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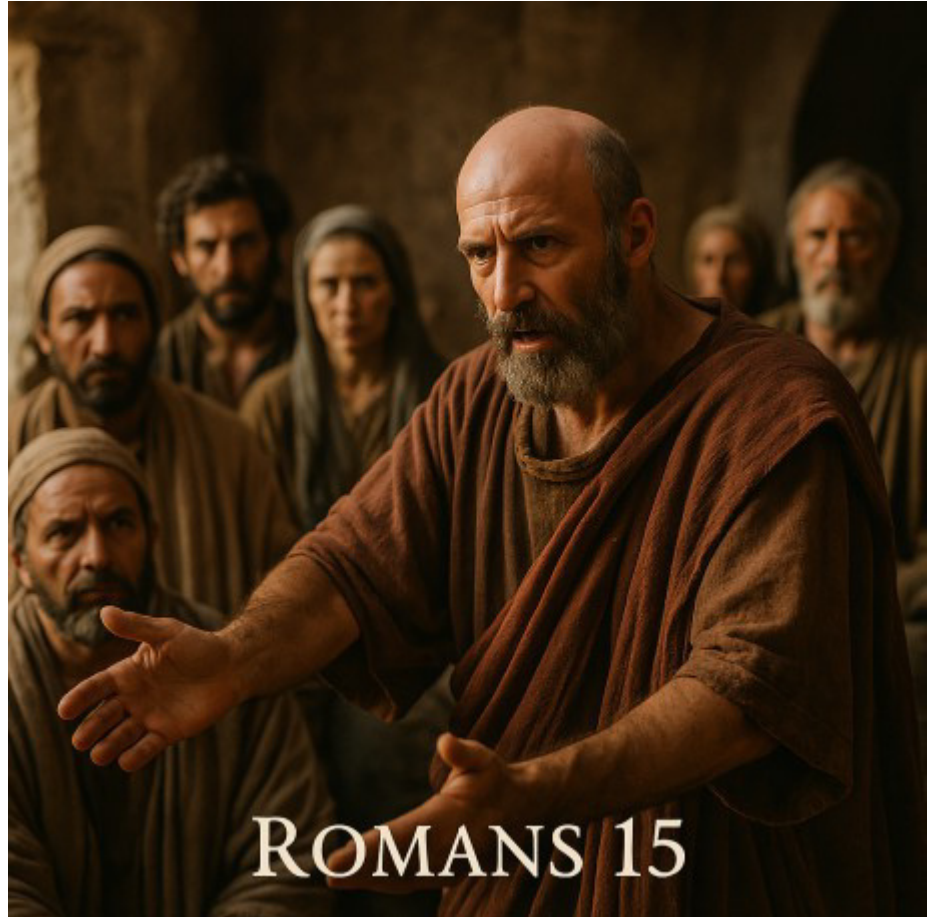
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Romans 15 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Romans 15

Romans 15:1-2

Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength, and not just please ourselves. Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

† The strong in faith must support the weak. Christian liberty must serve others, not self.

† Clement of Rome in 1 Clement 38 reminded believers to imitate Christ by seeking the benefit of others above

themselves.

Romans 15:3

For even Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written: "The taunts of those who taunt You have fallen on Me."

† Quoting Psalm 69:9, Paul shows Christ bore reproach for others. He is the model for selfless service.

Romans 15:4

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

† The Scriptures of Israel were written for believers' instruction. Their purpose was to produce perseverance, encouragement, and hope.

Romans 15:5-6

Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, so that with one purpose and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

† Unity in Christ glorifies God. Diversity of background must yield to harmony in Christ.

Romans 15:7

Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us, for the glory of God.

† Mutual acceptance reflects Christ's acceptance. This glorifies God by showing the unity of Jew and Gentile in one body.

Romans 15:8-9

For I say that Christ has become a servant to the circumcision in behalf of the truth of God, to confirm the promises given to

the fathers, and for the Gentiles to glorify God for His mercy; as it is written: "Therefore I will give praise to You among the Gentiles, and I will sing praises to Your name."

† Christ came first to Israel, confirming God's promises, but also extended mercy to the Gentiles.

† Psalm 18:49 foresaw Gentiles praising God. Paul shows this prophecy fulfilled.

Romans 15:10-12

Again it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with His people." And again, "Praise the Lord all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise Him." Again Isaiah says, "There shall come the root of Jesse, and He who arises to rule over the Gentiles, in Him will the Gentiles hope."

† Paul piles up Old Testament prophecies (Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalm 117:1, Isaiah 11:10) showing Gentile inclusion. This was always God's plan.

Romans 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

† Paul prays for joy, peace, and hope through the Spirit. Fulfillment brings abundance of hope.

Romans 15:14

And concerning you, my brothers and sisters, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another.

† Paul commends their maturity. They are equipped to admonish each other in goodness and knowledge.

Romans 15:15-16

But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given to me from God, to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

† Paul describes his ministry as priestly, offering Gentiles as a sanctified sacrifice to God through the Spirit.

Romans 15:17-19

Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God. For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and all around as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

† Paul's mission extended widely, from Jerusalem to Illyricum (modern Balkans). Signs and wonders confirmed his ministry.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 2.22) confirms Paul's wide missionary work.

Romans 15:20-21

And in this way I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already known by name, so that I would not build on another person's foundation; but just as it is written: "They who have not been told about Him will see, and they who have not heard will understand."

† Paul cites Isaiah 52:15, showing his mission was to unreached peoples.

Romans 15:22-24

For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you; but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you whenever I go to Spain- for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while-

† Paul expresses his long desire to visit Rome on his way to Spain.

Romans 15:25-27

but now, I am going to Jerusalem, serving the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share with the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to serve them also in material things.

† Gentile churches supported the poor saints in Jerusalem. Paul shows unity expressed through material support.

Romans 15:28-29

Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain. I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

† Paul intended to go to Spain via Rome. Whether he reached Spain remains uncertain, but tradition affirms he tried.

Romans 15:30-32

Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you

in joy by the will of God and relax in your company.

† Paul requests prayer for safety from unbelieving Jews and for acceptance of the Gentile gift in Jerusalem.

† Josephus records rising Jewish hostility toward Christians in this period, confirming Paul's concern.

Romans 15:33

Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

† Paul closes with a benediction of peace, appropriate for a letter calling Jew and Gentile into unity.

How it applies to us today

† Strong believers must bear with the weak, imitating Christ's selflessness.

† The Scriptures encourage us with hope, fulfilled in Christ.

† Unity of Jew and Gentile shows God's plan of mercy for all nations.

† Support for one another, in spiritual and material ways, remains essential in the covenant community.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 38 – Seeking others' good

† Psalm 69:9 – Reproach of Christ

† Psalm 18:49 – Gentiles praising God

† Deuteronomy 32:43 – Gentiles rejoicing with Israel

† Psalm 117:1 – All peoples praising God

† Isaiah 11:10 – Root of Jesse as Gentile hope

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.22 – Paul's mission to Illyricum

† Isaiah 52:15 – Those who have not heard will understand

† Josephus, Antiquities 20.9 – Jewish hostility toward Christians

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