

Eleutheros Newsletter

November 2022

News of Interest

Eleutheros Books is dedicated to offering literature and course offerings that will help believers to think Biblically.

Feel free to check out the following:

[*The Ramifications of Our Salvation*](#) explains what happens Biblically when a believer is saved by God's grace.

[*Bible Translations: A Closer Look*](#) explains the challenges translators face and gives reasons why the wording in some versions is so much different from that of other versions.

[*Spiritual Gifts Verse by Verse: A Commentary on I Corinthians 12-14*](#) deals with every phrase in these three chapters which are key to understanding the blessings and challenges of the gifts God gives to every believer.

[*A Portrait of Jesus*](#) looks at our great Savior for Who He is and what He has done (and will do) from eternity past to eternity future.

[*The Case for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ*](#) presents clear and important evidence for our Lord's resurrection, the greatest event in all of history.

[*19th Century Influences on 21st Century Christianity*](#) gives insights into many factors from the past that are still influencing the Church today.

All these books can be purchased by going to the website: www.eleutherosbooks.com.

Eleutheros Books is now offering online courses.

Would you or anyone you know be interested in learning more Bible?

How about learning more about salvation?

Or a course that deals with many issues the Church still faces today?

Currently offering: Soteriology 101, 102, and I Corinthians

Study at your own pace! <https://eleutheros-seminars.thinkific.com/>

The Ramifications of Our Salvation is now available in a Spanish translation (both in paperback and eBook formats)! To make a purchase, go to www.amazon.com and enter [Las Ramificaciones de Nuestra Salvacion](#) in the search bar.

Thoughts on Romans

1:13 *Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.*

Some seem to think that ignorance is a virtue, but Paul is convinced that it is not a good thing (“I would not have you ignorant”; see also “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant”—[1 Corinthians 12:1](#)).

This verse makes it clear that Paul had often desired to visit the church at Rome but had not been able to travel there at the time of the writing of this epistle (“oftentimes I purposed to come unto you”). The meaning of the verb “let” in this translation is *hindered*.

Two more points can be made from this verse:

1. The Apostle dearly loved God’s people wherever they happened to live, and the prospect of fellowship and ministry at Rome was what he had long planned to accomplish.
2. Paul understood that God knew what was needed better than what he thought was needed. God had allowed occasional roadblocks in the way until this point in his life, but he wanted the church to know how he felt and was seeking God’s direction as to when he would minister in the city of Rome. He had been hindered from beginning a ministry in Phrygia (an area in southwest Asia Minor) and Bithynia (an area in northwest Asia Minor) in [Acts 16:6-7](#), but soon received a vision from God that He wanted him to preach the Gospel in Macedonia (eastern Europe).

Paul’s ministry up to that point had been in such remote areas as Arabia (the desolate Sinai peninsula), Cyprus (a small island in the Mediterranean Sea), and small towns in Galatia (southeastern Asia Minor). Apparently, he felt he was best suited for this kind of ministry to rather unpopulated areas, but God had a different plan! God now intended him to become the Apostle to the major cities of the Roman empire (Philippi, Thessalonica, Colosse, Athens, Corinth, etc.).

It was clear that Paul was very sensitive to do what God led him to do!

1:14 *I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.*

The word “debtor” could well be translated “one to whom I have an obligation.” The Apostle’s concern was not financial, but spiritual. He had such an overwhelming concern for the souls of men and awareness of the circumstances of his miraculous conversion that he was compelled to present the Gospel to everyone he encountered!

It really didn’t matter what background a person was from. The vast majority of people in Paul’s day spoke Greek and had employed that language since Alexander the Great

conquered the known world in 323 B.C. Those who lived in the first century world who did not speak Greek were “barbarians.” Paul presented the good news to all!

1:15 *So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the Gospel to you that are at Rome also.*

Paul had been beaten, shipwrecked, falsely accused, and imprisoned, but these things were not going to stop him from expending all the energy God gave him to preach the Gospel in Rome as he had done in so many other situations!

May God raise up a generation of believers who will consistently obey Him in presenting the Gospel to a world that so desperately needs to accept it!

The words of this hymn surely apply:

*“Take up thy cross and follow Me,”
I heard my Master say:
“I gave My life to ransom thee,
Surrender your all today.”*

*He drew me closer to His side,
I sought His will to know,
And in that will I now abide,
Wherever He leads I’ll go.*

*My heart, my life, my all I bring
To Christ Who loves me so;
He is my Master, Lord, and King,
Wherever He leads I’ll go!*

Wherever He Leads I’ll Go
B.B. McKinney

We will continue these thoughts from Romans in next month’s newsletter.