

ROMANS 04 – 1:8-15

Paul's Prayer and Purpose

1. 1:8

- a. The first seven verses were not teaching material, it is biographical.
- b. The next seven are practical verses dealing with Paul's prayer and his purpose.
- c. Paul is first thankful, and that to God
 - i. Thanksgiving has an object, not count your blessings- Psa 100:4-5, Phil 4:6
 - ii. When man became thankless he became godless – Rom 1:21
 - iii. Good manners/politeness comes from grace doctrine – 1 Cor 15:33
 - iv. Faith without prayer is a buried faith, it will die –Eph 3:14-18, Col 2:7
 - v. God's will is to be thankful in all things - Col 3:17, 1 Thess 5:17-18
- d. "spoken" against by everyone – Acts 18:2, 28:22
- e. "throughout the whole world" whose center was Rome - Mark 16:15 vs. Col 1:23

2. 1:9-10

- a. "my witness" – God hears our prayers, and can do more – Eph 3:20, Rom 8:26
- b. "serve with my spirit" – opposed to his flesh, or any other selfish reason
- c. "without ceasing" = without fail. Non-stop prayer is a mystical addition to Bible.
- d. Prayer requests are not demands or covenant claims, but petitions – Phil 4:6
- e. Paul learns that about prayer requesting and God's sufficiency in 2 Cor 12:8-9
- f. His request is not granted by God; he comes to Rome in chains.

3. 1:11-12

- a. "spiritual gift" is doctrinal and to build mutual faith – Rom 10:17, 16:25, Col 2:7
 - i. Establish vs. stablish is about laying a foundation to be fixed – Eph 4:14
 - ii. Not any of the gifts of the Spirit that would fail in 1 Cor 12 or Rom 12
- b. "mutual faith" is what Paul wanted to form in them: Gal 4:19, Col 1:28, Rom 8:29
- c. "comforted together" is the reason we need to assemble - Col 2:1-3, 1 Cor 14:3,31
 - i. We don't do it alone, we are members of each other – 1 Cor 12:19
 - ii. Work needs to be done, but before work, we need stablished saints.

4. 1:13-15

- a. Rumors of Paul's rude speech and timidity – 1 Cor 2:4, 4:18, 2 Cor 11:6
- b. The preaching of the cross is foolish to whom? Romans – 1 Cor 1:18-23
- c. "let hitherto" (archaic words are easy to understand) – Rom 15:22, 1 Thes 2:18
- d. "fruit among you" – which comes from mature saints – 1 Cor 3:6-7, Rom 7:4
 - i. There are lots of *green* believers making a mess of Christianity.
- e. "debtor" we may say it was his duty, a word/idea that is archaic (out of use)
- f. Greeks were not heathen Gentiles, but were erudite, studied, 'civilized'.
- g. The gospel of Christ is sent to all men – 1 Cor 9:20-22, Col 3:11, Rom 11:13
- h. He is ready to preach in *Rome*, because of the 'power of God' – 1 Cor 1:24-25