

Romans

Chapter 15

1

How this study handout is structured

We will go
verse by verse
(as appropriate)

Matthew 1:1

Scripture references
are found at the end of
the slides in the
handout

Scripture is NIV
from the Quest
Study Bible
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- The book of the generation. This is the proper title of the chapter. It is the same as to say, "The account of the ancestry or family, or the genealogical table of Jesus Christ." The phrase is common in Jewish writings. Compare [Ge 5:1](#), "This is the book of the generations of Adam," that is, the genealogical table of the family or descendants of Adam.

- **Matthew 1:1** This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

The Bible software
used for references
and KJV scripture is
from SwordSearcher

Different references will be used.
In this case Albert Barnes Notes on the Bible.
This is a clickable link if you have the
SwordSearcher Bible Software

11

<https://www.swordsearcher.com/>

If you would like a pdf copy of this handout email james293504@gmail.com

2

Bible Study Meeting Information

9:00 am Wednesday, 6:45 pm Wednesday

In Person

Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 75 Pine Lakes Parkway, Palm Coast Florida 32164

Zoom

Click on the link below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4497575748?pwd=iKMCS9qbngU-vcQo2zCt7lgy9QjRZW8X>

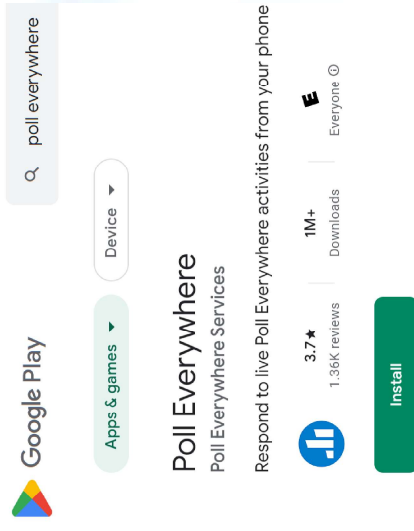
Or Go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter
Meeting ID → 449 757 5748, Passcode 04092006

Or Dial in at 312-626-6799 or 929-205-6099
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3

Polling

- **By QR Code** (Pollev.com)
QR Code allows you vote and/or to download the app
- **By text** → Send **jamesbrown897** to **22333**
- **There is also an app** you can download
an open to avoid using the QR code every time
- If you want personalized help getting the polling app on your phone I (James Brown), Linda Murray, Deacon Robinson or Angela Simpson are willing to assist you in getting set up.



4

Romans Background and Introduction

I. DOCTRINAL. THE SALVATION OF GOD. Chapters 1-8.

1. Introduction. Chapter 1:1-17.
2. The Need of Salvation Demonstrated. The Whole World Guilty and Lost. Chapter 1:18-3:20.
3. The Righteousness of God Revealed. Justification, What it is and What it Includes. Chapter 3:21-5:11.
4. In Christ. The Sanctification of the Believer; his Deliverance from Sin and the Law. Children and Heirs. Chapter 5:12-8:39.

Gaebelein

5

Romans Background and Introduction

II. DISPENSATIONAL. GOD'S DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL. Chapters 9-11.

1. Israel and God's Sovereignty. Chapter 9.
2. Israel's Failure and Unbelief. Chapter 10.
3. **Israel's Future. Chapter 11.**

III. EXHORTATIONS AND THE CONCLUSION. Chapter 12-16:27.

1. The Exhortations. Chapter 12-15:13.
2. The Conclusion. Chapter 15:14-16:27.

We are here!

Paul's average letter was 1,300 words long, but his letter to the Romans, at over 7,000 words, is his longest.



