

Devotional Questions – Romans 15:14-33

1. *What did Paul think about the believers in Rome (Romans 15:14)?*
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. *Why had Paul written this letter (Romans 15:14-15)?*
3. *What is it that Paul glories in (Romans 15:17)?*
4. *What was Paul's ambition (Romans 15:19-20)?*
5. *Why was it so important for Paul to go to Jerusalem (Romans 15:25-28)?*
6. *How is prayer described – what does this imply (Romans 15:30)?*
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 - a. *Romans 15:31a*
 - b. *Romans 15:31b*
 - c. *Romans 15:32*
8. *What do we need to remember when making plans (Romans 15:32)?*
9. *What does Paul want from his meeting with them (Romans 15:32)?*

Devotional Questions – Romans 15:14-33, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 574-588 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1507 for detailed comment and www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ *Romans 15 – Summary Thoughts* for additional remarks.

1. What did Paul think about the believers in Rome (Romans 15:14)?

Romans 15:14 states ***“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.”*** The Romans are:

- a. ***“full of goodness”*** i.e. blessed with ***“...the wisdom that is from above...first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy”*** James 3:17
- b. ***“filled with all knowledge”*** i.e. ***“...filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God”*** Colossians 1:9-10
- c. ***“able also to admonish one another”*** i.e. letting ***“...the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord”*** Colossians 3:16

As ***“the words...which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual”*** 1 Corinthians 2:13 show, the attributes that Paul lists in Romans 15:14 were attained through following the apostles' exhortations, as today's believer should.

“Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus” 2 Timothy 1:13.

“That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour” 2 Peter 3:2.

“But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ...building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost” Jude 17, 20.

2. Why had Paul written this letter (Romans 15:14-15)?

Romans 15:15 states ***“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.”***

Though Paul said to the Romans ***“First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world”*** Romans 1:8 he took nothing for granted and applied what he wrote in Ephesians 5:16 ***“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil”*** as Peter did i.e. get it down in writing while you can for the sake of ***“...them also which shall believe on me through their word”*** John 17:20 who must ***“...grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen”*** 2 Peter 3:18.

“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; Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance” 2 Peter 1:12-15.

3. *What is it that Paul glories in (Romans 15:17)?*

Romans 15:16-19 state **“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. I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God. 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, 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.”** Paul gloried in fulfilling what God gave him to do after the manner of the Lord Jesus Christ and that is what today’s believer should focus on as pre-eminent.

“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do” John 17:4.

4. *What was Paul’s ambition (Romans 15:19-20)?*

Romans 15:20 states **“Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man’s foundation.”** Paul’s ambition expressed in Romans 15:20 is also found where Paul states in 2 Corinthians 10:16 **“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.”**

Today’s believer should always be seeking to progress the scriptural command of Acts 1:8 **“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”** noting that Paul himself was conscious of fulfilment of scripture with respect to wherever he **“...strived to preach the gospel...”** as shown in Romans 15:21 **“But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand”** from Isaiah 52:15 **“...for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.”**

The reminder for today’s believer is Colossians 4:17 **“And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.”**

5. *Why was it so important for Paul to go to Jerusalem (Romans 15:25-28)?*

Paul had a good intention for going to Jerusalem according to Romans 15:25 **“But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.”** However Paul says in 1 Corinthians 4:4 **“For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.”** Paul experienced the truth of this verse personally. God passed judgement on the Apostle Paul when he disobeyed the directive will of God and went up to Jerusalem in spite of receiving four warnings from the Holy Ghost not to, Acts 9:26-30, 20:23, 21:4, 11-14, 22:17-21. Paul was cast into prison and lost two years of his ministry. Instead of going to Rome as a **“free born”** Roman, Acts 22:28, 23:11 where God wanted him to testify of the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul went as a prisoner in bonds, Acts 25:12, 26:29. See *The Book of Acts* by Dr Peter S. Ruckman, Bible Baptist Bookstore, 1974, pp 611, 614, 618, 655-656, 675, 681.

You’ll also see that when Paul obeyed the directive will of God, as in Acts 16:9, 10, to go to Macedonia, individuals got saved through Paul’s ministry, like Lydia in Acts 16:14.

Yet from the time that Paul disobeyed the directive will of God in Acts 21:14 and went down to Jerusalem until Paul gets to Rome in Acts 28:16, the scripture has no record of anyone getting saved through Paul’s ministry. In other words, stay in the directive will of God as the Lord Jesus Christ did, in John 4:34.

“Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”

6. *How is prayer described – what does this imply (Romans 15:30)?*

Romans 15:30 states **“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.”** Prayer is striving with God for blessing as it was for Jacob. **“And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day...And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me...And he blessed him there”** Genesis 32:24, 26, 29.

That is why today’s believer needs and indeed has an unfailing Intercessor. **“And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God...It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us”** Romans 8:27, 34.

7. *What does Paul ask the believers to pray for (Romans 15:30-32)?*

- a. Romans 15:31a **“That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea”**
- b. Romans 15:31b **“and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints”**
- c. Romans 15:32 **“That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed”**

Note remarks on *Question 5*. Romans 15:31 was answered but precariously.

“And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present. And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law: 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. What is it therefore? the multitude must needs come together: for they will hear that thou art come. Do therefore this that we say to thee: We have four men which have a vow on them; Them take, and purify thyself with them, and be at charges with them, that they may shave their heads: and all may know that those things, whereof they were informed concerning thee, are nothing; but that thou thyself also walkest orderly, and keepest the law...Then Paul took the men, and the next day purifying himself with them entered into the temple, to signify the accomplishment of the days of purification, until that an offering should be offered for every one of them” Acts 21:18-24, 26.

That is what befell the man who said **“For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God”** Galatians 2:18-19. See also Acts 21:35 **“And when he came upon the stairs, so it was, that he was borne of the soldiers for the violence of the people.”** Romans 15:32 was partly fulfilled after **“much tribulation”** Acts 14:22. **“And from thence, when the brethren heard of us, they came to meet us as far as Appii forum, and The three taverns: whom when Paul saw, he thanked God, and took courage”** Acts 28:15. Today’s believer should nevertheless still apply in prayer 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2 **“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.”**

8. *What do we need to remember when making plans (Romans 15:32)?*

“For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that” James 4:15.

9. *What does Paul want from his meeting with them (Romans 15:32)?*

See *Question 7* and note in principle for today’s believer personally that **“...the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord”** Acts 3:19.