

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 01 Mar 2020.....	Romans 01a.....	Compelled
2) 08 Mar.....	Romans 01b.....	Guilty
3) 15 Mar.....	Romans 02.....	Insufficient
4) 22 Mar.....	Romans 03-04.....	Justified
5) 29 Mar.....	Romans 05.....	At Peace
6) 05 April.....	Romans 06-07.....	Free
7) 12 April.....	Luke 24:1-12 [EASTER].....	Raised
8) 19 April.....	Romans 08-09.....	Secured
9) 26 April.....	Romans 10.....	Saved
10) 03 May.....	Romans 11.....	Mercy
11) 10 May.....	Romans 12.....	Sacrifices
12) 17 May.....	Romans 13.....	Citizens
13) 24 May.....	Romans 14.....	Accepting
<b>14) 31 May.....</b>	<b>Romans 15-16.....</b>	<b>Reach</b>

**INTRODUCTION**

- In Romans 15, we see striving in prayer yields great results, and when the strong support the weak within the church God will work with us to accomplish what needs to be done
- ...and in Romans 16, we are introduced to more than 30 saints who supported the furtherance of the Gospel. It is important to acknowledge hard working saints in our midst and to support them.

Passage	Comments
Romans 15:1-6	<p><b>Priorities in Life Do Not Include Pleasing Ourselves</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can we support the weaker church members?                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Must evaluate each situation and properly give the right kind of help when needed</li> <li>◆ Support could be for food, shelter, discipleship, encouragement, a shoulder to cry on, helping hands, transportation, job training, counseling, money, etc.</li> <li>◆ The intent is to bear one another's burdens until such time the weak become strong, independent, and begin to help others..... <a href="#">Gal 6:2</a>; <a href="#">1Thes 4:12</a></li> <li>◆ <b>Warning</b> – Money could be the worst thing to give - Prodigal situations dictate using other principles. Recall how the prodigal son came to his senses and humbly went home after he realized nobody gave him anything..... <a href="#">Luke 15:16-17</a></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15:7-13	<p><b>Be Accepting of Others, Serve the Body of Believers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v8. Just as Christ became a servant (greek: diakonos), we should be servants to one another – meet the needs of others before we satisfy our own needs</li> <li>• v13. This is Paul's prayer that we should abound, not in money, but in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit – &amp; the God of hope fills us with "joy and peace," not cash</li> <li>• Recall <a href="#">Rom 14:17</a> - God's kingdom is not meat &amp; drink; but righteousness, peace, &amp; joy in the Holy Ghost</li> <li>• This is faith-produced feelings, not faith built on feelings</li> </ul>
15:14-21	<p><b>We Must Fully Preach the Gospel to Reach &amp; Keep</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics show the majority of church kids mentally leave the church during high school, and physically leave the church a few years after graduation</li> <li>• The Church is losing its next generation of leaders</li> <li>• Losing kids from church is just a byproduct of the real problem – God's word is non-essential for most</li> </ul> <p><b>"Where Europe is today spiritually, America will be tomorrow—and for the same reasons" – Ken Ham</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reverse this trend, consider the following:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Changing music &amp; worship styles is not working</li> <li>◆ Injecting technology into Church is not working</li> <li>◆ Having entertaining programs is not working</li> <li>◆ Must teach the whole counsel of God from Gen-Rev</li> <li>◆ Must show how the Bible is accurate and relevant</li> <li>◆ Must pray &amp; work in the power of the Holy Spirit</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<p>What were some of those Signs and Wonders?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 100% Healings? <input type="checkbox"/> Prophecies? <input type="checkbox"/> Levitation?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Speaking in Tongues? <input type="checkbox"/> Interpreting Tongues?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Casting out Demons? <input type="checkbox"/> Resurrecting the dead?</p> <hr/> <p>If Paul, through the power of the Holy Spirit, used signs and wonders to "fully preach the Gospel of Christ" can we invoke the same signs and wonders today?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes   <input type="checkbox"/> No   <input type="checkbox"/> Maybe   <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scripture gives plenty evidence for the cessation of Apostles, Prophets, and the signs of an Apostle (see lesson from <a href="#">1Corinthians 12.14</a>)</li> <li>• For example, do we still see Apostles today, men like Peter and Paul, who have substantiated credentials of being handpicked by Jesus Christ, Himself? .....<b>NO!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ If we did, the Bible would include more books than the 66 we currently accept as God-inspired since every Apostolic letter &amp; email would be included</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <hr/> <p>BUT can we have the power of the Holy Spirit without the evidence of signs and wonders? ..... <b>ABSOLUTELY, YES!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God loves to work providentially through men and women who are obedient to His word, who fervently strive in prayer, and who live a righteous life</li> <li>• Will signs &amp; wonders once again be invoked? ..... <b>YES!</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Read about the 2 witnesses in Revelations 11</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15:22-29	<p><b>More Priorities – Meet Needs before Taking Vacation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v22. Paul wanted badly to visit the Roman church, but there were more pressing hardships in Jerusalem                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Even Satan hindered Paul's plans ..... <a href="#">1Thes 2:18</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• v27. We are indebted to the Jews                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ What have we done to show our appreciation?</li> <li>◆ Have we prayed for the peace of Israel?..... <a href="#">Ps 122:6</a></li> <li>◆ Do we contribute to any worthy Jewish ministries?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
15:30-33	<p><b>More Priorities– Strive in Prayer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v30. Even the sign-producing and wonder-working Paul requested that saints strive in prayer with him &amp; for him                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ ...To be rescued from the enemy</li> <li>◆ ...For acceptance by those he helped (often times people are ungrateful for any acts of kindness)</li> <li>◆ ...For traveling mercy and reasons for joy . <a href="#">1Ths 3:10</a></li> <li>◆ ...To find a time of rest/relaxation</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**ROMANS 15 CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- It is easy to lose sight of our priorities in life. We like to think getting our needs met is at the top of the list.
- But to have true JOY and peace in the "power of the Holy Spirit" means putting things in the proper order **J**esus – **O**thers – **Y**ourself

