

Romans – Chapter 15

Summary of Chapter 14

- We are to welcome each other in Christ.
- In the church in Rome, there were ‘weak’ Christians who were worried about what food they could eat and what days they should hold to as holy.
- There were also the ‘strong’ who knew that these things didn’t matter.
- Both groups were told to:
 - live in harmony
 - stop judging each other about opinions
 - do everything to the glory of God
- Christ is the ultimate example – He didn’t come to please Himself.
- Both weak and strong are sinners and need salvation through Christ.

Chapter 15: God’s Plan and Paul’s Plan

Highlight: **“Gentiles”**

Christ – Hope of Jew and Gentile (8-13)

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

*“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles,
and sing to your name.”*



2 Samuel 22:50
Psalms 18:49

¹⁰ And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”



Deuteronomy 32:43

¹¹ And again,

*“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples extol him.”*



Psalms 117:1

¹² And again Isaiah says,

*“The root of Jesse will come,
even he who arises to rule the Gentiles;
in him will the Gentiles hope.”*

} **Isaiah 11:10**

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

Romans is filled with OT quotations (58 in total). Paul quotes the Old Testament more in Romans than all the rest of his letters combined. Why is it so important in Romans that his message is supported by the Old Testament? See vs 8-9.

Paul – Minister to the Gentiles (14-15)

¹⁴ I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. ¹⁵ But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Paul said that on some points in this letter he had written ‘very boldly’. What parts of the letter do you think he is referring to?

Paul’s Work Christ’s Work (17-19)

¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. ¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from

Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹ but as it is written,

*“Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand.”* } **Isaiah 52:15**

Was Paul ‘proud’ of his work? What did Paul mean by saying he was proud?

See Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 1:27-31; Galatians 6:14-15

Paul's Plan to Visit Rome (22-24)

²² This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. ²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

What did Paul mean by saying “I no longer have any room for work in these regions”?

Would this apply to Christians today in choosing where they can work in the Kingdom?

Aid to Jerusalem Church (25-29)

²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in

material blessings. ²⁸ When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

Note: Churches in Macedonia include Philippi and Thessalonica. Churches in Achaia include Corinth and smaller towns nearby.

Paul's plan was to collect money from these congregations of (mostly) Gentiles and give it to the poor Christians in Jerusalem (see 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; Acts 24:17).

Why does Paul say "They owe it to them" (vs 27). Does this apply to us? Do we owe anyone anything?

Request for Prayers (30-33)

³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, ³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

The phrase "strive together" literally means "fight alongside". The same word is used in Colossians 4:12. What does it look like to 'fight alongside' someone in prayer?

Questions

How would we summarise this chapter?

What can I apply from what I have learnt? How does this chapter change my choices and behaviour?

What is something I can pray for based on this text?