



PART 18: A GENTLE REMINDER

Reading Romans is like the experience of a man groping in a dark church tower who reaches out to grab whatever he can – and grasps the rope that rings the bell that wakes up the entire community.

~ Karl Barth

God wants to form people transformed by the gospel into communities that reflect the values of the gospel. Vertical reconciliation with God must lead to horizontal reconciliation with one another.

~ Douglas J. Moo

The frequent mention of women in Romans 16 is impressive. Nothing in Paul's comments justifies the conclusion that these women worked in ways that differed either in kind or in quality from the ways in which men worked.

~ Beverly Gaventa

Paul shows no qualms about having women as coworkers in a wide variety of roles. He did not set out to change secular society's patriarchal structure, but he did try to help create a Christian subculture where men and women could all be one in Christ and where what determined roles in the church was one's gifting and calling not one's gender or social status.

~ Ben Witherington III

We, having been called through his will in Jesus Christ, are not set right through our own efforts or through our wisdom or understanding or piety or works which we wrought in holiness of heart, but through faith, through which the almighty God sets right all persons that have been since the beginning.

~ Clement of Rome (96 CE)

In Romans 15 Paul speaks of wrestling in prayer. The purpose of prayer is emphatically not to bend God's will to ours, but rather to align our will to his.

~ John Stott

Much of Romans focuses on the way in which God has planned salvation history in such a way as to include Gentiles ultimately in the people of God. This again becomes the focus at the end of the letter.

~ Douglas J. Moo

Christianity is not about compartmentalization or withdrawal: it is radically and relentlessly life-encompassing. It is about being engaged by a God who is not through wooing, harassing, changing and redeeming an estranged creation.

~ Rodney Clapp

Jesus is not a private or a tame saviour, available on tap, like a favourite beer, for those who want some salvation now and then. If he is not Messiah and Lord, the whole of Christianity is indeed based on a mistake and ought to be abandoned.

~ N. T. Wright

Paul's proclamation was counter-cultural, subversive, imaginative, and prophetic and sought to advance the formation of a new community of transformed persons with renewed ways of thinking – and, therefore, behaving.

~ Ben Witherington III

I am not ashamed of the gospel.

~ The Apostle Paul