

Romans 15

Jesus

God desires unity that we might accomplish our purpose; Reaching a hell-bound world with the Gospel. Before going out to save the world **we must have our own house in order...**

Romans 14:1 Receive one who is weak in the faith, *but* not to disputes over doubtful things...**19** Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another. **20 Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food.**

IOWs...Our brothers/sisters are more important than our freedoms

▪ Guidelines for questionable areas of freedom in our lives: [McGee]

1. **Conviction:** Whatever we do is to be done w/enthusiasm/persuaded that it is what God wants us to do
2. **Conscience:** Our conduct should be such that we don't not look back upon it with qualms/doubts of conscience.
3. **Consideration** [Here]: Showing consideration for the scruples of [partialities] **of weak believers...**

- **Weak believers:** Those adhering to strict rules/regulations/struggling w/God's grace

I. Bearing Burdens

1 We then who are strong *[in order not to destroy the work of God in others]* ought to **bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.** **2** Let each of us please his neighbor **for his good, leading to edification.**

- **Scruples** [infirmities]: 1x def. Error arising from weakness of mind. rt. weak/feeble

1 Thessalonians 5:14 [Of new believers] ... **uphold the weak, be patient with all.**

- **Command:** Not to please self but others i.e., Love as you want to be loved
- **Result:** Their good/their edification/their being built up/understanding grace

1 Corinthians 10:24 Let no one seek his own, but **each one the other's well-being**

When you invite a Christian over to your house who doesn't believe in dancing, don't put on a square dance for him, because you will offend him. [JV McGee]

- When do I not bear w/legalistic [weak] person?
 1. When they're convinced their salvation depends on their scruple
 2. When they insist others do the same. Baseball hats vs Halloween party

In general, Be patient with those who just don't get it yet

3 For even Christ did not **please Himself**; but as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached **You fell on Me.**" **4** For whatever things were written before were **written for our learning**, that we through the **patience and comfort** of the Scriptures might have hope.

How much did/does Jesus' bear with from us?

We have hope/comfort through Scripture that God will be patient with us...

Deuteronomy 31:6 Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. **He will not leave you nor forsake you.**"

- Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Peter?
- Scripture teaches they **all blew it/All restored by God**

Jesus persevered w/the weak/broken...even those who reproached Him
Jesus did not give up on people who just didn't get it yet...people like we were

5 Now may the **God of patience and comfort** grant you to be **like-minded** toward one another, **according to Christ Jesus** 6 that you may with **one mind and one mouth** glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Have the same mind toward others...as Jesus had toward us**

John 13:35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have **love for one another.**

- **Patient w/ others**
- **Comforting...** *Paraklēsis* to accept/stand with

Building up the weak that we might stand strong together
One mind/One mouth glorifying God/United in purpose...Gospel of Jesus Christ

A story was told that one night the Methodists were singing. "**Will there be any stars in my crown?**" And the Presbyterians were singing "**No, not one; no not one.**" And the Baptists were singing "**Oh, that will be glory for me.**" Well, that is just a story but sometimes it actually looks like that. [JV McGee]

- **vv 1-7** Give people room to grow

We are to be like-minded in what really matters: Person and Work of Jesus Christ
Allowing the Holy Spirit to unite us/Free to Glorify God together

- We get to see this unity in **times of worship**
- We get to see this unity as the **Word is brought forth**

One Mind/One Mouth Glorifying God. Just like Heaven

SUMMARY Bearing Burdens

II. Glorify God Together

7 Therefore **receive one another**, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

- **Receive:** C.f. 14:1 Receive one who is weak
- Take as a companion/by the hand/into home **Grant access to one's heart**

Q. How did Jesus receive us? When we became perfect?

Romans 5:8 ...God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that **while we were still**

sinners, Christ died for us.

8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has **become a servant** to the circumcision [Jews] for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, 9 and that the **Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy**, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And **sing to Your name**." 10 And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" 11 And again: "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" 12 And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope."

- God/Creator of the Universe **became a Servant in order to save us...**

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the **form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and **became obedient to the point of death**, even the death of the cross.

Hebrews 12:2 look... unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the **joy that was set before Him endured** the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

So overjoyed at our Salvation... Jesus breaks into song to His Father v9

13 Now may the **God of hope fill you with all joy and peace** in believing, that you may **abound in hope** by the **power of the Holy Spirit**.

