

Eleutheros Newsletter

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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 Neustra Salvacion](#) in the search bar.

Thoughts on Romans

1:8 *First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*

Having given the church at Rome a brief introduction ([1:1-7](#)) about his apostleship and calling from God, Paul now speaks personally to the believers there.

Paul wishes to explain to the church that he had a *personal* relationship with God (“my God”) and was very thankful that they also were experiencing the joy of serving their Savior: *your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.*

In various ways the Apostle often emphasized the importance of praise and thanksgiving (see [Romans 11:36](#); [16:27](#); [I Corinthians 14:15](#); [15:57](#); [Ephesians 1:3](#); [3:20](#); [5:19](#); [Philippians 4:20](#); [I Timothy 1:17](#)). In this particular verse he gives thanks to God because the church’s influence was being felt worldwide.

Quite obviously, such a reputation was not gained as easily in the first century as it might be today! There were no printing presses, automobiles, planes, cell phones, laptop computers, or internet services in those days. The testimony of the church’s faith had to be spread *personally* to people who were glad to tell others that the church at Rome was so productive.

1:9 *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.*

Paul was not a “part time” Christian! He rejoiced constantly, even when he did not have what most people would consider necessities ([Philippians 4:12](#)). He prayed constantly for others (“that without ceasing I make mention of you ALWAYS in my prayers; see also [II Corinthians 2:4](#)). And he certainly presented the Gospel message to every one who would hear him ([I Corinthians 9:16-23](#)).

Paul thanked God for the Romans; he also constantly prayed for them!

1:10 *Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come to you.*

Paul had never been to Rome, but he genuinely loved God and His people, and prayed urgently that “by the will of God” he would have the opportunity to come to them and enjoy ministry there.

It seems that Paul had a hard time saying “no” to traveling to meet Christians and to win the lost wherever they happened to be! He actually declared, *for to me, to live is Christ* ([Philippians 1:21](#))!

These three verses should be an inspiration for the church at large today! May we come to know our Savior better! May we pray urgently for those who know Him and are suffering oppression! May we rejoice when God is using other believers in service to Him! May the love Paul had in his day motivate us to do all we can to serve Him in every way possible!

*A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify.
A never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky!*

*To serve the present age,
My calling to fulfill;
O may it all my power's engage
To do my Master's will!*

*Help me to watch and pray,
And still on Thee to rely;
O let me not my trust betray,
But press to realms on high!*

A Charge to Keep I Have

Thomas Shepherd

We will continue these thoughts on Romans in the next newsletter.