

BIB 271 Church Epistles

Lesson 4 Romans Part III Devotional

Intro. This epistle can be divided into two parts which are doctrinal and devotional. That was ever the practice of the apostle. First to show the doctrinal basis and then the practical application of it to our individual lives. There is ever the tendency for a Christian to attempt to separate their spiritual from their secular life thereby living a 'dichotomy'. These things ought not so to be. What God hath joined together let not man put asunder. Man is ever attempting to separate imputed (positional) righteousness from imparted (practical) righteousness. If our Christianity does not apply to our daily lives what doth it profit? Faith without works is dead being alone.

1. The Christian's Life - A life of duty (12-13)

-Luke 17:10

A. Our spiritual life 12:1-13

1. a life surrendered to God 1-2 Absolute Surrender, Take up cross, Deny Self, etc.
2. a life serviceable to others 3-13 the exercise of our gifts for the edification of the body

Note: the importance of recognizing and utilizing the gifts that you have been given

B. Our social life 12:14-21 Here is the essence of Christianity: Love your neighbor as yourself. The importance of personal relationships.

1. Very similar to the beatitudes and the Sermon on the mount
2. Overcome evil with good

C. Our secular life 13:1-14

1. View of Government 1-7
2. View of life 8-14 true holiness and love fulfilling the law

2. The Christian's Liberty - A life of denial (14-15)

- Galatians 5:13

A. Religious Liberty (14)

1. meat offered to idols
2. holy days
3. key verses 7,10-13

B. Racial Liberty (15) - Jew/Gentile relationships

1. 1-14 showing the promises to Jew and Gentile
2. 15-33 His ministry is to the Gentiles and he has to deal with the Jews as well

Note: the Jew Gentile relationship was very difficult to fuse together and therefore would be a good example to all Christians of how to deal with social, political, economic, personal differences in the church of God.

3. The Christian's Love - A life of depth (16)

A. For the saints 1-16

B. For the truth 17-20

C. For the ministers 21-24

D. For the Lord 25-27

Conclusion

Let us always remember the lesson of the importance of having a proper mix of doctrine and devotion in our preaching. Churches that are only fed doctrine dry up and it forces the dichotomy in their lives because they do not see the relevance to their daily life. Let us not forsake doctrine and not show people the reason that their lives should be different. Feeding the flock implies giving them everything that they need to be healthy.