Gaebelein

6

Chapter 15 Background and Introduction

1. The Example of Christ (verses 1-7)
2. The Ministry of Christ (verses 8-13)
3. Paul's Personal Ministry (verses 14-33)

Chapter 15 Background and Introduction

- This chapter is remarkable for its threefold designation of God. The God of patience and comfort, [Ro 15:5](#); the God of hope, [Ro 15:13](#); and the God of peace, [Ro 15:33](#). Our character may be deficient in these things, but His fullness is there for us to draw upon. MeyerTTB
- The first paragraph of chapter 15 sums up and completes this subject. The sum of the instruction is that those saints who are strong in the faith ought to bear the infirmities of their weaker brethren. Instead of pleasing themselves they are to aim at what will be for the spiritual good of the other. **The attitude of mind which says, "I have a right to do this, and I am going to do it, no matter what anybody thinks!" is not the mind of Christ. It is exactly what Christ did not do!** FBHCNT

Contextual Reading Romans 15:1-7

The Example of Christ

¹We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” ⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. ⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

9

Romans 15:1

- By saying that a Christian ought not to please himself, he suggests, that he ought not to be focused on satisfying himself, as they are inclined to be, who are content with their own judgment, and thoughtlessly neglect others: and this is indeed an admonition most suitable on the present subject; **for nothing impedes and checks acts of kindness more than when any one is too much swallowed up with himself**, so that he has no care for others, and follows only his own counsels and feelings.

Calvin

- **Romans 15:1**
We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

10

Romans 15:1

- Those who have risen above others are not at liberty to divide themselves from those with whom they are not in sympathy. To bring the matter right home, you are frugal, and your brother is wasteful. You take the air of superiority, and talk about him, and say, "William is a sorry dog. He never could keep anything." And the implication of it is, "I am different." But the apostle says, "Are you superior to him because you are frugal? Then you are to bear with his wastefulness." I put on you the responsibility of taking care of him. You are to bear with him; and you are to do it not for your own pleasure, nor for his mere pleasure, but for his pleasure to edification, that Christ may save his soul. →

Bibillus

11

Romans 15:1

- Here is a man that says of his neighbor, "He is an exacting, arrogant, brute creature." Yes, but Christ died for him, as He died for you; that hard man is your brother; and you are to seek his pleasure to edification. If there is either that ought to serve the other, it is the good man. That is what you do. Good men pay the taxes of bad men. Patriotic men pay the war bills of unpatriotic men. The good bear up the bad, and are their subjects.

Bibillus

- **Are we really ready and committed to bear the failings of the weak and not please ourselves according to scripture?**

12

Romans 15:2

- There is a man-pleasing spirit that is very obnoxious to God. We may be "nice" to people for our own selfish benefit. But remember that this exhortation to please our neighbor "for their good, to build them up.", indicates a studied care for others; laying aside our own preferences and pleasing them in every way that will in the end benefit them spiritually. This, of course, does not mean that we are to compromise with any evil our neighbor may be doing, by having fellowship with him in a worldly path in order to "win" him. The expression "for their good," shuts out that. Paul puts it beautifully in [1Co 10:32-33](#); [11:1](#)

Romans

- **Romans 15:2**
Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up.

Romans 15:3

- **Christ pleased not himself**; by staying in heaven and enjoying the glory he had with the Father; but he condescended, submitted to many privations, and made great sacrifices for the good of others. **As it is written; Ps 69:9.** Reproaches--fell on me; and he **cheerfully bore them, for the sins of men.**

- He came to do the will or desire of God, in *undertaking* the work of salvation. It was the will of God; it was agreeable to the Divine purposes, and the Mediator did not consult his own happiness and honor in heaven, but cheerfully came to *do the will* of God.

