

Romans 15:14 - 16:27 Jesus Is Reality

2/28/10 - The Exchange

- I. Hobby vs. reality
 - A. When hobbies cross the line into becoming a person's reality, that's not good. Trek convention. Anything.
 - B. Too many Christians treat Jesus and church as a hobby, one among many hobbies from which they might choose. Hobbies are nice, but there is nothing real about them.
 - C. Jesus is not a reality to choose from, He is reality. How can I say this? Without going into a whole apologetics thing, The Bible
 1. It's history - attempts to disprove, like David, wrong. Trust it.
 2. It's prophecy - specific, predictive prophecy. Trust it.
 3. It's message - what we've been talking about for 20 weeks! We are in peril and need to be saved, can't save ourselves, God did it for us through Jesus.
 - D. Not just a philosophy, a code of ethics, reality. Paul spends the rest of the letter giving us an insight into the impact of living out this reality in the lives of people.
- II. 15:14-33 This is the impact of the reality of Jesus on Paul's life.
 - A. 15:14-21
 1. 15:14 Paul transitions from instruction to personal mode.
 2. 15:15 "I had to be honest with you." Reminders.
 3. 15:16 Much of the letter had to do with correcting the perception of the Jews about the Gentiles. Paul says, "They are my mission."
 4. 15:17-19 There is nothing else I'd rather talk about. It is only by the power of the Spirit of God that the Gospel can go out and be received. Can't and shouldn't argue people into relationship
 5. 15:20-21 Paul was a missionary, a church planter, not a long-timer. What do you do in a place where there are already churches?
 - a) Alive, find one that fits your style.
 - b) Dead, join and help bring revival,
 - c) Dead, start a new one.
 - d) Only reason to go or stay is because God said so.
 - e) Island joke about church hopping.
 - B. 15:22-33
 1. 15:22 What reason? Busy out planting churches.
 2. 15:23-24 "I've done all I can do here." Wow! Kind of surprising he never popped into Rome in all his travels.
 3. 15:25-29 Taking a gift to J-town. After all, it's the mother church
 4. 15:30-33 Paul knows tribulation awaits in J-town, and he will get to Rome, just not the way he thought.
- III. 16:1-16 The impact of the reality of slaves, free, leaders, men, women
 - A. 16:1-2 The one who carried this letter to Rome.
 - B. 16:3-16 Highlight.
- IV. 16:17-27
 - A. 16:17-20

1. When something is “successful” there will be those who want to take advantage of it.
 2. **note** - Bob’s story about police training and karate suspects.
 - a) For how long? Until they stop it and get it.
 - b) **2 Timothy 2:24-26**
 - c) Different context, but same principle in **Matt. 18**.
 3. There is that which is contrary and that which is in agreement. Most of this letter is expanding on what is in agreement. Anything that isn’t is contrary.
 4. **simple** - me with knitting, welding, baking, being cool
 5. **peace, crush** - those coming in causing division will be done, thus giving them peace.
- B. **16:21-24**
1. **Tertius** - “third”, probably a slave, but an educated one because he could take dictation
 2. **Quartus** - “fourth” another slave
- C. **16:25-27**
1. **16:25** Established by four things
 - a) **1** - Paul’s **gospel and preaching of Jesus**. Who establishes us, and by what? Is it “your” gospel? Do you have ownership of it? We should. “My team.”
 - b) **2** - **The revealing of the thing kept secret since the beginning but now made manifest, real, tangible.**
 2. **16:26**
 - a) **3** - **the prophetic Scripture made known to all nations.** How? Ironically by God’s judgment. God wants things to spread. Genesis commands.
 - b) **4** - **the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith.**
 3. **16:27 through Jesus Christ** - the gateway, the door, the channel, to living in reality. How can I...
 - a) **experience real peace and hope?**
 - b) **find freedom from the things that hold on to me?**
 - c) **be relieved of the guilt for what I’ve done?**
 - d) **be relieved of the shame and anger of what’s been done to me?**
 - e) **know and be known by God? (relationship)**
- V. **Wrap up Romans 1:16**
- A. It’s not about fixing your circumstances, it’s about fixing you.
 - B. It’s not about you buying your way into God’s favor, it’s about Him buying you out of slavery you didn’t know you were in.
 - C. It’s not about you living your life for Jesus, it’s about Jesus living His life through you.
 - D. Through Jesus Christ. Jesus is reality.