

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

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

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_{esus} – O_{thers} – Y_{ourself}**

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