

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 04 Sept.....Romans 1:1-17..... Good News To Tell
- 2) 11 Sept.....Romans 1:18-3:26..... Good News to Hear
- 3) 18 Sept.....Romans 3:27-4:25..... Good News to Believe
- 4) 25 Sept.....Romans 5:1-21..... It's All About Grace
- 5) 02 Oct.....Romans 6:1-23..... It's All About New Life
- 6) 09 Oct.....Romans 7:1-25..... It's All About Victory
- 7) 16 Oct.....Romans 8:1-39.....It's All About Certainty
- 8) 23 Oct.....Romans 9:1-11:36..... It's All About God's Plan
- 9) 30 Oct.....Romans 12:1-21..... Does Your Life Please God
- 10) 06 Nov.....Romans 13:1-14..... Can You Be Counted On
- 11) 13 Nov.....Romans 14:1-12..... Do You Respect Others
- 12) 13 Nov.....Romans 14:13-23..... Do You Strive for Peace with Others
- 13) 20 Nov .....Romans 15:1—33Part I. Does Your Life Speak Well of God?
- 14) 27 Nov .....Romans 16:1—27 Part II. Does Your Life Speak Well of God?

**INTRODUCTION**

- We all want to have real JOY in our lives – to be blessed beyond measure, to be a blessing to others, and to have no worries ...and Scripture gives us the formula how to achieve such JOY
- Plus, can we fully preach the gospel without signs and wonders?

Passage	Comments
Romans 15:1-6	<p><b>Priorities in Life Do Not Include Pleasing Ourselves</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we support the weaker church members?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Must evaluate each situation and properly give the right kind of help when needed</li> <li>♦ Support could be for food, shelter, discipleship, encouragement, a shoulder to cry on, helping hands, transportation, job training, counseling, money, etc.</li> <li>♦ The intent is to bear one another's burdens until such time the weak become strong, independent and begin to help others ..... Gal 6:2; 1Thes 4:12</li> <li>♦ <b>Warning</b> – Money could be the worst thing to give                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prodigal situations dictate using other principles</li> <li>- Recall how the prodigal son came to his senses and humbly went home after he realized nobody gave him anything ..... Luke 15:16-17</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15:7-13	<p><b>Be Accepting of Others, Serve the Body of Believers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v8. Just as Christ became a servant (greek: diakonos), we should be servants to one another – meet the needs of others before we satisfy our own needs</li> <li>• v13. This is Paul's prayer that we should abound, not in money, but in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit – &amp; the God of hope fills us with 'joy and peace,' not cash</li> <li>• Recall Rom 14:17 - God's kingdom is not meat &amp; drink; but righteousness, peace, &amp; joy in the Holy Ghost</li> <li>• This is faith produced feelings, not faith built on feelings</li> </ul>
15:14-21	<p><b>We Must Fully Preach the Gospel To Reach &amp; Keep</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics show the majority of church kids mentally leave the church during high school, and physically leave the church a few years after graduation</li> <li>• The Church is losing its next generation of leaders</li> <li>• Losing kids from church is just a byproduct of the real problem – God's word is non-essential for most</li> </ul> <p><b>"Where Europe is today spiritually, America will be tomorrow—and for the same reasons" – Ken Ham</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reverse this trend, consider the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Changing music &amp; worship styles is not working</li> <li>♦ Injecting technology into Church is not working</li> <li>♦ Having entertaining programs is not working</li> <li>♦ Must teach the whole counsel of God from Gen-Rev</li> <li>♦ Must show how the Bible is accurate and relevant</li> <li>♦ Must pray &amp; work in the power of the Holy Spirit</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
Note on Power of the Holy Spirit	<p>If Paul, through the power of the Holy Spirit, used signs and wonders to "fully preach the Gospel of Christ" can we invoke the same signs and wonders today? ..... <b>NO!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture gives plenty evidence for the cessation of Apostles, Prophets and the signs of an Apostle (see lesson from <a href="#">1Corinthians 12.14</a>)</li> <li>• For example, do we still see Apostles today, men like Peter and Paul, who have substantiated credentials of being handpicked by Jesus Christ, Himself? ..... <b>NO!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ If we did, the Bible would include more books than the 66 we currently accept as God-inspired since every Apostolic letter &amp; email would be included</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <hr/> <p>BUT can we have the power of the Holy Spirit without the evidence of signs and wonders? ..... <b>YES!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God loves to work providentially through men and women who are obedient to His word, who fervently strive in prayer, and who live a righteous life</li> <li>• Will signs &amp; wonders once again be invoked? ..... <b>YES!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Read about the 2 witnesses in Revelations 11</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15:22-29	<p><b>More Priorities – Meet Needs before Taking Vacation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v22. Paul wanted badly to visit the Roman church, but there were more pressing hardships in Jerusalem                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Even Satan hindered Paul's plans ..... 1Thes 2:18</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v27. We are indebted to the Jews                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ What have we done to show our appreciation?</li> <li>♦ Have we prayed for the peace of Israel?..... Ps 122:6</li> <li>♦ Do we contribute to any worthy Jewish ministries?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15:30-33	<p><b>More Priorities– Strive in Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v30. Even the sign-producing and wonder-working Paul requested that saints strive in prayer with him &amp; for him                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ To be rescued from the enemy</li> <li>♦ For acceptance by those he helped (often times people are ungrateful for any acts of kindness)</li> <li>♦ For traveling mercy and reasons for joy ... 1Thes 3:10</li> <li>♦ To find a time of rest/relaxation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- It is easy to lose sight of our priorities in life. We like to think getting our needs met is at the top of the list.
- But to have true JOY and peace in the "power of the Holy Spirit" means putting things in the proper order **J<sub>esus</sub> – O<sub>thers</sub> – Y<sub>ourself</sub>**

**NEXT WEEK: Romans 16.** We are introduced to more than 30 saints who supported the furtherance of the Gospel. It is important to acknowledge hard working saints in our midst and to uphold them

**The top 10 reasons why 60 percent of evangelical kids leave the church after graduating high school**

1. 12% Boring service
2. 12% Legalism
3. 11% Hypocrisy of leaders
4. 10% Too political
5. 9% Self-righteous people
6. 7% Distance from home
7. 6% Not relevant to personal growth
8. 6% God would not condemn to hell
9. 5% Bible not relevant/not practical
10. 5% Couldn't find my preferred denomination in the area

Source: *Already Gone*, by Ken Ham and Britt Beemer, 2011