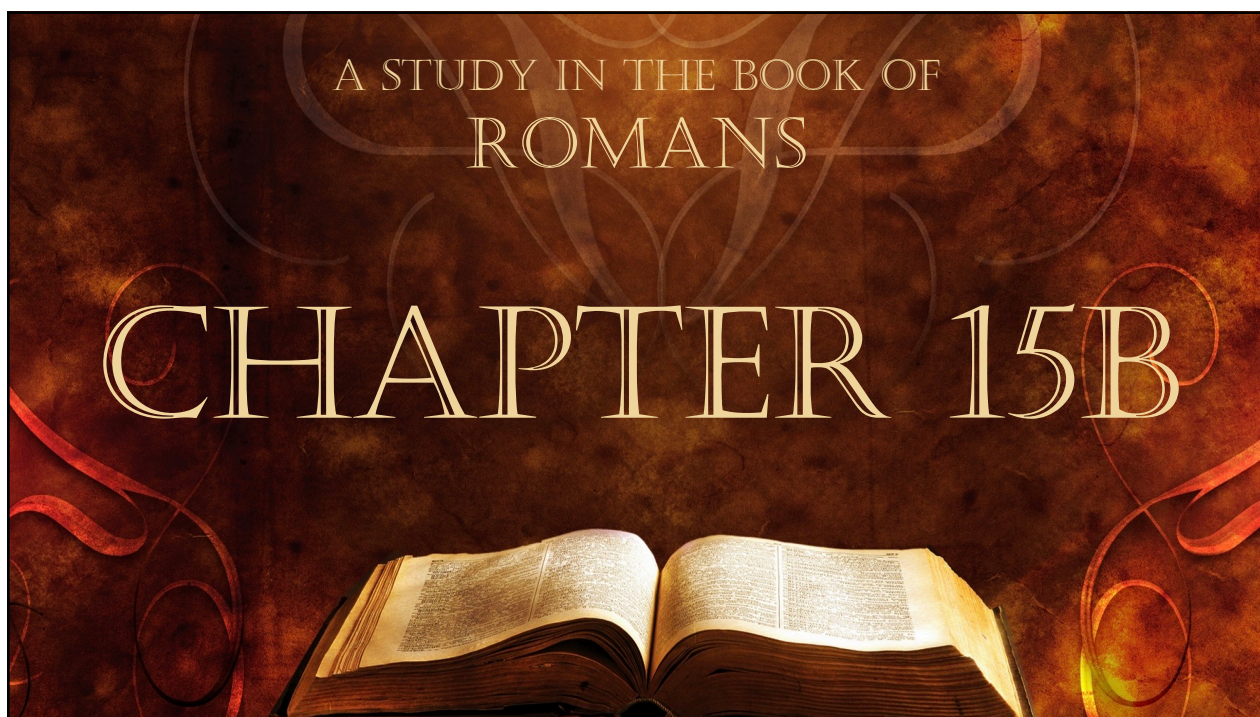
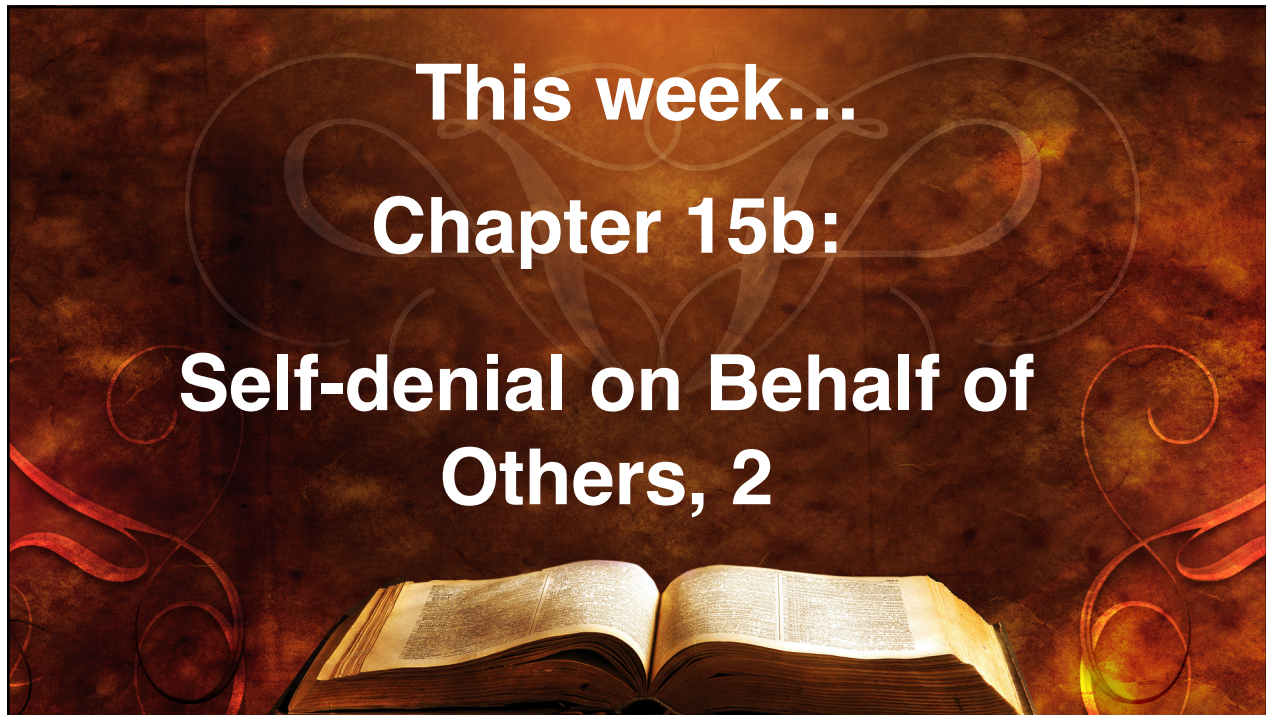


