

Studies In Romans

(Romans 15:8-19)

1. Did the service of Christ to the Jews [circumcision] confirm something?

Yes, the promises made to the fathers: *“Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers”* (Romans 15:8).

- Jesus Christ the minister (**Matthew 20:28**) for the circumcision [Jews; **Leviticus 12:1-3**, **Acts 10:45**, **Romans 3:1**, and **Ephesians 2:11**] (**Matthew 10:5-7**, **Matthew 15:22-24**, and **Luke 19:1-10**).
- For the truth (**Jeremiah 23:5-6**, **Micah 7:18-20**, and **Acts 13:22-23**).
- So, Jesus confirmed that those promises were kept (**Luke 1:68-79** and **Acts 5:31**).

2. Do we Gentiles have cause to rejoice and trust because of Jesus?

Yes: *“And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust”* (Romans 15:9-12).

- We Gentiles can rejoice because that promise to the fathers includes us too (**Genesis 22:18**, **Genesis 26:1-4**, **Psalms 72:17**, **Acts 3:25**; cf. **Galatians 3:26-29**).
- Rejoice for His mercy (**Psalms 13:5** and **Psalms 90:14**).
- People, even heathens, should hear God praised through song (**II Samuel 22:50-51** and **Psalms 18:49-50**).
- The Lord was confessed among the Gentiles (**Acts 15:7**).
- Rejoice WITH His people, together (**Romans 12:15-16**, **Romans 15:5-6**, and **I Corinthians 12:25-26**).
- All people, praise the Lord (**Psalms 67:3-5**, **Psalms 117:1-2**, and **Psalms 148:11-13**).
- Isaiah promised a root of Jesse that would reign over the Gentiles and for Gentiles to seek (**Isaiah 11:1-10**; cf. **Galatians 3:14** and **Ephesians 2:11-17**).

3. Does joy and peace have anything to do with hope?

Yes: *“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost”* (Romans 15:13).

- God of hope (**Psalms 38:15**, **Psalms 146:5**, **Jeremiah 14:8**, and **I Peter 1:3**).
- Joy and peace (**Proverbs 12:20**, **Romans 14:17**, and **Galatians 5:22-23**).
- Through Holy Ghost, which was their source of guidance before the completed word (**Acts 19:1-7**, **Romans 5:5**, **I Corinthians 12:1-13:13**, and **I John 2:27**).

4. Though Paul had some confidence in the Roman congregation, why did he write them boldly?

To put them in mind of things: *“And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God” (Romans 15:14-15).*

- It was not unlike Paul to tell others he had confidence in them (**II Corinthians 9:1-4**, **II Timothy 1:5**, and **Philemon 21**).
- He knew they were “full of goodness” (**Ephesians 5:9**).
- They had knowledge (**Colossians 1:10**).
- Knowing good and truth is only good though if it is applied (**James 1:18-27**).
- Moreover, as discussed in **Romans 14**, knowledge can even become a stumbling block for others (**I Corinthians 8:7-12**). Knowledge can puff up some (**I Corinthians 8:1**).
- They were capable of admonishing one another (**I Thessalonians 5:14** and **Hebrews 10:24-25**).
- Remember though, there are those in Rome with knowledge and are teachers, but they are being hypocrites (**Romans 2:1-29**). Thus, while Paul knows what can be done, it is NOT being done.
- Though people may know things, that does not mean they don’t need taught about those things (**II Peter 1:12-14** and **II Peter 3:1-2**).
- Reminders are necessary (**I Timothy 4:6** and **II Timothy 2:14**).
- Paul credited the grace of God (**Galatians 1:15-24** and **Ephesians 3:7-9**).

5. Was Paul seeking to glorify himself regarding the work he had done with the Gentiles?

No: *“That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost. I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God. For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed, Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ” (Romans 15:16-19).*

- Paul to the Gentiles (**Acts 22:20-21**, **Galatians 2:7-8**, and **I Timothy 2:7**), but not solely the Gentiles (**Acts 13:43**, **Acts 17:10-11**, and **Acts 28:17-31**).
- The Holy Ghost’s involvement (**Acts 13:1-4**).
- Glory through Christ (**Romans 16:27**, **Galatians 6:14**, and **Philippians 4:13**).
- Not boasting (**II Corinthians 10:13** and **Ephesians 2:5-10**).
- Mighty signs and wonders were done in Paul’s preaching (**Acts 14:1-3**, **Acts 15:12**, and **Acts 19:11**), as signs were to confirm the word prior to it be written and completed (**Mark 16:15-20** and **Hebrews 2:3-4**).
- By the power of the Holy Ghost (**Acts 1:8**; **2:1-4**).