

Beulah Baptist Church
Rev. Jerry D. Black, Pastor

Sunday School Lesson
January 28, 2024
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Mike Moore, Superintendent

Lesson—Using Our Unique Gifts

Text—Romans 12:3-8

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Evaluate a life of faith versus conformity to the world.
2. Value the gifts that God gives which invite transformation.
3. Identify a spiritual gift and consider one tangible expression of using that gift in service to God.

Why This Lesson Matters: We all face pressure to conform to the world. How can we recognize our unique giftedness and withstand pressure to conform? Paul reminds us that through faith, God transforms us by renewing our minds so that we can discern God's will.

Key Verse—(Romans 12:6a) *Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us. (KJV)*

Song of Praise and Worship: *"The Gift" by Donald Lawrence*

II. Points to be Emphasized

- a. This section marks a turn in Romans from Paul's theology of salvation to the behavioral implications of that salvation for the believer.*
- b. Paul consistently describes the life of a believer in contrast to the life before belief: here, the believer must stop the ungodly behavior to replace it with the new sacrificial one (Rom 12:2).*
- c. Paul is clear that the battleground for the believer is the mind (Phil. 4:8) which for Greco-Romans determined character and either virtue or vice.*
- d. The behavioral fruit resulting from living as a sacrifice to God is relational in nature. We are not created to be alone (Gen. 2:18), and as we reflect the character of God to one another, humility, and service according to God's gifting becomes the hallmark of our community.*

III. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

Romans is primarily a book of doctrine, specifically the doctrine of justification by faith in Christ alone. Paul's letter to the Roman church is both doctrinal and practical. The first 11 chapters present the theological truths about the doctrine of justification, while chapters 12 to 16 teach how believers should live after being justified by God.

The book of Romans must have been written towards the end of the third missionary journey, when Paul, accompanied by representatives from the churches he had founded, prepared to return to Jerusalem (see Acts 20:3-6).

IV. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

Paul: a Jewish man who lived in the 1st century and was a very influential early Christian and missionary. He was born in Tarsus, a Roman city in Turkey, and was originally a Pharisee, a member of a Jewish sect that followed the strict teachings of the Torah. He was converted on the Damascus Road.

V. Key Terms in the Lesson

- a. **Gifts (v.6)**—Greek: charisma (khar'-is-mah): gifts of grace; free gifts; spiritual gifts.
- b. **Members (v.4)**—Greek: melos (mel'-of): limbs (of the body); properly, parts belonging to the whole.
- c. **Body (v.5)**—Greek: soma (so'-mah): a body; flesh; the body of Christ.

VI. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. Spiritual Gifts: The Correct Attitude (*Romans 12:3-5*)
3. Spiritual Gifts: The Correct Use (vv. 12:6-8)

Food for thought and question for consideration: (What have we learned Charlie Brown?)

There's no question, according to Paul, that every believer in the body of Christ has a gift that is given to him or her for God's divine purposes. The thing that we must learn is what gift God has endowed us with. Do you know what gift God has given to you?

If you do not know your gift, right away, and without hesitation, go to the church's website sign up for the class called PLACE Ministries that will help determine your passion spiritual gifts and areas to use the gift that God has placed within you!