

Text: Romans 1:8-12

Subject: Encouragement through our mutual faith

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,

¹⁰ making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.

¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—

¹² that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Romans 1:8-12

THE CHURCH IN THE FIRST CENTURY

1. There were no physical church buildings in the first century

- a) Paul used synagogues to teach in (Evangelism)
- b) Believers formed themselves into a cohesive community
- c) The word “church” in the New Testament age never refers to a physical church edifice

2. The meaning of the word “church”

- a) A gathering of believers
 - i) They were called out of the world
 - ii) Their centre of focus was the Lord Jesus Himself
- b) A community of brethren
 - i) It may be in the home of a believer
 - ii) Most were “house-churches”

PAUL’S HEART FOR THE ROMAN BELIEVERS

1. He thanked God for them

“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all”

Romans 1:8a

2. Commendation of the Faith of the Roman Christians

“That your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world” *Romans 1:8b*

3. Praying for the Roman Christians

*⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son,
that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,*

*¹⁰ making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God
to come to you.* *Romans 1:9-10*

- a) Praying for others was a natural activity of Paul
- b) In all his epistles, he would mention he prayed for his readers
- c) A specific request to the Lord was made
 - i) That he may make his way to Rome to see the brethren
 - ii) That this request may be within the will of God

4. Explanation as to why he wanted to visit Rome

*¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may
be established—*

*¹² that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you
and me.*

Romans 1:10-11

- a) That he may impart some spiritual gift
 - i) A teaching
 - ii) A special insight
- b) That he may help them to be even more established in the faith
 - i) The Romans were already well-commended
 - ii) But there was always room for greater improvement

- c) Paul also looked forward
 - i) To being encouraged by the Roman brethren
 - ii) They had “a mutual faith”
 - iii) Paul looked forward to the hope that his faith would also be further encouraged/ uplifted!
 - iv) This is an amazing insight to the humble spirit of Paul

GOOD LESSONS FOR US TO PONDER ON DEEPLY

1. On Prayer

- a) To be more prayerful
- b) To be moved to pray for others

2. On Appreciating the Faith of other believers

- a) Paul was an apostle
- b) Yet, he could appreciate the faith of other believers

3. On being a blessing to others

- a) Paul wanted to help others be established in their faith
- b) This is a good and positive outlook

4. On being blessed

- a) Through mutual faith sharing
- b) Through fellowship

5. Let us be challenged

- a) To seek further growth in faith
- b) To cultivate ourselves as believers in every way possible