

Rom 15 ¹⁴ Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another. ¹⁵ Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God, ¹⁶ that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God. ¹⁸ For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient—¹⁹ in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. ²⁰ And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation, ²¹ but as it is written: "To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand" (Isa 52.15). ²² For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you. ²³ But now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you, ²⁴ whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your company for a while. ²⁵ But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. ²⁶ For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. ²⁷ It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. ²⁸ Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain. ²⁹ But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ. ³⁰ Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me, ³¹ that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you. ³³ Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

* **What is** Paul's normal missionary practice (20-22), and why does Paul depart from it in writing to the Romans in such a long, detailed, bold letter? (15, 19, 23-24)

* **Why is** it so important that the congregation in Rome understand, embrace, and live out the gospel? (24)

Acts 15 ¹ And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." ... ⁵ ... "It is necessary to circumcise them, and to command them to keep the law of Moses."

Gal 2 ¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face ...; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him ... ¹⁴ But ... I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel

* **What happened** to the Jews of Rome from 49-55AD which increased the possibility of division between Jewish and Gentile believers?

Acts 18 ² Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome

* **If Paul's** letter to the Romans is not a seminary class in systematic theology, what is it?

* **What does** Paul have to do before he can come to Rome? (25-26)

1Cor 16 ¹ Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: ² On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come. ³ And when I come, whomever you approve by your letters I will send to bear your gift to Jerusalem. ⁴ But if it is fitting that I go also, they will go with me.

Acts 8 ¹ *At that time a great persecution arose against the church which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles ...*

* **Why is** taking these gifts to Jerusalem so important? (27-28)

* **How does** the relationship between Naomi and Ruth help us understand the relationship that was supposed to exist between Israel and Gentile believers, and now between seasoned believers and new converts?

Ruth 1 ¹⁶ *[W]herever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. ¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, And there will I be buried. The LORD do so to me, and more also, If anything but death parts you and me."*

2Cor 8 ⁹ *For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.*

* **What is** the burden of Paul's preaching in Romans and elsewhere?

Gen 3.15 *"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you*

shall bruise His heel."

Ezekiel 47 ¹ *[T]here was water, flowing from under the threshold of the temple ... south of the altar ... **3** And ... he measured one thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the water came up to my ankles. **4** Again he measured one thousand and brought me through the waters; the water came up to my knees. Again he measured one thousand and brought me through; the water came up to my waist. **5** Again he measured one thousand, and it was a river that I could not cross; for the water was too deep, water in which one must swim, a river that could not be crossed ... **8** Then he said to me: "This water ... goes down into the valley, and enters the sea. When it reaches the sea, its waters are healed. **9** And it shall be that every living thing that moves, wherever the rivers go, will live. There will be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters go there; for they will be healed, and everything will live wherever the river goes."*

* **Why is** it dangerous for Paul to go to Jerusalem? (30-32) What happens to Paul in Jerusalem? How does Paul finally make it to Rome?

Acts 21 ⁸ *[W]e ... came to Caesarea ... ¹⁰ And ... a certain prophet named Agabus ... ¹¹ ... took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" ... ¹³ Then Paul answered, ... "I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."*

Acts 28 ¹⁶ *Now when we came to Rome, ... Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him ... ³⁰ Then Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house, and received all who came to him, ³¹ preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.*

* **Did Paul** ever make it to Spain?