**The top 10 reasons why 60 percent of evangelical kids leave the church after graduating high school**

1. 12% Boring service
2. 12% Legalism
3. 11% Hypocrisy of leaders
4. 10% Too political
5. 9% Self-righteous people
6. 7% Distance from home
7. 6% Not relevant to personal growth
8. 6% God would not condemn to hell
9. 5% Bible not relevant/not practical
10. 5% Couldn't find my preferred denomination in the area

Source: *Already Gone*, by Ken Ham and Britt Beemer, 2011

**ROMANS 16 INTRODUCTION**

- We are introduced to more than 35 saints in this last chapter who had special meaning for Paul. They were acknowledged as either part of his biological or spiritual family ('my kinsmen'), or as beloved individuals, hard workers, or just had their names mentioned
- Paul acknowledged one church (in Aquila & Priscilla's house), two households (Aristobolus & Narcissus), & a bunch of "brethren"
- Paul also acknowledged **10 women** in this litany of names on par with the renowned men listed, with the exception of Phoebe, the very first person mentioned, and she is held up in higher esteem above all others for her dedicated service as a servant/deaconess
- Finally, Paul tells this hard-charging church to keep a watchful eye on troublemakers, false teachers, and dissenters within their church

No.	Vs	Name	Sex	Credit
1.	v1	Phoebe	F	Deaconess from Cenchrea (near Corinth), and courier of this letter
<p><b>Note:</b> Some churches use this passage (v1) to justify women deacons on par with male deacons. Other churches see Phoebe as a servant (more generalized term). <b>Mat 23:11</b> states "Those that are greatest among you shall be your servant (diakonos)." Jesus also was called a servant (diakonos). So, Phoebe was in great company.</p> <p>Phoebe's dedicated service matches the meaning of her name '<b>radiant</b>'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phoebe carried Paul's letter from Corinthian to the Roman church, a distance over 600 miles. The trip would take 2 hours by plane, 12 hours by car; 6 days by bicycle; or 1-2 months by walking and sailing</li> <li>• Paul acknowledged Phoebe's important role at her home church as a servant/deaconess, and she took time to deliver this important letter</li> <li>• Paul stressed to the Roman believers to treat Phoebe in a very special way – as one of the saints, and to pull out all stops to help her <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ What would this help look like? Travel money back? New sandals?</li> <li>♦ How do we treat missionaries when they take time away from their field of service to pay us a visit with news from abroad?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>				
2.	v12	Tryphaena	F	Workers in the Lord, probably
3.	v12	Tryphosa	F	sisters. Names mean 'luxury'
4.	v12	Persis	F	Beloved and hard worker
<p>Paul addressed Persis as "beloved" but some men as "MY beloved"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persis was either cherished by many, or Paul avoided impropriety</li> </ul>				
5.	v6	Mary	F	Hard worker (6 <sup>th</sup> Mary in NT)
6.	v13	Rufus' Mother	F	...and Paul's mother (term of endearment)
