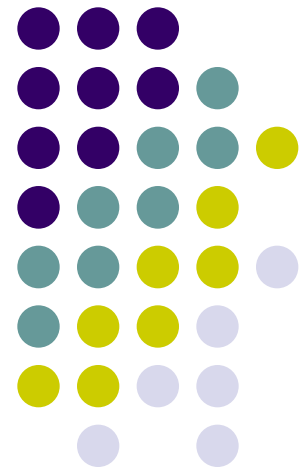


**“We are Weak but He
is Strong!”**

self-Denial in Ministry”
Romans 15



Sin



Sin is anything we
think, say, do, or feel
that trespasses against
God's character or Law.

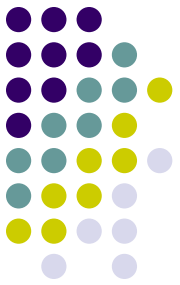
It is the natural, inherent condition
at conception.

Condemnation



Condemnation is the condition of being rightly declared guilty before God because of my sin and His holiness, and justly being sentenced to eternal death (separation from God).

Justification



Justification is the position of being declared right with God because of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ; for only those sinners who place their faith in Christ.

Salvation



Salvation is the forgiveness of sin, and the bestowal of eternal life on sinners who accept by faith the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the only solution for their sin which separates them from God.

Sanctification



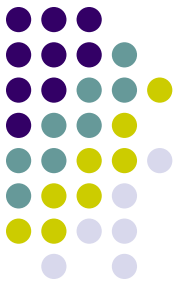
Sanctification is first of all being set apart from sin to God, and secondly it is the lifelong process of growing spiritually and becoming more and more like Christ in thought, word, deed, and feelings.

God's Sovereignty



To say that God is sovereign means that He justly and perfectly controls and works all things according to His own purpose and for His own pleasure.

Glorification



Glorification is the current promised position of every believer in Jesus of a transformed and new heavenly body, without sin, which is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit as the Pledge that it is ours right now today!

Prayer



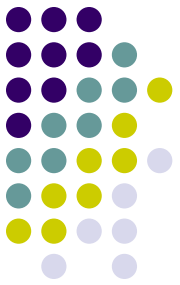
Prayer is communication
between
me and God.

Romans 1:16



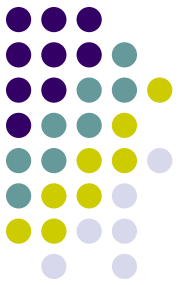
“I am not _____ of the _____ for it is the
_____ of God for the _____ of
everyone who _____, to the _____ first,
and also to the _____.”

Romans 8:28

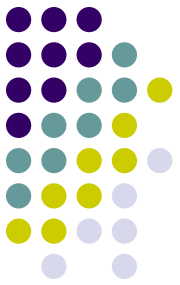


“And we _____ that God causes _____ things to
work together for _____ to
those who _____ God, to those
who are _____ according to
His _____.”

Romans 12:2



“Do not be _____ to this _____
but be _____ by the
_____ of your _____, so that
you may _____ what the _____ of
God is, that which is
_____ and _____ and _____.”



Context of Romans 14 & 15

1. Chapters 14-15 closely connected
2. “Weaker/Stronger” situation
 - a. Not weak morally (opposite!)
 - b. Weak in knowledge of **THE** faith
 - c. Jewish & Gentile Christians
 - d. Solution: Put others before self!



Themes

1. LOVE is more important than personal freedom. (14:13-23)
2. Follow Christ's example of sacrificial selflessness. (15:1-13)

Philippians 2

Their Town – Our Town



Sometimes there is tension between
personal freedom and
CORPORATE responsibility.

Power of “OUGHT!”



Reflects tension in all churches on the way Christians live their lives in:

1. Biblically ambiguous areas
2. Old Testament requirements
3. Reactions to non-moral, cultural issues



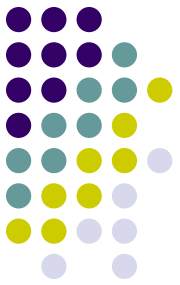
Will of God REVEALED in Ministry

“bear”

Doesn't mean grudgingly tolerate
but ***“to take up & carry;
come along side of”***

Like Jesus bearing the cross!

John 19:17; Luke 14:27



“Weaknesses”

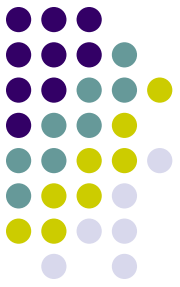
= “scruples of conscience”

NOT physical

NOT moral

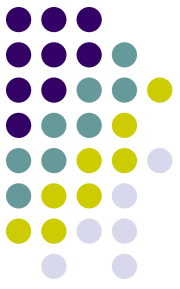
= sensitive to own personal convictions

“Not just please ourselves”



Present Active Imperative Negative Particle

- = ***Stop an act already in process!***
- = Self-centeredness is sign of immaturity
- = Following Christ's example is maturity!



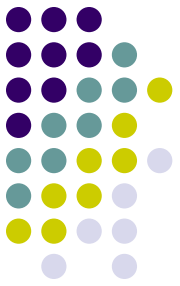
“For even Christ” (3, 5)

Christ is our example!

His ministry was *sacrificial* (1-7)

His ministry was *impartial* (8-13)

Appeals to two most important sources of authority for his readers! OT Scripture (3) and Christ!



