

Romans 15:4-7

Written for our Learning

1. A Mystery Kept Secret

- a. *Salvation?* Romans. *God's work?* Eph, Phi, Col. *God's will?* Thess. *Service?* 2Cor, Gal, Tim.
- b. Nothing in Law, Psalms, prophets, MMLJ is about you (church today), which was a mystery.
- c. The mystery of Christ kept secret, hidden, not found in scriptures until revealed to Paul.
- d. *"... in Paul's epistles alone we find the doctrine, position, walk, and destiny of the church."*
 - i. This was a reaction to the church assuming Israel's place and covenants. Stop.
 - ii. Mid-Acts Pauline right division = Christ made Paul (epistles) our apostle, pattern.
 - iii. 'Is Paul more than Jesus?' 'Do we discard/ignore the rest of scripture?' God forbid.
- e. You cannot appreciate, understand, communicate the mystery w/o the rest of scripture.

2. 15:4 – Written for our Learning

- a. 15:3 - *"as it is written"* quotes Psalm 69:9 about Christ to exemplify our service (15:1-2)
 - i. Those scriptures were given to Israel and for their service - Rom 3:2, 9:4-5
- b. 15:4 - *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime"* = All of Israel's scriptures (OT)
 - i. Jesus said, "search the scriptures" Jn 5:39; some Jews did Acts 17:11, now Romans
 - ii. Paul expands salvation to Gentiles, Christ to Gentiles, service to Gentiles, now...
 - iii. Paul is communicating an application of all scripture to us (Jews & Gentiles).
- c. *"were written for our learning"* - Rom 1:2,3:21 31,4:1,16:26, 1Co 10:11,Col 3:16,2Ti 3:15-16
 - i. You can be taught, admonished, comforted, reprov'd, corrected from all scripture.
 - ii. How can we learn, but it not be about us? Ex. Letters, libraries, Constitution, houses
 - iii. History, science, biography, poetry, economics not all about you, but all can profit.
 - iv. Heb 13:8 – Jesus Christ is the same (God), I change not – Mal 3:6
 - v. All scriptures speak of Christ – who is your Lord, Saviour, Head, and God.
 - vi. Who is God, his character, can he be trusted, how we know, what is man, sin, life.
 - vii. Learn from covenants, MMLJ, Pentecost, Hebrews, Revelation, from a distance.
- d. Not learned from all scripture: Eph 2:13, 3:5-6, 9, Rom 16:25 - Things hidden, or changed.
 - i. What God is doing now cannot be learned from all scriptures aforetime.
 - ii. Further revelation, future events, our standing, service, blessings, gospel terms.
 - iii. There is a fellowship prophesied, and a fellowship of the mystery - Eph 3:9
 - iv. Paul fulfills the written word of God without the fulfillment of all prophecy-Col 1:25
- e. *"through patience and comfort... hope"* – Which comes from "the scriptures"
 - i. Patience is your trusting God through suffering. Comfort is strengthened by God.
 - ii. Hopelessness can come from not trusting/strengthened by all scriptures about God

3. 15:5-7 – One Mind, One Mouth

- a. *"God of patience and consolation"* – Jews and Gentiles have the same God. Rom 3:29-30
- b. *"grant you to be likeminded"* - Our unity around having one mind/learning
- c. *"according to Christ Jesus"* – Who is spoken of in all scriptures in prophecy now mystery.
- d. Acts 4:32 – Holy Ghost filled remnant had one heart, one soul, all things in common
- e. Romans are different – Paul recognizes differences between Jew and Gentile in one Body.
- f. *"one mind and one mouth"* - requires a common understanding, doctrine, faith. 1Cor 1:10
- g. *"glorify God"* – Which is what they are doing/saying together in assembly.