Barnes

- **Romans 15:3**
For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

Romans 15:4

- It is ever good to be going over God's dealings, not only with Christ, but with His Old Testament saints; marking how He is continually bringing them into hard places, where they learn to trust Him more! Joseph, in prison for righteousness; David, anointed of God, but hunted for years; Jeremiah in the miry dungeon; the three in Nebuchadnezzar's furnace, and Daniel in the den of lions: not to speak of the New Testament story--James and Stephen killed, the apostles in prison. You may ask, How does "hope" spring out of such trials? →

Romans

- **Romans 15:4** For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. ¹⁵

Romans 15:4

- We do not ask such a question if we have learned the lesson of Romans 5:3-4: "Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope." --witnessed to by the shedding abroad of God's love for us in our hearts! **Therefore, let us seek that comfort and hope which this verse tells us the Scriptures work in us if we patiently learn them.** When we get to learn verse 13 in this chapter, we shall find ourselves abounding in hope!

Romans

I have been in a "hard place" and learned to trust him more

Yes

0%

Yes, more than once

0%

Yes, and I am now glad I had the experience(s)

0%

All the above

0%

Not yet

0%

Start the presentation to see live content. For screen share software, share the entire screen. Get help at pollev.com/app

17

Romans 15:5

Romans 15:5 (KJV) Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

- **Now the God of patience and consolation.**—Such, then, should be the temper of the Roman Christians. The Apostle prays that along with the spirit of steadfast endurance God will also give them that spirit of unanimity which proceeds from singleness of aim. There seems, at first sight, to be little or no connection between the God of "patience and consolation" and the being "likeminded." They are connected, however, through the idea of singleness of purpose. He who is wholly self-dedicated to Christ, and who in the strength of that self-dedication is able to endure persecution, will also have a close bond of union with all who set before themselves the same object.

Ellicott

- **Romans 15:5**

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had,

18

Romans 15:6

- I further pray, that you may not only be like-minded one towards another, but *that ye may with one mouth glorify God*; that whether you be Gentiles or Jews, strong or weak in the faith, you may agree and be unanimous in his worship and service; that not only *with one mind*, but *with one mouth*, or as if you had all but one mouth. ... See [Ac 4:32](#), what accord and unanimity there was among the primitive Christians.
- **Acts 4:32 (KJV)** And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of *them* that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Poole

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

19

Discussion

What are the implications of “**Romans 15:6** so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” when Sunday morning in America is likely most segregated time of the week?

20

Romans 15:7

- The apostle tries further to heal any existing differences between the various sections of the Christian community at Rome, and still further to enforce the duties of charity, self-denial, and mutual helpfulness, by reminding them of how much they have in common. This is the true method of uniting Christians. Some Christians think they will succeed in bringing others to their view of the truth by exposing the errors of those who differ from them. Consequently, we have bitter controversies between the various denominations, →

Pulpit

- **Romans 15:7**
Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

21

Romans 15:7

- because Christians will persist in emphasizing the points on which they differ, rather than the points—often far more numerous and more important—on which they agree. To draw nearer to Christ, and to draw one another nearer to Christ, this is the true peacemaker.
- Christians receiving, embracing, and loving one another, and bearing with one another's weaknesses and infirmities, according to Christ's example and command, will contribute exceedingly to the honor and glory of Almighty God, and to the abundant consolation and satisfaction of each other: **Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.**

Pulpit

Burkitt

22

Contextual Reading Romans 15:8-13

The Ministry of Christ

⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name." ¹⁰Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him." ¹²And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit..

23

Romans 15:8

- **Christ has become a servant of the Jews;** he was born, lived, and died a Jew; he came as the Messiah to the Jews, exercised his ministry among them, and died to redeem them, in fulfilment of the promises which God made to their fathers. FBN
- But this salvation was not exclusively designed for the Jewish people; as God by his prophets had repeatedly declared. Clarke

- **Romans 15:8**
For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed

24

Romans 15:8

- The Gentile must allow the Jew a primary and eminent right to all the glory and privileges of the Gospel; because the truth of God was engaged, by the promises to Abraham, to send the Messiah to the Jewish nation, to make his appearance, and to exercise his ministry among them for their salvation: therefore the believing Gentile had undeniable reason to own and receive the believing Jew, and to join with him in the divine praise; ver. 5, 6. And as God had extended his mercy in Christ Jesus to the believing Gentiles, how could the Jews refuse the Gentiles a share in solemn thanksgivings to God for so great a favor?

