David Hodges GCBC 01/22/23 Romans #49

Know Yourself; Use Your Gifts Romans 12:3-8

So what does a transformed life lived according to God's will look like in relating to others? From here on we hear what our conduct ought to be toward other believers, enemies, the state, and the weak/strong.

Exhortation: View yourself and your gifts realistically. 3

- ◆Paul appealed to God's mercies in 12:1. Here it's God's grace to him.
- ◆ <u>Negative</u>: Don't think too highly of yourself and your abilities.
- ◆ <u>Positive</u>: Think of yourself and abilities/gifts in a sober/realistic way.

Note the repetition of words to do with *thinking* and *mind* in vv. 2, 3. The context of giftedness in vv. 4-8 clarifies that's the concern here. Can you see how overestimating ourselves could be a problem?

♦Do you know your gifts and abilities? What can help you know?

Illustration: Recognize our unity through diversity. 4,5

- ♦As in Eph. 4:4ff. and I Cor.12 human body imagery is used to illustrate our unity in Christ and interdependence on each another.
- ◆Every believer has a gift(s) in order to help build up Christ's body.
- ◆Realize your limitations and allow others to use their gifts.

Application: Use your gifts whole-heartedly. 6-8

♦See I Cor. 12, Eph. 4:11, I Pt. 4:11 for other listings of gifts.



"Start where you are—do anything you can do, and do everything you can do until you find something you must do! That something is probably your spiritual gift."

--Jim George