

# THE ONE YEAR BIBLE CLUB

WITH TEACHING COMMENTARY BY NICK BOORK

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## August 1 – Romans 15:1-22

We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup>Let each of us please *his* neighbor for *his* good, leading to edification. <sup>3</sup>For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.” <sup>4</sup>For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. <sup>5</sup>Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>that you may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. <sup>8</sup>Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* to the fathers, <sup>9</sup>and that the Gentiles might glorify God for *His* mercy, as it is written:

“For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name.” <sup>10</sup>And again he says: “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!” <sup>11</sup>And again: “Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!” <sup>12</sup>And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.” <sup>13</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. <sup>15</sup>Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on *some* points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God, <sup>16</sup>that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. <sup>17</sup>Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things *which pertain* to God.

<sup>18</sup>For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient— <sup>19</sup>in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. <sup>20</sup>And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man’s foundation, <sup>21</sup>but as it is written: “To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand.”

<sup>22</sup>For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you.

## OKAY HERE'S MY TEACHING COMMENTARY

### Characteristics of the apostle Paul's apostolic ministry

#### Apostolic Characteristic 1 – Unity of the church:

Paul understood that unity and love are important foundation stones that build the church and manifest the heart of God to a lost world. This is exactly what he was referring to when he wrote about God making the Roman Christians to be like-minded toward one another and to glorify God with one mind and one mouth. When he wrote that they should receive one another as Christ receives them it meant they should show the love of God to Believers by receiving and welcoming them into the church as members of the family of God. This kind of love is the greatest witnesses to the divine nature of God in the church.

Some churches are like warm bakeries full of fresh bread where people are getting fed the Word of God and having joyful fellowship! Other churches are like walk-in freezers where people are cold and unwelcoming. Jesus said everyone will know we are his disciples if we love one another. Jesus prayed for the unity of the church so that it would be a powerful witness to the world!

John 17:21-23 "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; <sup>21</sup> that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. <sup>22</sup> And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: <sup>23</sup> I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

True spiritual unity can only be achieved through prayer. The church was born in unified prayer Acts 1:14 "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers." It was in this spirit of unity and prayer that the Holy Spirit was first poured out upon the church on the day of Pentecost and again in Acts 4:24, 31

4:24...they raised their voice to God with one accord

4:31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Where there's true unity God will pour out his spiritual blessings and the church will thrive and grow! True apostles will always seek to unify the church. True apostles are spiritual fathers that express the heart of God for his people. As it is written in Psalm 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is* for brethren to dwell together in unity!

## **Apostolic Characteristic 2 – A vision to reach the world based on the Scriptures**

Paul says that the Lord Jesus Christ specifically called him as an apostle to the Gentiles AKA everybody who's not a Jew. He quotes several Old Testament Scriptures that talk about the Gentiles becoming the people of God and praising and worshipping the same Lord. The apostles met and discussed who the Lord had called them to reach and they developed a strategy to reach different people groups:

Galatians 2:7-9 But on the contrary, when they saw that the gospel for the uncircumcised had been committed to me, as *the gospel* for the circumcised was to Peter <sup>8</sup> (for He who worked effectively in Peter for the apostleship to the circumcised also worked effectively in me toward the Gentiles), <sup>9</sup> and when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that had been given to me, they gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, that we *should go* to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised.

It appears that Peter, James and John were commissioned to reach Israel with the gospel although Peter was later sent to the house of Cornelius and brought the gospel to the Gentiles. Later according to church history, the apostle John was overseeing churches in Asia minor even pastoring the church at Ephesus. True apostles will carry the heart of God to see the nations saved and will work the harvest fields being led by the Holy Spirit geographically.

## **Apostolic Characteristic 3 – Preaching the Gospel in the Power of the Holy Spirit**

The apostle Paul experienced the power of the Holy Spirit as he preached the gospel. The Holy Spirit manifested in mighty signs, wonders, miracles and demonic deliverances. Paul taught the Corinthians that supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit would accompany apostles: 2 Corinthians 12:12 Truly the signs of an apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

Ministers of the gospel must learn to rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit to confirm the message that they preach as Jesus promised healings, signs and deliverance of demons. Today we must return to the original message in ministry of Jesus Christ. Remember when Jesus began his ministry in Luke 4 he announced that the Holy Spirit was upon him to anoint him for the purpose of preaching the gospel to the poor to bring salvation, healing, deliverance to the captives and restoration to humanity! If Jesus Christ himself and the early apostles needed the power of the Holy Spirit to confront the powers of darkness to bring salvation and deliverance to humanity how much more do we need to have faith and rely on his unchanging power today to experience the same kind of Bible results we read about in the Gospels and book of Acts! I can testify that I have seen the power of God in operation in my own ministry and through other ministers in the areas of healing, deliverance and seeing people filled with the Holy Spirit. To God alone be all the glory!

## **Apostolic Characteristic 4 – Pioneering new territories to advance the Kingdom of God**

The apostle Paul said that he always tried to preach the gospel where Christ had not already been preached. He did this because God had called him as a apostle to bring the message and ministry of Jesus Christ into new territories and establish churches wherever God sent him. He bases his ministry on the prophetic Scriptures found in Isaiah 52:15 So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at Him; for what had not been told them they shall see, and what they had not heard they shall consider. I know several missionaries that have been used to plant groups of churches bringing the gospel to cities and regions.

## WHAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE?

1) True apostleship bring unity to the church. They are willing to minister to the entire body of Christ no matter the denomination or label. They understand and practice prayer both personally and corporately for the church.

2) True apostles have a burning passion to reach the nations with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Their ministries are based on the Holy Scriptures along with a divine call from God to the ministry and the leading of the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel and plant churches wherever they are sent.

3) True apostles preach the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit and experience miracles, signs, healings and delivering people from demonic bondages. Apostles flow in all of the supernatural spiritual gifts in the New Testament at the leading of the Holy Spirit.

4) True apostles love to preach the gospel in new territories to advance the kingdom of God among people that have not yet experienced salvation. The Lord uses them to plant new churches and establish the kingdom of God in regions that have no gospel witness.

## PRAYER TO APPLY THE WORD OF GOD TO OUR LIVES



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