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3

ROMANS					
Introduction — Personal (1:1–17)	THE GOSPEL				
	Saving the Sinner	Concerning Israel	Concerning Christian Conduct		
	Depravity of humanity	Divine sovereignty and human will	Social		
	Grace of God	Past, present, and future of the nation	Civil		
	Justification by faith		Personal		
	Sanctification through the Spirit				
	Security of the saint				
	CHAPTERS 1:18–8:39	CHAPTERS 9–11	CHAPTERS 12:1–15:13		
Emphasis	Doctrinal		National		Practical
Response	Faith		Hope		Love
Doctrine of God	Wrath		Righteousness	Glory	Grace
Doctrine of Humanity	Fallen	Dead	Saved	Struggling	Freed
Doctrine of Sin	Exposed	Conquered	Explained	Forgiven	
Scope	Dead in sin	Dead to sin	Peace with God	Love for others	
Theme	God's righteousness is given to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ.				
Key Verses	1:16–17				
Christ in Romans	Jesus is the focus of the gospel and the means of salvation by God's grace apart from works (1:1–4, 16–17).				

Conclusion — Relational (15:14–16:27)

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4



## Chapter 15

**Verse 17-** *Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God.*

Not all pride and boasting are wrong if focused on the person of Jesus or His work. Jesus made Paul an apostle and allowed him to minister effectively to Gentiles.

5

## Chapter 15

**Verse 18-** *For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed,*

Building upon the last verse, it is perfectly fine for us to feel pride in the work we do for the Lord as long as He gets the credit. God has chosen to use us to accomplish His will. It was God's will to use Paul to bring the Gentiles to obedience to the command implied in the gospel (in 1:5 Paul had spoken of "the obedience of faith"). This obedience meant that they had left their former way of life and committed themselves to the service of Christ.

