

The Book of Romans

Chapter Fifteen - Practical Living

I. Introduction - Greatest Book in the New Testament for the Christian!

This one Book in your Bible condenses down into 16 chapters the greatest themes of all humanity - the themes of understanding sin, God's judgment, justification by faith, sanctification (clean living), victory over sin, eternal security, and serving Christ!

II. Book Review So Far - *There are Six Sections (main subjects) in Romans*

A. SECTION ONE - **Sin** - Chapters 1 & 2

Chapter 1. **The Righteousness and Wrath of God** - Describes the condition of the human heart in very vivid terms - as depraved (ruined utterly in character or quality)!

Chapter 2. **The Sin of Self-Righteousness** - There are so many people who look at the list and find some way of excusing THEMSELVES, and looking down at OTHERS - "civilised" vs "heathen" and the lower classes

B. SECTION TWO - **Our Great Salvation** - Chapters 3-5 (*Justification*)

Chapter 3. The fact of There Being No Difference - No Excuses

Chapter 4. How To Become Strong in Faith

Chapter 5. The Benefits of Salvation

C. SECTION THREE - **The Christians' Sanctification** - Chapters 6-7

D. SECTION FOUR - **The Believer's Security in Christ** - Chapter 8

E. SECTION FIVE of the Book of Romans - **The Special Place of Israel in God's overall plan**. This section explains a lot of the background to the history in the Middle East, and help us Gentiles understand the level of God's commitment to us! There are 3 chapters in this section (chapters 9, 10, 11).

Chapter 9. **The Position of Israel** - A special place of use

Chapter 10. **The Need of Israel** - to get the Gospel

Chapter 11. **The Future of Israel** - God's plan for them in the future

F. SECTION SIX - **The Christians' Service** - Chapters 12-16

Chapter 12. **God's Gifts of provision** - how He enables us to serve

Chapter 13. **Life Principles**

Chapter 14. **Christian Maturity**

III. Focus Verse: Romans 15:4

IV. Lesson – Practical Christian Living

A. **The Duty of the Strong** (15:1-3)

1. Not survival of the Fittest
2. Carry the weak – cater to them (1Cor 12:22-26)
3. Live beyond selfish wants
4. Please others for their good – to help them mature
5. Key word is "edification" – building each other up!

B. **The Purpose of the Scriptures** (15:4)

1. For our learning, and for our admonition (1Cor 10:11)
 - a. The Old Testament was a written record of God's dealing with mankind – it was written for all people to learn from
 - 1) The Old testament was NOT all warfare and aggressive
 - 2) But very practical, and comforting. The Old Testament is written to comfort a Christian.
 - 3) Primarily "manly" in its emphasis – for MEN to learn from!
 - b. The New Testament was written about the Messiah, and how to follow Him
2. That we be like-minded! The whole Bible unifies us – it does NOT divide us! The only way it divides is if someone is unyielding!

C. **The Desire of Our Master** – that we would loved each other (15:5-12)

1. Jewish believers easily accepted other Jews getting saved
2. Jewish believers found it hard to accept Gentiles into their churches
3. All of this was prophesied
4. Notice the way translation principles work with the way that the Apostle Paul translated each Hebrew Scripture into Greek, and then how it is translated for us into English...

 - a. Psa 18:49 Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and sing praises unto thy name.
 - b. Rom 15:9 For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

 - c. Deu 32:43 Rejoice, O ye nations, with his people:
 - d. Rom 15:10 Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

 - e. Psa 117:1 O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people.
 - f. Rom 15:11 Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.

 - g. Isa 11:10 ...there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek
 - h. Rom 15:12 There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

5. Some General Principles the Lord teaches about translation...
 - a. Word for word exact translation is not to be as stringent as we think – there are those that only want mechanical translations
 - b. Names, places, numbers are exact, but sometimes, there are “variations” on the meaning of a word that allows the reader to see more depth to what is being said than just bare-bones dictionary meaning – we call it, using synonyms to help expand the meaning.
 - c. Look at how “seek” means “trust”, and “laud” means “praise” etc.

D. **The Example of Paul** (15:13-32)... Towards the Roman Christians

1. He Prays for them
2. He Praises them
3. He Preaches to them (15:15) – that what Romans has been – a very long message!
4. He exalts them - The Gentiles getting saved are a great gift to God (15:16-18)
 - a. They are the Prodigal Son of Luke 15, coming home
 - b. The lost coin and the lost sheep that has been searched for
 - c. They are an awesome reason to be excited about serving the Lord!
 - d. It was not an accident that they were now born again!
 - e. Paul did not boast in anything that was by his own efforts
5. He included them - Paul witnessed to absolutely everyone, from Jerusalem and to the uttermost parts (15:19)
 - a. Preached the Gospel
 - b. Paul just strove to fulfil the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19,20
 - c. Once the Gospel was accepted, he then taught through the whole counsel o God
6. He loved them - Paul LOVED the Roman Christians (15:22-32)
 - a. He was demonically hindered from coming to Rome – lots of things hinder us... so what?
 - b. Paul was planning on first travelling through Spain after he first visited Jerusalem one more time (to try and turn them to God once again)
 - c. Paul had gifts for the saints in Jerusalem – because of the persecution going on there
7. Paul asks for prayer for himself (15:30-32)

E. **The First Attempt at Closing** (15:33). Paul makes several attempts at closing this epistle, but keeps thinking of more things to say