

Being fulfilled in Christ # 49
Romans 15: 8-13

Having spent much time in the book of Romans, we have discovered the diverse group to whom Paul spoke. The church at Rome was made up from people of all backgrounds, social statuses, and religious influences, Jews and Gentiles alike. Each individual had to deal with the traditions, influences, and impressions of their past while embracing the present state of the church and the hopeful future they shared together. Paul sought to instill within the heart of every believer unity and cooperation among the church and steadfastness in the faith. Although they were all different, they shared a common bond and sense of purpose in Christ.

The modern church remains a diverse group as well. We don't see the diversity others do, but people from all walks of life and differing backgrounds have come to faith in Christ. Regardless of our social or racial differences, we make up one body in Christ. The ground is level at the foot of the cross, and every believer shares the same promises and benefits. In fact, the Lord desires each of us to live victoriously in Him as we grow and mature in the faith. We should seek to take advantage of every opportunity and blessing available in Christ. We have received much, and yet we fail to maximize our potential in Christ. Paul understood fullness in Christ and he wanted others to understand and embrace fulfillment in Christ as well.

Let's examine the [certainties](#) revealed in the text as we consider: [Being fulfilled in Christ](#).

I. The Promises in Christ (8-12) – Paul speaks of the profound promises in Christ. Notice:

A. His Faithfulness to the Jews (8) – [Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers](#). Although some of the Jews had believed in the Gospel, receiving Christ by faith, many remained skeptical of the message Paul shared. Jesus came as God in the flesh. He came to the Hebrew people, the chosen of God. He came as the Jewish Messiah, seeking to save that which was lost. Tragically Jesus was rejected by the majority of Jews. He came unto His own and His own received Him not. However, even though the majority had rejected Christ, they could not claim God had been unfaithful. The prophets of old prophesied of the coming of Christ and He came in fulfillment of prophecy. He offered Himself the atoning sacrifice for sin for all who believe.

- There were fewer Jews being saved than Gentiles, but salvation was available for the Jews. God had been faithful in sending His Son to provide redemption. Those who believed by faith in the finished work of Christ were saved, Jew and Gentile alike. This promise remains today.

Most Jews continue to seek the Messiah, denying that Jesus was the Christ, but those who receive Him by faith are saved by His grace!

B. His Graciousness to the Gentiles (9-12) – Paul also speaks of the graciousness of Christ in relation to the gentile race of people. For centuries they had rejected the true and living God. The supreme sacrifice Christ made for sin provided atonement for all people, including the Gentiles. Consider:

1. The Provision (9) – *And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.* Following the rejection of Jesus as the Christ by Israel, God in His mercy, sent Paul to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles. Through the grace of God, salvation was offered to those who previously had no desire for the Lord or a relationship with Him. Certainly God in His divine foreknowledge knew the Jews would reject Christ and salvation would be offered unto the Gentiles, but the Gospel was not taken to the Gentiles until the Jews had rejected Christ. You ought to praise the Lord for His graciousness to the Gentiles. Had He not been willing to offer such grace to us, we would yet be in sin, separated from God, without hope.

2. The Praise (10-11) – *And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.* ^[11] *And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.* Through these references to praise for salvation, we continue to see the gracious providence of God in the lives of Gentiles. Paul is quoting from Deuteronomy and Psalms. Long before Jesus died on the cross for sin, providing redemption for mankind, God spoke of the salvation of Gentiles and the praise their salvation would create. The praise of the Jews as Jesus entered Jerusalem became cries for crucifixion. The idolatry of the Gentiles became genuine worship of the Lord following salvation.

- Such provision in grace ought to stir an attitude of praise and worship. We were unworthy of any of God's mercies, and yet He poured out abundant grace upon us. I rejoice for the grace of God that was extended to those who stood condemned in sin. Through the sacrifice of Christ, provision was made for our salvation. He is worthy of our praise!

