

Study in Romans

Doctrine > Introduction > Greetings

Romans 1:1-15

Paul's Eagerness to Minister in Rome (1:8-15)

Paul reveals here the character and motivations of a true minister, a true Apostle sent in the name of Jesus.

1. Marks of the true minister
 - a. Character of the true minister
 - i. Not just thankful, but thankful to God (1:8)
 - ii. Serves God with his whole heart by faithfully discharging his assignment (1:9)
 - iii. Acknowledges that he is not God's only servant (1:8, 12). Faith is not a matter of origin (both are from God), but of possession. The Faith as a body of truth/doctrine and includes the Gospel stands possessed by God. Our faith as believers, however, is ours individually and can shrink or grow with how we feed it.
 - (1) The Faith (1:5)
 - (2) My (Paul's) faith (1:8)
 - (3) Our faith (1:12)
 - iv. Prays constantly for the Saints and especially for those under his charge (1:9-10)
 - v. Submissive to God's sovereign will (1:10-13)
 - vi. Loves the fellowship of the Saints (1:11; cf. I John 1:9-11 & 4:21)
 - vii. Takes action to demonstrate love (1:13)
 - b. Motives of the true minister
 - i. Desires to make the Saints stronger in their faith (1:11, 15; Wuest, "being stabilized")
 - ii. Obligated to love all people and minister the Gospel to them (1:14; cf. 13:8)
2. Marks of the true church
 - a. Growing reputation that honors God in the world (1:8; Wuest, "your faith...constantly being reported")
 - b. Collective faith strengthens others' faith (1:12)