

Prayer:

Slide # 1
Romans

Theme: The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

Outline:

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39
God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20
Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21
Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39
- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical: 12:1-15:33** (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

Paul had never been to Rome and so as he writes to the saints there he reminds them of the basics of the faith and what they essentially need to know. Romans is basically a HANDBOOK on the fundamentals of the faith.

Paul in the letter of Romans spells out our sin problem, the truth of justification by faith alone, the unity of both Jew and Gentile in the faith, and how we should then live as believers. These are the essential contents of the book.

And since Paul had never been to Rome he shares deeply with them about himself. He began this in chapter one, and then, in effect, interrupted himself until getting back to it in chapter 15.

Here in Romans 15 Paul shares about his special calling as the apostle to the Gentiles, about the extent of his apostolic labors, and then about his apostolic plans.

And now today in our study he is going to emphasize that his entire apostolic mission is to be undergird by PRAYER. Every true servant of the Lord and missionary recognizes the absolute importance of PRAYER.

Doctor David Jeremiah writes:

I scoured the New Testament some time ago, looking for things God does in ministry that are not prompted by prayer. Do you know what I found? Nothing. Everything God does in the work of ministry, He does through prayer.

Slide # 2

The way we defeat the devil (Lk. 22:32; James 4:7).

The way we help to save the lost (Lk. 18:13).

The way we acquire wisdom (James 1:5).

The way a backslider gets restored (James 5:16-20).

How the saints get strengthened (Jude 1:20; Matt. 26:41).

The way we get laborers out to the mission field (Matt. 9:38).

How we cure the [weak] (James 5:13-15).

How we accomplish the impossible (Mark 11:23-24).

- **David Jeremiah**

Prayer does not fit us for the greater works, prayer is the greater work. – **Oswald Chambers**

Paul, at length, has been explaining the nature of his apostolic ministry, and now he emphasizes that which undergirds it all and makes it happen - namely prayer.

Romans 15:30–33 (NKJV)

30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

The word beg means to urge or strongly appeal to. Paul is rather intensely asking for prayer. He appeals to them as “brethren”. As believers we are all God’s children and therefore we all have the privilege to pray.

In this world there are prayers and there are players. Unless you are a true believer you are just a player and not a real prayer. You are just going through the motions. But as believers we have not only the privilege but also the responsibility to pray for one another.

The word “through” is the Greek preposition “dia” which could also be translated as “by”. Paul is asking that the brethren pray for him “by the Lord Jesus Christ”.

All of our prayers are routed to God through Jesus. He is our ONE mediator (1 Tim. 2:5). We have access to God only through Jesus. Among other things this is what it means to have Jesus as our great High Priest. In Christ we have One Who represents us to God. We have access to God through Him.

In John 15:5 Jesus said that “without Me you can do nothing.” Jesus repeatedly emphasized that basically anything we accomplish is because of prayer in His name.

Slide # 3

John 14:13–14 (NKJV)

13 And whatever you **ask in My name**, that **I will do**, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If you **ask anything in My name, I will do it.**

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John 15:7 (NKJV)

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, **you will ask** what you desire, and **it shall be done** for you.

John 15:16 (NKJV)

16 You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should **go and bear fruit**, and that your fruit should remain, that **whatever you ask** the Father in My name He may give you.

Lasting fruit happens as a result of prayer. God has ordained that what happens for Him essentially happens through prayer. If so little is happening for God it can be traced back to this: So little prayer. Prayer is the key to fruit bearing. This is what God has ordained.

Paul is appealing to the believers in Rome to pray for Him through the Lord Jesus Christ which is the only real ground of our appeal to God.

The appeal is through “the Lord Jesus Christ”. This is often referred to as the full name of the Lord, but in truth He has many names or titles – all which give a slightly different nuance. Someone has counted at least 300 different names for Jesus in the Bible. For example, He is called, the Prince of Peace, King of Israel, Son of Man, Son of God, Bright and Morning Star, Alpha and Omega, Immanuel, Redeemer, Man of Sorrows, and Lamb of God – just to mention a few.

