

ROMANS 15:30-33

June 4, 1980

Romans 15:30

The heart of a man of God may be seen. It may be appreciated by some and loved by some, but I guarantee you, it will never be fully understood. That man of God, his strength as well as his weaknesses which he knows better than anybody else will basically never be known except within his own soul. You will always find people who try to outguess the man of God.

They will try to out reason him, they'll try to out think him. But in truth, Corps, they will never really know. The best that they can ever do is accept his life and bless him whenever and wherever possible and just let that man of God walk and live out his life. In that way they will reap the greatest benefits of that man's soul. The greatest tenderness and humanness of a man of God and at the same time the great steel and stone strength of that man are a paradox. One moment that man of God appears to be so strong. At another moment he appears to be so weak. One moment so ready to help and bless, yet at another moment, always easy to be upset, easy to be hurt, very sensitive, just like the apple of your eye.

"beseech" -parakaleo, which means lovingly, almost beggingly imploring you to stand with him. What he is simply saying to them is will you please, I beg you, I lovingly beg you to put me at the top of your lift list.

"brethren" -believers, born again ones

"for" - dia, meaning by our Lord Jesus Christ

"sake" -not in text

Using this preposition dia in the light of what I just described for you as the meaning of "beseech" is by what our Lord Jesus Christ accomplished completely for all of us. In other words, I lovingly, almost beggingly implore you to stand with me by what our Lord Jesus Christ, or because of truth what our Lord Jesus Christ accomplished completely for all of us.

"and for the love of the Spirit" -"for" = dia, by or through the love of the Spirit, meaning and by the love of God. God who so loved that He gave His only begotten son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"strive together with me" -sunagonizomai; This is an athletic term. I thought that was significant since our conversation recently on Ephesians, the athlete of the spirit rather than the armored soldier. This is an athletic term meaning contend in the contest as a competitor who is giving his last ounce of expended strength.

You see, Corps, this beseeching the brethren by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, the love of God where God so loved that He gave the Lord Jesus Christ, our completely complete savior that you strive with me as an athlete. Boy, if you've ever seen a man beg his people to stand with him, this is it tonight in verse 30. Paul is begging, lovingly begging, imploring them. His heart must have been so hurt, so tender. I don't know how else to describe it. He just wanted them so to stand with him that they would be like people, great athletes, who had given the last ounce of their expended strength.

It's significant that this is the only usage in the Bible of that word. That pretty well tells me that he was really begging, beseeching in an unbelievable way that my mind does not understand tonight, and I don't fully know. Only Paul knows that. But that its usage is only one is very significant to me. It indicates to me what discipline Paul had gone through, what expended effort he had put forth, like to make known the mystery that had been hidden secret since before the foundation of the world. For most people that's just words. But for those of us who really love God and have an understanding of His Word, at least a little bit, it makes Paul's life and his expended effort very vivid to us. See, Paul had poured out his soul. Paul had laid it all on the line.

Remember that great record about his training, born a Pharisee, all of that. And he said he counted all that stuff as dung but for the excellency of the knowledge of the Word of God. What a fantastic man! He had literally poured out his soul, laid it all on the line. Right in here he so humbly and lovingly asked the believers in Rome that those lives that he had blessed by making known the greatness of the mystery, that all he wanted them to do was to put him at the top of their prayer list. That's all he was asking. He didn't ask them for money, or a new car. He didn't ask them for anything except to put him at the top of their prayers. What a man!

That's why it says "in prayers to God for me." I really wonder if any of us will ever fully understand the in heart depth, the cry of the soul of a man of God, the great humanness of Paul so touches my heart in these verses that I have no words in my vocabulary to explain it any better.

Romans 15:31

I can't for life-of me understand why certain ones would try to kill him, no more so than I can understand why the children of Israel would endeavor to kill the Lord Jesus Christ. Why people want to kill men like Paul or Jesus Christ who all that those men ever did was to contribute to lives of people, to bless people's lives, to lift them up out of the miry clay, so to speak.

See, some had even taken a vow upon themselves to destroy Paul, kill him. Why? The only answer I know has to be a Biblical one, and I don't understand all of this, but that one from Ephesians 6:12.

Ephesians 6:12

They are usually men who are in positions of authority and power sense knowledge wise. How his heart was hurt when all he wanted was just God's best for all the Judeans. So what kept him going? The only thing I know that kept him going was the revelation that was the first one written and the first one given, Thessalonians, the hope. I think it's only the hope that ever keeps a man of God really going. The love of God in renewed mind in manifestation without hypocrisy which is built in the soul of a man of God because of the hope, the return, and because of what God wrought in Christ Jesus to make him our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. A man he renews his mind on, he believes it. The love of God in renewed

mind he develops then without any hypocrisy because of the hope. The hope is the only thing that teaches rewards, I believe that's all that ever keeps a man of God going.

I think there's a record in Hebrews 11 that substantiates what I'm sharing with the Corps tonight.

Hebrews 11:38-40

Hebrews 12:1

Men and women of God who really believed because of the hope. The first was the first hope of the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. That's what kept these men going. They were willing to wander around, to be in deserts, to hide in mountains, dens, caves, etc. simply for one reason, Corps, to move the Word.

That's why I said earlier what I said about getting married. I think it's wonderful to get married, but where in the Word of God does it mean that you can't move God's Word? It's more important to move God's Word than get married. Everything is always contingent upon moving the Word. Anything you can do is fine as long as we can move the Word. The Word, the Word, the Word has to move. We're compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, and those witnesses did not have what you have in the Corps. Therefore, surely, we can lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset and we can run with patience, second wind, the race that is set before us as spiritual athletes.

