

Lesson 11, ROMANS 14 – 16

We are coming to the end of Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul has put forth remarkable insight into the power of God and our weakness as human beings. Chapters 14 and 15 are a continuation of what kingdom living looks like. This section began with Paul's declaration in Romans 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you brothers in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship."

1. Reread Romans 12:1-2. What do you see is the correlation between that verse and John 12:23-24? Who are the seeds?

2. Read Romans 14- Romans 15:13. Paul is addressing how we are to relate to other Christians. The problem we face again and again is judging one another. What do these verses say? Underline those verses that speak to you the most.

3. How important is unity? (See Romans 15:5-9). Why ?

4. Read Romans 15:4. What is one of the purposes of the Scriptures? How has the study of Romans given you endurance and encouragement?

5. Romans 15:14-33 starts the closing of this letter. Paul compliments the Roman Christians and then bears his heart about his calling. Remember, Paul (or Saul) was a persecutor of Christians; he held the cloaks of those Jews who stoned Stephen to death. Therefore, he understood the grace of God and his calling. Where does Paul want to minister next? Verse 31 is a foreshadowing of Paul's arrest in Jerusalem. What does this tell you about the commitment Paul had to his calling?

6. Romans 16 is Paul's list of those to greet. What do you notice about this list? For fun, read Mark 15:21, Luke 23:26 with Romans 16:13. What do you think about this convert named Rufus?

7. Romans 16:17-20 is a warning to the church in Rome. What is it? How does verse 20 encourage you?

APPLICATION: Read Romans 16:25-27 which is the benediction. Write out what those words mean to you personally.

PRAYER: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are awed by your grace and mercy to each of us. You made a way for sinful man to be reconciled to you. Your son's obedience to the cross was the door that swung open to all of mankind so that we might enter your very presence. We went from being lost and enslaved to being heirs of your kingdom and sons and daughters in your family. We praise you, Father, for your eternal plan that involved the entire world, not just your chosen people. We thank you, Father, that we Gentiles are now grafted into the eternal covenant with Abraham. This was your plan from the beginning. We give you all glory, honor, and praise. We lift up these words that seem so feeble in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen.