

Romans 15b

14 Paul's encouraging words to these believers shows his trust in what Christ can do in them. Only God is good, so if we are full of goodness we are full of the Spirit. Complete in knowledge of salvation and the essentials of the faith - not 'know it all' or all wisdom- Instruct one another, Paul sees us as needing to learn from each other, not the present one man leader form of assembly. see 1:11,12 Does any part of your body not need input from the other parts? If it did it would be useless. Fellowship is the communication of the parts. I heard a young Japanese Christian explain fellowship to an unbeliever who asked what the word meant. He said, "An unstructured time where we just talk and have fun." Well, that is probably what he had observed but it is way short of what the word means. to share in, jointly participate in, when a collection was made from all. There is the idea that all have an input to make up the whole. In the body of Jesus all are to be participants.

15 Paul has been called of God to minister to the Gentile through grace he has received. So Paul is an instrument of the Holy Spirit to remind them of things they knew but hadn't held in perspective, or practiced. Would that apply to us?

16 He has boldly declared that salvation is by faith not lineage, and is available to anyone. Paul describes his calling. He shares the gospel of God with Gentiles, that we can be an acceptable offering to God. Like the lambs for sacrifice, unblemished by the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. 1Pt 1:2 sanctifying work of the Spirit ... through the sprinkling of blood. Acts 26:18, 1Thes 4:3, 2Thes 2:13, Jn 17:17

17 It is OK to be excited, enthusiastic, about what Christ has done through you when you recognize it is by His grace. Not to do so is to be half-hearted or to have limited his work or have some kind of false humility. Am I excited about what God has done through me?

18 Paul's delight was his service to God, that is, what Christ accomplished through him. This concept of Christ working through us is so clearly expressed here. This is our desire. We lead others to obeying God - away from rebellious disobedience, by what we SAY and DO.

19 By (power of signs and miracles) Through the power of the Spirit! If what we say and do is not the power of the Spirit, it is not Christ accomplishing things THROUGH me. Paul had a sense that he had done a good job at letting Christ use him. He fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. See 12:3

20 A missionary's heart. This is almost a definition of a church planter. He does not want to bring in the people from another church or another's ministry, but desires to reach people who have never heard! Lord use me like this!

21,22 Isaiah 52:15 The mission mind set: Reach the lost. He was busy planting churches and proclaiming the gospel.

23-27 Do we have the same mind set of sharing material blessings with those who share spiritual blessings? God's desire is needs met by sharing.

28,29 He had the confidence that when he got there it would be in the full blessing of Christ. God's hand would be on the visit.

30 His struggle is to share the Gospel to the Gentiles. He invited the Romans to participate by praying to God for that ministry. I often invite people from around the globe to share in the work here by praying for us.

31,32 Here is that mutual encouragement, mutual refreshment, Fellowship! 1:12 He got there eventually in chains.

33 Peace was evidently a need in the Roman church, between Jew and Gentile, weak and strong Christian, and always with God. We can pray God's glorious attributes into a situation. Col 3:15