

Romans 15 Text	Commentary
<p><b>The Example of Christ</b>  We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. <sup>2</sup> Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. <sup>3</sup> For Christ did not please himself, but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me.” <sup>4</sup> For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. <sup>5</sup> May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.</p> <p><b>Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles</b>  <sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God’s truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,  “Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name.”  <sup>10</sup> And again it is said, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”  <sup>11</sup> And again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”  <sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”  <sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.</p> <p><b>Paul the Minister to the Gentiles</b>  <sup>14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. <sup>17</sup> In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> The “strong” understand the extent of their freedom. The “weak” are uncertain and place limits upon themselves. The strong have an obligation to bear with (imparting their strength to) the weak. The word is δυνατός (<i>dynatos</i>) for “strong” and is the usage of the “mighty men” in the OT, but here it is for these to use their strength or power for greater responsibility to show grace. This is self-renunciation so that we are not pleasing ourselves.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> In faithful witness we do not obey men, but God (think Peter to the Sanhedrin, Acts 5:29), but in the family of God, we freely make concessions to show grace. False doctrine or life is obviously not included in this. “Build up” is our pursuing the goal of peace for building up one another.</p> <p><sup>3</sup> Our motivation for such conduct is Christ Himself. We were all the weak. Consider what Christ did for us, and not out of obligation. (Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15). He took our reproach (Isaiah 53). So when the strong bear with the weak, they reflect Christ’s redemption.</p> <p><sup>4</sup> The Holy Scriptures (OT here) instructs the Church on how to live. Think of how much Moses bore the Israelites!</p> <p><sup>5</sup> God speaks through these Scriptures to give us endurance and encouragement for peace among brothers and sisters in Christ.</p> <p><sup>6</sup> This bearing with and striving for peace ultimately serves our unity in Divine Service.</p> <p><sup>7</sup> This is an imperative command, “welcome one another”! How? As Christ welcomed you.</p> <p><sup>8</sup> Jesus was sent first to the lost sheep of Isarel. Christ confirms the promises of the OT (Messianic Prophecies).</p> <p><sup>9-10</sup> Christ’s fulfillment at the same time was for all the world, including the Gentiles. God’s eternal plan for all people. This was known by King David (see Psalm 18:49). Gentiles would join the joy of Israel (Deut. 32:43).</p> <p><sup>11</sup> Psalm 117 calls on ALL nations to praise the LORD.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> Isaiah prophesied of a UNIVERSAL reign (Isaiah 11:10). Do you see what St. Paul is doing...for these reasons the Roman church</p>

to be proud of my work for God. <sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; <sup>20</sup> and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else’s foundation, <sup>21</sup> but as it is written, “Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”

### **Paul’s Plan to Visit Rome**

<sup>22</sup> This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. <sup>23</sup> But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, <sup>24</sup> I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. <sup>25</sup> At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. <sup>26</sup> For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. <sup>28</sup> When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. <sup>29</sup> I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

<sup>30</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, <sup>31</sup> that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, <sup>32</sup> so that by God’s will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. <sup>33</sup> May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

with its membership of Jew and Gentile have every reason to bear with one another.

<sup>13</sup> “God of hope” who gives promises are always come to fruition, objective assurance that when God promises, He is 100% reliable. Result? Joy and peace. This is the work of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> St. Paul speaks his sincere observation of God’s work in their midst. We instruct one another because we all have the Word.

<sup>15-16</sup> St. Paul is God’s instrument-minister-servant in a priestly service (intermediary) so that God’s will that the Church be one occurs. He attributes this work to God the Holy Spirit.

<sup>17-18</sup> St. Paul’s pride is in Christ in and through his ministry ... “through me”.

<sup>19</sup> σημεῖον (*sēmeion*) = miracles ... and ... τέρας (*teras*) = wonders, miracles: especially of overwhelming grace poured out upon sinners! This is done by the power of the Holy Spirit saving people from sin, death, and hell; and into the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation.

<sup>20</sup> St. Paul’s ambition...his goal to *preach the gospel*...

<sup>21</sup> Preach where? Wherever there are those who have never been told of Christ. Consider his extensive missionary journeys.

<sup>22</sup> Either on account of Satan or on account of this goal – quite frankly – making him very busy! Maybe a little of both!

<sup>23-24</sup> St. Paul started his work in Antioch c in AD 47(Acts 13) and it is c AD 55 when he writes Romans. Clement of Rome wrote that St. Paul reached the limits of the West (Spain or Portugal). St. Paul was not shy about asking for support for the work of the Gospel to spread.

<sup>25</sup> One more thing to do before Rome: help Jerusalem!

<sup>26-27</sup> Example of reciprocation among churches.

<sup>28-29</sup> When he comes to Rome he will share in fellowship and give encouragement.

<sup>30-33</sup> The Holy Spirit gives us His fruit and we are enabled to live as His Church family. Then we strive together in prayer. Many opposed St. Paul as many oppose the Church today. Ends with blessed reminder & short benediction. *Shalom*.