

Romans: A Study on Reformation
Lesson 21 “Surrendering to the Will of God”

I. Introduction - We are continuing our series on the book of Romans today. Paul wrote this letter from Corinth to the church in Rome to bring reformation to this church in 57 A.D. We are studying verse by verse through the book with our focus being on “Reformation.”

A. Paul wrote this book in 57 A.D. prior to his trip to Jerusalem with the purpose of dealing with some major issues the church in Rome was having between the Jewish and gentile Christians.

B. Over the next several weeks we are going to study **Romans 9-11** and discover God’s plan for humanity and how God initially chose the Jews, but not just for the Jews sake. His plan was to use the Jews to reach the gentiles. What’s interesting is Paul knew this and communicates about this in extensive detail in these chapters. He also talks about how after the gentiles are reached, many Jews will eventually be grafted back into the family of God. **Paul knew the plan! He declared the plan! But what I wanted to talk about today is his struggle to submit to his part of the plan. Paul was called to the gentiles, but had a heart for the Jews so he could never stay with the plan. Many of us have the same problem. We know the plan and know it’s a good plan. It’s a God plan. Our challenge is “Surrendering to the Plan of God.” What will see today is the key to doing this is surrendering to the joy of God.**

II. Surrendering to the Will of God

A. **Romans 9:1-3 Paul’s Struggle**

1. **Verses 1-3** Paul makes a radical statement in these passages. He says he wished he could be accursed for his brethren. He loved them so much he was willing to be separated from God so they could all be saved. While this is noble, it is highly unnecessary. Jesus was cursed in our place.

a. heaviness - lype - sadness, grief, heaviness.

b. Anther instance this word is used. **Luke 22:45-46** the disciples were so heavy with sorrow for what was about to come upon Jesus, they couldn’t pray. What was going to keep them from temptation? Prayer.

2. Paul got himself out of the will of God right after He wrote this letter and travelled to Jerusalem to minister in **Acts 21**. He overrode the direct call of God on his life as well as multiple prophetic words given to him that told him not to go to Jerusalem. He ended up beaten, imprisoned, and shipwrecked before finally getting to Rome. His journey was delayed by two years. **Romans 1:9-11**.

3. I get this because of my recent experience in Colorado Springs. I’ve seen a glimpse of what is possible when God gets hold of a city. **Hebrews 11:9-10**. Abraham waited for a city (community of believers). He wasn’t just looking after

himself. There was more. The same way Paul ministered to the Gentiles by faith because his heart was with the Jews, I have to minister in the Triad by faith because my heart is in the Springs. What I'm having to do is what Paul should have done and repenting before God to get a heart for this place. I'm doing that partly through prayer and partly through sharing what I've seen so I can find someone(s) who will believe with me for God to bring it to pass here.

4. The application for all of us is get a heart for our assignment. When we don't get a heart for our calling, we will step outside of our calling to do that which we have a heart for.

B. What's the Solution? How do we connect our heart to our assignment? If the problem is sorrow, this means the answer is joy! **Hebrews 12:1-17.**

1. **Verse 2** Jesus endured the cross because of joy. He was us! This wasn't just a mental awareness, however, because he spent hours praying in the garden until He was empowered by the Holy Spirit to get His will in line with God the Fathers. **Jesus said come to me and drink, not think.** Out of this the Holy Spirit infused Him with joy - **Romans 8:2, Nehemiah 8:10.**

2. **Verse 3** We are told to consider Jesus so we don't become weary or discouraged (heavy, filled with sorrow).

3. **Verse 4** Jesus's prayer in the garden.

5. **Verses 5-11** Sometimes the Father gives us instructions/we don't like. This is comparable to having to surrender to a plan you don't want to surrender to.

6. **Verses 12-17**

a. **Verse 12 Strengthen - anorthoo - lift up** the hands that hang down.

The idea is **we worship! The joy of the Lord is our strength.**

b. **Verse 13** Let the weak say I am strong! **Joel 3:10!** We do this through joy! Why? A person of joy knows they are going to win before the game is over! **1 Peter 1:8-9** *we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory receiving the end of our faith! We rejoice before we see it!*

c. **Verse 15** A person who doesn't rejoice and gives themselves over to continual sorrow has the potential to fall into bitterness and become defiled. Thank God Paul didn't do this. He kept a great attitude in prison and that is a major reason he got out!

d. **Verses 16-17** Esau rejected his birthright for a bowl of soup. Why? He was weary (being without food). This caused him to trade the supernatural for that which is common. He should have rejoiced and said, "My God will supply for me just like he did my father and grandfather."

III. Conclusion - When we are intentional to rejoice and get into joy when we don't feel like it two things happen. We get divine perspective on our problems (see new solutions/perspective) and we get infused with the supernatural life of God to do that which is impossible in our natural strength.

A. Call Up Prayer Team

B. Pray Closing Prayer - Pray for a Fresh Touch of Joy