

## Romans 15 – Summary Thoughts

### Table – Romans 15:1-33

- 1 *We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*
- 2 *Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.*
- 3 *For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.*
- 4 *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*
- 5 *Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:*
- 6 *That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- 7 *Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.*
- 8 *Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:*
- 9 *And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.*
- 10 *And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.*
- 11 *And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.*
- 12 *And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.*
- 13 *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.*
- 14 *And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.*
- 15 *Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,*
- 16 *That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.*
- 17 *I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.*
- 18 *For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,*
- 19 *Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*
- 20 *Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:*
- 21 *But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.*
- 22 *For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.*
- 23 *But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you;*
- 24 *Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company.*
- 25 *But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.*
- 26 *For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.*

## Table – Romans 15:1-33, Continued

- 27 *It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.*
- 28 *When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.*
- 29 *And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.*
- 30 *Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;*
- 31 *That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;*
- 32 *That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.*
- 33 *Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.*

## Notes on Table – Romans 15:1-33

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 562-588 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1506-1507, 1581, 1590 for detailed comment.

1. Romans 15:1-4. See remarks in [www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/) *Romans 14 – Summary Thoughts* pp 2-4 points 1, 2 on Romans 14:1-4, 13-23. Paul here urges “...them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil” Hebrews 5:14 to “...support the weak” 1 Thessalonians 5:14 and “...please his neighbour for his good to edification” Romans 15:2 “By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left” 2 Corinthians 6:6-7 that last rebuking for example a-millennial 5-Point Calvinists who insist “that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some” 2 Timothy 2:18 that the weak and infirm “...may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” Ephesians 4:15 e.g. to have certainty of salvation and eternal security as Paul did “...for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day” 2 Timothy 1:12\*.

\*For advance preparation for “that day” see [www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/) *Romans 14 – Summary Thoughts* p 4 point 3 on Romans 14:10 “for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.”

Romans 15:3 in the context is therefore Paul's reminder of what he said in Acts 20:35 “I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive” even though as Paul's citation of Psalm 69:9 indicates, not everyone appreciates being given for example “the word of truth” 2 Corinthians 6:7. See [www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/) ‘O Biblios’ – *The Book* and note the Lord's warning “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you” John 15:18 in part because as part of “the word of truth” the Lord said earlier “...me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil” John 7:7.

That is why Paul alludes to “things...written aforetime” Romans 15:4 where “...the LORD answered the angel that talked with me with good words and comfortable words” Zechariah 1:13 that Paul applies to today's believer's standing with the Lord Jesus Christ according to 2 Timothy 1:12 and by which he emphasises “comfort of the scriptures.”

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end” Jeremiah 29:11 because “...the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” 1 John 2:17.

2. Romans 15:5-7. Paul here urges **“Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”** Ephesians 4:3 noting **“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure”** Philippians 2:13 so that as Peter urges as **“...a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light”** 1 Peter 2:9 remembering as Paul emphasises **“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”** Ephesians 4:32.
3. Romans 15:8-13. Paul here sets forth his ministry as he summarises in Romans 15:16 **“That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost”** in fulfilment of scripture, in order as Paul cites them 2 Samuel 22:50, Psalm 18:49, Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalm 117:1, Isaiah 11:10 as a beneficiary of the Lord’s ministry because **“Jesus Christ...a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God”** Romans 15:8 **“...was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time”** 1 Corinthians 15:8.

Paul then graphically testifies **“when it pleased God, who...called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen...”** Galatians 1:15-16 **“Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance”** Acts 20:19-20.

Paul thereby could summarise his ministry in a manner that applies to today’s believer. **“For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth”** Acts 13:47.

Romans 15:13 follows naturally in the light of the above. **“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”** That hope is also **“to be a light of the Gentiles”** as Paul states **“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”** Colossians 1:27.

4. Romans 15:14-16. See remarks above under point 3 with respect to Romans 15:16. Paul is an encourager of believers as Peter is and as today’s believer should be e.g. in correspondence.

**“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth. Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance”** 2 Peter 1:10-13.

Because Paul also exhorts **“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?”** 2 Corinthians 13:5 the cap badge shown is a good illustration **“to stir you up by putting you in remembrance...to make your calling and election sure.”**

See [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal\\_22nd\\_Regiment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_22nd_Regiment) The Van Doos, *vingt-deux*.



Cap badge of The Royal 22<sup>nd</sup> Regiment

Motto: [Je me souviens](#)  
(I Remember)

5. Romans 15:17-29. Paul here summarises what the Lord has done in and through him. The lessons for today's believer are as Paul himself states.
- 5.1. Glory to God, Romans 15:17-19. **"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen"** Ephesians 3:21.
- 5.2. Break new ground, Romans 15:20-24. **"...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"** 2 Corinthians 10:15-16.
- 5.3. **"Remember the poor,"** Romans 15:25-28 with Galatians 2:10. **"And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision. Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do"** Galatians 2:9-10 especially in the light of Romans 15:27 and as James admonishes **"Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"** James 2:5.
- See for example [www.baptistchurchgoa.org/](http://www.baptistchurchgoa.org/) Grace & Truth Baptist Church, Pastor Lordson Roch, Goa, India, **"Holding forth the word of life..."** Philippians 2:16.
- 5.4. Thank God for "the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ" Romans 15:29. **"The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it"** Proverbs 10:22.
6. Romans 15:30-33. Paul concludes this chapter with a request for earnest prayer that should be germane to today's believer's prayer life as Paul exhorts elsewhere. This study therefore concludes on that note. Note in passing that even today's believer could be **"an ambassador in bonds"** Ephesians 6:20 for as Paul states **"For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!"** 1 Corinthians 9:16 with 2 Corinthians 5:18-20. He looks forward to the fulfilment of **"the will of God"** Romans 15:32 with 2 Thessalonians 3:4 for both himself and his readers that will of course be abundantly realised at the Lord's Return, 2 Thessalonians 3:5.

**"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak"** Ephesians 6:18-20.

**"Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for all men have not faith. But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil. And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you. And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ"** 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5.