

Romans Lesson 15

1. Bearing with one another (15:1-3)

1.1. Those who are strong (mature, powerful) in the faith need to bear with (lift up, carry) those who are weak in their faith

1.2. Our motivation should not be to satisfy our own preferences

- Believers are called to a selfless life of living for others (God, other believers, unbelievers, enemies)
- This is not a call to enduring with another, but to encourage and train the weaker brother
- Setting aside your personal liberties in the faith expresses the great value you hold for others, and it leads to their edification
- This is the example Christ gave to us by taking our reproaches on Himself (Ps. 69:9)
- Christ did nothing to please Himself, but rather to do the will of the Father and to serve others
- Rather than reproaching a brother, mature believers will take reproaches intended for others to themselves

2. All Scripture is instructive to us (15:4)

2.1. Scripture was written to teach us by example to give us patience, comfort and hope

- If we ever wonder why Scripture includes any details or accounts that we can't seem to place, we should remember that they are there for our learning
- God even sets up events and encounters to ensure that His teaching is available to us:
 - Abraham offering of Isaac (Gen. 22)
 - Jonah and the great fish

2.2. Our Source of Spiritual Power (15:4-6)

- Scripture, the inspired and inerrant Word of God
- Prayer for the will of God to be done. Paul here is praying for the Roman believers
 - For their patience with others
 - To be like-minded with one another in Christ
 - That together they would corporately glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Unity in the Church glorifies God (15:7-9)

3.1. We must receive one another just as Christ received us

- We were anything but perfect when He called us in Him
- We all lacked maturity and understanding when we first believed
- Christ not only bore our sins on the cross, He also endured with us in our poor decisions and our stiff necks when He presented His truth to us (Peter claiming he would never deny Christ).

3.2. Call to Personal Servant Ministry (15:7-9)

- Jesus' ministry confirmed God's promises and truth to Israel (the circumcision)
 - He came as a servant to the Jews first, as that was God's plan – to the Jew first and then extended to the Gentiles
 - If the Jews had received Him, then they would have carried God's truth to the Gentiles (their rejection reversed this)

4. Promises in Progression (15:9-12)

4.1. God required Jews to glorify Him among the gentiles (Ps. 18:49)

4.2. If this had been done, the Gentiles would have rejoiced with God's chosen people (Deut. 32:43)

4.3. Together, Jew and Gentile would offer praise to God (Ps. 117:1)

4.4. This would be ultimately fulfilled in Christ reigning over Jews and Gentiles as Lord of lords and King of kings (Isa. 11:10)

5. Paul Prays Again for Roman Believers (15:13)

6. "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."

- By accepting the truth
- By living a self-sacrificing life in Christ
- By being of the same mind toward one another
- By submitting to the full authority of the Holy Spirit

7. Concluding Remarks (15:14-17)

7.1. Paul is fully confident that the Christians in Rome are full of goodness and with the knowledge of how to live for Christ

- If they follow Paul's instructions, believers will demonstrate Christ and the Holy Spirit through their lives

- Paul's epistle here is more than sufficient to provide them the basic knowledge of who Christ is, why he died, how salvation is offered to all by faith, and how to submit ourselves fully as living sacrifices to God.
- The believer will also gently admonish other believers to know and to do the same as a mature Christian would

7.2. Paul has written very boldly in this letter, more than his other letters to other churches

- To remind his readers of God's truths he has not taught them in person as he has for other churches
- Because of God's grace, Paul is a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles so that they too would have an opportunity to be accepted by faith, and to be sanctified by the Holy Spirit

7.3. Paul glories in the Lord Jesus Christ and only in those things that pertain to God

- Paul would not dare to speak on things which Christ has not accomplished through him
- He does speak on those things which Christ has accomplished through him by the power of the Spirit of God to make the Gentiles obedient:
 - In word and in deed
 - In mighty signs and wonders

7.4. Paul has spread the gospel from Jerusalem to Illyricum

- Paul's objective is to always preach the gospel where others have not
 - So as to not build on another's foundation
 - To announce Christ where He has not yet been testified of or understood by the Gentiles
 - This aim has hindered Paul from coming to Rome, for he has been exceedingly busy in other regions and cities

8. Paul's Desire to Visit Rome (15:23-24)

8.1. The gospel has been preached in all the eastern Mediterranean region

8.2. Rome and Spain are on now Paul's itinerary

8.3. It's the people Paul desires to see, not the city

- He will give them an opportunity to support his missionary enterprise
- To enjoy their company for a while

8.4. However, Jerusalem is Next (15:25-29)

- Paul plans to first go back to Jerusalem to minister to the saints before he begins his next journey

- Those from Macedonia and Achaia have contributed to the poor saints in Jerusalem. They were pleased to do this for the Gentiles are partakers of the spiritual heritage of the Jews
- Once this journey is complete, Paul intends then to travel to Spain by way of Rome
- When Paul does come to Rome, it will not just be a rest stop along the way
- Rather, he intends to bring the fullest blessing of the gospel of Christ to Rome

9. Concluding Exhortations (1) (15:30-33)

10. Pleading through the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of the Spirit:

10.1. Strive with (or for) Paul in Prayer

- He continually prays for them (1:9)
- He asks the same in return from them
 - That he may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe (Jews who want to silence or kill him)
 - That his ministry in Jerusalem would be acceptable to the saints (that there would be significant confessions of faith)
 - That he may come to Rome by the will of God and be refreshed together with them
- May the God of peace be with you all (almost a closing to the letter, but he's not done yet)

10.2. The Letter and its Recipients: Paul's Loving Heart (16:1-2)

10.3. Paul's personal greetings

- Priscilla and Aquila who are fellow workers in Christ, and who have risked their necks for Paul
- Also greet those in the church at their house
- Epaenetus
- Mary
- Andronicus and Junia
- Amplias
- Urbanus
- Stachys, Apelles, Aristobulus, Herodion
- Those in the household Narcissus

10.4. Paul's personal greetings

- Tryphena and Tryphosa
- Persis
- Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes
- Philologus and Julia
- Nereus and his sister, Olympas and the saints with them
- Greet one another with a holy kiss
- The churches of Christ send their greetings

11. Concluding Exhortations (2) (16:17-20)

11.1. Paul again urges the Roman saints to:

11.2. Note those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which has been learned

11.3. Avoid divisions and those who cause them

- They do not serve the Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly
- They deceive the hearts of the simple concerning evil

11.4. The obedience of the Roman saints has become known to all

- Paul is glad on behalf of them
- But he wants them to be wise in what is good
- And simple concerning evil

11.5. The God of peace will crush Satan under their feet shortly

11.6. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you (almost closing #2)

12. Paul's Companions Send Greetings (16:21-24)

12.1. Timothy, Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater

12.2. Tertius who wrote this epistle

12.3. (an amanuensis, one who takes dictation)

12.4. Gaius and the whole church greets you

12.5. Erastus the treasurer of the city and Quartus

12.6. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all (almost closing #3)

13. Benediction (16:25-27)

13.1. To God, who alone is wise, be the glory through Jesus Christ forever Who is able to establish you according to the gospel and preaching of Jesus Christ

- Given by revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret from the beginning of the world (Eph. 3)
- God now has made this gospel manifest through the proclamation of the gospel and the prophetic Scriptures
- Given to all nations according to the command of the everlasting God