But the CORE designation for Jesus is “Lord Jesus Christ” which is why it is often referred to as His full name.

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Lord: God-Master

Jesus: God-Savior

Christ: The prophesied coming chosen One who delivers and reigns over His people.

In prayer, we appeal to God in this name – the name above all others – the name that gives us access to God. This name is the basis of our appeal and carries all authority. It is only on the basis of this name that we can come into God’s intimate presence through prayer.

And the other basis of appeal for prayer that Paul puts forth is the “love of the Spirit. When he says, “through the love of the Spirit” most agree that he is referring to the LOVE that the Holy Spirit produces in a believer as we walk in the Spirit. The chief fruit of the Spirit is “love” (Gal. 5:22). True believers love one another and John in 1 Jn. 3:14 goes so far as to say...

Slide # 6

1 John 3:14 (NKJV)

14 We know that we have passed from death to life, **because we love the brethren.** He who does not love his brother abides in death.

1 John 4:7 (NKJV)

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and **everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.**

One way this LOVE is demonstrated is in praying for one another. You pray for those whom you love. So, Paul is appealing to them on the basis of this Spirit produced LOVE that they pray for him.

Paul wants them to pray for him through the Lord Jesus Christ (our authoritative source of access) and because of the Spirit’s love produced in them.

And he calls for INTENSE prayer!

The Greek word (*sunagonizomai*) translated “strive” is a word related to our English word “agony”. It was a word used in reference to athletic contests where every effort was put forth to win the event (cf. Col. 2:1; 4:12). A good sense would be that of “wrestling” in prayer.

This word is conflict-oriented. It pictures prayer as a battleground – a place of spiritual warfare. Paul wants them to agonize in prayer for him.

Often prayer is seen as something related to personal comfort as we have fellowship with God – and that is certainly part of it. But the emphasis here is on the STRUGGLE of prayer. This kind of prayer is not easy! This requires great effort where one puts their whole heart and soul into it.

It cannot be stated too frequently that the life of a Christian is a warfare, an intense conflict, a lifelong contest. It is a battle, moreover, waged against invisible foes, who are ever alert, and ever seeking to entrap, deceive, and ruin the souls of men. The life to which Holy Scripture calls men is no picnic, or holiday junketing. It is no pastime, no pleasure jaunt. It entails effort, wrestling, struggling; it demands the putting forth of the full energy of the spirit in order to frustrate the foe and to come off, at the last, more than conqueror. It is no primrose path, no rose-scented dalliance. From start to finish, it is war." – ***E.M. Bounds***

There are “casual prayers” – you know those who say table grace. Again, nothing wrong with that – in fact it is to be commended. But in view here is the intense battle in prayer. This is where the heavy lifting happens.

The measure of any Christian is his prayer life. – ***Vance Havner***

And notice that Paul subtly brings out that this is a TEAM effort and that he is not about doing this all by himself. He says, “strive together with me”. This is a body life effort – this is a family of God endeavor. We all need to be in this together.

Paul realized he needed prayer and he frequently asked for it in his letters (cf. 2 Cor. 1:11; Eph. 6:19-20; Col. 4:3-4; 1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1-2; Phile 22).

At the beginning of his letter, Paul told the saints in Rome he was praying for them, but he now asks that they reciprocate in praying for him. Prayer for each other is to be a mutual thing. We all need it.

Slide # 7**Romans 1:9 (NKJV)**

9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that **without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,**

And as a footnote, observe that Paul here in Romans 15:30 brings in the reality of the Trinity, mentioning the Lord Jesus Christ, the Spirit, and God (referring to God the Father) – all in one verse.

One night a British soldier was caught creeping back into his quarters from some nearby woods. Under suspicion of being a spy, he was immediately brought before his commanding officer and ordered to explain his actions. The soldier answered that he had gone into the woods to pray.

His commanding officer, who was highly skeptical of that answer, sarcastically scoffed, “And have you been in the habit of spending such time in private prayer?” “Yes, sir,” answered the soldier. “Well then,” said the officer, “get down on your knees right now and pray, because I assure you that you never needed it more than you do at this moment.”

