

## “Jesus, The Man For All Men”

September 1, 2019

John 13:1-17

Thank you for an opportunity to preach God’s Word again today. Please find with me the fifteenth chapter of Romans.

I’ve titled today’s message “Jesus, Man for All Men.” Shall we pray?

Of all the important people in the Bible, who would you say is the most important? There’s Jesus. He’s the most important. He’s God, He’s the Creator, He’s the Sovereign LORD. He’s the Savior. He’s the Prince of peace; and so forth. For sure, the most important person in history and the most important person in the Bible is Jesus Christ, the Jewish Messiah.

Then, there are others who are also important. There’s Abraham and Moses and David. Well, what about the Apostle Paul? Doesn’t he rank very high on the table of most important people in Scripture?

Now, given what you know from reading and studying your Bible, who would you consider a troublemaker? Did you know that there is, for many people, a no more troublesome person than the Apostle Paul? You see, even before the end of the first century A.D., we find people disrespecting him and who really considering Paul a trouble-maker.

Acts 21:20 “*And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law: (21) And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise their children, neither to walk after the customs.*”

Did Paul really teach people to forsake Moses and never walk after the customs? You see, there were some who were basically lying about Paul’s teachings.

But, because he stressed that Jesus was the Perfect fulfillment of the entire Old Testament system, it is obvious that, from the beginning, for many, many Jews, Paul was counted as a trouble-maker. And that belief has persisted. Let me show you what I mean “We cannot admit that it was the teacher of Nazareth [Jesus] that produced the greatest change ever wrought on the face of the earth. This honour is due to Rabbi Saul of Tarsus, commonly called St. Paul, and not Rabbi Joshua of Nazareth. [You can easily hear the cynicism in those words, can’t you?] Had the fiery spirit of the Rabbi of Tarsus not boldly broken down the barrier that separated the Gentile from the Jewish world, and which Jesus left intact, the latter (Jesus) might have passed as the founder of some obscure Jewish sect...

The true founder of Christianity ... is St. Paul, the man who was everything to everybody; among the Jews a Jew, and a Gentile among the Gentiles; who united the simplicity of the dove with the cunning of the serpent, and who, by his cunning, effected between Judaism and paganism that compromise which in process of time was enlarged and developed into historical Christianity such as prevails now in the civilized world.” [Found on [www](http://www). “Studies In Christian-Jewish Relations” by Daniel R. Langton in an 1861 article in the British magazine *The Jewish Chronicle*. The Jewish Chronicle has held a monopoly over Anglo-Jewish press for much of the last century and a half and has succeeded in maintaining a consensual position and thus a commanding authority. David Cesarani, *The Jewish Chronicle and Anglo-Jewry, 1841-1991* (New York: Cambridge University, 1994), ix.].

This particular statement is part of article on why Jews should never embrace the Apostle Paul.

And here's one more word about him. "We do not esteem Paul greatly...Of course Saul or Paul was a Jew; but he taught in opposition to Judaism...The Apostles themselves had surely no great sympathy with Paul; he went to the Gentiles, while they adhered to the Jews, and kept the law... Indeed, we hold him to have been a man of consummate skill; he wanted to spread Judaism among the Gentiles; but of ceremonial Judaism this was impossible, so he divested it of ceremony, and added the plurality in the Deity, as a doctrine better suited to the heathen world than the pure unity of the Jews." [Found on www. "Studies In Christian-Jewish Relations" by Daniel R. Langton from a letter to the editor "The Occident," a Jewish monthly newspaper that ran from 1843 to 1869].

And just one more. "Paul is said to be the Father of a New religion...Paul took his message to the Gentiles. (The truth of the matter is that he was woefully unsuccessful with converting Jews to his Jesus movement) ... he made the process of becoming "*Jewish*" extremely easy. He abolished the need for circumcision, professing that a belief in Jesus supplanted the performance of Mitzvoth (commandments), and one merely had to dunk in water (Baptism) in order to join! Furthermore, Paul preached that the slightest infraction against the Torah was tantamount to violating the entire Torah, therefore the only way to be redeemed was to admit that one hasn't the power to do good and must accept the vicarious atonement offered by the blood of Jesus."

[Found on <https://jewsforjudaism.org> "Paul – Father of a New Religion" by Rabbi Jeffrey Stein et al].

So, from then till now, in the eyes of many Jewish people, Paul was a trouble-maker. And these comments about Paul show how, to this very day, so many of the Jews despise him.

