

ROMANS

Lesson 15

Romans Chapter 15

In the concluding chapters of Romans (Chapters 15 & 16), Paul completes his discussion regarding Christian conduct. He begins to close out his letter to the church in Rome with his plans and his thanks for all who have supported, and continue to support, his ministry. In this lesson, we will be examining Chapter 15, which includes his concluding remarks about our conduct and the Gospel, his work as a missionary, and his plans to visit Rome.

Read Romans Chapter 15 from the Contemporary English Version (CEV) below, or from your favorite version.

Romans 15

Please Others and Not Yourself

¹*If our faith is strong, we should be patient with the Lord's followers whose faith is weak. We should try to please them instead of ourselves. ²We should think of their good and try to help them by doing what pleases them. ³Even Christ did not try to please himself. But as the Scriptures say, "The people who insulted you also insulted me." ⁴And the Scriptures were written to teach and encourage us by giving us hope. ⁵God is the one who makes us patient and cheerful. I pray that he will help you live at peace with each other, as you follow Christ. ⁶Then all of you together will praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Good News Is for Jews and Gentiles

⁷*Honor God by accepting each other, as Christ has accepted you. ⁸I tell you that Christ came as a servant of the Jews to show that God has kept the promises he made to their famous ancestors. Christ also came, ⁹so that the Gentiles would praise God for being kind to them. It is just as the Scriptures say,*

*"I will tell the nations
about you,
and I will sing praises
to your name."*

¹⁰*The Scriptures also say to the Gentiles, "Come and celebrate with God's people."*

¹¹*Again the Scriptures say,*

*"Praise the Lord,
all you Gentiles.
All you nations, come
and worship him."*

¹²*Isaiah says,*

*"Someone from David's family
will come to power.
He will rule the nations,
and they will put their hope
in him."*

¹³I pray that God, who gives hope, will bless you with complete happiness and peace because of your faith. And may the power of the Holy Spirit fill you with hope.

Paul's Work as a Missionary

¹⁴My friends, I am sure that you are very good and that you have all the knowledge you need to teach each other. ¹⁵But I have spoken to you plainly and have tried to remind you of some things. God was so kind to me! ¹⁶He chose me to be a servant of Christ Jesus for the Gentiles and to do the work of a priest in the service of his good news. God did this so that the Holy Spirit could make the Gentiles into a holy offering, pleasing to him.

¹⁷Because of Christ Jesus, I can take pride in my service for God. ¹⁸In fact, all I will talk about is how Christ let me speak and work, so that the Gentiles would obey him. ¹⁹Indeed, I will tell how Christ worked miracles and wonders by the power of the Holy Spirit. I have preached the good news about him all the way from Jerusalem to Illyricum. ²⁰But I have always tried to preach where people have never heard about Christ. I am like a builder who doesn't build on anyone else's foundation. ²¹It is just as the Scriptures say,

*"All who haven't been told
about him
will see him,
and those who haven't heard
about him
will understand."*

Paul's Plan To Visit Rome

²²My work has always kept me from coming to see you. ²³Now there is nothing left for me to do in this part of the world, and for years I have wanted to visit you. ²⁴So I plan to stop off on my way to Spain. Then after a short, but refreshing, visit with you, I hope you will quickly send me on.

²⁵⁻²⁶I am now on my way to Jerusalem to deliver the money that the Lord's followers in Macedonia and Achaia collected for God's needy people. ²⁷This is something they really wanted to do. But sharing their money with the Jews was also like paying back a debt, because the Jews had already shared their spiritual blessings with the Gentiles. ²⁸After I have safely delivered this money, I will visit you and then go on to Spain. ²⁹And when I do arrive in Rome, I know it will be with the full blessings of Christ.

³⁰My friends, by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the love that comes from the Holy Spirit, I beg you to pray sincerely with me and for me. ³¹Pray that God will protect me from the unbelievers in Judea, and that his people in Jerusalem will be pleased with what I am doing. ³²Ask God to let me come to you and have a pleasant and refreshing visit. ³³I pray that God, who gives peace, will be with all of you. Amen.

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Consider Paul's concluding remarks about Christians, their behavior toward one another, and spreading the "Good News," i.e., the Gospel of Christ. Then answer the following:

1. In Romans 15:1, what is the overriding trait that a follower of Christ is to have with fellow believers?

2. In Romans 15:2-3, how are we to think towards other believers?
3. Read Romans 15:4-6 and list all of the things that Paul is pointing out to us.
4. Paul now gives us instructions about the Good News. How does he say we can honor God in Romans 15:7? See also Romans 3:22-24.
5. Paul then goes on in verses Romans 15:8-9 to tell us two reasons why Jesus came. What are they? See also Luke 24:44.
6. In Romans 15:9-13, Paul cites several pieces of scripture from the Old Testament, the Hebrew Bible. These references include 2 Samuel 22:50, Psalms 18:49, Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalm 117:1, and Isaiah 11:10. In doing so, he chose scripture from the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms—just as Jesus proclaimed in Luke 24:44. What is the central message that Paul wants us to understand from all of these references?
7. What was Paul's message to the Gentiles in Ephesus on this same subject? See Ephesians 3:6.
8. In Romans 15:14-21 Paul begins to conclude his letter to the Christians in Rome. Never having been to Rome, he wants them to understand his approach, the perspective that he is coming from, and what his plans are as he earnestly looks forward to visiting the church there. What does Paul tell them about his approach to his ministry and his approach to reaching the people of Rome? List the specifics that Paul tells them regarding himself, his message, and his approach. Read also the second half of the verse Isaiah 52:15.
9. Paul then lays out his plans for a missionary trip in Romans 15:22-29. Why does he say that he is now ready to travel to Rome, and where does Paul say that he is going before he gets to Rome? Where is he headed after Rome?

10. How did Paul's plans turn out? See Acts Chapters 27 and 28.

11. How does Paul conclude this portion of his letter? See Romans 15:30-33.

After concluding his instructions to us about how believers are to act towards one another, Paul summarized his approach to his evangelical ministry and asked the people of Rome to pray for him, his work and his safe travel to Rome. While Paul did not arrive in Rome when he had planned, nor by the manner in which he chose, Paul never allowed his circumstances to hinder him from sharing the Gospel. What an example he set for all of us—always strong in faith and always excited about sharing the Good News of Jesus. I pray that Paul will serve as our role model, so that God's Kingdom grows and His name is glorified.

May God bless you as you continue to study His Holy Word with us.

In Christ,

Wes