they themselves are. All of us need to be reminded that we all have plenty of growing to do.

Philippians 3:12-14

¹² Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:12

¹² Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

7. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE FRUITFUL (vs. 13)

Romans 1:13

¹³ Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

Paul reminds them that he is interested in glorifying the Lord. He has been used of the Lord to bear fruit all over the known world. Paul says that he would like to travel to Rome so that he can get some fruit there also. His desire is not to build up himself; rather it is to glorify the Lord.

When we think of being fruitful three things come to mind.

A. Attitude – These are described as the fruit of the spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

B. Activity – When a believer lives for the Lord there will be activity.

Three ways this activity translates into fruit are:

1. Holy living

Romans 6:22

²² But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

2. Praise

Hebrews 13:15

¹⁵ By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

3. Giving

Philippians 4:16-17

¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. ¹⁷ Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

C. Addition

Acts 16:5

⁵ And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

8. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE OBLIGATED (VS. 14)

Romans 1:14

¹⁴ I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

As Paul wrote to the Roman Christians, he that he felt a deep debt to those who needed to hear the Gospel message.

9. EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD BE EAGER (VS. 15)

Romans 1:15

¹⁵ So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

Paul closes these verses stating that he is ready. That word means “Eager”.

Every Christian should be eager about serving the Lord.

We often lack that excitement when it comes to the Lord's work.

We need believers in this day who are excited about the things of God.

Close:

Let's take some time to examine ourselves tonight. These are things that should be present in our lives. May we allow the Lord to make us into the Christian that we should be.