

9.

Romans 15:8-13

Be Joyful

Paul was a Jew. In chapters 9 to 11 of Romans, Paul has already stated his heartfelt burden for his fellow countrymen (“the circumcised”) to come to know Christ. But he was also *the apostle to the Gentiles* (Rom. 11:13). It appears that the church in Rome was comprised of both Jews and Gentiles, because in this next section he addresses them both.

1. Does this have any bearing on his instructions in Romans 15:5-7?

2. According to Romans 15:8, who was Christ *primarily* sent to?

(There is a big difference between *primarily* and *exclusively*.)

3. Based on Romans 15:9-12, was it also God’s intention for Christ to redeem Gentiles? Explain.

It seems that Paul was wanting both the Jewish and Gentile believers to be humble, and to avoid the temptation to boast that *they*, more than the others, were the object of God’s redeeming grace.

4. Read Galatians 3:14, and Galatians 3:28. What do these verses tell us about who, Jews or Gentiles, have the greatest advantage before God?

5. What promises might Paul be referring to Romans 15:8? (Consider Genesis 15:5; 22:17; 32:12, compared with Galatians 3:29)
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Paul is writing this passage to encourage both Jewish and Gentile Christians to *endure* the hardships they were going through for Christ (Rom. 15:4-5).

6. Consider Romans 15:9-11. What does God expect redeemed Gentiles will do after they have turned to Christ?
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7. At the time Paul wrote this epistle, where did most of the Gentiles probably look to for hope?
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8. Where did Isaiah the prophet declare that redeemed Gentiles would hope? (Rom. 15:12)
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The next time we are tempted to feel overwhelmed or hopeless, we too should put our hope in Christ by casting all of our cares onto Him (First Peter 5:6-7).

9. Read Romans 15:13. What can we learn about how to pray for each other from Paul's prayer in this verse?
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We might distinguish *joy* from *happiness*.

10. Read the following Scripture references and note what is closely connected to Biblical joy - Prov. 12:20; Isaiah 55:12; Romans 14:7; 15:13.
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Amen.