

Title: Admonishing One Another

Text: Romans 15:14-33

Today I would like to conclude our study in the book of Romans. I hope and pray that this study has blessed your lives. Especially these last few chapters as we have looked at the APPLICATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.

I hope you have noticed how Paul has moved from a basic commitment in Chapter 12 to the meat of the Gospel in chapters 13, 14, and 15. These are principles that are not often taught. And the reason is simple: people have a hard time accepting what God is saying to us in these chapters. And today is no exception. And yet, what Paul has to say in the final verses of chapter 15 is very important for our life.

So, let's look at it. Take your Bibles and turn to Romans chapter 15. Romans chapter 15 beginning with verse 14. I want to divide this chapter into three sections. VS 14 to 21 on admonishing one another.....Vs 22-29 concerning Paul's visit to Rome, and then in verses 30 to 33 the great need to pray for one another.

(READ ROMANS 15:14-21)

#### PRAYER

Here in these verses we find one of the hardest teachings for Christians to put into practice. The Bible teaches that believers are to admonish one another.

Now, in order to do this we really do need to understand what this word ADMONISH means.... Now, what do you think when you hear the word "ADMONISH."? If you are a parent you are thinking of your child doing something wrong. And admonishing him...meaning you are correcting him.

) Now, in verse 14 we come to the punch line. On the bases of all of this there is a third thing that we want to look at in relationship to like mindedness or having the same mind. And that is in admonishing one another. The Bible teaches that believers are to admonish one another.

Now, what do you think when you hear the word "admonish." If you are a parent you are thinking of your child doing something wrong. And admonishing him, means correcting him.

But, the idea here is that all the believers are building <sup>up</sup> one another, encouraging one another, ~~up~~. The Bible says that all believers are to teach and admonish one another in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in our hearts to the Lord. There is joy there. <sup>There</sup> There is excitement <sup>here</sup> ~~there~~. Building each other up. So the word means "to build up" To encourage

Now, look at Vs 14. ( ) The first thing I notice about our admonishing one another is that Paul has great confidence in these believers. He has never met them. But he has confidence. He says, "I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another."

Three things are necessary in order to admonish another believer. (1 ) Number one, full of goodness. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? FULL OF GOODNESS. The word "GOODNESS" often means "KINDNESS." There is a gentler spirit related to it. It is used in Galatians where it talks about the fruit of the Holy Spirit. "The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness."

In other words you must be filled with the Holy Spirit to be full of goodness. In order to be KIND in your minister in admonishing other people you must be kind. You must be controlled by the Holy Spirit. (2 ) Secondly, in vs 14 it says "filled with all knowledge." Now knowledge separated from the Word, but the Word of God itself. Nothing is more admonishing, then God's precious Word. The knowledge of God's Word.

\* And if we are really going to help each other we have got to be filled with that knowledge.

(3 ) Third, he uses the word able. You are able to admonish. WHY? Because you have tremendous abilities along that line? NO...But, because of the power of God the Holy Spirit. God can make us all able to help one another.

Some one reads this passage and say, "Hay, no one is really going to do that." No one is really going to go out an admonish people. I mean we are really embarrassed to do that. I would like to. But what are you going to do?"

SO, I ASK YOU. I ASK MYSELF. WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? HOW ARE YOU GOING TO ADMONISH ANOTHER CHRISTIAN? There is no doubt that the Bible wants us to. HOW ARE YOU GOING TO BUILD UP ANOTHER CHRISTIAN. There is no doubt that is what God wants us to do. He wants that in the body of Christ.

The Bible says in Ephesians 4 that God gave gifts to his church to equip saints for the work of ministry in order to build up the body of Christ. That we would all edify one another in love. There is no question that God wants all of us to do that. But, how are we going to do that. Here in Romans 15, He calls it admonishing.

Well, let's look further to see if we can find an answer. He has confidence that these three things will cause you to admonish one another.

( ) And in verses 15 to 21 we find a beautiful example from Paul's life. His concern is being unveiled to us here. And there are two area in which we see this. All in trying to understand how we can build up one another. Paul gives his own testimony, here.

(1 ) The first area in Vs 15 to 17 is the ministry of Paul. He says, "BUT I HAVE WRITTEN VERY BOLDLY TO YOU ON SOME PONTs, SO AS TO REMIND YOU AGAIN, BECAUSE OF THE GRACE THAT WAS GIVEN ME FROM GOD."

Let's stop for a moment. What is Paul saying here? He has been very bold. He said some things that you know you have got to be able to take. And it takes love to say it. But he is saying, "I have done this because of the grace that is given me from God." ~~Some time you seek to build somebody up, and you might say something very bold, you must remember that you are a member of~~

Every time you seek to build somebody up, and you might say something very bold, you must remember that you are a receiver of God's grace. You don't deserve to share anything. None of us deserve anything. But God's grace has made it possible so that we in turn can build up and admonish each other.