Romans 15:9-12

- These verses are selected from the three great divisions of the Scripture: the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms.
 - Verse 9 ([Ps 18:49](#)).
 - Verse 10 ([De 32:43](#)).
 - Verse 11 ([Ps 117:1](#)).
 - Verse 12 ([Isa 11:10](#)).
- **Romans 15:9-12** and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name." Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people." And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him." And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope."

Romans 15:9-12

- **Luke 24:44 (KJV)** And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and *in* the prophets, and *in* the psalms, concerning me.
- **The fulfilment of prophecy demonstrates the truth of religion.** On this subject the church has ever kept her eye, and traced the gracious superintendence of providence.
- We must not misapprehend these words. We are not to suppose that the disciples knew nothing about the Old Testament up to this time, and that the Bible is a book which no ordinary person can expect to comprehend.

Sutcliffe

RyleETG

27

Romans 15:9-12 Luke 24:44 (KJV)

- We are simply to understand that Jesus showed His disciples the full meaning of many passages which had previously been hid from their eyes. Above all, He showed the true interpretation of many prophetic passages concerning the Messiah.
- We all need a like enlightenment of our understandings. "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." ([1Co 2:14](#).) Pride, and prejudice, and love of the world blind our intellects, and throw a veil over the eyes of our minds in the reading of the Scriptures. We see the words, but do not thoroughly understand them until we are taught from above.

→

RyleETG

28

Romans 15:9-12

Luke 24:44 (KJV)

- He that desires to read his Bible with profit, must first ask the Lord Jesus to open the eyes of his understanding by the Holy Ghost. Human commentaries are useful in their way. The help of good and learned men is not to be despised. But there is no commentary to be compared with the teaching of Christ. **A humble and prayerful spirit will find a thousand things in the Bible, which the proud, self-conceited student will utterly fail to discern.**

Romans 15:13

Look at this great thirteenth verse: how it blossoms out before us! Here is a verse packed full!

1. The name here given to God thrills our hearts: The God of Hope. Hope looks forward with exultation for ever and ever!

God is called the "God of peace" in [Ro 15:33](#); [16:20](#); and in [Php 4:9](#); [1Th 5:23](#); [2Th 3:16](#); [Heb 13:20](#); and, of course, peace is fundamental: Christ made peace by the blood of His cross. But we are not to be content with peace alone. Many would stop at Romans, "Being justified by faith, we have peace with God." →

- **Romans 15:13**
May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

But in this present verse God speaks as the God of hope; and He wants us filled with all joy as well as peace, so as to be abounding in hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Now, if God is the God of hope, looking forward with expectancy and delight to the certain, glorious things of the future, then a dejected, depressed, discouraged saint of His is yielding to a spirit directly contrary to His will, which is, for each of us, that we abound in hope.

2. It is God Himself alone who can fill us with all joy and peace, making us to abound in hope. We cannot transform ourselves! →

Romans 15:13

3. It is by the power of the indwelling Spirit that we are to "abound in hope." Some human beings are naturally introspective and gloomy. Others are naturally jovial and buoyant: **but the joy in which we as**

believers are to abound does not in any wise flow from nature, but

from the direct, inworking energy of the Holy Ghost. Some of the

most naturally "happy" people of the world, "have been thrown into desperate trouble of soul either by the Spirit's convicting them of their sin, or, perhaps, by the withdrawal of natural supports on a death-bed without hope; while some of those whose tendency was

discouragement and despondency almost to hopelessness have, "by the power of the Holy Ghost," been filled with all joy and peace, and have abounded in hope day by day and hour by hour!