- God of Hope...

The believing heart finds here the Rock of Ages who is the shelter in the time of the storm. [JV McGee]

- As we seek the good of others the Holy Spirit...
 1. **Fills our hearts** w/all Joy
 2. **Fills our minds** w/peace
 3. **Causes us to abound** in hope of eternity
 4. Allows us to live presently in the **power the Holy Spirit**. Got to be emptied first

SUMMARY Glorify God Together: Concludes the doctrinal section of Romans. Next, Paul's hope, personal experience and testimony.

III. Fully Preaching the Gospel

14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that **you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another**.

- **Paul:** I know you guys can pull this off by the Holy Spirit.
- **In Christ we are...**

1. Full of Goodness
2. Full of Wisdom therefore...
3. **Able to Speak truth** into each other's lives...even when its hard truth

- **Admonish:** Warn/Exhort/Call attention to. Speak truth in love to one another

Assuming the motive of the speaker is love and led by the Spirit...

We as Spirit-filled believers should be able to accept admonition w/out offence

- **Stay teachable. Stay humble.**
- **Paul:** You guys are doing alright...

15 Nevertheless, [but moreover] brethren, I have written **more boldly** to you on **some points, as reminding you**, because of the grace given to me by God, 16 that I might be a **minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles**, ministering the **gospel of God**, that the offering of the Gentiles might be **acceptable, sanctified** by the Holy Spirit.

- **Paul:** I take responsibility as a Pastor to present you to God...
 1. **Acceptable** Truly Saved
 2. **Sanctified** Set apart/As much like Jesus before He comes as possible

I must answer to God for you...That is why I speak boldly!

17 Therefore I have reason to **glory in Christ Jesus** in the things which pertain to God.

- I give God all glory for using my life to reach Gentiles

18 For [but] I will **not dare to speak** of any of those things which Christ has not **accomplished through me**, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient— 19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God **19b...** so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum **I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.**

- **Words** Given by the Spirit
- **Deeds** Let by the Spirit
- **Miracles** Done by the Spirit to validate Apostolic ministry
 1. Caused blindness to enemy of Gospel
 2. Shook off poisonous viper
 3. Healed people
 4. Cast out demons
 5. Raised dead...all by power of Spirit

When I see the fruit of my work...I realize it is all God doing it
Yet Paul was obedient to his calling: Fully Preach the Gospel to the Gentile world

- **Fully Preached?** If the Gospel is not preached by the HS it is not fully preached

20 And so I have made it my aim to **preach the gospel**, not where Christ was named, lest I should **build on another man's foundation**, 21 but as it is written: "To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand."

- Paul traveled planting new churches....in places not yet reached

Paul did not want to build on another man's foundation. Rather he wanted to do pioneer work for the Lord – not because it was wrong or bad to continue the work begun through another man, but because **there was so much to do on the frontiers**. [Guzik]

SUMMARY Fully preaching the Gospel: God desires unity that we might accomplish our common purpose...getting the Gospel to a hell-bound world. Before going out to save the world we must have our own house in order... **By God's grace we do**. Now what?

- What we have is special/we need to protect it [no compromise] and expand it
- Need to utilize the unity of the Spirit that God has granted our church to reach others
- Need to pray about how God wants to use us to fully preach the Gospel

God is on the move! We are to walk in step with His Spirit

That those who don't see shall see...those who have not heard will understand
God desires to forgive, heal, save and be w/us forever through Jesus' life/death/resurrection

IV. Plan to Visit Rome

22 For this reason I also have **been much hindered from coming to you**.

- **Hindered:** Busy planting other churches...lots

23 But **now no longer having a place in these parts**, and having a great desire these many years to come to you, 24 whenever I journey to Spain, **I shall come to you**. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first **I may enjoy your company for a while**.

- **Book of Romans:** Written in Corinth to church in Rome. Paul in Corinth year and half...wrote 7 Books

**I've saturated the regions around Corinth w/Gospel
Now it's my great desire to enjoy your company in Rome...**

Romans 1:13 [I want you to know...] that **I often planned to come to you** [but was hindered until now], that I might have some fruit among you also, just as among the other Gentiles.

- Paul looked forward to visiting Rome then Spain [vv24,28]...

25 **But now I am going to Jerusalem** to minister to the saints.

