

Romans 15

Romans 15.1-6 – A continuation of the same basic message as in last chapter

V 1 – **What obligation do strong Christians have?** To help bear the weaknesses of other Christians

-Notice that the Christian faith is not a selfish religion, but one in which we put the needs of others first

V 2 – **How do we know how far to go in tolerating a person?** As long as it for his own good

-See *Galatians 1.10*

-We are not to become "enablers," but we are to help as long as it is producing good in that person's life

V 3 – **Who is our example in helping others and putting their needs first?** Christ (bearing the reproaches that would have fallen on his disciples) – a quote from *Psalms 69.9*

V 4 – Value of Old Testament – See *1 Corinthians 10.1-11*

-**Can you think of any Old Testament stories that teach us great lessons?** Just look at *Hebrews 11*

-For example, see *Hebrews 11.23-29* concerning the life of Moses

-Our faith is much stronger because of the example of Moses

V 5-6 – A brief prayer

-**In v 5, what did Paul pray for?** That the church would all be of one mind and be at peace

-**In v 6, what else did he pray for?** That the church would be united in praising Christ

Romans 15.7-13

V 7 – **What is Paul's command here?** That we could accept each other in the church and not tear down the church for our own glory

V 8 – **Why did Christ preach to the Jews?** To fulfill promises made to the fathers

V 9 - **Why did he preach to the Gentiles?** Because they glorified the mercy of God

-**The purpose of these verses?** To show that the Old Testament prophesied about the Gentiles

-A quote from *2 Sam. 22.50* and *Psalms 18.49*

V 10 – A quote from *Deut. 32.43*

V 11 – A quote from *Psalms 117.1*

V 12 – A quote from *Isaiah 11.10*

-**What do we know about Jesse?**

- **Read 1 Samuel 16.1-5** – He would be the father of the next king (after Saul)
- Jesse was the grandson of Boaz and Ruth (Boaz was son of Rahab) – See *Ruth 4.18-22*
- So Jesse was a descendant of a Gentile grandmother (Ruth), and through Jesse came David, and Christ descended through David by way of Mary (*Luke 3.32*)
- **What was Paul's message in v 9-12?** That the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians must learn to live together in peace

V 13 – A doxology – a beautiful prayer for peace and hope in the church at Rome

Romans 15.14-21

V 14 – **What three compliments did Paul make concerning the Christians in Rome?**

- Full of goodness
- Filled with all knowledge
- Able also to admonish one another
- **Where else in *Romans* did he compliment them?** *Romans 1.8*
- **How are we to admonish one another?** – *Matthew 18.15-20, Galatians 6.1-2, 1 Timothy 5.19-21* (how to deal with corrupt and unqualified elders)

V 15 – **Why did Paul write boldly in this letter only on some points?** Because he had not established this congregation and would wait until he could visit there to make further comments for them

V 16 – **What did Paul hope to accomplish with the Gentile Christians?** To present them as an acceptable offering to God (since he had been appointed to preach to the Gentiles)

V 17 – Boasting in Jesus

- **What was Paul proud of?** The success of the church at Rome (primarily a Gentile congregation)

V 18 – **Where had most of the mission work of Paul been done?** In the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire

V 19 – **Where had Paul preached?** Jerusalem to Illyricum

- We have no other record of his preaching in Illyricum (the eastern most location of his preaching)
- He must have gone there when he preached in Ephesus

V 20 - **His philosophy as a missionary?** Not build on another man's foundation

- Like the old Star Trek series, "To boldly go where no man has gone before"
- That was Paul's philosophy of mission work, to preach where no preacher had previously gone
- We have to admire Paul dedication and courage in maintaining that philosophy

V 21 – A quote from *Isaiah 52.15*

-Notice in this book how Paul continues to weave Old Testament Scriptures into his writing
-**Why was he constantly doing this?** He is familiarizing the Gentile readers with the Old Testament and showing them how it was the foundation of the New Testament

Romans 15.22-29

V 22 – Paul had thus far not been able to visit the church in Rome

V 23 – But he had wanted to visit Rome for many years

V 24-25 – **What were Paul's plans?** Go to Jerusalem, then spend time in Rome, and then go on to Spain
-Spain had just been conquered by Rome and was the center of much activity
-Two non-biblical manuscripts say he made it to Portugal and Spain in 62-64 A.D., but we have no inspired statement to that effect
-We know that he was a prisoner in Rome in 65 A.D. and was probably executed in 67 A.D.
-See *2 Timothy 4*

V 25 – **Why was he going to Jerusalem next?** To take his offering from the churches for the starving saints in Jerusalem - See *1 Corinthians 16.1-4*

V 26 – A reference to the money that he had collected from various congregations
-See *Acts 11.28* – Agabus prophesied a famine in Palestine

V 27 – **Why should Gentiles help Jewish Christians?** They were spiritual debtors to the Jews
-Jews: Christ, 12 apostles, Jewish diaspora
-*Acts 2* - The first church was Jewish

V 28 – **His plan for future travel?** To Rome and then on to Spain

V 29 – He expects Christ to bless in in his journey to Rome

Romans 15.30-33 – Very interesting request

V 30 – Three missionary journeys and now he was on the way to Jerusalem
-**What did he ask the Christians at Rome to do for him?** Pray for him

V 31 - **What was prophesied that would happen to him in Jerusalem?** *Acts 20.22-23* – He was to be persecuted there
-**What did he ask them to pray for?** His safety in Jerusalem and for him to be allowed to go to Rome
-**Were their prayers answered?** Yes
-**Should we ever ask fellow Christians to pray for us?** *James 5.16-18*

V 32 – His goal was to make it to Rome and be refreshed by them

V 33 – A final blessing in this chapter (the basic message of the letter was ending at this point)

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