

Romans 1:8~15 (Verses 11~12)

¹¹For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

¹²That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Here we see a characteristic of Paul's heart, which *should characterize* every follower of Christ...

That of "[being a blessing to others.](#)"

Q: Are you a *blessing* to others?

Have you ever thought about it?

The society in which we grow up in, is one that is self-absorbed...self-centered. At the roots of this world's philosophy, is selfishness! No one is exempt, no one is excluded, and all have been infected by this dreadful disease. Like cancer, it is imbedded in the flesh, the human nature of every person.

Before you came to the Lord, you may have been a good-hearted person... You might have been the type of person who would help others, give to help meet their needs, etc... But even so, nevertheless you still have a self-centered nature in the flesh. I contribute these kinds of people to those who have had a "good upbringing", good parents who disciplined their children to share... And as they got older, they continue in what was "*ingrained*" in them by their parents.

And the fact is...one doesn't have to "*know the Lord*" to understand the truth, that "**it is more blessed to give, than to receive...**" That's simply the truth! There's a joy that comes as a result of giving!

Illus... There's not a parent on earth, who doesn't understand this... Nothing makes me more happy, than to see the joy that swells up in a child, when you give them something they love... My joy stems from the joy in my children... Teri and I do without many times, to meet the needs of our children, and it thrills me to do so, I don't mind at all! No one would argue this truth!

Theirs people that have never stepped foot in the church, people that constantly help others, people who'd give you the shirts off their back, who do so, simply because the joy it brings them! They enjoy it!

And sadly, it is for this very reason, that many won't come to church! They look at people like that, who never attend, who are "*good people*" and then they look at some of us in the church, who wouldn't lift our finger to help anyone!

Here in verses 11~12, we see a characteristic of Paul's heart, which *should characterize* every believer... That of "*selfless service to others...*" Living out our lives, "[being a blessing to others.](#)"

Q: Are you a *blessing* to others?

Do you live to "*Give*" or to "*Get*"? Each of us should take a careful examination of our lives, looking to the fruit of our lives to tell us the answer.

As a Christian, [my life ought to be characterized as one who is a blessing to all those around me!](#)

Let's be honest... **Aren't their people who you can't stand to be around?**

God forbid, that as Christians, that be said of us! We ought to be a blessing to all around us!

Now, you will have people who don't want to be around you, simply because you love Jesus and they don't...nothing in common. But I'm talking about people not wanting to be around us because we are

complainers, aggravating, unkind, mean spirited, etc... Those types of spirit doesn't say much to the beauty of Christ!

I'll just be honest with you... there are some people that I avoid as much as I can. For the simple reason, they are not a blessing to be around. *You know what I'm talking about...*

Paul lived out his life, in efforts to be "a blessing to others..." He was a "giver" not a "getter." He sought not to be *served by others*, but to serve others.

Listen, there's not a greater characteristic of Christ himself than that... Listen to what Paul says in Philippians 2:1~5...

¹*If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,* ²*Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.* ³*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.* ⁴*Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.* ⁵*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

We ought to be "known" as people, marked by our "Service & Sacrifice" to others!

Paul had "*this mind*"⁵*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

Q: Are you a *blessing* to others?

(Vs 11~12) ¹¹*For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;* ¹²*That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.*

When I first read this, was somewhat confused in what he meant... But looking closer at the words he used, it becomes clear...

Gift (*χρηρᾶ-ισ-μαη*) ...a (spiritual) *endowment*, (subjectively) religious *qualification*, (objectively) miraculous *faculty*...

It speaks of the "*God Given Power*" that enables us to minister to others... It's where the word "*Charismatic*" comes from! I just want to say... I've heard preachers talk about certain churches, who were known as "*Charismatic*..." They call it the "*Charismatic Movement*..." I know what they are saying, but I tell you... I long for a "*True Charismatic Movement*..." When the people of God, filled with the Spirit of God, working out the "*Spiritual Endowment*", better known as the "*Spiritual Gift*".

A person who is "*Charismatic*" is a person who is walking in the power of the Holy Spirit! In the truest meaning of the word, I wish we all were *Charismatic*!

Impart (*μετ-αδ-ιδᾶ-ο-μεε*) ...to *give over*, that is, *share*.

Established (*σταψ-ριδᾶ-ζο*) I love the definition of this word...to *set fast*...(literally) to turn resolutely in a certain direction...or (figuratively) to *confirm*...to strengthen. In short, Paul wanted to come to Rome, filled with the Spirit of God, used by God to minister to them, thus shaping their lives!

One translation puts it this way... ¹¹*For I long to visit you so I can share a spiritual blessing with you that will help you grow strong in the Lord.* ¹²*I'm eager to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours. In this way, each of us will be a blessing to the other.*

Another one puts it this way...¹¹*I want very much to see you, to give you some spiritual gift to make you strong.* ¹²*I mean that I want us to help each other with the faith we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.*

I was listening to MacArthur one day, when he touched on how God originally designed the human race, and how we have fallen so far away from God's design. In God's design, instead of seeking to please and serve myself, I would seek to serve you, and meet your needs. In turn, if everyone did this, in God's design, I would have about 80 people here tonight seeking to meet my needs and help me, instead of trying to do it alone!

Something I need to make clear here... Though we should help each other, and do good to those all around us... This context of this passage is that of the church body! Paul is speaking not of just simply doing kind things for each other, but being a blessing to each other by exercising the "gift" that he has given to each believer! The context is allowing God to use us, to work through us to minister to those in the church family! He is speaking of the "Spiritual Gift" that God has given each of us...

Remember what he said in 1 Corinthians 12, concerning the purposes of these gifts?

⁴Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. ⁶And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works all in all. ⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. ⁸For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ⁹To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; ¹⁰To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: ¹¹But all these works that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

The key thing here is in verses 6~7...

⁶And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works all in all. ⁷But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Paul speaks to the source of the gift.....the same God which works all in all...
Then, to the purpose of the gift.....is given to every man to profit withal.

The context of "*being a blessing*" to others, is not that of good deeds, kindness, etc... But rather that of ministering to others through the power that God has given you and me...

You talk about a "Spiritual Church!"

This is it! Every member having the mindset of ministering to the church family, through the enabling power God has given them.

Paul immediately illustrates his point, by comparing the church to the human body...

¹²For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

Beloved, God has so designed the church, that we are "*mutually dependant*" upon each other. There are no "*Independent Christians...*" God has given you what I need, and God has given me things you need in the faith!

There are *so many* people around me, that are in the truest sense, *a blessing in my life...*
People *that God uses* to help me, to encourage me, to grow me in the Lord...

Haven said that... **Am I a blessing to others?**

We may be sitting around “*waiting on God*” to do something... When God is “*waiting on us*” to stop sitting, and start serving...

Beloved, I’m convinced that we miss much of what God wants to do in our lives, due largely in part to our lack of ministry to each other!

God wants to *greatly bless us!*

Will you allow him to use you as an instrument of blessing to others?