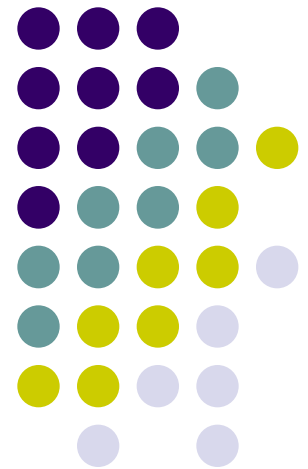


**“We are Weak but He
is Strong!”**

self-Denial in Ministry”
Romans 15



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); and Paul's (14-33).

Philippians 2

The Issue



Sometimes there is tension between
personal freedom and
CORPORATE responsibility.

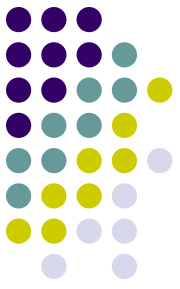
Solution is self-denial!
Romans 12:3, 10; 15:1

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



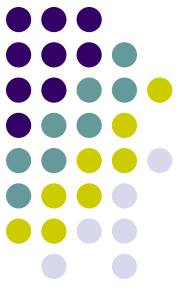
Will of God REVEALED in Ministry

“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



“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!

“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

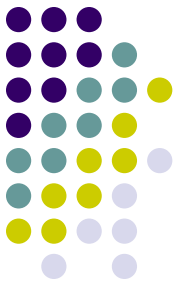


It was **personal** (14-17)

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

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

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



Clues from Context

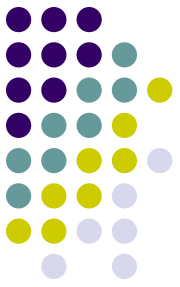
1. The end like the beginning!
 - a. He praises their faith (1:8)
 - b. He defends his Gentile ministry (1:13-15)
 - c. He hopes for help in ministry (1:13)

Clues from Context

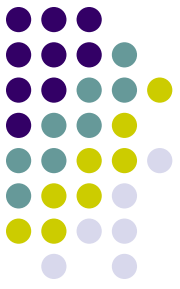


2. Hint of tension between Jewish and Gentile Christians (Romans 9-11)
3. Paul defends his apostleship. (1:5)

Two Topics to Close the Book



1. Paul's apostolic, evangelistic, Gentile ministry (14-21)
2. Paul's travel plans may take him through Rome (22-33)



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.



Romans 15:14 – “filled”

Romans 1:29; 8:4; 11:12, 25; 13:10; 15:13, 14, 19, 29.

= have all you need in Christ; assurance

“full” = “replete, every bit of”



“Minister’s Ministry”

v v 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

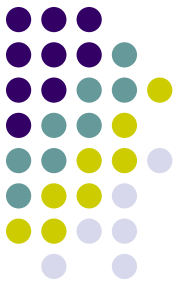
The Gift of A Ministry (15)



“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!”



“Sanctified” Romans 15:16

Perfect Passive Participle

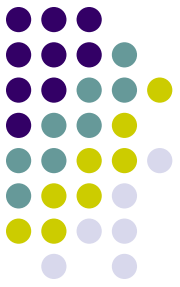
= “have been & continue to be made holy”

= being saved is just the beginning!

God will continue to work!

Philippians 1:6

A Ministry Well Planned (20ff)

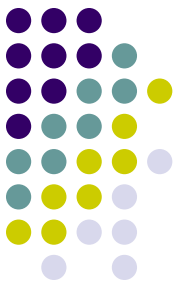


Paul now shares his ministry plans. Ministry should be well-planned, thoroughly structured with purpose, not haphazard, loosely organized, and last minute.

v22 Even the best laid plans!

“prevented” = again & again & again!

Proverbs 16:9



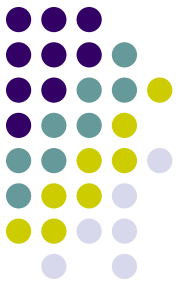
A Prayerful Ministry (30-33)

“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.

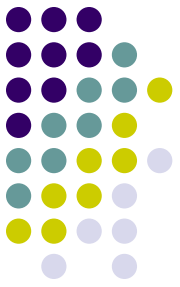
Two More Prayer Requests (32)



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.

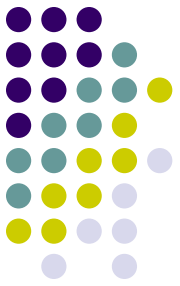
A Christ-Directed Ministry



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