

Saturday Celebration (5-27-06)

Romans 16:25-27

"Strengthened by Gospel Preaching"

Rom 16:25-27

- This passage talks about "STRENGTHENING YOU" — What Do You Think it is Referring to? What is it trying to accomplish? When God Designs a Strengthening Workout, What's He After?

STRENGTHENINGWhat is Strengthening in the Biblical Sense?

sterizo (stay-rid'-zo); to set fast, i.e. (literally) to turn resolutely in a certain direction, or (figuratively) to confirm (New Exhaustive Strong's Greek-Hebrew Dictionary.)

Luke 9:51 When the days were approaching for His ascension, He was determined to go to Jerusalem; (He steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem, KJV)

NT:4741 [Of persons] to make steadfast in mind, confirm, strengthen (from The Complete Word Study Bible and The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament Copyright)

- Why do we Need to be Strengthened?

"It [sterizo] presupposes an assault that threatens faith or zeal. Its aim is impregnability of faith in spite of afflictions. (from Theological Dictionary of the New Testament)

Rom 16:26 "... to bring about the obedience of faith"

- What Measures are you Taking to Strengthen yourself?

MEANS OF STRENGTHENING

(1) Strengthened According to the Gospel ... What Does this Mean?

kata according to, agreeably to; in reference to agreement or conformity to a standard, (from Thayer's Greek Lexicon)

- **Are You Living a "GOSPEL DEFINED LIFE"?** this is a life that is Out To Achieve the Same Things the Gospel is Out to Achieve. This is increasing our capacity to accomplish the Gospel Mission in our lives. — It is For the Purpose of "Bringing about Obedience of Faith" (v. 27)

"According to the Gospel" vs. Some Other Pretense

- **You Can Be "STRONG"** (Physically, in Appearance, etc.) **and be "GOSPEL EMACIATED"**
Rev 3:15-17 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot; I wish that you were cold or hot. 16' So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth. 17' Because you say, "I am rich, and have become wealthy, and have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked,

RELIGIOUSLY Strong and GOSPEL WEAK
Jn 8:31ff

- **You Can Be WELL ESTABLISHED** (in Career, Finances, Possessions) **& be a GOSPEL LOSER**
 Luke 12:13-21

 Luke 18:18-23

- **"Love According to the Gospel" vs "Other Love"** "... I know lots of very loving people who are not Christians"
 — **"Love" Must Be INFORMED By the GOSPEL and Must Relate to GOD & ETERNITY**
 “ God loves like no other being can or should love. No one else in the universe can or should love by giving us the gift of himself. I don't mean that a human being cannot lay down his life for others and call it love. I mean no human being can lay down his life for others in order that others might treasure him, and call it love. It would not be love. It would be a distraction — and in relation to God, treason. ... I am not an all-satisfying treasure. Therefore, if I live or die in order that you may have me [or anything else] as your treasure, I cheat you and deflect your heart from God, your everlasting joy. If I would love you, I must do what Jesus did. I must live and die to give you God. **John Piper**, "God is the Gospel", p. 165

So at the End of the Day (or week or month or year)... my "strength" is not revealed by my Bank Account, Title, Possessions, Appearance, or Fame, but Rather According to the Gospel

(2) Strengthened according to the Preaching of Jesus Christ

What is "Preaching"?

NT:2782 **kerugma** (kay'-roog-mah); from NT:2784; a proclamation (New Exhaustive Strong's)
NT:2784 **kerusso** (kay-roos'-so); to herald (as a public crier) (New Exhaustive Strong's)

“ The God ordained means to save, sanctify, and strengthen His church is preaching. **John Mac Arthur**, "Pastoral Ministry", p. 204

1Co 1:17-25

2Tim 4:1-4 ... Paul's Instruction to Timothy — Reveals what is Accomplished in Preaching

- ***a "Solemn Charge"***

In Preaching the Word you will: reprove, rebuke, exhort and you're to do it with great patience and instruction

“ A part of shepherding is feeding, and an indispensable part. Some of the finest and most effective of all a minister's pastoral work is done in his sermon. In a sermon he can warn, protect, guide, heal, rescue, and nourish. **Charles Jefferson**, (quoted in "Pastoral Ministry", p. 205)

- ***a time will come*** — a time that is hostile to the ministry of preaching. (Consider the qualities present when Preaching is DEVALUED:
 - ***not valuing sound doctrine***
 - ***wanting to hear what is personally appealing***
 - The Result of Giving in to This Craving: ***gathering teachers that don't "reprove or rebuke"*** but rather are only positive turning from truth turning to myths

“ Many a minister fails as a pastor because he is not vigilant. He allows his church to be torn to pieces because he is half asleep. He took it for granted that there were no wolves, no birds of prey, no robbers, and while he was drowsing the enemy arrived. False ideas, destructive interpretations, demoralizing teachings came into the group, and he never knew it.... There are errors which are as fierce as wolves and pitiless as hyenas; they tear faith and hope and love to pieces and leave churches, once prosperous, mangled and half dead. **Charles Jefferson**, “The Minister as Shepherd” (quoted in “Pastoral Ministry”, p. 209)

“ I am suggesting that it is because there are false views current with regard to these matters that people no longer see the importance of preaching. Take the question of the need, man’s need. What is it? Well, negatively, it is not a mere sickness. There is a tendency to regard man’s essential trouble as being a sickness. I do not mean physical sickness only. That come in; but I mean a kind of mental and moral and spiritual sickness. It is not that; that is not man’s real need, not his real trouble. I would say the same about his misery and his unhappiness, and also about his being a victim of circumstances. These are things that are given prominence today. There are so many people trying to diagnose the human situation; and they come to the conclusion that man is sick, man is unhappy, man is the victim of circumstances. They believe therefore that his primary need is to have these things dealt with ... But I suggest that that is too superficial a diagnosis of the condition of man, and that man’s real trouble is that he is a rebel against God and consequently under the wrath of God. **D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones**, “Preaching & Preachers”, p. 26-27

***Given MAN's CONDITION The FALLEN WORLD the
DECEPTIVE Activity of Satan ... The Real Threat of FAILING FAITH
... We need to be Strengthened & Established and God Has Ordained
PREACHING to Accomplish that end.***

What is “Preaching”? What is it Out to Accomplish?

- **Preaching** = Compelling Instruction from and Proclamation of God's Truth and Its Implications for Our Lives It draws its authority for proclamation from the fact that it is God's truth (in that sense it is not a debate or discussion but a proclamation). It contains teaching but it is more than teaching. It involves doing all within your power to implore and convince. It flows out of Spirit given urgency and weightiness that first effects the one preaching before it is proclaimed to others. It calls for a response and not merely consideration.
- **Preaching is Seeking to Win Your Faith**

“ We must study how to convince and get within men, and how to bring each truth to the quick **Richard Baxter**, “The Reformed Pastor”, p. 146-147