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Spiritual Service to God

Romans 1:8-12

I. Paul Gave Thanks for the Church in Rome (v. 8)

- A. His thanks was _____ to God (v. 8a)
[1 Cor. 1:4; Phil. 1:3; Col. 1:3]
- B. His address to God was _____ (v. 8b)
[Psa. 63:1]
- C. His gratitude was expressed _____ Jesus Christ (v. 8c)
[Jn. 14:6; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4:16; Rom. 8:15]
- D. His thanksgiving was for _____ of them (v. 8d)
[Eph. 2:13-15]
- E. His thanks was because of their _____ (v. 8e)
[Rom. 16:19; 1 Thes. 1:8]

II. Paul Prayed for the Church in Rome (vv. 9-10)

- A. God was Paul's _____ (v. 9a)
[Rom. 11:13; Phil. 1:8; 1 Thes. 2:5]

- B. The Gospel was Paul's _____ (v. 9b)
[Lk. 4:8; Rev. 7:15; Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 3:3]

- C. Prayer was Paul's _____ (v. 9c-10)
[2 Thes. 1:11-12; 1 Thes. 5:17; Eph. 6:18; Rom. 15:30; Eph. 3:14-19;
Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-11]

III. Paul Wanted to Impart Some Spiritual Gift to the Church in Rome (vv. 11-12)

- A. Paul longed to _____ his fellow believers (v. 11a)
[Rom. 1:13; Acts 19:21; Rom. 15:20, 22; Prov. 16:9]
- B. Paul sought to _____ some spiritual encouragement (v. 11b)
[Col. 1:28-29; Eph. 4:15]
- C. Paul wanted to be _____ encouraged (v. 12)
[Eph. 4:1-3; Rom. 14:19; 15:14; 1 Cor. 12:25; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:32;
1 Thes. 5:11]

TAKE HOME:

- How do you give thanks to God for those He has placed in your life? How do you _____ this gratitude to others?
- How do you make prayer a priority and an _____ part of your relationship with others, especially if you can't be with them in person?
- How can we impart spiritual encouragement to one another? Do you have a healthy _____ of both encouraging others and being encouraged by them?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placiritachurch.com.

1. Read Romans 1:8. Which one of the five different aspects of Paul’s thankfulness to God for the Roman believers encouraged you the most? Why? Please explain this to the group. (1 Cor. 1:4; Phil. 1:3; Col. 1:3; Eph. 2:13-15; Rom. 16:19; 1 Thes. 1:8)

2. Read Romans 1:9. Why was it important for Paul to call God as his witness? (Rom. 11:13; Phil. 1:8; 1 Thes. 2:5)

3. Describe the connection that exists between worship and service. How does this help you as you grow both in your understanding and practice as a Christian? (Rom. 12:1-2; Deut. 28:47-48; Ex. 25:2)

4. Romans 1:10. What was so unusual and what blesses you from examining Paul’s prayer life both in Romans 1:9 as well as in Paul’s other prayers? (2 Thes. 1:11-12; 1 Thes. 5:17; Eph. 6:18; Rom. 15:30; Eph. 3:14-19; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 1:9-11)

5. Read Romans 1:11. Why did Paul long to be with the believers in Rome? What spiritual gift did he want to impart to them? (Rom. 1:13; Acts 19:21; Rom. 15:20, 22; Prov. 16:9; Col. 1:28-29)

6. Read Romans 1:12. What is so beautiful about this verse? In what ways could Paul and the Roman believers be mutually encouraged? How can that same thing happen in your life between you and other believers? (Eph. 4:1-3; Rom. 14:19; 15:14; 1 Cor. 12:25; Gal. 5:13; Eph. 4:32; 1 Thes. 5:11)

7. Read the take home questions. Which one challenged you or encouraged you the most? Why? How will you live your life differently this week based on what you learned from this passage?

“Proud people do not give thanks. Humble, grace-filled people say thanks frequently. Paul fills the opening of his letters with thanksgiving to God. We would do well to begin our days with thanksgiving to God and to pepper thanksgiving to God in our everyday conversations with one another.”

- Tony Merida, *Christ-Centered Exposition Exalting Christ in Romans*