Contextual Reading Romans 15:14-33

Paul's Personal Ministry

¹⁴I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another. ¹⁵Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done— →

33

Contextual Reading Romans 15:14-33

Paul's Personal Ministry

¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. ²⁰It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. ²¹Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." ²²This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you. ²³But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, ²⁴I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

34

Contextual Reading Romans 15:14-33

Paul's Personal Ministry

²⁵Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there. ²⁶For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem. ²⁷They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings. ²⁸So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. ²⁹I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ. ³⁰I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

35

Contextual Reading Romans 15:14-33

Paul's Personal Ministry

³¹Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord's people there, ³²so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed. ³³The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

36

Romans 15:14

- Here begins the epilogue or conclusion of this excellent Epistle, wherein the apostle makes an apology, first for his manner of writing to them, and then for his not coming to them himself. His first apology is ushered in with a singular commendation of the Christians at Rome; he began with their commendation, [Ro 1:8](#), and he ends with the same. There are three things which he commends them for. The first is their *goodness*; thus it is numbered among *the fruits of the Spirit*, [Ga 5:22](#). →

Poole

- **Romans 15:14**
I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

37

Romans 15:14

- It may be taken more largely, and so it comprehends all grace and virtue; or else more strictly, and so it is put for kindness, gentleness, and charity, in forbearing and forgiving others. The second is *all knowledge*; i.e. in things necessary, or in matters relating to Christian liberty; or, by *all knowledge*, he means a large measure and proportion of it. The third is ability *to admonish one another*, to inform others in things about which they were ignorant, or it reprehend others for things about which they were negligent. Though there were many weak and ignorant persons among them, yet there were others of whom he was persuaded and fully assured they were thus qualified: see [1Co 1:5](#).

Poole

38

Romans 15:15

- **Nevertheless**; notwithstanding his good opinion of them. **Because of the grace--given to me**; as God had enlightened him, and made him a minister, not to Jews only, but especially to Gentiles, and as the church of Rome was composed of both, he thought it the dictate of love to write to both, and thus plainly remind them of their duty, and of such motives as were suited to induce them to do it.



- **Romans 15:15**
Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me

Romans 15:16

- **that the offering up of the Gentiles**; not the offering the Gentiles offered up, their prayers, praises, or good works, though these are acceptable to God through Christ; but the Gentiles themselves, by the offering up of whom is meant their conversion; which was the end of the apostle's ministering the Gospel among them, and in which he was the happy instrument.



- **Romans 15:16** to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:17

- After having in general commended his own calling, that the Romans might know that he was a true and undoubted apostle of Christ, he now adds testimonies, by which he proved that he had not only taken upon him the apostolic office conferred on him by God's appointment, but that he had also eminently adorned it. He at the same time records the fidelity which he had exhibited in discharging his office.... He did not make this declaration from a desire to attain glow, but because nothing was to be omitted which might procure favor and authority to his doctrine among the Romans. In God then, not in himself, did he glory; for he had nothing else in view but that the whole praise should redound to God.

Calvin

- **Romans 15:17**
Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.

Romans 15:18

- **I will not venture to speak, etc.** The meaning is: "I will not dare to speak of the signs of grace and the work of others, but only of the mighty works of God hath wrought through me to make the Gentiles obedient."

PNTC

- **Romans 15:18** I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done—

Romans 15:19

- Through mighty signs and wonders - This more fully explains the preceding clause: through the power of the Holy Ghost he was enabled to work among the Gentiles mighty signs and wonders; so that they were fully convinced that both his doctrine and mission were Divine; and therefore they cheerfully received the Gospel of the Lord Jesus.

Clarke

- **Romans 15:19** by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

43

Romans 15:20

- *Lest I should build*, etc. That is, he desired to found churches himself; he regarded himself as particularly called to this. Others might be called to edify the church, but he regarded it as *his* office to make known the name of the Savior where it was not before known. This work was particularly adapted to the passion, zeal, energy, and bravery of such a man as Paul. **Every man has his proper gift; and there are some particularly fitted to found and establish churches; others to edify and comfort them.** The apostle chose the higher honor, involving most danger and responsibility; but still *any* office in building up the church is honorable.

