

Title: IDEALS IN ACTION, ROMANS 15:4 – 12
(Chatham, NJ; 12/08/13, AM) [Pc – Topical]

Theme: The ideals of Kingdom rule are expressed in Isaiah and Psalms; the challenge to participate is given by John; the hope offered by God is explained by Paul.

Purpose: To help the church to remember and sustain the ideal of the Kingdom and to help them keep their hope alive in what it promises.

Introduction:

1. The prophets cast a vision for the Kingdom of God that Paul keeps alive in Romans.
2. We are always in a state of preparation waiting for the King to return and take us to live with him in glory and life everlasting.
3. Let us continue to be encouraged by the message of the Kingdom and seek to implement it in our lives once again.

I. The Ideals Expressed and Hoped For

A. Isaiah 11:1-10

1. Branch of Jesse
2. With wisdom and understanding, 2
3. Judge with righteousness (4) against the wicked
4. Images of peace and serenity, 5-9

B. Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

1. The king's justice, 1-2
2. Prosperity, 3
3. Defending the needy and oppressed, 4
4. The righteous flourish (increase?), 7
5. Peace abounds, 7
6. Blessed by God, 18-19
7. Israel yearned for these things that are also the yearnings of all humanity

II. The Kingdom Near, Mt. 3:1-12, Images to Remember

A. John points the way – the voice in the wilderness

1. Fulfillment of Isaiah and Ps. 72
2. Compare 3:2 to Mark 1:15
3. Repentance opens the door to entrance
4. A sense of entitlement will never get one into the Kingdom: John sets the Pharisees straight on this matter, 9

B. Camel's hair, leather belt

1. Allusion to Elijah
2. Austere living gets everyone's attention

C. Bear fruit, you vipers

1. Fruit is demonstrable action, 7:16-20; 12:33-37

2. Actions speak louder than words

D. Axe at the root of the trees

1. Brings to mind the image of a remnant: only a stump is left
2. The Kingdom tears down the old structure and removes the dead wood
3. Jesus will baptize with fire: judgment and purification

E. Winnowing Fork

1. Separate the wheat from the chaff
2. Even though many didn't believe and may not today, it becomes more and more evident all the time just who is and who isn't a part of the Kingdom of God

III. Endurance, Encouragement, and Hope, Romans 15:4 – 12

A. God's work on Fulfilled, Ps. 72:18-19

1. He is the God of endurance and encouragement, 5
2. God's truthfulness revealed in Christ, 8
3. He is the God of hope, 13
4. By the power of his Holy Spirit, we abound in hope

B. God's endurance comes in the harmony of the church, 5

5. With one another, 5
6. For the glory of God, 6
7. Welcome one another, 7

C. Christ Became a Servant

8. To confirm the promises, 8 (note the Scripture references Paul uses)
9. That the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy, 9
10. Mercy: the most important of God's work fulfilled in Christ

Conclusions:

- The fulfillment of the Kingdom means encouragement, endurance, and hope for us.
- These things are God's work in you.
- God's promises are certified in Christ.
- By God, may we all be filled joy, peace, and hope by our faith, 13.