Hebrews 12:2 ,3

The only reason Corps ever cops out is because you're faint in your mind. You let the Adversary get to you. Then you get weary, you start thinking negative thoughts. You start being oppressed, depressed, daydreaming on the negatives. Then you faint in your mind.

Hebrews 12:4

Romans 15:31

I think many people think that a man of God like Paul should have always been strong, have no weaknesses, never need any help, never need anybody to love him, never need anybody to serve him tea, ice cream or coffee or bake him a pumpkin pie or something. Paul is always so strong. You don't know God or His Word or men of God. That's why he beseeched them for prayer that he might be delivered from them that do not believe in Judea.

"that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints"

-I wonder if we will ever appreciate that or understand it in all its fulness. This is the key thought of this whole prayer, that my service may be accepted of the saints, that they will accept it. That's his key thought, that the believers do not get influenced by the unbelievers to the end that the believers will not accept the gift of God he is bringing from others.

Romans 15:32

You see, if those unbelievers in Judea imprison or kill them, he could not come to the Romans in joy because he would be dead. Or if the believers did not accept his gift in Jerusalem, it would hurt his heart so much that the joy of being with the believers in Rome would be diminished.

Galatians 2:9

The one requirement when Paul appeared in Jerusalem before our top believers of that time that were there in Jerusalem, they gave to Paul and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship. And the only thing they requested of them in Jerusalem is in verse 10.

Galatians 2:10

Now he's coming back to Jerusalem to bring that gift that they asked him to not forget about it. He's now got it together ready to bring it back and he's got questions in his heart and mind whether they'll now really receive it, or have the unbelievers so twisted their head against Paul that when he brings this gift, they'll say they don't want it.

I understand a little of this, because I have dealt with men who so hate me for my ministry, yet, they are Christians. They will not even shake my hand. They won't even say hi to me. They'll walk the other way. They would never allow me to preach in their pulpit. And these are men I attended college and seminary with, men who at one time I played basketball with, worked with, lived with, drank beer with. Real close and now they won't even shake my hand, I understand a little of it, but not to the depth I'm sure of what the Apostle Paul knew.

If you really want to see this verse that I'm describing to you, you're going to have to read II Corinthians chapters 8 and 9 where a lot of this stuff is set in much greater detail. His prayer that he wanted them to really join with him is that he be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea and that the unbelievers would not influence the believer to the extent in Jerusalem that when he brought this gift they'd turn their back on him and wouldn't accept what he was bringing them. That would stop his joy and it would stop him from being refreshed with the people in Rome because it would hurt his heart. That it may be accepted of the saints, verse 31.

How cruel people can be to men of God is sometimes unbelievable. God accepts the Gentiles. He has just shown us all of that throughout the whole book of Romans. God accepts the Gentiles. Religion does not accept men of God. God accepts the Gentiles as well as the Jews, but religion will neither accept any of them who are born again of God's spirit. Religion is the cruelest damn thing in the world. Next is politics. But politics is religion, in one sense. That's why it's so cruel. Religion is cruel. Religion rejects the

gift that he would have for the saints, and he wants their prayers that the saints may accept the gift so that his coming to Rome, he would just be bubbling in his heart when he got there so that he could sit down with the believers in Rome with his heart bubbling and just hold hands with them and be blessed by them, which is refreshed. Not that he'd have to teach all the time every night and every day. Not have all the work of the care of the churches every minute, all that clerical work, all the answering to the letters, all the telephone calls, everything else, not have all the work to do all the time.

It is like a rest from labor and effort the word "refreshed," so that he might enjoy the tenderness and pleasure of their company. This is what he's beseeching the brethren for by the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God that they would strive together with him to pray to God. The thing he did not know at that moment yet was the future. You and I know the future because of the Word. He never got to Rome with the joy that he anticipated, with the refreshment that he so longingly wanted in his heart. It never happened, as you will see in chapter 16.

When he gets to Jerusalem with this gift, the very people whom he loved, the nation for which he'd given his life, criticized him, found fault with him, caught him in the temple, captured him, took him a prisoner. I'm sure he never made it to Spain as we read earlier, but I do know he got to Rome, but not with joy by the will of God and that he was refreshed. He went as a prisoner to Rome. Almost makes a man cry when you read these words in Romans. And yet, as I work this Word and see the greatness of the life of this man, he never complained.

Even though he didn't have time to sit with the people in Rome and be refreshed by them, although it never occurred that he had the joy he was anticipating and he humanly wanted and desired and needed so badly, when he didn't get it he never complained, for one reason, the Word of God came first in his life. Every-thing else secondary. If you have the joy of someone's company wonderful. If you don't, the Word still comes first. To see that in the greatness of these verses here almost tears your heart out.

Romans 15:33

It's a blessing, a benediction. It's like the laying on of hands spiritually upon the believers in Rome.

Romans 5: 1

It's significant that he uses "God of peace." Putting that together with verse 30 and his great desire not to be captured by the unbelievers or that the unbelievers would influence the believers that his offering was not accepted, that he wanted to come with joy and be refreshed by the Romans, he says, "Now the God of peace." Justified by faith we have peace. We've got it, that God of peace which we spiritually have. The God who made that peace available is with you all.

Romans 15:13

This is its near context.

The church in Rome had believed. They were born again. had received that peace, they had that peace of God.

Romans 16:20

We have the future context.

That same truth and the greatness, of it you have to understand in the light of Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:14,15

Ephesians 4 :3

That peace which God made available in Christ Jesus which lives in you spiritually. That's part of the dunamis.

Philippians 4:7

Philippians 4: 9

Colossians 3: 15

You're called in one body, Corps, called by God.

Romans 15:33

Nowhere, Corps, have I seen the great soul of the heart of this man more gorgeously and more beautifully than in these closing verses of chapter 15. What a man!