

Developing a Robust Faith

Romans 1:8-15

Context: After his introduction, Paul explains his strong desire to come to Rome and to preach to the new believers.

To Develop a Robust Faith...

I. _____ a faith that spreads (vs. 8)

- A. The testimony of the church in Rome was so strong that in a.d. 49 the emperor Claudius expelled all the Jews because of the influence of “Chrestus,” which was undoubtedly a reference to Christ (cf. Acts 18:2). (John MacArthur)
- B. As the center of the Roman Empire and the inhabited world, whatever happened in Rome became known universally.

II. _____ a faith that encourages (vs. 12)

- A. Paul desires as an apostle to encourage the Christians in Rome, but it is also noteworthy that their faith serves to inspire and strengthen him as well. (ESV Study Bible)
- B. Paul says later in his letter that he is convinced that his audience is ‘full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another’ (15:14). In the presence of such people of faith Paul expected that he would also be encouraged. (Colin G. Kruse)

III. _____ an atmosphere for Gospel Harvest (vs. 13-15)

- A. Paul’s ministry is like bringing ripened crops as a gift to God. Paul neither “planted” nor “watered” the church at Rome (cf. 1 Cor. 3:6), but its increased maturity and obedience would be a harvest nonetheless. (ESV Study Bible)
- B. In Philippians 1:22 he uses the same word ‘fruit’ in reference to ongoing ‘fruitful labor’ (lit. ‘fruit of work’) he will have among the Philippian believers if his life is spared. In that instance the fruit he anticipated was their ‘progress in joy and faith’ (Phil 1:25–26). Paul hopes his visit with the believers in Rome will produce similar fruit. (Colin G. Kruse)