

KEEP GOING

Romans 15:4-6

Our race is a marathon and not a sprint, therefore we need perseverance and encouragement to continue moving forward

I. GOD'S WORD INSTRUCTS US (4)

A. NOTE THE PAST

1. The Writings: The Old Testament
2. The Resource: Instructive

“The Old Testament Scriptures were not something he [Paul] referred to, but something he lived from, for what was written in the past was written to teach us.”

[James R. Edwards, “Romans,” p. 338]

B. CONSIDER THE PROVISION

1. Perseverance Instruction

- The idea is that of a steadfast adherence to a course of action in spite of difficulties and testings. - Joseph is a good example of perseverance

2. Encouragement Instruction

- a. Being heartened in a time of trouble - See Hagar's story in Genesis 21:14-19
- b. Demonstrating a boldness to carry out a task - See Daniel in Daniel 1:8

C. REVIEW THE PURPOSE

- In order that we might have hope

1. A hope that knows that though things are unseen they are not uncertain - See Romans 8:25
2. A hope that looks forward to something desirable - See Hebrews 11:8-10

II. GOD'S WORK INSPIRES US (5-6)

A. GOD'S ATTRIBUTES: Who He is

1. Having perseverance: He knows how to wait - See II Peter 3:9
2. Providing encouragement: He knows how to comfort amid afflictions - See II Corinthians 1:3-4

B. GOD'S ACTIONS: What He gives

1. He gives perseverance: Helping His followers to stay on track - See I Timothy 4:12-16
2. He gives encouragement
 - a. When we become disappointed with ourselves - See John 21:15-17
 - b. When others discourage us - See II Timothy 4:16-17

Over please >

C. GOD'S PRIORITY

1. Like-mindedness
2. We are appointed to this task as Christ's followers - See Romans 15:3

D. GOD'S PURPOSE

1. Christians glorifying Him
 - With one affection (accord) and one expression (voice)
2. Congregations drawing attention to Him
 - Look what God can do!

E. GOD'S PLAN (A summary of verses 5-6)

- Who God is ... affects what He gives ... and He gives so that we might have harmony ... and thereby glorify Him

III. GOD'S WAYS INFORM US

- In order to keep going we should ...

A. BE DETERMINED - Consider Elijah's situation in I Kings 19:9-18
 - Don't quit or crash

B. BE IN THE WORD - See Jeremiah 15:15-16

C. WATCH GOD WORK - Note I Thessalonians 1:2-7

D. BE HOPE-FILLED - Read Philippians 3:12-14

E. PROMOTE HARMONY - Review Romans 15:1-3

F. GLORIFY GOD - Study I Corinthians 6:20

CONCLUSION:**Let's keep going and growing!**

To this end also we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with power; ¹² in order that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. - II Thessalonians 1:11-12

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