

Sermon Outline August 21, 2016
“Building Hope” Romans 15:8-13

I. Jesus Christ the minister of the circumcision –

Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, (Romans 15:8 NKJ)

Who or what is the circumcision?

- 1. Who? Those who bore the covenant sign, the children of Abraham, Israel, the Jews –*

This idea is backed by Scripture –

- A. According to Paul himself, the Jewish people were called “the circumcision” in contrast to Gentiles “the uncircumcision.”*

What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? (Romans 3:1 NKJ)

since *there is* one God who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through faith. (Romans 3:30 NKJ)

and the father of circumcision to those who not only *are* of the circumcision, but who also walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham *had while still* uncircumcised. (Romans 4:12 NKJ)

- B. How is Christ a minister to the circumcision, if the circumcision represents Israel?*

He went to them first –

But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." (Matthew 15:24 NKJ)

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. (Romans 1:16 NKJ)

- C. Before Christ came it seemed the Gentiles were not a part of God’s gracious plan –*

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (Ephesians 2:11-12 NKJ)

- 2. However circumcision is not only a group of people; but primarily it is a what! Circumcision was the SIGN of the COVENANT!*

What is a covenant? A bond in blood sovereignly administered!

Like a contract, but more binding! A contract involves money; a covenant involves blood, lives!

God Himself enters into a Covenant with Abraham – Genesis 15 & 17

The terms and conditions of this Covenant are spelled out throughout the Old Testament ...

II. The Question is; are Gentiles included in this Covenant?

This is what Paul answers in the next few verses:

and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." ¹⁰

And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" ¹¹ And again:

"Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" ¹² And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." (Romans 15:9-12 NKJ)

- 1. “the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy –*

His mercy was shown even before it was widely known –

And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." ²³ But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." ²⁴

But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." ²⁵ Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" ²⁶ But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw *it* to the little dogs." ²⁷ And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." ²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great *is* your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. (Matthew 15:22-28 NKJ)

- 2. God’s mercy toward the Gentiles is found in the FINE PRINT of the COVENANT –*

A. Romans 15:9 is taken from both 2 Samuel 22 & Psalm 18 –

as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." (Romans 15:9 NKJ)

Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, and sing praises to Your name. (2 Samuel 22:50 NKJ)

Therefore I will give thanks to You, O LORD, among the Gentiles, And sing praises to Your name. (Psalm 18:49 NKJ)

B. Romans 15:10 is quoted from Deuteronomy 32:43

¹⁰ And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" (Romans 15:10 NKJ)

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, *with* His people; ..." (Deuteronomy 32:43 NKJ)

C. Romans 15:11 is quoted from Psalm 117:1

¹¹ And again: "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" (Romans 15:11 NKJ)

Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! (Psalm 117:1 NKJ)

D. Romans 15:12 is quoted from Isaiah

And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." (Romans 15:12 NKJ)

"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious." (Isaiah 11:10 NKJ)

Paul quotes these verses from each of the three divisions of the Hebrew Law (Old Testament) (1) the Law, Moses (2) the Writings, David and (3) the Prophets, Isaiah, thus adding weight to his lawyerly argument for Gentile being included in the Covenant through Christ!

Because these verses are few Paul refers to God's will for the Gentiles as mystery –

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles--² if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,³ how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,⁷ of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among

the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,⁹ and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*,¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, (Ephesians 3:1-11 NKJ)

However, this means that those who once seemed hopeless now have an abundant HOPE –

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh-- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands--¹² that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (Ephesians 2:11-12 NKJ)

But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace,¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near.¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.¹⁹ Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*,²¹ in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord,²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:13-22 NKJ)

III. Our God is called the "God of Hope!"

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13 NKJ)

This verse should be compared to verse :4 -

For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. (Romans 15:4 NKJ)

In verse :4 we have the seed of hope which is the Scripture, in verse :13 Paul speaks of abounding hope, which is brought about by the power of God's Spirit!

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