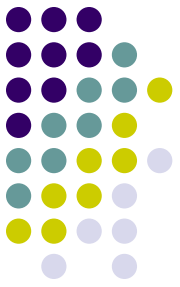
Look to Jesus!

Remember: He bore the sin of the whole world!

1. Jesus bore reproach as Messiah
2. Paul bore reproach of gospel
1. Jesus rejected and suffered
2. Paul rejected and persecuted

Is a price to pay for serving God in fallen world!

“Perseverance-Encouragement”



Encouragement from Word of God

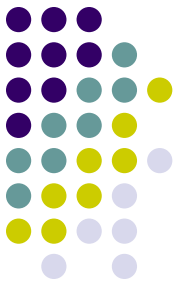
Perseverance is responsive lifestyle

= Faith & Practice bound together!

= Result is Confidence in:

Life, Death, and Christ's Return (THE
Hope = No uncertainty in Greek term)

God's Plan from Beginning



vv 7-12 = God has always accepted Gentiles
God has always promoted unity

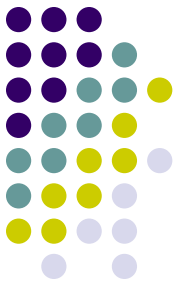
Old Testament is proof:

v9 Psalm

v10 Law

v11 Psalm

v12 Prophet



“in believing” (13)

Present Active Infinitive

= ***continuing*** action

= faith in Christ does not have only an initial response, but a continual lifestyle response!

= Continuing brings joy, peace, power, hope!

Example of Paul's Ministry



It was **personal** (14-17)

It was **powerful** (18-21)

It was **purposeful** (22-29)

It was **prayerful** (30-33)

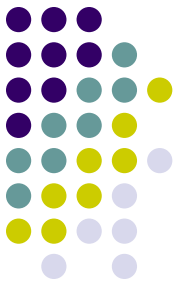


The emphatics of 15:14

Paul is truly complimenting the church!

1. Goodness
2. Knowledgeable
3. Able to counsel

Not new news for them, but clarifying.
Its needed sometimes.



“Minister’s Ministry”

vv 8, 16, 25, 31

“minister, ministry”

16-17, 27

“as a priest”

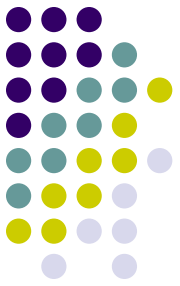
1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6

25

“as a deacon”

Gives holy credit to the office

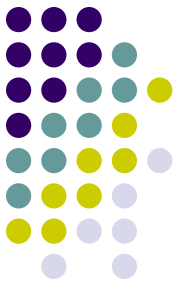
The Gift of A Ministry (15)



“grace given to me by God”

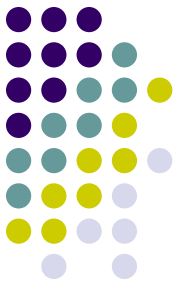
= Ministry is not a duty, but a gift from God!

Alva J. McClain



“A good many of us think of ministry as something hard and unpleasant. Paul says it comes by grace. Shipwrecked, stoned, beaten, in prison, hungry, naked; and yet he says, “It was given me by the grace of God.” If we could only view every task in relation to the church of God as the apostle Paul did, not a duty to be borne, but as a gift!”

A Ministry Well Planned (20ff)

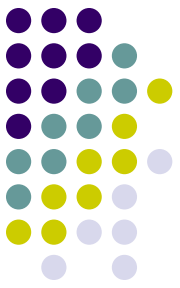


Paul now shares his ministry plans. Ministry should be well-planned, thoroughly structured with purpose, not haphazard, loosely organized, and last minute.

v22 Even the best laid plans!

“prevented” = again & again & again!

Proverbs 16:9



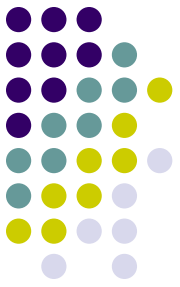
A Prayerful Ministry (30-33)

“urge” = strong Greek term! (12:1)

“strive” = “agonizomai” = in Gethsemane!
= “to fight, contend earnestly”

Paul sensed a DEEP need for prayer for himself and for his ministry. It wasn't optional, but necessary and urgent! Note how specific his 3 prayer requests were.

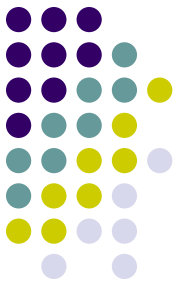
Two More Prayer Requests (32)



1. To come in joy;
2. Be refreshed

Paul needs time of quiet rest and recuperation among mature believers. He did not get it due to arrest and years in prison before being sent to Rome.

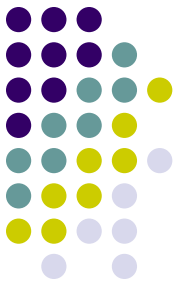
A Christ-Directed Ministry



v29 “come in fullness of Christ’s blessing”

How did Paul arrive in Rome? As a prisoner! He was eventually beheaded in Rome, and yet he arrived under the FULLNESS of Christ’s blessing...Christ’s timing, Christ’s way...Christ is the Head of the Church.

Ministry **TEAM**



Ephesians 4:12

Ephesians 4:16