Dear Friend,

God has richly blessed “The Roman Pilgrimage” (Chapters 1 through 8), which was taped at Ridgecrest, N.C., in 1988. Now I would love to share with you the insights which God has been giving me into the second half of this wonderful epistle.

Chapters 9 through 11 focus on the destiny of Israel. Without an understanding of these chapters, the revelation of the gospel is incomplete. For too long, God’s people have been denied the precious truths which they contain. Yet, without them, the Church can never fully understand her own destiny.

Chapters 12 through 16 are “where the rubber meets the road”—nitty-gritty, down-to-earth truth on how to live what you believe. As you face the mounting pressures of evil in these closing days, you will find that these truths are nothing less than your key to survival!

In the Master’s service,

Derek Prince
A. 12:1–8  Our first practical response to God’s mercy

12:1  Present our body as a living sacrifice on God’s altar

Results of this sacrifice:

12:2  1. Our mind renewed
  2. Our lifestyle changed
  3. Able to discern God’s will in 3 phases: good, acceptable, perfect

12:3  (The renewed mind is humble and realistic)

4. Discover our allotted measure of faith

12:4–5  5. Discover our place and function in the Body of Christ

(Our measure of faith is suited to our function)

12:6–7  6. Begin to exercise appropriate gifts (charismata) within the limits of our faith: e.g. prophecy, serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, showing mercy

B. 12:9–21  Fruits that grow from the root of love

12:9a  Sincere love is the root of all Christian service (compare 1 Tim. 1:5)—producing many kinds of fruit—e.g.:

12:9b  1. Hate evil, love good—no neutrality (compare Ps. 45:7; 97:10)

12:10  2. Devoted to one another; preferring one another

12:11  3. Not lazy, diligent; serving the Lord with passionate dedication (compare Rev. 3:16)

12:12  4. Cheerfully optimistic; holding out under pressure; loving to pray

12:13  5. Sharing with fellow believers; practicing hospitality

12:14  6. Blessing our persecutors

12:15  7. Equally sympathetic with those who rejoice and those who weep

12:16  8. Living in harmony; humble; not conceited or arrogant (compare Prov. 13:10)

12:17  9. Never returning evil for evil; maintaining a reputation for right dealing

12:18  10. Sincerely seeking peace with all

12:19–20  11. Never repay evil with evil, but with good

12:21  12. Meet and overcome evil with good—respond in the opposite spirit: e.g. hatred with love; bitterness with sweetness; anger
C. 13:1–7  Relating to governmental authority

Matt. 28:18  All authority comes from God through Jesus (see Col. 2:10)

13:1–4  Rulers are responsible to restrain evil and maintain good order—but laws cannot change people’s hearts—only the gospel can do that

1 Tim. 2:1–6  Christians should uphold their rulers by prayer because good government facilitates the preaching of the gospel

13:5  Resisting governmental authority is resisting God who ordained it—God does not necessarily set aside authority when it is abused—even abused authority is better than none (anarchy)

John 19:11  Compare the attitude of Jesus to Pilate

Eph. 2:1–3; 6:12  Even Satan retains authority received from God over all rebels, angelic or human (compare Col. 1:13: authority of darkness)

Acts 5:29  When rulers demand direct disobedience to God, Christians must refuse—but submit—the issue here was preaching the gospel—ultimately each believer must answer to God and his own conscience

Mark 16:15  Jesus had specifically commanded to preach the gospel to every creature

16:20  Submission plus prayer, testifying and preaching opens the way for “the God of peace” to intervene—in this way, in 300 years, the early church conquered the Roman Empire

13:6–7  Christians should fulfill all obligations to government (compare Matt. 22:21)

D. 13:8–10  One debt we can never pay off: To love

13:8a  All other indebtedness is wrong (compare Prov. 22:7)

13:8–10  Love produces obedience to all other commandments

Matt. 24:12  Lawlessness all around us is producing lovelessness (compare 2 Thess. 2:3–7)

John 13:34  The new commandment

James 1:25  The perfect law of liberty

James 2:8  The royal law

8:4  Love is the righteous requirement of the law (compare Gal. 5:14)

E. 13:11–14  Live in anticipation of Christ’s return

13:11–13  Satan’s kingdom of darkness will soon be overthrown—we must live like those who belong to the kingdom of light
Titus 2:11–14  Expecting Christ’s return motivates us to *holiness*

13:14  We have all we need in Christ—we do not need to make concessions to our fleshly nature (compare Col. 3:3–5)

**F. 14:1–12**  Religious rules about diet, holidays, etc.

14:1–3  Avoid doctrinal discussions that produce no positive results—e.g. about eating “kosher” or observing Sabbaths or other holidays

The one who is “free” must not despise the one who “observes”—the one who “observes” must not criticize the one who is “free”