Peter? Apostle to the Jews. Paul? Apostle to the Gentiles? Here's Paul himself. Romans 11:13 "*For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as **I am the apostle of the Gentiles**, I magnify mine office: ...*"

Galatians 2:7 "*But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision [Gentiles] was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision [Jews] was unto Peter; (8) (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision [Jews], the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)*"

So, according to Paul's own testimony, even though he was Hebrew of the Hebrews, of the tribe of Benjamin, even though a Pharisee, even though a teacher of the Jews, he believed God had sent him to evangelize the Gentiles.

Now, where could Paul have possibly gotten the idea that the Gentiles were to be reached with his Gospel? Here's what we read in the first Jewish book, the Book of Genesis.

Genesis 12:3 "*And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall **all families of the earth** be blessed.*"

Genesis 18:18 "*Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and **all the nations of the earth** shall be blessed in him?*"

Genesis 26:4 "*And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall **all the nations of the earth** be blessed; ...*"

Genesis 28:14 "*And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall **all the families of the earth** be blessed.*"

You see, this idea wasn't original to Paul. Long before there were any Jews; centuries before the sons of Jacob would make their entrance onto the stage of the world, *God* made it clear, very clear, that the Gentiles, along with the Jews, would be recipients of His blessings?

So, yes, there are many Jewish people who outright reject Paul as having any credibility with Jewish people. But, this is entirely without a basis. Here's why. Find with me Paul's own words in this fifteenth chapter. Romans 15:8 *'Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers: (9) And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, [in Psalm 18:49] For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.*

*(10) And again he saith, [in Deuteronomy 32:43] Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. (11) And again, [in Psalm 117:1-2] Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. (12) And again, [in Isaiah 11:10] Esaias saith, there shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust."*

First, Paul tells us exactly Who Jesus Christ is. He's a "minister of the circumcision [the Jews] for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers." He came, not to be served, but to serve.

When we say that Jesus is a man for all men, here's what we mean. He's a servant. He has a heart to serve people. Jesus, the Christ; Jesus, the Messiah, lived the life of servanthood. Matthew 20:25 *"But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. (26) But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister;*

*(27) And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: (28) Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."*

Here is the man for all men. He came to serve. And He taught His disciples that, rather than exercising dominion over others, in order to be great, be a minister. Be a servant.

What I've learned over the years about some religious groups; even the ones that use the Bible, is this. Rather than read the words of Scripture; rather than let the Bible itself persuade them, they accept what *someone else* has said about the Scripture. One of my goals, as your Pastor, is to get you to do your own work; read your own Bible. See it and study it *for yourself*. See just what the Word says *for yourself*. This is one of the most important things you can ever do when it comes to the Person of Jesus Christ and then when it comes to the ministry of the Apostle Paul.

So, says Paul, Jesus Christ was a minister, a servant of the circumcision, a servant of the Jews.

The world, as you know, is divided into two main groups; Jews and Gentiles. Jews are the physical descendants of Judah, the son of Jacob. The rest of the world, the world of non-Jews are called "the nation," or "the Gentiles."

So, let me say out the outset that the main message of the Romans fifteen is this. "Jesus is a Man for all men; all Jews and all Gentiles. That's Who Jesus is.

I spoke to a young man this week about the LORD (young meaning age 23). We began by discussing religion and he told me what religion he had grown up with. He also told me that his sister had died in a car accident at the age of 18 and, after that he no longer believed the things he'd been taught as a child. So, what did I tell him? I told him to turn to the Person of Jesus, to find out Who Jesus is.

Folks, He's a Man for all men.

Romans fifteen, then, is a message about the Person you really need to know well.

And what does Paul say to Christians here in this chapter? He says that the strong Christian is the one who bears with the weaknesses of the weak Christian. And, he or she is the one who no longer lives to please himself or herself.

Have you ever noticed that Jesus, nor Paul, never made it easy to be a disciple of Christ? Salvation comes by simply faith in the finished work of the Cross. But discipleship? That's not for the faint of heart.

A disciple surrenders his body to the LORD every day. A disciple renews his mind every day. A disciple has a daily goal of applying the truth of Scripture to his heart and life. He is *not* out to please himself. And, as you can see here in chapter fifteen, a disciple of Christ bears with those around him; especially those who are weak.

Ask yourself today "Is my goal today to please the LORD Jesus by what I do and say and think? Or is it to please myself?"

The world tells you that you must live to please yourself. The LORD tells you the exact opposite. You are here to benefit those around you. A disciple is one who builds up someone else in the faith.

As an illustration, imagine, if you can, that you are in the French Foreign Legion. Now, imagine, if you can, that you are in marching formation and that one person in your platoon is always out of step; always turns to the left when everyone else is turning to the right. [Illustration found on <https://-bible.org> in "Please Others And Praising God" by Pastor Bob Diffinbaugh].