Expecting a death sentence for treason, the soldier knelt down on the spot and poured out his soul in prayer. He prayed with such eloquence, emotion, and obvious experience that it was undeniable that he truly was a genuine man of prayer. Consequently, when his prayer was finished, the commanding officer rendered his verdict in terms a military man would use. He said, “You may go. I believe your story. If you hadn’t drilled often, you couldn’t have done so well at review.”

We are to pray through our Lord Jesus Christ, we are to pray because of the love produced by the Spirit, and we are to pray intensely.

This whole issue of prayer and how prayer makes a difference is often discussed in conjunction with God’s sovereignty. If God is sovereign over all and He determines what is going to happen, then why do we need to pray?

Our finite minds cannot reconcile the power of prayer with God’s absolute sovereignty. As with the Trinity, and many other clearly revealed but humanly unfathomable teachings of Scripture, we simply acknowledge their absolute truth. Any seeming inconsistencies are

due to the limits of our human comprehension. We know from His own Word that God is sovereign and immutable. Yet we also know from that same Word that “the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much” (James 5:16). ...Any theology that belittles the power of prayer or intensity in prayer is heresy.

– **Dr. John MacArthur**

There are areas where we cannot figure out how God’s sovereignty and human responsibility mesh. That is true at certain points in salvation as well as sanctification.

Slide # 8

Perhaps it is wise (and biblical) to recognize the antinomy between divine sovereignty and human responsibility in election. ...

Regarding Calvinistic teaching concerning irresistible grace, if the person is regenerated before exercising faith, why is it necessary to exercise faith? ...

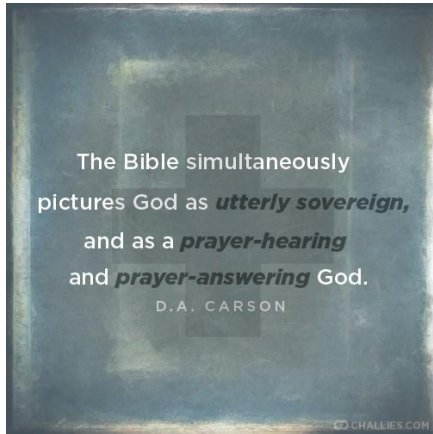
The issue is that Calvinism attempts to resolve the dilemma of divine sovereignty and human responsibility when it may be best to leave the antinomy alone since Scripture affirms both divine sovereignty and human responsibility.

– ***The Moody Handbook of Theology***, p. 734

The position the Moody Handbook presents is the one I espouse – which argues there are tensions here we can’t figure out. The Bible teaches both God’s sovereignty and human responsibility, and therefore, the faithful teacher of the Word holds to both. We accept the tensions as stated. That is what I call the “Biblicist” position.

And so it is with prayer. God sovereignly knows all and ordains all, and yet He works through prayer in ways we can’t fully comprehend. But the point in this context is that prayer makes a difference, and it is vitally important that God’s people pray.

Slide # 9 – D.A. Carson



Paul now informs them how to pray intentionally and intelligently. We need to pray intensely, intentionally, and intelligently.

Paul asks specific prayer in regard to three things.

31 that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,

Paul is planning to go to Jerusalem which was in the heart of Judea. There was great hostility against Paul there on the part of the unbelievers who considered him a traitor to Judaism. His interaction with the Gentiles undoubtedly only heightened this hostility. Just as Paul, before his conversion, was totally opposed to the Christians, so now were the unbelieving Jews in Judea against him.

Shortly after his conversion, when Paul was in Jerusalem, the Jews had tried to kill him.

Slide # 10

Acts 9:28–30 (NKJV)

28 So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out.

29 And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but **they attempted to kill him.**

30 When the brethren found out, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.

Consistently, wherever Paul went, the fanatical Jews dogged his footsteps and were hostile against him. In 1 Thessalonians 2 Paul gives his overall analysis of them.

