

## ROMANS CHAPTER 15

Versus 1-7 Continues and closes the thoughts carried in Chapter 14.

vs. 1 We who are strong (right, mature, know the truth) ought to “bear the weakness” of the weak.

NOT – think of others’ weaknesses as a burden we must put up with,

BUT – take over as our own, these infirmities. Gal 6:2

The strong become the servants of the weak.

vs. 2 Pleasing his neighbor (Gal. 1:10) for his benefit spiritually.  
1 Cor. 10:32-11:1

vs. 3 To what level do we go? To the level where we have become like Christ! Jesus had a reputation.

People came to Him because He cared for them. They always left the richer.

2 Cor. 8:9; Heb. 12:2.

vs. 4 That which comes from reading the Bible:

1. instruction – Not only who to come to, John 6:45, but what to think and do after we have come. Want to know what to believe or do? Read the Bible!

2. perseverance – God is not slow as some count slowness. To receive from the Lord often follows “to wait upon the Lord”. He who waits will never be disappointed.  
Rom. 9:33, 10:11

3. The encouragement of the scriptures – The Bible gives meaning to experience, for it tells us God is at work. He will complete that which He has begun, and nothing can separate us from Him (Rom. 8:35-39), or our end as planned by Him. 1 Pet. 1:3-9

4. hope – (Remember for the present Rom. 8:24-25)  
Our outcome will far surpass our hope. Eph. 3:20

vs. 5-6                    May the God who gives...through the scriptures, vs. 4, grant us:

1. singleness of mind with each other 1 Pet. 3:8-9  
(strong and weak united)
2. which will result in our united praise of Him.  
(strong and weak united)
3. such a united body would see others united with it.  
John 13:34-35

vs. 7                        Strong and weak believers are here exhorted to receive one another – for God’s glory.  
Example: John 6:37-38 Jesus came to receive those whom His Father had chosen. He does not reject a single one of them. Jesus glorified His Father by doing this, His Father’s will!  
We are to do the same for the same reason with the same result.

vs. 8-11                    Christ came to become a servant:

1. to the circumcision (Jews)
  - a. on behalf of the truth of God;
  - b. to confirm the promises given to the fathers.  
Christ came for the sake of God’s truth, God’s faithfulness. When God makes a commitment or promise, He fulfills it. Christ came approx. 2,000 years after He promised Abraham and we are now approx. 2,000 years after Christ’s coming.  
Rom 11:25-29 God’s promises still stand.
2. Gentiles – to glorify God for His mercy. Paul connects verses from the Law, the Writings, and the prophets. There also appears to be a progression within these quotations:
  - a. Christ (David in the O.T. passage) will give praise to God in the midst of the Gentiles.
  - b. the Gentiles are then seen rejoicing in the midst of His people (Israel).
  - c. We end with the Gentiles rejoicing on their own.

vs. 12                        The Gentiles who before Christ (Eph. 2:11-12) now have their hope in the King of Israel ruling over them. 1 Pet. 2:9-10

vs. 13

The name of God here is “the God of hope”.

Rom. 5:1-2; Rom 8:25, 28-30.

Hope looks to the future and any that hope in the future that the God of the Bible has planned will not be disappointed.

It is God Himself alone who can fill us with all joy and peace.  
We cannot transform ourselves.

Believing is the response to hearing the Word of God.

Rom. 10:13-15

Joy and peace come from believing. It is no mystery!  
A Christian’s joy and peace is directly proportioned to  
the knowledge they have of the Word of God.

Knowing, believing, causes us to “abound in hope.

Heb. 11:13-40

Abounding in hope is produced by the power of the indwelling  
Spirit. 2 Thes. 2:13-14

Romans 15:14-16:27 forms the close to Paul’s letter to the Roman believers.

vs. 14

Their reputation had reached the apostle Paul prior to this  
writing. Rom. 1:8

He was writing with confident anticipation of their  
response to his letter.

vs. 15-16

Paul wrote this letter because Jesus Christ had set him apart for  
this very ministry. Just as Moses was sent to Egypt to bring  
God’s people Israel out as a nation, so Paul had been sent to the  
Gentiles to separate the chosen out of the nations.

Paul was a “minister of Christ Jesus” ministering as a priest the  
gospel of God. (Would that more of us would function under  
this type of conviction.) He saw the Gentiles as an offering  
rising to God, acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Eph. 5:1-2; Phil. 2:17-18

vs. 17

Therefore, connects this statement with verse 16. Unlike Moses  
whose ministry was so visibly confirmed by God, i.e.:

1. A pillar of fire and cloud;
2. A tabernacle with the outward trappings of worship;
3. Victorious confrontations with Pharaoh;
4. Men who opposed him being swallowed up by the earth

Paul's ministry reflected:

1. joining in the fellowship of Christ's sufferings, conformed to Christ's death; Phil 3:10
2. becoming a spectacle, fool, weak, without honor, hungry, thirsty, poorly clothed, roughly treated, and homeless - the scum of the world. 1 Cor. 4:9-13

There was little to no outward reward for Paul's commitment. Only in Christ did Paul find reason to boast in things pertaining to God.

vs. 18 Paul took no credit for anything that God had accomplished through the other 12 apostles. He will speak only of what Christ has done through him. 2 Cor. 10:13-18

vs. 19 Paul has fulfilled his ministry in this present area to such an extent that (vs. 23) there are no new areas for him to work.

Where had he ministered?

Between Jerusalem and Illyricum; throughout the provinces with their major cities.

Paul wrote this letter from Corinth while completing the collection for the poor in Palestine.

Rom. 15:22-26

To see how widely Paul had preached the gospel, read Acts 13:1 through Acts 21:26.

vs. 20-23 Paul as an apostle (sent one) saw his ministry as that of reaching the lost and making them disciples of Christ. Matt. 28: 29-30

Consequently, he was not desirous of "re-working" the Body of Christ that had already been established

(Application – does a church grow by new converts or transfers from other churches?)

The Roman church was well known among the believers of the first century. Paul had desired to visit them for some time, but the press of his missionary work had kept him from visiting them. That work now being fully established, Paul hoped the time would soon come when he could visit them.

- vs. 24 Paul's future plans are detailed to them.
- vs. 25-26 Paul had been traveling among the churches taking up an offering to be sent to Jerusalem. Each church sent their own representative to deliver their portion.  
This effort is referenced in several N.T. Books.  
Acts 24:17; 2 Cor. 8 and 9.
- vs. 27 The support Paul is collecting is an application of the theology he had already shared with them. Rom. 11:17-18 This principle is built upon in 1 Cor. 9:11
- vs. 28 Paul writes with total confidence that he will see a successful end to this ministry of sharing. 2 Cor. 9:12-13
- vs. 29 Paul always ministered with full confidence that whatever happened was the outworking of the plan of God. He assumes blessing...why not?!
- vs. 30 As much as Paul was a believer in "the sovereignty of God", he was a believer in prayer.
- vs. 31 He wants them to pray for two things:
1. that Paul might be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea – Jews. 1 Thes. 2:14-16
  2. the saints (believers) in Jerusalem that he is delivering this gift to, will accept it.
    - a. How often are humans reluctant to take charity...
    - b. This is a case where Jewish Christians are being provided for by the Gentile Christians.

vs. 32            If they pray and Paul is successful, Paul will continue on to Rome  
in great joy.

Post Script:    Paul made it to Jerusalem with the gift, but it  
turned out to be the basis for his being imprisoned.  
He made it to Rome after Jerusalem, but it took  
him two years and he went as a prisoner.

vs. 33            Benediction