

Comments About Romans 12:8

This article is from the "Among Friends" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's website, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of June 15, 2019.

By Dave Havir

BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a discussion about the words of the apostle Paul found in Romans 12. It is my perspective that Paul's writings in chapters 1-11 could be classified more as comments about doctrine and spiritual concepts, whereas the words in chapter 12 can be viewed more as Christian-living topics.

Last week, we discussed Romans 12:7 and the gifts of ministry and teaching. This article will discuss Romans 12:8 and the gifts of exhorting, giving, leading and showing mercy.

Positive words

Notice what Paul wrote in Romans 12:8.

Romans 12:8—"He who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness."

Gift of exhorting

Here are some scriptures that discuss the gift of exhorting.

Acts 14:21-22—"And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, 'We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.' "

1 Thessalonians 2:11—"As you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children."

Hebrews 3:13—"But exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today,' lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."

Hebrews 10:24-25—"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

Gift of giving

Here are some verses that discuss the gift of giving.

Luke 3:11—"He answered and said to them, 'He who has two tunics, let him give to him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise.' "

2 Corinthians 9:7—"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

■ Luke 10:25-37

■ James 2:14-18

Gift of leading

Here are some verses that discuss the gift of leading.

1 Samuel 15:17—"So Samuel said, 'When you were little in your own eyes, were you not head of the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?' "

Matthew 20:25-26—"But Jesus called them to Himself and said: 'You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant.' "

■ John 15:12-13

■ Acts 20:28-35

Gift of showing mercy

Here are some verses that discuss the gift of showing mercy.

Matthew 9:13—"But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice' . . ."

Matthew 12:7—" 'But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless."

■ Luke 10:36-37

■ James 2:13