What's your response? Is it to condemn him because he can't tell his right from his left? Or will you be the one to build him up by taking the time to help him?

The same thing holds true when another Christian isn't as far along as you are and they are marching to their own drumbeat. Is it someone else's job to encourage and build them up? Or, is it your job?

You see, Jesus is a Man for all men. You are I are here, not to please ourselves, but to build someone else up.

Here's what you are called to do.

Romans 13:10 "*Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*"

Romans 12:9 "*Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. (10) Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; ...*"

Romans 14:19 "*Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.*"

So, you see, Jesus is a man for all men. Following Christ is not for the faint of heart. You may someday be called to lose your life for following Him.

So, first, you and I have been called by God to build up those He brings into our lives; especially the weak.

Second, you and I have been called by God to fill up our hearts with praise to the LORD.

And, please notice what Paul does to support this message. He turns to the Old Testament.

Have you noticed as you study your Bible that Paul always the way Paul teaches us how to do everything a Christian is to do is by taking us back to the Scriptures? You see, your Bible is your daily "how to live the Christian life" book.

Here's Paul again. Romans 15:9 "*And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, [in Psalm 18:49] For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.*"

It's the Gentiles Paul is speaking about here. It's you and me. And what are we being called to do? To glorify God for His mercy; to sing to His name; to praise the LORD.

The word "praise" is found 175 times in the Bible. Psalm 113:1 "*Praise ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. (2) Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. (3) From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised.*"

Have you heard about the people who didn't know how to sing? "In 1951, two missionaries, John and Elaine Beekman traveled to southern Mexico to work among the Chol Indians. As Wycliffe Missionaries, among other ministries, the Beekmans faithfully labored for 25 years to translate the New Testament into the local language. Today, more the 12,000 make up the Chol Christian Community – which, by the way, is financially self-supporting. What's most amazing, however, is that even though the locals didn't know how to sing when the missionaries arrived. And since Mrs. Beekman was able to translate hundreds of Christian songs into their language, the Chol Indians of Mexico are now known as "the singers." [Found on [www.sermoncentral.com](http://www.sermoncentral.com) "What Do You Sing About?" in a sermon by Pastor Greg Nance November 29, 2014].

You are called to praise the LORD in word and song.

I'm sure you've had things happen to you this past week or this past month that you wish you did not have to deal with. I'm sure you've got people in your life that you'd rather not have to contend with. I'm sure you've got the problems of life that often plague you.

But what is your calling as a Gentile Christian? Paul tells us. And he tells us by quoting four times from the Old Testament. Romans 15:9 "*And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, [in Psalm 18:49] for this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. (10) And again he saith, [in Deuteronomy 32:43] Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.*

*(11) And again, [in Psalm 117:1-2] Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people. (12) And again, [in Isaiah 11:10] Esaias saith, there shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust."*

There's so much to do – every day of our lives. Yet, Paul takes us back to one of the basics; one of the main reasons

for your salvation. You are here to praise the LORD, to glorify Him, and to rejoice.

You will, likely, never have a "problem-less" week. But, how many weeks have gone by when you had a "praise-less" week?

Are you a Gentile? Are you a saved Gentile? Are you Jewish? Are you a saved Jewish man or woman? Are you related to God through His Son Jesus Christ? Then you are part of this "praise band" of Christians. We are meant for praise. We are meant for rejoicing.

So, first, you've been called by God to build up those He brings into our lives; especially the weak.

Second, you've also been called by God to fill up our hearts with praise to the LORD.

Today, we celebrate the LORD's Table. Have you noticed that some of our Church family neglect, not only the house of the LORD, but neglect the Table of the LORD as well? And whose responsibility is it to encourage these to not neglect the LORD's house or His table? It's yours and it's mine.

So, what will you do with these precious words from the LORD's heart this week?

Will you put them into your life?

Now, it might be that you've never been saved. If so, you aren't really able to praise the LORD.

Today, though, you can come to Him for salvation and forgiveness of all your sins. He paid the full penalty for your sins. And He's right now ready to completely forgive you of every sin you've ever committed. Will you pray this prayer?

"LORD, I admit I am a lost sinner and a bruised reed. I need, not only your strength, but your death. I put my trust in you right now to save my soul. I believe You died on the Cross for my sins. Thank you. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

Or, as a child of God, you are being called to build up another Christian and to praise the LORD. Will you do that today?

Shall we pray?

Hymn # 79 “My Jesus, I Love Thee”