6



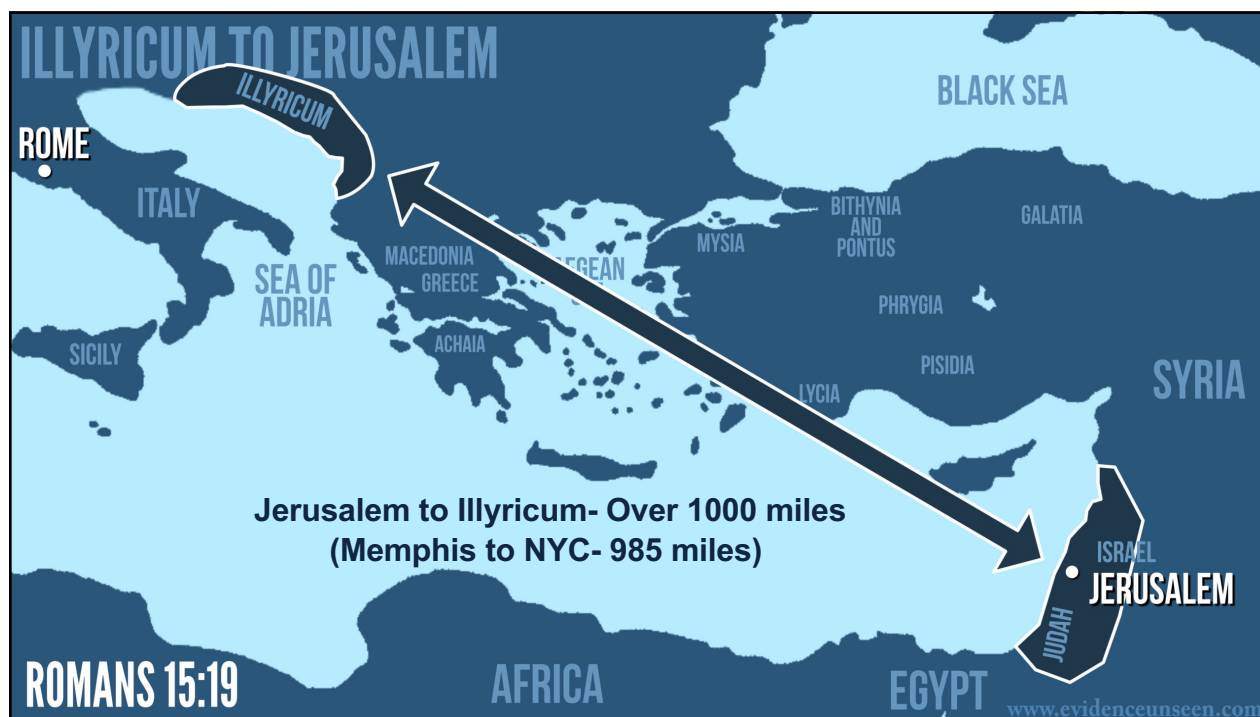
## Chapter 15

**Verse 19-** *in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and all around as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*

Paul elaborates further on the object of his boasting in Christ. He fulfilled God's will through signs and wonders we see in the ministry of the other apostles in Acts.

The book of Acts does not mention missionary activity in Illyricum (modern Serbia/Albania), but Paul may have entered it or reached its borders when he was in Macedonia (Acts 20:2).

7



8



## Chapter 15

**Verse 20-** *And in this way I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already known by name, so that I would not build on another person's foundation;*

Two characteristics of Paul's call- First, to preach the gospel. Second, to preach it where no one else had previously ministered. Some people hear the gospel once and respond immediately (Acts 4). Others need to hear it repeatedly before they respond. Both evangelists (e.g., Billy Graham) and pastors (e.g., Adrian Rogers) are needed. Paul was an evangelistic pioneer. (Oswald Smith: "No one has the right to hear the gospel twice, while there remains someone who has not heard it once.")

9

## Chapter 15

**Verse 21-** *but just as it is written: "They who have not been told about Him will see, And they who have not heard will understand."*

Paul quotes Isaiah 52:15 (the Servant Song) in Isaiah 52:15:

*So He will sprinkle many nations,  
Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him;  
For what they had not been told, they will see,  
And what they had not heard, they will understand.*

10



## Chapter 15

**Verse 21-** *but just as it is written: "They who have not been told about Him will see, And they who have not heard will understand."*

These verses show the impact of the Servant (Jesus) on the nations. Paul sees his mission as completing the mission of the Servant by taking the gospel to the nations. Paul is showing that his ministry to the Gentiles is a fulfillment of this Old Testament prophecy. While Paul was proud to see himself used by God (Romans 15:17), he understood that God had long planned to accomplish this work in this way.

