

Able To Instruct

6-27-21

Romans 15:14 (ESV)

I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

Paul has systematically presented to us in Romans 1-14 the full scope of the Christian life. Therefore, it is most fitting for Paul to say to us, “Now, you are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.”

The word Instruct - *noutheteo* (νουθετέω, 3560), means “to put in mind”. This is more than just the imparting of information. It reflects impressing the reality of the truth. As Oswald Chambers says, “Deal with people where they are, until they begin to realize their true need. Then hold high the standard of Jesus for their lives.”

Paul says the same thing in Colossians.

Colossians 3:16 (ESV)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing (instructing) one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

The thought here is that under the influence of the Word of Christ, Christians are to instruct one another. Then using psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, they are to sing with gratitude in their hearts to God.

The church is to be stocked with good instruction and teaching as a palace is filled with treasures. In Romans Paul is not referring to pastors or elders although they are certainly included. Paul is referring to all those committed to Christ. We all are to hold forth the Word of God. We are to be confident but never a know it all. We are compassionate encouraging one another walking in harmony with one voice glorifying God. The key to instruction is showing people how to hear from God through the Holy Spirit as Paul has instructed us in Chapters 1-14. Now Paul shows us how he served as an avenue to accomplish God's purposes with God as his instructor.

Romans 15:18–19 (ESV)

¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything “**except what Christ has accomplished through me**” to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God.

He says that he will not speak of anything except of what God has accomplished “through” him. God worked “through” Paul and God works “through” us. Paul hears God and then does what God tells him. Likewise, we hear God and do what HE tells us. Thus, doing what God told him, God confirmed Paul's actions with the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul was behaving just as Jesus behaved. Jesus only did what God told HIM to do and God confirmed HIS message with the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:22 (ESV)

Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, “a man” attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs “that God did through him” in your midst.

Jesus as perfect man only did what God told him. Jesus is God, but he came to earth as man and lived as a perfect man, man as God intended man to be. Listen carefully to what Jesus said.

John 5:30 (ESV)

I can do nothing on MY own.

To live the Christian life, we need to hear God and do what he says. Then God will move with the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:12 (ESV)

Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I am going to the Father.

This is totally consistent with Romans Chapters 1-14, especially Chapters 1-8. The Scriptures are God breathed.

When Jesus appeared with two disciples after his resurrection, HE encouraged them by opening up the Scriptures to them.

Luke 24:32 (ESV)

They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

Christians standing on the Scriptures are equipped and able to instruct or put in one’s mind the truth.

1 Peter 3:15 (ESV)

Always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.

Our foundation for instruction comes from the truth of the Scriptures concerning Jesus.

John 14:6 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”