

## The Blessing Of Scripture – Romans 15:4-7

Bible Study ~ 10/19/16  
Grace Church of Lockeford

Read 1-7

### 1. Written For Our Learning v. 4

In v. 3 Paul quotes *Psalm 69:9* to describe how Christ behaved while on this earth. Remember the context here is how we deal with brothers or sisters in Christ who have a different personal standard in areas of freedom. We are to bear with one another. In mentioning this quote Paul is reminded of the importance of Scripture in understanding this difficult topic. Let's turn to *Psalm 69:9* and see how that passage helps us to understand the limitation of personal freedom to help bear the burdens of our fellow believers. This passage points us to the bigger picture! The big picture is not my personal freedom. The big picture is God's glory manifested through his plan of salvation. If the zeal for His house has eaten us up, we will gladly and willingly limit our freedom and bear any reproach! Paul says that these passages were written for our learning. Learning – διδασκαλία didaskalia *Teaching; instruction. Teaching (content) – a doctrine (or collection of doctrines) that is taught.* This reveals that the purpose of Scripture is for us to be taught, instructed in and learn doctrine. As we learn, something else happens here. The patience and comfort found in Scripture develops our hope! Patience – ὑπομονή hypomonē *Steadfastness. Steadfast endurance – the power to withstand hardship or stress; especially the inward fortitude necessary.* This is more the idea of enduring than waiting. The things written in Scripture give us the power necessary to endure! How? **Job, Joseph, David etc.** Comfort – παράκλησις paraklēsis *Comfort; encouragement. Consolation – the act of giving relief or comfort in affliction.* Scripture also brings us comfort in the midst of conflict. So as we learn from the Word of God we find the power necessary to endure trials and even be comforted in the midst of them. As this happens it strengthens our hope. Hope – ἐλπίς elpis *Hope; expectation. Hope – a reasonable and confident expectation of a future event.* The endurance and comfort given by Scripture strengthens our confident expectation of the future we are assured of within its pages. What a blessing! Scripture gives us endurance, comfort, and a confidence in the future. **As we continue reading we learn that Scripture was also...**

### 2. Written For Our Unity vv. 5-6

By again mentioning the peace and comfort found in v. 4 Paul connects the unity here to Scripture as well. God is the source of all patience and comfort but He brings them to us through His Word. The same words for patience and comfort are found here. So God is the source and Scripture the channel through which endurance and comfort flow. If we are not spending time in the Word we will not have access to the strength and comfort we need in the midst of affliction and trial. Grant – δίδωμι didōmi *give; grant. To give – to cause to have, in the abstract sense or physical sense.* Like-mindedness is a gift of God that comes through the Word. The goal of this like-mindedness is that it would be according to Christ Jesus. I believe this is referring to the body of Christ being as unified as Christ Himself. The unity Paul is speaking of is not for the purpose of accomplishing great feats or tasks. It is for the purpose of praise. Look at v. 6. When the body of Christ is unified. When our minds are working together as they ought, we are better able to glorify God as we were created to do. The goal of unity is that we might be able to glorify God with one mind and mouth. One mind – ὁμοθυμαδόν homothymadon *with one mind. Unanimously – without dissent; single-mindedly.* Every other instance of this word being used is found in the book of Acts where it is always translated “with one accord”. The Church of God is to glorify Him with a singleness of purpose! But this is not to be silent praise! It is to come from our mouths speaking His praise as if in one voice! Glorify – δοξάζω doxazō *praise; glorify. To glorify – to positively acknowledge, recognize, or esteem one's character, nature or attributes.* We lift God high exalting His character, nature, and attributes. A proper understanding of Scripture is what enables believers to be like minded and that unity flows out into the praise and glorification of God! What a blessing it is when God's Word brings unity and inspires praise. We cannot praise one we do not know and we know Him through the revelation of His Word. **Lastly we learn that Scripture was...**

### 3. Written For Our Reception v. 7

This word receive is the same one found in the beginning of Ch. 14. Receive - προσλαμβάνω *proslambanō receive; accept; take aside. To welcome in – to welcome someone into one's presence or home.* By referring back to 14:1 Paul takes us full circle. We are to welcome young believers into fellowship that we might grow with them, disciple them, and engage with them in the worship, praise, and glorification of our God! We are not to seek to remake them in our image. We are not to strive to change their standards to conform to our personal freedom and liberty. We are to welcome them, bear with them, be transformed together through the Word, and praise our Great God and Savior Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, the God of all comfort! We receive one another because we have been received by Christ. When we accept Him as Savior we are welcomed into His universal body and become members of the family of God! All this is done to God and His glory! We are to vocally and collectively bring Him glory and we are to receive one another for His glory and we are to remember that our election, predestination, and adoption are all “to the praise of the glory of His grace”! Scripture is a blessing because it tells us about Christ and gives us what we need to believe in that we might be received by Him. We are truly blessed by Scripture!

**Challenge:** Be in the Word because it teaches us, unifies us, and makes us received by God.