Slide # 11**1 Thessalonians 2:14–16 (NKJV)**

14 For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are **in Judea** in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did **from the Judeans**,

15 who **killed** both the Lord Jesus and their own prophets, and have **persecuted** us; and they **do not please God and are contrary** to all men,

16 **forbidding** us to speak to the Gentiles that they may be saved, so as always to fill up the measure of their sins; but wrath has come upon them to the uttermost.

Paul knew even on his third missionary journey that potential trouble lie ahead in Jerusalem but he was determined to go there anyway.

It is legit to pray for physical safety even though sometimes God works through martyrdom as in the case of Stephen – the first martyr of the church. Even so, it is appropriate to pray for deliverance from those who would seek us harm.

Years ago, I had a friend (a fellow IFCA guy) who was a Bible College professor in Saint Louis. One day he emailed me this note...

Pray for a man that was waiting in my truck after I stopped for refreshments on my way home from school last Tuesday night. He (at gun point) made me drive him to a girllie joint parking lot and took all my \$\$\$ and beat me. Put the gun to my face, pulled the hammer back. I called out "**Dear God, in Jesus name, help me!**" He lowered the gun at that moment, took my truck and left me on the ground with half my clothes on because he tore them off me to find more money. Got the truck back yesterday. It stinks and is a constant reminder. He needs Jesus. Pray for him. ***Jim McIntosh***

But the point is God answered Jim's prayer when he cried out, "Dear God, in Jesus name, help me!" God works through prayer!

One Sunday morning, D. L. Moody entered a house in Chicago to escort some children to Sunday school. During his visit, three men backed him into a corner and threatened him. "Look here," Moody said. "Give a fellow a chance to say his prayers, won't you?"

The men actually allowed him to call out to God, and Moody prayed for them so earnestly that they left the room. – ***Our Daily Bread***

God works through prayer!

Slide # 12

Acts 20:22–24 (NKJV)

22 And see, now I **go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing** the things that will happen to me there,

23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that **chains and tribulations await me.**

24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

Paul wasn't sure exactly what was coming, other than in a general way, chains and tribulations awaited him. However, he was asking for specific prayer that he would be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea who had a record of being especially hostile towards him.

Note that the phrase “**do not believe**” in verse 31 is a translation of a Greek word (apeitheo) that literally means “***the disobedient***”. The NASB translates this “those who are disobedient in Judea”.

Again, this fits in with Paul's emphasis in the book that the great issue before people is the OBEDIENCE of faith. Paul begins and ends the book this way and makes this the issue throughout (cf. Rom. 1:5; 6:17; 15:18, 31; 16:25-26).

True believers respond from the heart with the obedience of faith. Unbelievers are disobedient to the faith in that they reject it. At His coming the Lord Jesus will take vengeance on those “***who do not obey the gospel***” (2 Thess. 1:8). The gospel is at once to be believed and obeyed. To truly believe is to obey! God commands people to believe, and when they do, that is the obedience of faith.

And more specifically, we are commanded to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is Who He is to us as believers. He is our Lord and Savior!

But again, note that Paul in Romans consistently emphasizes the nature of a true saving faith as involving an obedient response of the heart.

Slide # 13

Romans 6:17 (NKJV)

17 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet **you obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

But Paul also has a request concerning the saints at Jerusalem, and that is that his service (which is to say his gift intended to serve them) may be accepted by them.

The great rift between Jews and Gentiles was not easily healed. There was tremendous pride and prejudice on the part of the Jews. And even in conversion, there were still struggles. We get a little feel for this in Acts 21 when Paul finally made it to Jerusalem.

Slide # 14

Acts 21:19–21 (NKJV)

19 When he had greeted them, he told in detail those things which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.

20 And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many **myriads of Jews there are who have believed**, and they are **all zealous for the law**;

21 but they have been **informed about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses**, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children nor to walk according to the customs.

With that background of suspicion, you can understand why Paul is concerned that the Jews in Jerusalem may be apprehensive about receiving the gift collected for them.

But Paul was doing everything he could to try and develop unity between the believing Jews and the believing Gentiles – emphasizing that now, in Christ, we are all one. But this certainly had its challenges.

