



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE ROMANS 15:15-27 MINISTRY TO UNBELIEVERS — May 30, 2021

## INTRODUCTION:

**15:14 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.** Paul makes it a point to acknowledge the commendable qualities of the Roman believers. He first called them *"brethren."* And he goes further to lay down a most needed encouragement toward these believers. He was persuaded, satisfied, and convinced that they were:

- full of goodness; kindness and helpfulness.
- filled with all knowledge; spiritual insight, and perception; knowledge of Christ, and the Holy Spirit.
- able to admonish one another; well able to teach, to implant the truth, guide, correct and instruct.

Paul had never visited the Roman church, but he had met a few of the Roman believers in his travels over the Mediterranean world. Therefore, his writings are of things he had heard about of them, and at the beginning of the chapter he stressed that *"those who were strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak and not please themselves"* 15:1. He didn't look at himself as being superior to other believers. He knew that all believers needed encouragement from time to time. His spirit was gracious as he acknowledged their commendable qualities.

## LESSON: I. MINISTRY PRIVILEGE ROMANS 15:15-17

**15:15 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,—** In Paul's letters, he was bold in reminding the people of the great truths of the gospel, because of the grace that's been given to him of God.

**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.** The grace given Paul was that he was put in trust by God with the gospel for the Gentiles. God had made Paul the special minister or messenger of the gospel of God to the Gentiles. This gospel of God is proclaimed through the ministry of preaching under the influence of the Holy Spirit. He was to present and include the Roman Gentiles of the church as an acceptable offering to the Lord God. The word *"acceptable"* meant that the offering of a human life is only through the proclamation of the gospel of God; the good news, and that person accepts God's Son, Jesus, then he is sanctified not by circumcision, but by something much better: sanctified (set apart to God) by the Holy Spirit. God wanted Paul to bring people to Him. This is the task of ministers: to offer the lives of men, women, boys, and girls to God.

**15:17 I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.**

1. When Paul talked, he praised the Lord only in those things which pertained to God; wrought through Jesus Christ. Paul was proud of what God had done through him. Being proud of God's work through you or through others is not a sin. You are simply putting God on display, not yourself. He was privileged to write these letters to encourage them; privileged to minister the gospel to the Gentiles, and privileged to offer them that they might be acceptable to be sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

## II. MINISTRY POWER ROMANS 15:18-21

**15:18 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,—**

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# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

2. When Paul talked, he glorified the obedience of the converts, but he also made it known that the Gentile converts were wrought by Christ, not by Paul. Christ used Paul's words and deeds to reach the converts, but it was Christ who worked in their hearts to convict and convert them.

**15:19 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.**

3. When Paul talked, he glorified the mighty signs and wonders by the Holy Spirit—wonderful miracles wrought by God. Apparently, Paul had an extensive ministry of both evangelism and healing among people, but it was all wrought by the power of the Spirit of God.
4. When Paul talked, he glorified in the fact that he had been given the privilege to fully preach the gospel of Christ all around throughout the world: from Jerusalem through Macedonia to the area round about Illyricum, the Roman province bordering the eastern shore of Adriatic Sea. Paul was only the instrument that God used, and this gives him vindication for writing to a church he had never visited.

**15:20 Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:—** Paul strived to reach those who had never heard about Christ. He was the first of God's chosen vessels to carry the message to the Gentiles. He made it his ministerial ambition to go where no one has ever been before to break up fallow ground with the gospel of Christ, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. He didn't want to continue the work other people had started. He was like a builder who lays a good foundation (base for a building).

**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.** Paul goes back to what was written in scripture of Isaiah 52:15c *"...that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider."* So therefore, Paul says he's following the scripture that was written that would come to pass. It would be to whom nobody had spoken of, (Christ), they will see, and have never heard about, (Christ) they will understand. That's the power of the ministry.

## III. MINISTRY PLANS ROMANS 15:22-27

**15:22 For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.** Paul wanted to visit the church in Rome, but he had been much hindered; delayed because it was important for him to preach the gospel in areas that had not yet heard the good news, rather than go to those that were doing well on their own.

**15:23 But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you;—** But now Paul was saying that he had completed his task and finished his assignment, he now after many years has the desire to come to them. We see that...

- Paul did want to go elsewhere, but he had no more places to go.
- What problems Paul needed to handle, he stayed and fully completed his ministry.

**15:24 Whosoever 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.**

- Paul had a world-wide vision. He longed and ached to reach the outer limits of the world. In Paul's days, the western borders of Spain were considered the outposts of the civilized world. He knew that if he could, the gospel would spread out into the uncivilized world.
- Paul had a strong expectation to have the help and fellowship and support of other believers in his attempt to reach the world; provide for his journey; helped on his way. In the task of reaching the world for Christ, there are those who go forth to preach, and there are those who prayerfully and financially support the preachers. Both are absolutely essential.

# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE



**15:25 But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.** Paul cannot immediately embark on his way to Rome for he must travel first to Jerusalem. Proverbs 19:21 says "*Many plans are in a man's heart, but the counsel of the Lord shall stand.*" Proverbs 16:9 "*The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.*"

**15:26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.** Saints of God all throughout Judea were suffering from deep poverty, no doubt some of them had lost their jobs because of their witness for Christ, and the land had apparently suffered a famine of some sort. Whatever the cause, many of God's people were hungry, unclothed, and unsheltered. They needed help, and it was the minister's (Paul's) task to help them. For this reason, Paul had taken a special offering from all the churches in Macedonia and Achaia, for it had pleased them to help the poor saints in Jerusalem.

**15:27 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.** Paul said that the Gentile churches were debtors to the poor saints in Jerusalem. Why? Because it was from the Jerusalem believers that the gospel had spread. Since they had ministered the spiritual gift of salvation to the Gentile churches, the Gentile churches were now in debt to help the Jerusalem believers in their physical need (material things). Our task is to always meet the needs (true needs) of local saints before we move out to meet the needs of those in other nations. If we do not meet the needs of our brothers who live next door, how can we expect God to bless us in trying to meet the needs of those in other countries?

## SUMMARY:

Paul was bold in reminding the people of the great truths of the gospel because of the grace that's been given to him of God. It is the ministry of preaching the gospel under the influence of the Holy Spirit. When Paul talked, he praised the Lord only in those things which pertained to God; wrought through Jesus Christ (**10:15-17**).

When Paul talked, he glorified the obedience of the converts. When Paul talked, he glorified the mighty signs and wonders by the Holy Spirit—wonderful miracles wrought by God. When Paul talked, he glorified in the fact that he had been given the privilege to fully preach the gospel of Christ all around throughout the world: from Jerusalem and round about Illyricum. Paul strived to reach those who had never heard about Christ. He was the first of God's chosen vessels to carry the message to the Gentiles. Paul goes back to what was written in scripture of Isaiah 52:15c. Paul says he's following the scripture that was written that to whom nobody had spoken of Christ, they will see, and have never heard about Christ, they will understand (**10:18-21**).

Paul wanted to visit the church in Rome, but he had been much hindered to come. But now Paul was saying that he had completed his task and finished his work having the desire after many years to come to them. He's saying whenever he takes the journey to Spain, he hoped to come to them while passing through, and to be helped on his way there after he has enjoyed their company. But Paul cannot immediately embark on his way to Rome for he must travel first to Jerusalem, for it pleased Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints at Jerusalem. Paul said that the Gentile churches were debtors to the poor saints in Jerusalem because it was from the Jerusalem believers that the gospel had spread. They owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings (**10:22-27**).

