

# “The Romans Road Rebooted”—Part 19

AUGUST 24, 2014

---

***Paul finishes the book of Romans reminding us of these things:***

## **1. Christ came as a SERVANT.**

- **ROMANS 15:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant...

- **ISAIAH 53:1-2 (ESV)**

*Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?<sup>2</sup> For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him.<sup>3</sup> He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.*

- **MATTHEW 20:25-28 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup>But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them.<sup>26</sup> It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,<sup>27</sup> and whoever would be first among you must be your slave,<sup>28</sup> even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- **ROMANS 12:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

- **PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11 (ESV)**

*So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,<sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.<sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,<sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,<sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.<sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,<sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

✚ **Christ was God, He was King of kings and Lord of lords and yet he came as a servant.**

✚ **He humbled Himself of all that He deserved and came to be ridiculed and mocked and beaten and hung on a cross.**

✚ **And we think it notable and sacrificial that we just show up most weeks to church.**

✚ **Christ came as a servant and He is our example...nobody is above Christ when it comes to servitude and humility.**

**2. Christ came to the CIRCUMCISED, that they might KNOW God’s truth, CONFIRM and fully UNDERSTAND His covenant promises, and that the Gentiles might ENTER this covenant and GLORIFY God.**

- **ROMANS 15:8-12 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name."

<sup>10</sup>And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

<sup>11</sup>And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him."

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

- **JOHN 18:37 (ESV)**

"...For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice."

- **JOHN 10:7-16 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup>So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. <sup>11</sup>I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. <sup>12</sup>He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. <sup>13</sup>He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. <sup>14</sup>I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, <sup>15</sup>just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. <sup>16</sup>And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

- **EPHESIANS 3:1-6 (ESV)**

For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, <sup>3</sup>how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. <sup>4</sup>When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, <sup>5</sup>which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

### **3. Christ came, bestowing on us a blessed HOPE that we might ABOUND in it as one people.**

- **ROMANS 15:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup>May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

- **COLOSSIANS 2:6-15 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup>Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, <sup>12</sup>having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.

- **1 PETER 2:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

 **It is in this blessed hope that we become a purposeful people making disciples and building His kingdom!**

#### 4. The fullness of our purpose becomes realized in our ability as His Church to function **INDIVIDUALLY** and **CORPORATELY** to fulfill His commands.

- **ROMANS 15:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> *I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.*

✚ **Let's remember how Paul opened this letter to the Romans:**

- **ROMANS 1:8 (ESV)**

<sup>8</sup> *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.*

- **ROMANS 12:4-8 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> *For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. <sup>6</sup>Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; <sup>7</sup>if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; <sup>8</sup>the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

- **HEBREWS 5:11-14 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> *About this we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. <sup>12</sup>For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, <sup>13</sup>for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. <sup>14</sup>But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.*

- **HEBREWS 6:1-3 (ESV)**

*Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, <sup>2</sup>and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. <sup>3</sup>And this we will do if God permits.*

#### 5. When we are not fulfilling our purpose, then we must remain **TEACHABLE**, accepting **CORRECTION**.

- **ROMANS 15:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> *But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God...*

✚ **Are you teachable? Are you correctable? How do you respond when you are preached to or taught or told something that you are doing is not Biblical or not honoring to God?**

✚ **Paul told Timothy these things:**

- **2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5, 13-17 (ESV)**

*But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup>For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup>treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup>having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people...*

<sup>13</sup> *...while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. <sup>14</sup>But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup>and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup>All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

- **2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5 (ESV)**

*I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom:<sup>2</sup> preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.<sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,<sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.<sup>5</sup> As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

- ✚ **Paul's exhortation to Timothy gives us two sides that one can stand on.**

- ✚ **You are either teachable and correctable by the Word of God or you are not.**

- ✚ **We find that Scripture and Scripture alone is useful for all things...including teaching and correction.**

- ✚ **I have no problem making the claim that if you are not willing to be taught, rebuked, corrected or trained by the Word of God, then you are not a Christian.**

- **1 JOHN 2:3-6 (ESV)**

*<sup>3</sup>And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. <sup>4</sup>Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him,<sup>5</sup> but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: <sup>6</sup>whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.*

- ✚ **I believe that apathy in this area is a damning proclamation as well.**

- **EPHESIANS 4:1-6 (ESV)**

*I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called,<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love,<sup>3</sup> eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—<sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism,<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.*

- ✚ **If we are not willing to be taught and corrected, we are advocating for disunity in the body.**

- ✚ **If we are apathetic when it comes to being taught and corrected and trained in righteousness, we are dividing the local body by our sense of selfishness and self-centeredness by trying to act independently of the body.**

- ✚ **You are willfully holding the church back. If you are a foot in the Church, you are declaring that unless you want to move, the body is going nowhere.**

- ✚ **You would not be acting as part of the body. You would be dividing the body by your apathy toward teaching and training and correction.**

- ✚ **That is why I have no trouble in making the claim that if you are doing this and advocating this type of disunity, you are not a Christian.**

- ✚ **I am not saying that the body must determine a consensus of what is true, but since truth has already been declared in God's Law-Word, we must be willing to be taught, corrected and trained in righteousness.**

- ✚ **I'm not concerned with whether you agree with or like or want what is being taught...I am concerned that I and you and all who claim to be Christian would remain teachable and correctable by God's Word.**

- ✚ **Apart from this, you would not be acting in conformity with Scripture and therefore not Christian.**

**6. This also is why God gives us ELDERS, PASTORS and TEACHERS and so on in order to fulfill this ministry by the Holy Spirit.**

- **ROMANS 15:15-19 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. <sup>17</sup> In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. <sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ...

- **EPHESIANS 4:11-16 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> And he [JESUS] gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup> until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, <sup>14</sup> so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. <sup>15</sup> Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

- ✚ **Yes, you can study and must study the Word of God for yourselves.**

- ✚ **Yes, you can know and understand the Word of God by the Holy Spirit on your own.**

- ✚ **But God specifically has given these offices, the responsibility to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to bring them to maturity, to maintain the unity of the faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ.**

- ✚ **We cannot claim to be a part of the Church, the bride of Christ, and have no need for the body of Christ or God's messengers.**

- ✚ **Christians need the Church and specifically the local church body.**

- ✚ **If you claim that you do not need the local church body, you are not acting consistently with the Word of God and are rebelling against what God has set up for your benefit and are not acting as a Christian.**

- ✚ **In fact, I would once again declare that if you say you don't need the Church, you are not a Christian.**

- ✚ **I take it personal when someone acts as if they can live without my brothers and sisters in Christ.**

- ✚ **I take offense when anyone in this congregation acts as if they can live without the body here.**

- ✚ **I become righteously indignant when:**

- Anyone in the congregation acts apathetically toward this church

- Or lives as if they do not need their other brothers and sisters here

- Or act as if they do not want anyone involved in their lives

- Or act as if they don't have time for each other

- **EPHESIANS 5:25-27 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

- ✚ **My heart's desire is to not to beat down this body, but just as I desire to sanctify my wife with the Word of God, I want to do the same thing for this body, presenting her to Christ without blemish.**

- ✚ **I want God to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant" when my race in this life is over.**

- ✚ **Christ came for a purpose and part of that purpose was to unite His people in His truth.**

- ✚ **He then gave us each other to build His Kingdom. In doing so we must be willing to be taught and corrected and encouraged and trained and even rebuked.**

- ✚ **He has given His messengers to instruct and equip us to fulfill this purpose of building His Kingdom.**

- ✚ **We cannot take this lightly.**