3. The Position (12) – *And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.* Again referring to Old Testament prophecy, Paul reveals the Lord of glory coming to earth as Savior of the Gentiles. For centuries they had worshipped idols, the sun, moon, and planets, and now those who were saved rejoiced in the root

of Jesse coming as Redeemer of mankind. Jesus may not have been worshipped by Israel, but vast numbers of Gentiles had received Him as Savior and were trusting in His power and grace.

- I am thankful to know Jesus as Savior and Lord. I have placed my trust in Him. Though the world continues to reject the Lord, I am secure in Christ the Lord. He has purchased my redemption, reconciled me to God, and provided eternal life for all who believe! The veil of separation has been removed and access is granted to all who embrace Christ by faith.

II. The Peace through Christ (13) – [Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.](#) Here Paul speaks of the peace found in Christ. Notice:

A. The Source (13) – [Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing...](#) This was no accident or lucky circumstance the Gentiles enjoyed in Christ. Such peace through Christ was provided by God Himself. Long before sin entered the human race, long before we ever realized our need for salvation, God had made the way for our salvation. God has provided and He desires all to come to faith in Christ, being filled with the peace and provision He brings! Isn't it amazing that the Lord would show such mercy and compassion toward us?

B. The Significance (13) – [Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing...](#) I have said many times: salvation from sin is more than any of us deserve. If God would only have provided forgiveness from sin and escape from eternal condemnation, we would have received much more than we deserve. I am glad He provides more than forgiveness from sin. He also provides eternal life in Christ. Once we lay aside this body of flesh, we will enter the Lord's presence throughout eternity. Surely that is more than we deserve, but that isn't all we receive in Christ either. In Him we are filled with joy and peace by faith. The Lord wants us to enjoy abundant, victorious life in Him as we journey through this life.

- Often we miss out on God's best. He seeks to fill us with joy and peace, and yet many times we allow the cares and hindrances of life to defeat us. We don't have to live as if we only hoped God would provide for us. We can live in full assurance knowing He is more than able to meet whatever need we have and keep us throughout eternity. His provision provides peace in the midst of adversity and joy for the journey!

C. The Sufficiency (13) – [Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope.](#) Paul reveals that the Lord doesn't want us to simply "get by" in life. He wants us to

enjoy the abundance He offers. Many were concerned about what tomorrow would bring. Others wondered about eternity and if believers would really enjoy eternal life. Their lives were consumed with worries and cares. Paul had come to the place in life where he realized that Jesus was enough. He wanted others to know they could live abundantly in Christ, abounding in hope.

- I rejoice in the sufficiency of Christ. I will admit I lose focus at times and need to be reminded, but when I set my affections on Him, I have hope that exceeds any care of life. I have received something in Christ that the world cannot take away. I have the assurance of being accepted of the Father based on the finished work of the Son. I have the promise of eternal life in Christ. I have the help of a Friend who never leaves my side. I enjoy the guidance of the Spirit continually. What have I to fear? There is abundant hope in Christ!

D. The Support (13) – [Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.](#) Finally Paul mentions the support every believer enjoys day by day. We are not saved and expected to navigate this uncertain path alone. We have the Spirit abiding within, guiding our steps, guarding our hearts, and convicting of error. Having the Spirit within affords great peace and hope in Christ. We are never alone or without guidance. There is never a situation that He can't guide us through or provide the support we need to endure.

Conclusion: I hope you have been reminded of the precious promises we have in Christ and the abiding peace He brings. Life is difficult and uncertain, but there is hope and assurance in Christ. He wants us to live fulfilled lives in Him, embracing and enjoying all He provides. If you are struggling, seek the Lord and His help. He is able to meet whatever need you may have. If you have yet to receive Christ in salvation, you don't know the peace He brings. You don't have confidence concerning the future and you lack the guidance and provision of the Spirit. Respond to the call of salvation and receive Christ by faith!