Barnes

- **Romans 15:20** It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

44

Romans 15:21-22

- The course which Paul took was a fulfilment of prophecy. **They that have not heard**; those who had not before heard the gospel would, through such labors as those of Paul, hear and obey it. FBN
- **Isaiah 52:15 (KJV)** So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for *that* which had not been told them shall they see; and *that* which they had not heard shall they consider.
- **This is why**; By planting Churches and preaching where there was more need. Trapp

- **Romans 15:21-22**
Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

45

Romans 15:23

- And now let us enter into the astonishing statement of verse 23, having no more any place in these regions. **Everybody converted? No. All the saints established and perfected? No.** Yet there was the urge to go on where no tidings of Him had come. ..., we are rather disconcerted if they do not come to the buildings we have set up. We say, Why do they not come to church? and we talk of the "un-churched masses."
- **But God did not tell them to "come to church." He told us to carry the glad tidings to them!** →

- **Romans 15:23**
But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you,

Romans

46

Romans 15:23

- Let us cease blaming men for failing to come to hear the gospel, instead of our obeying the Lord and going with it to them where they are! The church at Jerusalem "settled down," until God drove the saints out after Stephen's martyrdom, so that they "went about preaching the Word."
- It is, indeed, the unusual Christian who has written in his soul, as had Paul, the ambition to carry the gospel where the name of Christ had never been on the tongue, and thus, not merely to build on an already laid foundation! To such missionaries' verse 23 is fulfilled.

Romans 15:24

- In his eagerness to seek out entirely new regions, and to avoid any possibility of crossing the lines of his fellow Apostles, desiring also himself to gather in the "fulness of the Gentiles" so far as lay in his power, he had determined to push on even to Spain. Whether he ever succeeded in carrying out his purpose we cannot say positively, but it is, perhaps, rather more probable than not.

- **Romans 15:24** I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

Are believers obligated to give to the poor?

No

0%

Yes

0%

Not if you pay your tithes

0%

Yes, even over and above your tithes

0%

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49

Romans 15:25-26

- **St. Paul does not believe in doing charitable work by proxy.**—He went himself to Jerusalem, and did not waste the contributions of the Macedonian saints by needless extravagance. He was careful not to touch one particle of the sacred treasure; he bore his own expenses. If St. Paul had lived in these days, we cannot suppose him travelling third class on his own account and first class as the organizer of a public charity.

PHC

- **Romans 15:25-26**
Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there. For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem.

50

Romans 15:27

- Note how the saints in one church did help and relieve the poor Christians in another: ...
- Teaching us, that it is our obliged duty to extend our charity to the churches abroad and beyond the seas, when their wants and necessities require it, and our capacities enable us unto it.
- Note how the nature of this charity declared: it was a free and cheerful contribution, performed with much pleasure. **It pleased them** to make a contribution; it was not extorted or squeezed from, but given with cheerfulness by them; contributions must not be compulsion, but voluntary gifts.

Burkitt

- **Romans 15:27**
They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.

51

Romans 15:28

Romans 15:28 (KJV) When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

- Note how this charity is called fruit: **When I have sealed this fruit**; because it was the fruit of their faith, liberality, and love: because as fruit it would redound both to the benefit of the giver and receiver. Charity and alms are a fruit that impact the account in the great day of account.
- Note the great integrity and fidelity of the apostle in securing of this charity: **When I have sealed**, or secured, **unto them this fruit**. **The church's charity is a sealed treasure, not to be diminished and embezzled, but applied to the uses to which it is devoted.**

Burkitt

- **Romans 15:28**
So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way.

52

Romans 15:28

- Note lastly, The assurance which he gives them, that when he comes among them, he shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of peace unto them; that is, with a full impartment of spiritual gifts and gospel-blessings, much knowledge, grace, and comfort.

