

“Dreams and Desires for Rome!” Romans 1:8-15  
Hymns: 44, 101, 535, 653, 688, 701, 708

I. *A church famous for faith –*

<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. Romans 1:8 (NKJV)

1. *Paul was thankful to God for the Roman’s faith –*

A. *Other churches Paul had a personal part in the founding, not Rome -*

B. *Faith in anyone is always a gracious gift of God, something to thank Him for –*

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is the gift of God,* <sup>9</sup> not of works, lest anyone should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8–10 (NKJV)

2. *The Romans’ faith was spoken of throughout the whole world. Romans 1:8 (NKJV)*

A. *They were a fast-growing church, something you might not expect from Rome, with all their gods and goddess, with the ‘pride’ of a dominant city*

B. *They were a persecuted church, Roman Christians were dying for their faith, they stood against the Roman Empire, starting with Nero, a contemporary of the Apostle Paul –*

*“The blood of the Martyrs is the seed of the church.” Tertullian*

II. *A fervent desire and prayer –*

<sup>9</sup> For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers, <sup>10</sup> making request if, by some means, now at last I may find a way in the will of God to come to you. Romans 1:9–10 (NKJV)

1. *Calling God as a witness is an oath ... usually not called for, but Paul considered this important ... the Romans, he felt, must know they are important to him!*

2. *Though he had not yet met them, though he did not start their church, like he had others, still he prayed for them:*

A. *Many years ago, while in college, I prayed regularly for boat people in Burma, they were a persecuted people, God gave me a heart for them ... though I never met them.*

B. *Prayer is a wonderful thing -*

*“The wonderful thing about prayer is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God’s realm where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for His almighty power. Nothing is too small for His love.” Corrie Ten Boom*

### III. A longing for fellowship and fruit –

<sup>11</sup> For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established—<sup>12</sup> that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me. <sup>13</sup> Now I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now), that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles. Romans 1:11–13 (NKJV)

1. Paul had gifts (as an apostle, as a preacher, as a Christian-believer) that he wanted to share ...
2. The word “established” :11 in Greek is **στηριχθῆναι** (Root: **στηριζω**) to establish, to strengthen *steridzo* is the word from which we get our word *steroid*.
3. In humility, and in respect to the faith connected to martyrs, he also acknowledges that they could help / encourage him as well -

<sup>2</sup> that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

4. He expected, hoped, planned for fruit among them, like he did others –

<sup>9</sup> For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, you are God’s building. 1 Corinthians 3:9 (NKJV)

- A. He wrote this long, excellent letter
- B. Eventually he did see them: he was imprisoned in Rome, and he died in Rome –
- C. He shared this confidence with the Romans -

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? *It is* God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who *is* he who condemns? *It is* Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *Shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

<sup>36</sup> As it is written: **“For Your sake WE are killed all day long; WE are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.”** <sup>37</sup> **Yet in all these things WE are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.** <sup>38</sup> For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:31–39 (NKJV)

### IV. A passion for preaching –

<sup>14</sup> I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. <sup>15</sup> So, as much as is in me, *I am* ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. Romans 1:14–15 (NKJV)

1. Paul’s position as apostle to the gentiles made him a debtor ...
2. He had a readiness and passion to preach the Gospel ...

*Arnold A. Brevick*