

STRIVING TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Romans 15:30-33

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Paul, like Jesus, was a man of prayer
  - 1) He prayed for the Ephesians
  - 2) He prayed for the Philippians
  
- B. Paul also realized the importance of having other pray for him.
  - 1) He makes such a request of the Romans     *vs. 30*
  - 2) He knew how fragile he was
  
- C. We should take seriously these examples
  - 1) Jesus - *"men ought always to pray and not to faint"*
  - 2) Paul - *"pray without ceasing" II Thess. 5:17*
  
- I. Paul's Request And It's Basis             *verse 30*
  - A. *"Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake..."*
    - 1) *"beseech"* = παρακαλω = "to urge", "to encourage"
    - 2) *"I appeal urgently to you, brothers"*
    - 3) *"sake"* = δια = "on account of"
  
  - B. *"and for the love of the Spirit"*
    - 1) *"And by the love which the Spirit gives"     Con*
    - 2) *"And by the love which His Spirit inspires"   Wey*
  
  - C. *"that you strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;"*
    - 1) *"strive together"* = συναγωνιζομαι = "to fight or contend along with someone, wrestling in prayer"
    - 2) *"That you agonize with me in prayer to God on my behalf"*

II. The Things They Should Pray For verse 31-32

A. *"That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea;"* vs. 31

- 1) *"delivered"* = *ρυομαι* = "to draw or snatch to one's self", "to rescue"
- 2) *"do not believe"* = *απειθεω* = "to be disobedient"
- 3) "That I may be rescued from those in Judaea who are disobedient to the faith"
- 4) Paul had two areas that caused fear
  - a> The council in Jerusalem
  - b> The brethren who resented his teaching that the Law of Moses was fulfilled.

B. *"and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted by the saints"*

- 1) *"service"* = *διακονια* = "serviceable labour"
- 2) *"accepted"* = *ευπροσδεκτος* = "well received"
- 3) "And that my ministry for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints" ABUV
- 4) Paul may have in mind the gift from the Gentiles and his preaching of Christ.

C. *"That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God"*  
vs. 32

- 1) Paul's coming unto them with joy depended on what happened in Jerusalem.
- 2) "So that, God willing, I may be able to come to you with a joyful heart."

D. *"any may with you be refreshed"*

- 1) *"refreshed"* = *συναναπαυω* = "to refresh one's self or be refreshed in conjunction with anyone, or in his company"
- 2) "And may be refreshed in your companionship"

III. Paul's Benediction Upon Them verse 32

A. "Now the God of peace be with you all"

- 1) "May God the giver of peace..." TENT
- 2) Paul's universal prayer for the Lord's churches was for them to have peace.

B. To God's people He is a God of peace

- 1) He brought Jesus, the Prince of Peace to our world
- 2) He brought peace to our hearts
- 3) He wills for the church to, "be at peace"
- 4) Jesus will bring peace

IV. The Things We Should Pray For

A. Follow Paul's example

- 1) Romans
- 2) Ephesians *Ephesians 3:14-19*
- 3) Philippians *Philippians 1:9-11*

B. Follow Jesus' example

- 1) Pray for laborers *Matthew 9:36-38*
- 2) The Lord's prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