Burkitt

Romans 15:29

- The apostle sought the things of Christ more than his own will and would not leave his work of planting churches to go to Rome. It concerns all to do that first which is most needful. We must not be upset if our friends prefer work which is pleasing to God, before visits and compliments, which may please us. It is justly expected from all Christians, that they should promote every good work, especially that blessed work, the conversion of souls.

MHCC

- **Romans 15:29**
I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.

Romans 15:30

- It is astonishing (and the more so the more we study it) how God makes His work in this world depend on the prayers of His saints! And we know, from [1Ti 2:1-2](#), that the saints' living "a tranquil and quiet life, in all godliness and gravity" is brought about through their faithful prayers "for all men, for kings, and all that are in high place." Alas, how sadly this duty has been neglected,--and with consequences of what dire national unrest and trouble and disturbance of that outward tranquility and quietness wherein the gospel best is proclaimed, and the church built up!

Romans

55

- **Romans 15:30**
I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

Romans 15:31

- The unbelieving Jews in Judea had been opposed to Paul's conversion. They could not forget that he had gotten letters of commission from them to persecute the Christians at Damascus. They regarded him as an apostate. They had heard of his success among the Gentiles; and they had been informed that he "taught all the Jews among the Gentiles to forsake the laws of Moses," [Ac 21:21](#). Hence the apostle could not but be aware that, in returning to Judea, he exposed himself to peculiar dangers. His fears, as the result showed, were well founded. They exhibited all the opposition to him which he had ever anticipated, [Ac 21:21](#).

Barnes

56

- **Romans 15:31**
Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord's people there,

Romans 15:32

- *By the will of God.* If God will; If God permit. After all his desires, and all their prayers, it still depended on the will of God; and to that the apostle was desirous to submit. This should be the end of our most ardent desires, and this the object of all our prayers, that the will of God should be done. [Jas 4:14-15](#). Paul *did* go by the will of God; but he went in bonds. Barnes
- **James 4:14-15 (KJV)** Whereas ye know not what *shall* be on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

57

Romans 15:33

- The God of peace be with you - The whole object of the epistle is to establish peace between the believing Jews and Gentiles, and to show them their mutual obligations, and the infinite mercy of God to both; and now he concludes with praying that the God of peace - he from whom it comes, and by whom it is preserved - may be for ever with them. Clarke

58

- **Romans 15:32**
so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed.

Reference Scriptures

- **Acts 21:21 (KJV)** And they are informed of thee, that thou teachest all the Jews which are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, saying that they ought not to circumcise *their* children, neither to walk after the customs.
- **1 Corinthians 10:32-33 (KJV)** Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: Even as I please all *men* in all *things*, not seeking mine own profit, but the *profit* of many, that they may be saved.
- **1 Corinthians 11:1 (KJV)** Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.

Reference Scriptures

- **2 Corinthians 10:13-16 (KJV)** But we will not boast of things without *our* measure, but according to the measure of the rule which God hath distributed to us, a measure to reach even unto you. For we stretch not ourselves beyond *our measure*, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in *preaching* the gospel of Christ: Not boasting of things without *our measure*, *that is*, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, To preach the gospel in the *regions* beyond you, *and* not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.
- **Deuteronomy 32:43 (KJV)** Rejoice, O ye nations, *with* his people: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, *and* to his people.

Reference Scriptures

- **Galatians 5:22 (KJV)** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
- **Isaiah 11:10 (KJV)** And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.
- **Psalms 18:49 (KJV)** Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.
- **Psalms 69:9 (KJV)** For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.
- **Psalms 117:1 (KJV)** O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.

Reference Scriptures

- **Romans 1:8 (KJV)** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.
- **Romans 5:3-4 (KJV)** And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:
- **1 Timothy 2:1-2 (KJV)** I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and *for* all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.