11

## Chapter 15

**Verse 22-** *For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you;*

Paul's pioneer evangelistic ministry took priority over "building on another man's foundation." Other people started a church in Rome, but Paul's priority was preaching the gospel and planting churches where none existed. Paul had probably been trying to visit them for at least six years when Aquila and Priscilla told him of the believers in Rome when they were together in Corinth.

12



## Chapter 15

**Verse 23-** *but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you*

Paul reached out (breadth) to preach the gospel and plant churches and then revisited these areas to ensure they could grow and thrive (depth).

For at least six years, Paul wanted to visit the Roman Christians, not to lead them but to encourage them.

13

## Chapter 15

**Verse 24-** *whenever I go to Spain—for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while—*

Paul wanted to come to them before traveling to Spain to enjoy their company and possibly to raise money for the new effort.

There is no evidence that Paul made it to Spain. It wasn't until 200 years later before the gospel finally reached there.

14



## Chapter 15

**Verse 25-** *but now, I am going to Jerusalem, serving the saints.*

Paul is collecting money for poor Jewish Christians in Jerusalem. With money in hand, Paul was on his way to Jerusalem to deliver it. Paul will continue by giving more details on this contribution, as well as asking his readers to pray for his safe and successful delivery of it.

15

## Chapter 15

**Verse 26-** *For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.*

Not all the Jerusalem saints were poor, but many obviously were. So many that apparently, those with the means to help in Jerusalem couldn't meet the demand.

Gentile believers were happy (*eudokēsan*- to think well of) to help their ethnic Jewish brothers and sisters by giving money to support them.

16





17

## Chapter 15

**Verse 27-** *For they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to do them a service also in material things.*

Again, Paul states that the Gentile believers were happy to help their ethnically Jewish brothers and sisters, and now he tells his readers why. Since they were now subject to the spiritual blessings once enjoyed only by the Jews, they were happy to help financially.

18



## Chapter 15

**Verse 28-** *Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain.*

Once Paul delivered this offering to the poor believers in Jerusalem, his ministry in Asia Minor and Greece would be at an end, and he would be free to start again in Spain. His plan was to visit the Roman Christians on his way, something that never happened.

It is expected of us to plan to serve God and then enact our plans, even though sometimes God changes them.

19

## Chapter 15

**Verse 29-** *I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.*

Paul fully expected to visit Rome on his way to Spain. We cannot see with perfect clarity, but Paul was sure that if God allowed him to visit the Roman Christians, it would be due to the blessing of Christ.

20



## Chapter 15

**Verse 30-** *Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,*

Paul often closes his letters by asking for prayer (Ephesians 6:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:25; Philemon 1:22). This request is different from most of those other appeals, as the following verses reveal. Paul is deeply concerned about three specific things.

- That he will be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea
- That the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem would receive the financial gift
- That he could come to them with joy and be refreshed in their company

21

## Chapter 15

**Verse 31-** *that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints;*

Paul's first prayer request was for protection from physical harm. In Acts 21:27-36, Luke describes what happened when the Jewish religious leaders found Paul in the temple in Jerusalem. Furious about his teaching, they grabbed Paul, dragged him out of the temple, and tried to kill him. Roman soldiers intervened and took Paul into custody. He was spared but found himself in prison for the following two years. His second prayer request was that the offering he collected would be found acceptable.

22



## Chapter 15

**Verse 32-** *so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company.*

His third prayer request was that he could visit the Roman Christians and relax before he went to Spain. Although Paul was shipwrecked and ultimately ended up in Rome as a prisoner (Acts 27-28), he did not visit the believers on his way to Spain as he wanted.

23

## Chapter 15

**Verse 33-** *Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.*

Paul asked his readers to pray for him, and now he prays for them. In the next chapter, Paul launches into a series of post-script greetings and recommendations, followed by more instructions and greetings, before coming to a beautiful letter-closing doxology.

24



