

ROMANS CHAPTER FIFTEEN : LEARNING FROM THE PAST

Read Romans chapter 15 in its entirety.

Be Patient, Please And Build Up Each Other

Romans 15:1 We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Romans 15:2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.

Romans 15:3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, "THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME."

Romans 15:4 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 15:5 Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,

Romans 15:6 that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:7 Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.

vs 1, Paul has just gone through in Romans 14 encouraging us not to judge the weaker person and also not to cause the weaker person to stumble. This exhortation continues here:

strong Greek means powerful, capable

bear Greek means to endure, sustain, carry, lift up

scruples, Greek means a scruple of conscience, error arising from weakness of mind

vs 2,

please Greek means to be agreeable

edification Greek means to build up, as in architecture, building up a structure

vs 3-4, The Lord Jesus walked according to what was written (Psalm 69:9). Similarly we learn from what has been written (the Old Testament Scriptures) and draw patience, comfort and hope.

learning Greek means doctrine, teaching, instruction

patience Greek means cheerful endurance, continuance, waiting

comfort Greek means solace, exhortation

hope Greek means anticipation, expectation, confidence

vs 6, If we do what Paul has been instructing us in Romans 14 and in Romans 15:1-2 - we can then be of "one mind" and "one mouth", glorifying the Lord together.

vs 7, Hence we need to receive and accommodate one another.

Now all of the above does not mean we do not correct each other lovingly, or call sin as sin. We do all this honoring the Lord and His Word.

Jews and Gentiles Glorify God

Romans 15:8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers,

Romans 15:9 and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: "FOR THIS REASON I WILL CONFESS TO YOU AMONG THE GENTILES, AND SING TO YOUR NAME."

Romans 15:10 And again he says: "REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE!"

Romans 15:11 And again: "PRAISE THE LORD, ALL YOU GENTILES! LAUD HIM, ALL YOU PEOPLES!"

Romans 15:12 And again, Isaiah says: "THERE SHALL BE A ROOT OF JESSE; AND HE WHO SHALL RISE TO REIGN OVER THE GENTILES, IN HIM THE GENTILES SHALL HOPE."

Romans 15:13 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.

vs 8,

servant Greek 'diakonos' means minister, deacon

The Lord Jesus came to serve the Jews and fulfill the promises given beforehand.

He came also that the Gentiles can glorify God, fulfilling many of the Old Testament Scriptures that pointed to the fact that Gentiles would also worship Yahweh

vs 9, quoted from Psalm 18:49

vs 10, quoted from Deuteronomy 32:43

vs 11, quoted from Psalm 117:1

vs 12, quoted from Isaiah 11:1,10

vs 13 God is the Source of our hope, joy, peace

We can be filled with hope, joy and peace through believing by the power of the Holy Spirit.

One of the ways the power (Greek 'dunamis' mighty power, miracle working power) of the Holy Spirit is expressed in our lives is by us being filled with hope, joy and peace that comes from God, through believing.

Paul's Ministry Among the Gentiles

Romans 15:14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Romans 15:15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God,

Romans 15:16 that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:17 Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God.

Romans 15:18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient—

Romans 15:19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Romans 15:20 And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation,

Romans 15:21 but as it is written: "TO WHOM HE WAS NOT ANNOUNCED, THEY SHALL SEE; AND THOSE WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."

The apostle Paul shares a brief summary of His call and ministry to the Gentiles.

vs 14, God's people should be

full of goodness

filled with all knowledge

able to admonish (caution, reprove, bring to mind, gently warn) one another

vs 15-16, Paul acknowledges the grace of God upon His life as a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles.

All of us as believers, have grace on our lives to fulfill something for the Kingdom

we are sanctified (set apart, made holy, made saints) by the Holy Spirit

vs 17-21, Paul shares what he would talk about

making Gentiles obedient by word and deed

deeds refer to mighty signs and wonders by the power of the Spirit of God.

He focused on preaching Christ where He had not been heard of till now.

Paul's Plan to Visit Rome

Romans 15:22 For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you.

Romans 15:23 But now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you,

Romans 15:24 whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your company for a while.

Romans 15:25 But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints.

Romans 15:26 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.

Romans 15:27 It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

Romans 15:28 Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.

Romans 15:29 But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

Romans 15:30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

Romans 15:31 that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,

Romans 15:32 that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you.

Romans 15:33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

vs 30, One point to highlight:

Paul invited the believers at Rome to "strive together with me in prayers to God for me",

"strive together with" means to struggle in partnership with, to struggle in company with, to strive along with.

Through our prayer we enter into partnership, as we pray towards the same thing.

In this case Paul asked for partnership in prayer for his deliverance and also his ministry to the saints in Jerusalem.

Reflection



Q1, What attitude changes ("attitude adjustments") do we need to make so that we can practice being patient toward each other, pleasing and building one another?

Q2, Discuss "partnership in prayer" - what make "strive together with me in prayers to God for me" effective? How can we do this more, practically for one another?

ROMANS CHAPTER SIXTEEN : FAREWELL

Read Romans chapter 16 in its entirety.

Greetings To The Saints At Rome

Romans 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea,

Romans 16:2 that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.

Romans 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

Romans 16:4 who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

Romans 16:5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.

Romans 16:6 Greet Mary, who labored much for us.

Romans 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

Romans 16:8 Greet Amplias, my beloved in the Lord.

Romans 16:9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.

Romans 16:10 Greet Apelles, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus.

Romans 16:11 Greet Herodion, my countryman. Greet those who are of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

Romans 16:12 Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved Persis, who labored much in the Lord.

Romans 16:13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

Romans 16:14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren who are with them.

Romans 16:15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them.

Romans 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.

While this section is all about greetings to people, here are some points to note:

vs 1-2, a lady name Phoebe, was a deaconess (servant) in Cenchrea (a port of Corinth)

Women can serve as deacons in the church

It is a good thing to acknowledge and thank people for the work they are doing and the sacrifices they make for the Lord. Paul was mentioning many by name and acknowledging what they were doing for the Lord.

vs 7, Junia is a female name, a lady. She was of note (remarkable, outstanding) among the apostles. This could imply a female apostle.

Avoid Divisions And Offenses - Key To United Victory

Romans 16:17 Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.

Romans 16:18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

Romans 16:19 For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.

Romans 16:20 And the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

vs 17, avoid people who cause divisions and create offenses

vs 18, they focus on "their own belly", meaning on their own self, and selfish interests.

They use words - smooth and flattering words - to deceive hearts and cause division and offense. Stay away from such.

If you find someone, even on the sly or with smooth and flattering words - speaking ill of others, bad-mouthing, back-biting, just walk away. Don't be a part to it.

vs 19, Be wise in what is good, stay away from evil. Do not participate in it.

vs 20, when we stay away from divisions and offenses - we will see satan crushed under our feet. While Christ Jesus has already defeated the devil on the Cross for us - for the Church to walk in victory and authority over the devil - we must stay free from divisions and offenses.

James 3:16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

Greetings from Paul's Friends

Romans 16:21 Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you.

Romans 16:22 I, Tertius, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord.

Romans 16:23 Gaius, my host and the host of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and Quartus, a brother.

Romans 16:24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Final greetings.

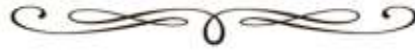
Closing Benediction

Romans 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began

Romans 16:26 but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—

Romans 16:27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Reflection



Q1, Discuss the importance and relationship of keeping our church community free of divisions and offenses and to us as a church community seeing satan crushed underneath our feet?