14:4–6  Each of us must answer directly to the Lord—we are not free to judge others who differ—replace criticizing by giving thanks

14:7–9  “No man is an island”—we all live or die to Christ, who is Lord of the living and the dead

14:10–12  We will not be judged by one another, but by Jesus Himself—we need to live in readiness for this (compare 2 Cor. 5:9–10)

**G. 14:13–23**  Be guided by love, not religious rules

14:13–16  Food in itself cannot defile a person (compare Mark 7:15–19; 1 Tim. 4:4–5)—but we must not offend those who do not see this

14:17–18  3 essentials: righteousness, peace, joy—only possible in the Holy Spirit—righteousness must come first (compare Is. 48:22; 57:21)—this way of living is accepted by God and approved by men

14:19–21  Aim for peace and building up Christ’s Body—eating becomes evil if it offends others

14:22–23  Do not make your personal faith a controversial issue—anything not done out of faith is *sin* (compare 1:17)

**H. 15:1–7**  The marks of true spiritual strength

15:1–3  Spiritual strength is not putting people down, but lifting them up—definition of “apostles”

John 2:15–17  Pattern of Jesus: pleasing the Father, not Himself (Ps. 69:9; John 8:29)

15:4  The source of strength: the Scriptures—received with *patience* (compare Heb. 6:12–15; 10:36)

15:5–7  The outcome: harmony, unity and mutual acceptance

**I. 15:8–13**  How the Gospel affects Jews and Gentiles

15:8–9a  Double outworking of Christ’s ministry:

1. to fulfill God’s covenant promises to Israel—thus producing fruit from seed already planted
2. to offer mercy to Gentiles not based on a previous covenant—
   thus sowing seed where it had not been sown before

15:9b–12 Old Testament Scriptures promising mercy to Gentiles: Ps. 18:49;
   Deut. 32:43; Ps. 117:1; Is. 11:10

15:13 The outcome: filled by the Holy Spirit with all joy, peace, faith,
   hope

J. 15:14–21 Principles and accomplishments of Paul’s ministry
15:14–16 Paul tactfully affirms his apostolic—and priestly—calling to
   present the Gentile church as a sanctified offering to God
15:17–19 Paul boasts of what Christ has done through the gospel “fully
   preached”—i.e. with miracles and supernatural power—producing
   wholehearted obedience from the Gentiles (compare 1 Cor. 2:1–5)
   It is right to boast in Christ and the cross (Phil. 3:3; Gal. 6:14)
15:20–21 Paul’s motivation: to reach the unreached (compare Is. 52:15)

K. 15:22–29 Paul’s projected “itinerary”
15:22–28 First, to bring an offering from Gentiles to poor Jewish believers
   (material repayment of a spiritual debt)—then to visit Rome on his
   way to Spain
15:29 Paul’s confidence in his God-given ministry

L. 15:30–33 Personal request for prayer
15:30–32 Specific needs explained
Acts 21–28 Specific answers recorded
   Intercessors and proclaimers must strive (agonize) together—
   Paul’s life depended on the outcome
15:33 Recurring emphasis: the God of peace (compare 16:20; 2 Cor.
   13:11; Phil. 4:9; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Thess. 3:16; Heb. 13:20)
   Peace (shalom) = harmony, wholeness, completeness, every
   account settled

M. 16:1–23 Personal greetings and news
16:1–16, 21–23 Paul mentions 36 individuals—all but 2 by name
   Right doctrine must produce right relationships—God is concerned
   for individuals and we must be too
   Associated with Paul in ministry:
   Phoebe (1–2); Prisca, Aquila (3–4); Epaenetus (5); Andronicus,
   Junias (7); Urbanus (9); Timothy (21); Tertius (22)
   Relatives of Paul:
Andronicus, Junias (7); Herodion (11); Rufus (13); Lucius, Jason, Sosipater (21)

Heads of households:
Prisca, Aquila (3–4); Aristobulus (10); Narcissus (11)

Hard workers:
Mary (6); Persis (12)

Referred to elsewhere:
Prisca, Aquila: Acts 18:2, 18, 26
Rufus: Mark 15:21
Timothy
Lucius: Acts 13:1
Jason: Acts 17:5
Sosipater: Acts 20:4
Gaius: Acts 20:4; 1 Cor. 1:14
Erastus: Acts 19:22

Mark 10:29–30  Fulfilled in Paul’s life
16:17–19  Warning against those who peddle false teaching for the sake of personal gain (compare 2 Cor. 2:17)
16:20  Feet are last and lowest—a promise to the end-time Church

N. 16:25–27  The eternal purpose and power of the gospel
16:25–26  The gospel: a secret long kept hidden—specially revealed to Paul—fulfilling Old Testament Scriptures—able to establish those who believe—to be proclaimed to all nations
16:27  Paul closes with worship

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