So, Paul’s prayer request is that the offering so gladly given by the Gentile churches would be humbly accepted by the saints in Jerusalem, facilitating unity in the Church (cf. Rom. 15:16). That is the essence of his prayer request.

32 that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you.

Here is Paul's third specific request: namely that by the will of God he may be able to come to the saints in Rome with joy and there be refreshed.

There is a great emphasis on BODY life in Paul's thought processes expressing "we are in this thing together". In verse 30 he emphasized striving together in prayer and now here in verse 32 he emphasizes being "refreshed together with you." There is a lot of "together with" in Paul's thinking and practice. As the body of Christ we were made to function "together" and not in isolation. We need each other!

And note that Paul couches his request in accordance with "***the will of God***". This is to be the spirit of all God-honoring prayer. We want our requests to align with God's will. Paul had earlier indicated that he was praying in this fashion.

Slide # 15

Romans 1:10 (NKJV)

10 making request if, by some means, now at last I may **find a way in the will of God** to come to you.

It has well been said that every prayer we pray should be some variation of, 'God, Your will be done.'

Slide # 16

1 John 5:14–15 (NKJV)

14 Now this is the **confidence** that we have in Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.**

15 And if we know that He hears us, **whatever we ask**, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

The problem is that often we don't know for sure what the specific will of God is and so we pray, "Lord, according to Your will". In Romans 8:26 Paul indicated that often "we do not know what we should pray for as we ought" and therefore the Spirit makes intercession for us. We pray but we need help and the Spirit is there for us in this regard. Nevertheless, the goal is always to have our prayers align with God's will.

Slide # 17

Acts 18:21 (NKJV)

21 but took leave of them, saying, "I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, **God willing**." And he sailed from Ephesus.

1 Corinthians 4:19 (NKJV)

19 But I will come to you shortly, **if the Lord wills**, and I will know, not the word of those who are puffed up, but the power.

Slide # 18

1 Corinthians 16:7 (NKJV)

7 For I do not wish to see you now on the way; but I hope to stay a while with you, **if the Lord permits**.

James 4:15 (NKJV)

15 Instead you ought to say, "**If the Lord wills**, we shall live and do this or that."

God works through prayer to work out His will. He wants to work, but He does it through prayer. Therefore, the goal in our praying is to align with God's will so that He will work! Again, this involves a mysterious tension between sovereignty and human responsibility, but this is how God works.

If indeed things went well in Jerusalem, that would enable Paul to come to Rome with great joy and he requests prayer to that end in keeping with the will of God.

Note to that he evidently anticipated that his time in Jerusalem and getting to Rome would probably be wearing and therefore prayerfully looks forward to a time of being refreshed in the company of the saints in Rome.

Now let me ask you: Did God answer these prayer requests?

The answer is YES, but in a modified way proving that we often don't know exactly how to pray, and yet God works through prayer.

In terms of prayer to be delivered from the hostile unbelievers in Judea, Paul, in fact, was beaten by a hostile Jewish mob that wanted to kill him, but then he was rescued by Roman soldiers. That was answered prayer. In fact, he was rescued from the Jews lynching him three times (cf. Acts 21:30ff; 22:22ff.; 23:10). Perhaps he was not delivered in the way Paul had hoped for, but he was delivered as seen in Acts 21-23. In terms of his gift for the saints in Jerusalem we are not told much other than they did gladly receive him when he came to Jerusalem.

Slide # 19**Acts 21:17 (NKJV)**

17 And when we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.

In terms of coming to Rome with joy. As Paul was just outside of Rome the brethren came to see him which filled Paul's heart with thanksgiving and he took courage (Acts 28:14). When Paul actually got to Rome he had a very fruitful ministry – albeit in the context of prison confinement.

Slide # 20**Philippians 1:12–14 (NKJV)**

12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the **things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,**

13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

But again, it came after a long 3-year process of being moved through the Roman prison system and being taken to Rome involving shipwreck, etc. So, he got there which was answered prayer, but again not in the way he had prayerfully anticipated. In terms of the BIG scheme of things we might say all Paul's prayer requests were answered in the form of TWO words: Better and Later! They were answered in a modified form!

