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Romans 12:13, **“Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.”**

How is it that we can and should distribute to **“the necessity of saints?”** Saints who are in need does not mean those who are sitting on their front porch, waiting for their next welfare check, yet are physically able to work and care for themselves but are too lazy to do so. It does mean those saints who are truly in need of help - high doctor bills, home burned, loss of job, prolonged illness, disability, etc., etc... These and many other reasons put many a saint in true need of help. It is our responsibility to distribute whatever the Lord has blessed us with to help those in true need. Paul, in Ephesians 4:28, speaks to this end, **“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.”** James writes in chapter 2, verses 15-17, **“If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doeth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”** In true context of Romans 12:13, saints were not just God’s children in whole, but in particular they were those who were going about preaching the good news of Jesus Christ. Their necessities were to be provided by those to whom they administered.

Paul continues by telling the brethren at Rome that they needed to be **“given to hospitality.”** I remember times when preachers, traveling through our area, felt comfortable to knock on my parents door, needing a bed for the night. It was never a question of providing for them, it was always a concern over how much could be done to make them more comfortable. Paul told Timothy in I Timothy 3:2 that a bishop (minister) was to be **“given to hospitality”** among a list of holy attributes they were to possess. Then, we find Peter with some strong admonition in I Peter 4:9, **“Use hospitality one to another without grudging.”** Simply put, it is ungodly to provide for someone in need with a frown on your face, feeling you had

to do it for appearances sake, or because you felt it was expected. Take time to read the account found in II Kings 4, where the man of God (Elisha) went to the city of Shunem (vs 8) and was constrained (urged and welcomed) by a great woman (“**this Shunammite**”) to stop in and eat bread with her and her husband. She could feel that he was a holy man of God and urged her husband to build a little chamber so Elisha would have “**...a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall be, when he cometh to us, that he shall turn in thither**” (vs 10). Dear ones, there is no greater hospitality than what they did for Elisha, not knowing then how great their need of him would become at a later time. Paul spends time preaching to the Roman brethren and sisters the fundamental truths of who Christ was and of His gift of Eternal Life. However, he also taught them godly ways to live their lives before God and men. These instructions are still good for us today. **Think About It!**