

Comments About Romans 15

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will talk about chapter 15.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Romans.

Bearing the weak

Many Bible students note that the first 11 chapters in the book of Romans deals more with spiritual concepts of God's righteousness, and that chapter 12 begins a section of Christian-living principles.

The Christian-living principle at the beginning of chapter 15 is a continuation of the discussion from chapter 14.

Romans 14:1—"Receive one who is weak in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things."

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

- The apostle Paul reminded them about the importance of edification (verse 2).
- He paraphrased Psalm 69:9 (verse 3).
- Paul reminded the audience about the value of learning lessons from the Scriptures—which can provide comfort and hope (verses 4-6).

Romans 15:4-6—"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Corinthians 10:11—"Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come."

2 Timothy 3:15—"And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

Jews and gentiles

- Paul reminded Jews and gentiles to receive each other just as Christ received us to the glory of God (verse 7).
- Salvation came to both Jews and gentiles (verses 8-12).
- Paul paraphrased 2 Samuel 22:50 and Psalm 18:49 (verse 9).
- He paraphrased Deuteronomy 32:43 (verse 10).
- He paraphrased Psalm 117:1 (verse 11).
- He paraphrased Isaiah 11:10 (verse 12).
- He mentioned the God of hope (verse 13).

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."

Jerusalem to Illyricum

- Paul reminded the audience how he preached the gospel to the gentiles (verses 14-21).
- He mentioned how he fully preached the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem (verse 19).
- He sought to preach in places where the gospel had not been preached—seeking to avoid building on another man's foundation (verse 20).
- He paraphrased Isaiah 52:15 (verse 21).

Plan to visit Rome

- Paul mentioned how he wanted to visit Rome after his journey to Spain (verses 22-24).
- He was first going to go to Jerusalem to take contributions from Macedonia and Achaia to poor saints in Jerusalem (verses 25-26).
- The gentiles who received valuable knowledge through the Jewish converts wanted to express some appreciation through their physical gifts (verse 27).
- He asked for their prayers (verses 28-33).