Vs 16.....(Read Vs 16 and 17)

Now, what is he saying? In his ministry the result was people who had been won to Jesus Christ. Gentiles..They were the offering. And that is going to be acceptable to God. And it will be sanctified by the Holy Spirit,

NOW, DOES HE HAVE A RIGHT TO GLORY IN THAT? Absolutely not...Because God is producing that through Him.

In this context, which is kind of hard to put together in your mind. He is encouraging us to admonish one another and to build up one another. And he brings his own example. And the point of his example is: I don't have any reason to glory. God has given me this ministry. And the result is what God has done.

Every time we seek to minister to someone else, the question of motive is very important. WHY ARE YOU DOING IT?

( ) AND SO IN VERSES 18 TO 21 PAUL EXPLAINS HIS MOTIVATION IN TWO AREAS.

( ) Number one, in verse 18 and 19 He talks about the power of God. The motive of the power of God. He says.....(READ Vs 18-19)

His motive..it was the power of God working through his life. And he said, "I don't dare say anything about things that Christ has not done in my life." Don't speak in your ministry one to another about things that Christ has not done. Don't take glory in what you have done. But he is saying "Glory in the power of God." That God has been working through me in my ministry.

(2 ) Now, the second motive he brings before us very important. Vs 20 and 21. And that is the preaching of the Gospel itself. He says..(read vs 20-21)

Have you folks notice the swift in the missionary emphases in the world? Have you notice it? Have you notice a swift in the motives for witnessing? Have you noticed it?

Let me explain what I mean. You know, mission boards would give anything to find someone who would pioneer. Do you know that? Do you know what it means to pioneer? It means to go into an area where Christ has never been preached. To go in there alone and do a job for God. You see, there is no security in that. People have anxiety and fear in their heart. To go into an area where Christ is not known. To go into a strange cultural with a strange language and there share Christ. The mission boards are hungry for people who are pioneers.

Did you know that right here in the United States there are areas that need people to pioneer? To take the gospel to people who have not heard.

What happened folks. What has happened to the emphases? Listen says, "Listen, I want you to know my motive in preaching the Gospel. It is not to build where others are building. It is not to claim the credit. It is not to reap where I know many others have sown. NO...It is to go and sow and reap in a field where Christ has never been named. The world has not yet heard the Gospel. No way have they heard the Gospel. Hundreds of thousands of people have not heard. And they will not hear unless someone goes there.

WHAT ABOUT IN OUR OWN WITNESSING? Isn't it easier to witness to somebody that has already been witnessed to. Of course it is. I don't know about you. But, I like to pick ripe fruit, you know. I like to witness to those who are already to hear the gospel. Listen, that is not what Paul is talking about. He is talking about going to people who do not know Christ. Who have never heard the Gospel.

I have often thought, many times as a Pastor, is there any way, possible way, that I could start the flame of what Paul is saying here., in the hearts of all of us. Is there anyway.

Is there that passion in your heart to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to friends and neighbors who have not heard? Where are forgetting what is the purpose and dynamic of the church. What is the great commission. It is not to have socials and parties and etc. It is to preach the Gospel and win people to Jesus Christ.

Why has there been such a shift in emphase in the church. Why are we more concerned about meeting our own needs and our own enter cicle, then in reaching out to the lost? Why do we want others to do our job for us? What will it take to cause us to say, "Lord, use me..open my mouth to share with someone..."

Paul is sharing the motives that is so needed in all of us. To preach Jesus Christ to all who cross our path.

( ) Now, beginning with verse 22, we look at the anticipation of Paul's visit.

And this is a beautiful thing. And you may pass over it and not notice it.

What Paul is saying here is "I love you. Yet, I have never seen you." "And I really want to come to you and minister to you." Little things are important in this chapter. That show us the ministry of people when they are one on the spirit.

( ) First of all, according to Vs 22 he gives them his excuse for not coming.

He wanted to come and visit them. But he says, "I have often been hindered."

It is in the past voice. Someone or something was hindering him. He wasn't hindering himself. He wanted to come. But something was hindering him.

( ) According to Verses 23 to 27 he gives an explanation of his trip to Jerusalem. And the thing that stricks me about this section is that here the

Apostle Paul with all of his great ministry in estisblishing churches, took time out to take a little offering for some poor people in Jerusalem. That really hit a note in my life. Talk about ministering in the body of Christ.

No task is to small. Here is Paul. He is out starting new churches. He is doing a great work for God. And all of a sudden he takes time out to carry a contribution from the churches of Macedonia and Achaia had given to the church in Jerusalem. Where christians were really suffering because of persuction.

Paul took this offering to them. And that is what he is explaining here.

( ) Then in verese 28 and 29 he reveals the expectation in his heart in seeeing them. Do you feel this way about other believers? He has never seen those

believers in Rome, yet here is what he said. "Therefore, when I have finished

this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to

Spain. And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fulness of the *blessing of Christ.*

Wouldn't it be great to run into a christian who was full of the blessings of Christ? I mean just full of it. Just flowing over.