Paul goes to Jerusalem to minister to saints he once persecuted

- **Warned not to go...**

Acts 21:10... a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. 11 When he had

come to us, he took Paul's belt, **bound his own hands and feet**, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the **Jews at Jerusalem bind the man** who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' " 12 Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For **I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem** for the name of the Lord Jesus."14 So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "**The will of the Lord be done.**"

- **Paul went to Jerusalem...**

1. Paul spoke of Resurrection
2. Religious Jews went nuts
3. Roman soldiers protected Paul from them

Acts 23:11 But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "**Be of good cheer, Paul; for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.**"

- **Paul:** Roman citizen demanded a hearing in Rome to answer accusations of the Jews

God will give Paul his heart's desire...not necessarily the way he imagined

Paul had these plans; yet things did not work out according to his plans. He did go to Rome, yet not as a missionary on his way to Spain. He went to Rome as a prisoner awaiting trial before Caesar, where he would preach the gospel on a different kind of frontier... After his release from the Roman imprisonment at the end of the Book of Acts, we have reason to believe that Paul did in fact **make it to Spain** and preached the gospel there. [Guzik]

Before I come to Rome...I am going to Jerusalem

Paul knows there will be trouble and will go anyway

- Doesn't need a peace about it/Just needs to know God's will about it
- **Mission:** Bring a gift from the Gentiles to the Jewish Christians...

26 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain **contribution for the poor** among the saints who are in Jerusalem. 27 It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been **partakers of their spiritual things**, their duty is also to minister to them in **material things**.

Offering to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem **Paul once sought to kill...**

- **Offering from Gentiles Believers...**

1. Received Word of God in OT. Rich Spiritual Heritage from Jews
2. Minister to Jewish believers in Jerusalem **w/physical resources**

28 Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, **I shall go by way of you to Spain.**

- **Sealed fruit?** Made sure he knew they would **use for Gospel**

IOWs Make sure you know how your money is being used

29 But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

**Fullness of the blessing of the Gospel? Result of our common Salvation
Good Fruit. New Life. Forgiveness. Healing. Giftings. Fellowship...**

30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and through the **love of the Spirit**, that you **strive together with me in prayers to God** for me, 31 that I may be **delivered from those in Judea** who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be **acceptable to the saints**, 32 that I may come to you with **joy by the will of God**, and **may be refreshed together with you.** [Note Trinity v30]

Through Jesus Christ and though the Love for His Spirit...Pray for me

- **Pray:** Strive [lit. agonize] with me in prayer...**FOR ME?**

Through all that happens in Jerusalem God's Purpose would be fulfilled

Acts 9:15 ... [Paul] is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. 16 For I will show him **how many things he must suffer** for My name's sake."

- **Pray**

1. Protection from Religious Jews
2. Gift received/accepted by Jewish believers [from guy who sought to kill them]
3. I may come to you in Rome with good attitude [joy]
4. Together we would refresh one another...**strive/agonize in prayer for me**

Ministers need the prayers of their flocks. With Paul, I urge you to strive in your prayers for your pastors. We need your prayers and we thank God for them. **Pastors are sustained by the power of the Spirit through the support of their congregations.**" [C. Smith]

Does it astonish you that a man so rich in grace as Paul should be asking prayers of these unknown saints? It need not astonish you; for it is the rule with the truly great to think most highly of others. In proportion as a man grows in grace he feels his dependence upon God, and, in a certain sense, his **dependence upon God's people.**" [Spurgeon]

Colossians 4:12 [Prayer warrior named] **Epaphras**, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always **laboring fervently for you in prayers**, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Prayers were answered: Paul was protected though imprisoned. The Macedonian gift he brought was accepted by the Jerusalem church and Paul did go to Rome by sea to refresh/be refreshed though in chains. [NJC]

Acts 28:11 [Prison ship from Jerusalem to Rome] After three months we sailed in an Alexandrian ship...which had wintered at the island. 14... And **so we went toward Rome.** 15 And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us... When Paul saw them, **he thanked God and took courage.** 16 Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to

dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.

- Welcome to Rome Paul

33 Now the **God of peace** be with you all. Amen.

Paul's Salutations regarding the God of Peace signs us out...
Paul would finish the course and enter in to the joy of His Father

2 Timothy 4:6 ...I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have **finished the race**, I have **kept the faith**. 8 Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

SUMMARY Plan to Visit Rome