

Home Group Questions

the week of 4/22/2018

Romans 15:8-21

MISSION TO THE WORLD PART 2

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the book of Romans. This week's sermon was part 2 of a passage that highlighted Paul's heart to reach a world (including Gentiles) for Christ.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

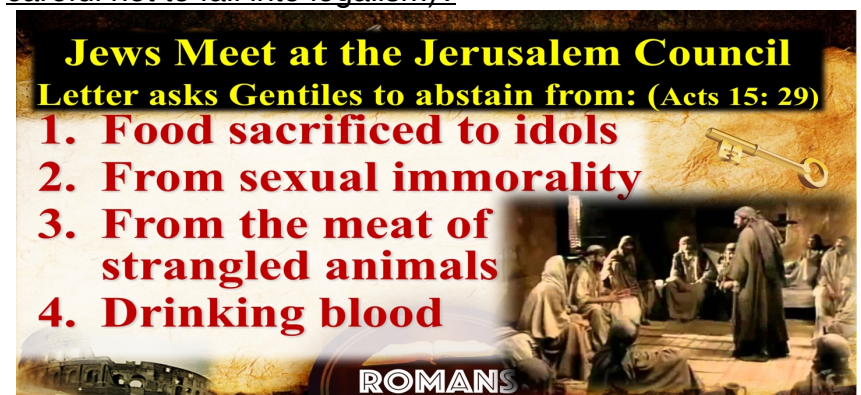
1. Read Romans 15:8-21. This is the main passage that we are dealing with. This passage was read last week and we simply read it to give a context to the passage below.

- Paul highlights in verse 16 that he is a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the "priestly service of the gospel of God". Knowing that all of us have gifts in the body of Christ to be used to minister to others... we therefore know that we are all "ministers" like Paul was. Do you see yourself as a "minister" at Riverview Church...and in light of that, how does that change your attitude in the way you come to church every Sunday and throughout the week? How does it change your view of those you come in fellowship with at the church? Do you see people around you as someone that you potentially could minister to...or do you primarily see yourself as someone that should be ministered to by others? How can we increase our awareness of ministry opportunities at church that are all around us (i.e. an encouraging word; a time of prayer with another; a welcoming heart to a visitor, etc.)

2. Read Galatians 2:1-14. Paul gives an overview of his journey after his conversion. Paul also highlights the calling he had received to be an apostle to the Gentiles even

while Peter was an apostle to the Jews. In verse 11, Paul highlights the hypocrisy of Peter in the Gentile city of Antioch when he separated himself from the Gentiles when Jewish visitors came up from Jerusalem. What was the pressure that Peter gave into here? What are some ways in which we give in to the pressure of peers and others around us? Paul asks Peter a question in verse 14 as to why Peter is asking others to live by a standard that Peter himself doesn't live by. What made this transition to the New Covenant of grace so difficult for Peter and others like him? What are subtle ways today in our own lives in which we let wrong thinking come into our lives when it comes to how God looks at us and the lives we live under Grace?

3. Read Acts 15:1-29. This is a long passage but it would be helpful to read it to get an understanding of how the church distanced itself from the legalistic requirements of the law (even though believers saved out of the Pharisees wanted them to observe OT requirements). Verse 29 summarizes what the Jews asked the Gentiles to abstain from in order to obtain a unified fellowship in the church. Discuss this action by the Jews which the Gentiles gladly accepted. What does this say about our willingness to give up things for the sake of unity (yet being careful not to fall into legalism)?



MOVING FORWARD... Pray that you would have a heart for everyone that Christ died for...even those more difficult to love!