Turn back to chapter 1 for a moment. Would you do that please. Chapter 1 of this same book. Let me try to put the whole book together. Paul really wanted to minister to these people. Paul didn't start the church in Rome. According to Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost there were strangers from Rome there who heard the Gospel preached by Peter. They went back to Rome and started the church. So, Paul is writing to that church. But he had not yet been there. But notice his desire for ministering. Vs 9, chapter 1...(read vs 9-12)

That just stricks me. Paul had never seen them. And he says, I want to come to you and impart my spiritual gift. I want to minister to you. And then he says, "I know this, when I get there you are going to share with me and I am going to share with you. And both of us are going to be encouraged in the Lord. That is ministry.

Now, come back to chapter 15. He is saying the same thing in Vs 29.."When I come I am coming in the fulness of the blessing of Christ." And it is going to be a great day when we see each other.

( ) Now, beginning with Vs 30 we come to the punch line in this whole chapter.'  
If we are going to be like minded, dear friends, we need to pray for one another.  
The assurance of prayer is very important.

( ) And the first thing that I notice is in Vs. 30 he gives us the reasons why he wants the believers to pray for him. Two reasons there in Vs 30

"Now, I urge you, brethren by our Lord Jesus Christ" The first reason is because of the Lord Jesus Christ. PRAY FOR ME.

If you are a believer and you Love Jesus, how can you do anything lesss. We are all serving the Lord. It is for his sake.

( ) Secondly, for the love of the spirit. If we love as God wants us to love, the Holy Spirit controlling us, we must pray for one another.

Can you imagine what it would be like. Think, right now, of someone you don't get along with, think what would happen if you spent what ever time was necessary praying for that person.

It would change your life. It would change their life. Let's say that you prayed for one sold week for a person you were upset with. You prayed that God would bless and encourage that person. Can you imagine what would happen when you met that person? Well, I know. Let me tell you. You would feel guilty about the way you felt about them. And it is amazing. It is not so bad as the way it once was. Or, so you thought. It is different. WHY? Because the love of the Spirit, the unity that we have in the body of Christ, even though we are very much different, causing us to pray one for another, changes our attitude toward each other. PRAY FOR EACH OTHER. Because of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of the Spirit.

( ) Now, let's look at the four request of prayer. This is found in Vs 31 -32. Four request that are really beautiful.

( ) Number one, he says, "I pray for those who are disobedient in Judea. You know, Paul was living a dangerous life when he went to Judea. He was a member of the Sanhedrian, and educated Jew, well known. And he had turned to Jesus Christ. And he was now hated. He says "pray that God will protect me there Would you pray for me.

Now, remember he is writing to people he has never seen. Pray for me that God will protect me.

( ) Secondly, he says, Vs 31, "pray that my service for Jerusalem (that is the offering he was taking with him) may prove acceptable to the saints."

Hay, do you know that it is just as hard to receive love as it is to give it? Did you know that? Sure it is. Paul want to minister this. And he was doing so out of a heart of love. And so he is asking for prayer so that it will be accepted by those christians in Jerusalem.

DO YOU RECEIVE THE LOVE OF ANOTHER BELIEVER? He might share with you financial or he might share a word of encouragement. When this happens do you question him as to his motives? Do you question him as to why he is doing this? Or, do you say, "GOD, BLESS YOU. That is just what I needed. Thank you." It is very hard to receive the ministry of other believers.



( ) The third thing we read, Vs 32, "pray that I may come unto you in joy by the will of God."

I want joy and happiness, confidence in knowing that this is the will of God coming and ministering to you. Pray for that.

( ) And finally, Vs 32, Pray that I may find refreshing rest in your company. When you meet other Christians and minister to them in the body of Christ, do you look at it as rest? Is it good to be with brothers and sisters? IS that really good? Is it good for you to be with the believers and be encouraged and build up?

Now, I want to face you with something today. A little project. Are you ready for this? Here it is..

(1 ) First of all, I want you right now to consider a believer in Jesus Christ, I don't care who it is, it maybe someone seating next to you, that you are not really that close too, and you would like to minister to them. DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE IN MIND?

(2 ) O.K. secondly, I want you to ask yourself, today, how can I minister to that believer. What am I going to do? What am I going to say? What am I going to do today that will help them be encouraged in the Lord?

Now, I know that can be a little frightening. Especially if when you leave church you run right into that person you thought of. What if God puts that person in your path? What if they call you on the phone this afternoon? The pressure is on. What do I do? SHARE YOUR LOVE WITH THAT BELIEVER. BUILD THEM UP.

Dear friends, do you know that if this happned in the body of Christ, here, the way that God wants it to happened, do you know what the jworld would be doing? They would be knocking down our doors to see if Jesus was really alive. That is what Jesus said. If we are one as the Father and son are one, if we are enjoying the unity of the sprit, and the building up of one another, and dwelling in love and unity, THE WORLD IS GOING TO BELIEVE, SAID JESUS. He said "by this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

And then we can say, as Paul says in Vs 33....."NOW THE GOD OF PEACE  
BE WITH YOU ALL.....AMEN"

LET'S CLOSE WITH A WORD OF PRAYER