So, yes, God answered all these prayers in a modified way. It is good to always remind ourselves that God's ways are not our ways, and yet He works through prayer. Keeping both of these in mind will serve you well on your journey.

It is astonishing (and the more so the more we study it) how God makes His work in this world depend on the prayers of His saints.

– ***William Newell***

“When D. L. Moody's Church in Chicago lay in ashes, he went over to England, in 1872, not to preach, but to listen to others preach while his new church was being built.

One Sunday morning he was prevailed upon to preach in a London pulpit. But somehow the spiritual atmosphere was lacking. He confessed afterwards that he never had such a hard time preaching in his life. Everything was perfectly dead, and, as he vainly tried to preach, he said to himself, "What a fool I was to consent to preach! I came here to listen, and here I am preaching."

Then the awful thought came to him that he had to preach again at night, and only the fact that he had given the promise to do so kept him faithful to the engagement.

But when Mr. Moody entered the pulpit at night, and faced the crowded congregation, he was conscious of a new atmosphere. "The powers of an unseen world seemed to have fallen upon the audience." As he drew towards the close of his sermon he became emboldened to give out an invitation, and as he concluded he said, "If there is a man or woman here who will tonight accept Jesus Christ, please stand up." At once about 500 people rose to their feet.

Thinking that there must be some mistake, he asked the people to be seated, and then, in order that there might be no possible misunderstanding, he repeated the invitation, couching it in even more definite and difficult terms. Again the same number rose. Still thinking that something must be wrong, Mr. Moody, for the second time, asked the standing men and women to be seated, and then he invited all who really meant to accept Christ to pass into the vestry. Fully 500 people did as requested, and that was the beginning of a revival in that church..."

The sequel, however, must be given. When Mr. Moody preached at the morning service, there was a woman in the congregation who had an invalid sister. On her return home she told the invalid that the preacher had been a Mr. Moody, and on hearing this the sister turned pale. "What," she said, "Mr. Moody from Chicago!" I read about him some time ago in an American paper, and I have been praying God to send him to London, and to our church.

If I had known he was going to preach this morning, I would have eaten no breakfast. I would have spent the whole time in prayer. Now sister, go out of the room, lock the door, send me no dinner; no matter who comes, don't let them see me. I am going to spend the whole afternoon in prayer." And so while Mr. Moody stood in the pulpit that had been like an ice chamber in the morning, the bedridden saint was holding him up before God; and God, who ever delights to answer prayer, poured out His Spirit in mighty power.

–E.M. Bounds, Adapted from Purpose in Prayer

God works mightily through prayer. This is how God works! We talk about D.L. Moody but the real work was done behind the scenes in prayer. I believe the prayer warriors will receive the greatest reward!

And anyone can pray! People often ask what they can do? How about starting with prayer? You can pray. I can pray! We can all pray! It is the most important part of the work and yet often the least esteemed part of it.

Slide # 21

Charles Spurgeon once said, "Prayer pulls the rope down below and the great bell rings above in the ears of God. Some scarcely stir the bell, for they pray so languidly; others give only an occasional jerk at the rope. But he who communicates with heaven is the man who grasps the rope boldly and pulls continuously with all his might."

Want to be used of God in a great way – make the prayer the dominant emphasis of your life. People are doers. They do this and they do that, but how many MAJOR on prayer! Often it is the thing that is lacking!

Paul believed God works through prayer! No wonder he said...

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (NKJV)
17 pray without ceasing,

And then Paul comes to the end of this section of the book, concluding with this benediction.

Romans 15:33 (NKJV)
33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

In Romans 15 Paul has described God in various ways.

Slide # 22

- v. 5 – “God of patience” (endurance)
- v. 5 – God of comfort (encouragement)
- v. 13 – “God of hope”
- v. 33 – “God of peace”

When Paul says God is “**the God of peace**,” he means God is the source of true peace. He is the source of every good thing, including patience, comfort, hope, and peace.

