

Romans 15:14

Confidence in the saints

Confidence in the power of the Gospel

Confidence in God's plan for him

Confidence in the saints

v.14 confident concerning you-- persuaded, trusting in, this is something built on past relationship- *2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

- full - mestos- in John 19 refers to sponge filled with wine, in John 21 to net crammed full of fish- **condition**

- in Noah's day (*Gen 6:5 NKJV*) *Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*- same concept except opposite filling

- filled- different Greek word- pleroo- crammed, leveled up, also fulfilled as in Scripture being fulfilled-**action**

- knowledge- ginosko, by experience

- able- dunamis- empowered

- admonish- caution or reprove gently

Confidence in the power of the Gospel

v.15 Sometimes as ministers we need to be bold so that the offering (person's life - "...*present your body as a living sacrifice*") can be acceptable and sanctified- grace without power to lead a godly life is only half the message.

- make you an acceptable sacrifice not make the Word acceptable to you
- sometimes people are offended when they are convicted, sometimes people leave when they are convicted- my role is present the Word of God in such a way that we become acceptable, sanctified. That means that some Sundays you will feel like I'm talking to you, and sometimes I am.

v.17 Glory in what God has done, what He is doing, what He will do

v.18 Word and deed- precept and example- what we say and what we do, walk the walk if you talk the talk.

v.19-21 Paul was concerned about being obedient to his ministry, not modeling or riding on the coat tails of another man's ministry.

- v. 21 *see Isaiah 52:15*

What have we done ? India, Ukraine, Egypt, Supported ministry in Mauratania, etc. Dupree; homeless ministry, room at the inn; Samaritan's Purse, BGEA Church plants in Alton, Belleville, Festus, Columbia,

Confidence in God's plan for him

v.22-27 We need to minister to people in material ways as well

v.29 Fullness of the blessing

-1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life; 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us; 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.

v.30 Strive together- not strive against one another

- prayer is the key to the ministry

The ancient Greek word translated **strive together** is *sunagonizomai* – literally meaning, “**agonize together.**” This is the only place in the New Testament where this specific word is used.

iv. Yet, this same root word for *agony* is used of Jesus’ anguished prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane when Jesus asked His disciples to agonize with Him in prayer. They failed at that critical moment and left Jesus to struggle alone. We must not leave our ministers and leaders to struggle alone. “It reminds us of Carey, who says, when he goes to India, ‘I will go down into the pit, but brother Fuller and the rest of you must hold the rope.’ Can we refuse the request? Would it not be treachery?” (Spurgeon)

v.31-32 Paul's focus is others needs

- Joy and refreshment in one another

God of Peace

