

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 15

Lesson 18

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Recall a truth you received last week concerning your Christian liberties and/or limitations.
2. Did you know that as a believer in Jesus Christ you are called to ministry? It's true! The word *ministry* means *to serve*. Our first ministry is to God as we continually offer up our lives as *living sacrifices*. Other ministries ensue from this first order. We are all called to minister the Gospel. We are all called to minister God's grace. We are all called to minister to other believers. We are also all called to minister in prayer. Jesus is our great example in ministry, for He *did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many*. (Matthew 20:28)

In Romans 15 Paul emphasized the ministry of believers. He began with the ministry that we as believers are to have toward one another. He used Jesus as our example in ministry, and cited God's Word and prayer as the power for ministry. Paul also spoke of his own ministry, and his need for the Roman believers to minister to him through prayer. As you read over Romans 15, use the following divisions to jot down any insights you receive concerning ministry:

- a. Romans 15:1-6
 - b. Romans 15:7-13
 - c. Romans 15:14-21
 - d. Romans 15:22-33
3. Ask God to minister to you through His Word and make you an effective minister of Jesus Christ.

Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be likeminded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 15:5-6

SECOND DAY: Read Romans 15:1–6

1. In Romans 14 Paul addressed the ministry that believers have toward someone with a *weak* conscience. In Romans 15:1 how did he encourage *strong* believers to act?
2. Write the principle Paul stated in Romans 15:2.
 - a. Link this with Philippians 2:3–4. How does this support the principle given in Romans 15:2?
3. From Romans 15:3 comment on the ultimate example of self-sacrifice.
 - a. Use Philippians 2:5–9 to describe this example more fully.
4. What did Paul say about those things that *were written before*? Romans 15:4a
 - a. Note and comment on what the *Scriptures* are to produce in our lives. Romans 15:4b
 - (1) Share a way this speaks to you concerning God's Word.
5. How does the description of God from Paul's prayer minister to you? Romans 15:5a
 - a. From Romans 15:5b–6 record Paul's two prayer requests for these believers:
 - (1) Verse 5b
 - (2) Verse 6
 - b. Why do you think Paul was compelled to pray these things?

THIRD DAY: Read Romans 15:7-13

1. According to Romans 15:7, we are to *receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God*. The word *receive* means *to take as one's companion, to grant access to one's heart*. How does this speak to you concerning:
 - a. Christ's actions toward us
 - b. Our actions toward others
2. Romans 15:8-9a (NLT) says, *Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises He made to their ancestors. He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for His mercies to them*. Why did Christ come:
 - a. To the Jews
 - b. To the Gentiles
3. Paul cited the following Old Testament Scriptures in Romans 15:9b-12. Comment on God's purposes:
 - a. Verse 9b (Psalm 18:49)
 - b. Verse 10 (Deuteronomy 32:43a)
 - c. Verse 11 (Psalm 117:1)
 - d. Verse 12 (Isaiah 11:10)

(1) Which of these Scriptures stands out to you?

4. Use Romans 15:13 to fill in the blanks:

Now may the God of _____ fill you with all _____ and _____ in _____, that you may _____ by the power of the _____.

- a. How does this verse inspire you?

FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 15:14-21

1. From Romans 15:14 list three things Paul was *confident* about concerning the brethren:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - (1) Romans 15:14b (NLT) says, *You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them.* How are these Romans believers an example to you?
2. According to Romans 15:15a, Paul felt he needed to write *more boldly on some points* as a reminder to these believers. Link this with Philippians 3:1b and 2 Peter 1:12. Why do you think it is important to be reminded of biblical truths?
3. Romans 15:15b-16 (NLT) says, *For by God's grace, I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit.* Describe Paul's ministry to the Gentiles.
4. In what *things* did Paul *glory*? Romans 15:17
 - a. What did he refuse to *speak of*? Romans 15:18
 - (1) Connect this with Galatians 6:14. What is noteworthy about Paul's commitment?
5. According to Romans 15:19, what did God accomplish through Paul?
6. From Romans 15:20 remark on Paul's *aim*.
 - a. In Romans 15:21 Paul again quoted Isaiah. How did Paul's ministry mirror this prophecy?
7. Paul's authority came from *the grace given to him by God*. Share a way you have seen God's grace empower you.

FIFTH DAY: Read Romans 15:22–33

1. Paul wanted desperately to visit the church in Rome, but he was *hindered* (Romans 15:22). Use Romans 15:23–24 to describe Paul's:
 - a. Travel plans
 - b. *Desire* to see the Roman believers
2. According to Romans 15:25a, Paul planned on first *going to Jerusalem*. From Romans 15:25b–26 identify the purpose for his visit.
3. Use Romans 15:27 (NLT) to explain Paul's motive for collecting a *contribution*: *They were glad to do this because they feel they owe a real debt to them. Since the Gentiles received the spiritual blessings of the Good News from the believers in Jerusalem, they feel the least they can do in return is to help them financially.*
4. In Romans 15:28 Paul told the Romans that after delivering the *contribution* to Jerusalem, he would come visit them on his way to Spain. How did he describe his anticipated visit to Rome? Romans 15:29
5. Paul requested prayer from the Roman believers. Use Romans 15:30–33 to note and comment on:
 - a. His desire to partner with them in prayer (verse 30)
 - b. His ministry plans (verse 31)
 - c. His coming to Rome (verse 32)
 - d. His benediction (verse 33)
6. According to Acts, Paul's plans did not go as he expected. What does this suggest to you about plans? See also Proverbs 16:9.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week in Romans 15, record a few insights about:
 - a. Ministry to weaker believers (Romans 15:1-2)
 - b. Jesus' ministry (Romans 15:3, 8)
 - c. Ministry to the Gentiles (Romans 15:9-12)
 - d. Paul's ministry (Romans 15:15-29)
 - e. Ministry of prayer (Romans 15:5, 13, 30-33)
2. In what way has God called you to minister to:
 - a. Believers
 - b. Unbelievers
 - c. Leadership
 - d. Jesus

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

Romans 15:13