

Right in God's Sight

Studies from the Book of Romans

Lesson 19

Romans 15:1–33

Romans 15:1–13

Glorify God Together!

Paul had written that Christians should not quarrel with others over matters of debate—gray areas that are not clearly spelled out in Scripture; nor should they hinder other believers in matters of conscience. Now Paul raises the bar and the challenge to follow Christ by imitating Him!

Read Romans 15:1–33, focusing on verses 1–13.

In the opening verses of chapter 15, Paul summarizes his teaching in chapter 14 on personal liberty.

1. What is the strong Christian's responsibility toward the weak? v. 1
 - a. What personal responsibility does a strong believer have?
 - b. If a strong believer reaches out to help his weaker neighbor, what results?
v. 2

Selah . . .

To drive Paul's point home, consider his admonition in Galatians 6:2, which says, "*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*" Think about it: to carry another person's weakness in the *spiritual* sense is basically the same as carrying their burden in the physical sense. Instead of emphasizing the other person's wrong, how would this help them, building them up in the Lord?

2. Whom did Paul use as the supreme example of not living to please self? v. 3
 - a. Personal: Paul quotes from Psalm 69:9 about what Christ would face as Messiah of the world. Consider the Lord's words in John 4:34 and 5:30. How do these verses help you as His disciple to aim for His will above your own?

3. What important statement does Paul make in verse 4 about the Scriptures?
 - a. What significant benefit do believers have through the written Word?
 - b. Personal: How is God working *hope* into your heart through Scripture at the present time?
4. As you receive God's patience and comfort, what are you encouraged to do?
vv. 5–6
5. The *unity* of the body of Christ glorifying God together is the ultimate goal of the church! With this in mind, what must we *keep on doing*? Why? v. 7

In verses 7–12, Paul condenses Romans 9–11 into a review of why Christ came as Messiah of the world.

6. What did Jesus become? v. 8
 - a. What was the two-fold purpose of Jesus' ministry on earth? v. 8
7. Paul cites four Old Testament passages. For what did each of the following men praise God?
 - a. v. 9 – King David (2 Samuel 22:50) :
 - b. v. 10 – Moses (Deuteronomy 32:43):
 - c. v. 11 – Psalmist (Psalm 117:1):
 - d. v. 12 – Isaiah (Isaiah 11:10):
 - e. What did Paul desire for all believers to have as they trusted in God? v. 13
Will you thank Him for this blessing *you* have today?

Memory Verse:

"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." Romans 15:4

Word Wealth:

Using the resources you have on hand (i.e., additional Bible translations, dictionary, Bible dictionary, concordance, etc.), write a definition for the words below.

confirm (15:8) _____

abound in hope (15:13) _____

minister (15:16) _____

Romans 15:14–33

Paul's Ministry

At this point in Paul's epistle to the Romans he begins to lay out his closing statements. Remember that Paul had never met the believers in Rome, but he hoped to one day visit. As he prepares to close his letter, he will discuss his own ministry and his plans for the future.

Read Romans 15:1–33, focusing on verses 14–33.

1. Paul makes a point of commending the believers in Rome. In what way does he speak well of them? v. 14
 - a. Why was he bold on some of his points? v. 15
2. It was God who commissioned Paul to a special ministry of grace to the Gentiles. What was he careful to do and to whom did he credit the outcome of his efforts? vv. 16–17

Paul stated that all the glory goes to God; and yet, at the same time, he realized that God had used him to accomplish His purpose.

3. What did God accomplish through the Apostle Paul? vv. 18–21

- a. Where did Paul go? (Find these locations on your Bible map.)
- b. Where did Paul not go? Why?
- c. In all of Paul's travels what was his aim?

Paul was called to take the Gospel to the non-Jewish world as it existed. It was his desire to complete his ministry as far west as Macedonia that had *hindered* (v. 22) him from arriving in Rome and from there going on to Spain (v. 24). Because Paul wrote his letter from Corinth, it would have been easy for him to deliver it to Rome personally; but he reveals some important facts that would further delay him.

4. Why was Paul headed to Jerusalem instead? Why were the Christians in Macedonia and Achaia obligated to make this contribution? vv. 25–27
5. Of what was Paul confident when he did make it to Rome? vv. 28–33
 - a. What need did Paul have that he expressed in his letter? What was his specific request?
 - b. With what blessing does Paul close this section of his letter?

For group discussion:

Paul used himself as an example for other believers to follow—but only in the sense that he, too, followed Christ. Look up the verses that follow; notice any gem of personal interest—insight—or instruction that will help you become a godly role model for others.

1 Corinthians 4:6–16; and 11:1; Philippians 3:17–4:1, 9; 1 Thessalonians 1:5–7a.

*“It is not great talent God blesses so much as likeness to Jesus.
A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God.”*

Robert Murray McChesney

My Romans Road

Listen . . . Learn . . . Live . . . God's Truth!

Take a look back at this week's lesson. Briefly recap what you learned this week and how you intend to live it out.

1. What lesson in your study became real to you this week?

2. How do you intend to apply this lesson to your daily life?

Memory Verse:

Write down what you learned about God from this week's memory verse.

Write out the verse from memory.

Prayer Request:

Write out your most earnest prayer request and lift it to the Lord.

Notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