“**God of peace**” is one of Paul’s favorite designations for God (cf. Rom. 15:33; 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:11; Phil. 4:9; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Thess. 3:16).

It is like Paul has been trying to wrap this letter up for a while as this is now the third benediction in chapter 15 as seen in verses 5, 13, and now 33.

Peace is the idea that all is well. It is the idea of “well-being”.

In Paul’s writing, there is PEACE with God – meaning all is well between us and God on the basis of faith. This is what Paul addressed in Romans 5:1.

Slide # 23

Romans 5:1 (NKJV)

1 Therefore, having been justified **by faith**, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ,

In believing we have peace with God. We are now in relationship with God. All is well between us and God. But then Paul also addresses the PEACE of God or peace from God on the basis of PRAYER. This is peace experienced in our walk, no matter our circumstances.

Slide # 24

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV)

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in **everything by prayer** and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

7 and the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

As Paul is talking to believers here in Romans 15:33 he is addressing the peace of God related to our walk. They were already believers – therefore they already had peace with God. But what they needed was the peace of God in their walk.

Paul has just been talking about prayer in the previous verses – so in context, he is addressing peace with God in the believer's circumstances no matter what we face. Paul knew this PEACE in his own experience and his prayer wish for all the saints in Rome is that they would know it too!

And then he says “Amen” as an affirmation of his prayer/desire.

The reality of supernatural peace – God’s peace that He gives is one of the most wonderful realities in the life of a Christian.

Paul didn't know what was coming – but he could have peace. We don't know what is coming but we can have peace. We bath our situation in prayer and God gives us his peace. This is the promise. We take it to God in prayer and then He will give us His peace.

Are you anxious and worried about something? Take it to God in prayer. Recently we studied through Psalm 55. David was very troubled over the betrayal he had experienced. In response he determined to take it to God in intense prayer and the result was PEACE.

Slide # 25

Psalm 55:17–18 (NKJV)

17 Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.

18 He has redeemed my soul in peace from the battle that was against me, For there were many against me.

This is the pattern throughout Scripture. We pray earnestly casting our cares upon God and then God fills us with His peace. If you still don't have peace – pray more. Pray morning, noon, and night, pray until God gives you His peace. It works every time its tried!

It's Christmas Time once again. And as Christians, we celebrate the coming of our Lord and Savior into the world. And the reason He came into the world is to bring us PEACE. At His birth the angels cried out...

Luke 2:14 (NKJV)

14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

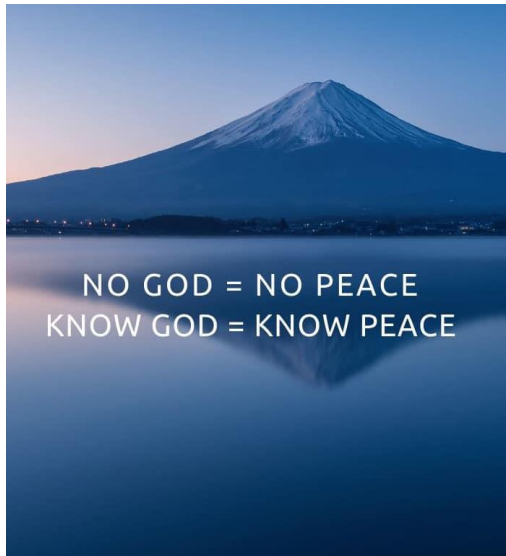
Seven hundred years before He was born the prophet Isaiah prophesied that His name would be “Prince of Peace.”

In His parting words before He was crucified Jesus said to His disciples...

John 14:27 (NKJV)

27 Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

What a precious gift is the gift of God's peace!

Slide # 26

Do you know PEACE with God? Come to Jesus in faith! Receive Him by faith as your Lord and Savior and you will have peace with God.

No God – No peace! The Bible says there is no peace for the wicked (Isa. 48:22). Come to Jesus!

Do you as a believer know the PEACE of God in your walk? Pray!

Know God – know peace!

Romans 15:33 (NKJV)

33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.