

I Glory in Christ

Romans 15:14-22

"We are coming to the end of our study of Paul's great letter to the Romans. In it Paul has unfolded the Christian doctrine of justification by faith in all its many ramifications. He has demonstrated its necessity, described what God did to bring it about through the atoning death of Jesus Christ, explained how it works itself out by the power of the Holy Spirit in individual lives to give a permanent and sure salvation, and answered objections rising from the failure of the majority of Jews to believe the gospel. He has unfolded practical applications to this theology in such areas as yielding our minds to Jesus Christ, a proper evaluation of ourselves and others, matters of church and state, how believers are to live in light of the imminent return of Christ, and the need for Christians to accept and value one another." Boice

- I. The gospel's power to save and change a life for the glory of God cannot be contained by the efforts of mere man to suppress its influence in the world. Jesus Christ saves believers by the power of his shed blood, and he expresses his goodness and truth through sanctified believers by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are saved by his power, and if we take our faith seriously then we will find ourselves living by his power in a godless world that cannot and should not influence us toward its ways.

Rom. 15:14

- A. A church that takes its faith seriously makes sure to sincerely express the Spirit's fruit of goodness. Goodness is a supernatural work of the Spirit in the hearts of believers that shows itself in "uprightness of heart and life, goodness, kindness" (Strong's Lexicon). *"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)..."*

Eph. 2:10

B. A church that takes its faith seriously makes sure to be complete in knowledge. It is a church that will make every effort to develop a biblical worldview based on the infallible Word of God. It is a church that understands the influence the evil world system can have on how we believe, so it keeps itself focused on God's truth instead of on the world and its insidious, sinful ways.

Rom. 12:2

1 John 5:19 *We know that we are the children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.*

C. A church that takes its faith seriously makes sure that it is competent (powerful & effective) in how it teaches the Scriptures. It understands the importance of teaching the whole counsel of God's inerrant word through those gifted by the Holy Spirit to teach. It also has a teachable spirit that is willing to accept the admonishment of the Scriptures by letting it judge the thoughts and attitudes of the heart, so that we are changed more and more into the likeness Christ.

2 Tim. 3:16

Acts 20:28-31

Heb. 4:12

II. The evidence of the gospel is seen by how we live our faith. Our salvation sanctified us by the Spirit and presented us as an offering acceptable to God. Therefore, living the whole gospel means that as sanctified saints, we live in obedience to him in all matters of life, which includes sharing the "good news" of salvation to those in need of a Savior.

Rom. 15:15-22

2 Corinthians 5:14-15 *For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.*