7-8	v15	Julia (F) and Nereus' Sister		
9.	v3	Prisca/Priscilla	F	Husband/wife team. Fellow workers
10.	v3	Aquila	M	who risked their lives for Paul
<p>Priscilla &amp; Aquilla are mentioned 6x in NT. Both were instrumental in discipling Apollos (<b>Acts 18:24-28</b>) so he could better articulate the Gospel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priscilla/Aquilla traveled with Paul on his 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey and somehow ended up in or near Rome and started their own church</li> <li>• Paul tells the Roman believers to greet the church in their house</li> </ul>				
11.	7	Andronicus	M	My kinsmen & fellow prisoners who are outstanding among the Apostles (were they Apostles?)
12.	7	Junia/Junias	F/M	
<p><b>Note:</b> Apostolic-type churches use this passage (v7) &amp; <b>Acts 14:14</b> to justify succession of Apostles, &amp; women can be Apostles, assuming Junia (F) is the correct translation and Andronicus and Junia/Junias were indeed Apostles. A more conservative interpretation just sees Andronicus and Junia having a great reputation among the Apostles</p>				
13-16	11,21	Herodian, Lucius, Jason, Sosipater		My Kinsmen
17-19	5,8,9	Epaenetus, Ampliatus, Stachys		My beloved friends

No.	Vs	Name	Sex	Credit
20.	9	Urbanus	M	Our fellow worker
21.	21	Timothy	M	My fellow worker
<b>Note:</b> There isn't enough daylight to talk about Timothy. Save for later				
22.	10	Apelies	M	The Approved in Christ
23.	13	Rufus	M	A choice man
24-31	14-15	More names without credit: Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, Philologus, Nereus, Olympas		
32.	22	Tertius	M	Writer of Letter as Paul dictated
33.	23	Gaius	M	Paul's host
34.	23	Erastus	M	City Treasurer
35.	23	Quartus	M	The brother
Passage		Comments		
Romans 16:16		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greet/Salute is used 16x in this chapter.</li> <li>• The world will know we are Christ' by our love for each other.....<b>John 13:35</b></li> </ul>		
16:17-18		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid those who cause dissension (fools)..... <b>Prov 14:7</b></li> <li>• Why not reprove them? <b>Titus 3:10</b> says to reject those after the 2<sup>nd</sup> admonition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Discernment is KEY. A misdirected or mis-focused brother, or sister, Yes, admonish, correct</li> <li>♦ BUT fools required different principles</li> <li>♦ For example, contending with fools is a no-win situation. When you wrestle with a pig you both get muddy and the pig likes it ..... <b>Prov 26:4,5; 29:9</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Parallel passages include <b>Mat 7:15; Gal 1:8; 2Thes 3:6,14; 1Tim 6:3-5; 2Tim 3:5; Titus 3:10; 2John 1:10</b></li> </ul>		
16:25-26		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Long-kept mystery now revealed</b> – The Gospel is for ALL nations, for ALL peoples, able to save ALL those who willingly come to Jesus Christ by faith</li> </ul>		

**CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS**

- It is important to acknowledge hard working saints in our midst and to uphold them, support them, and yes, treat them differently - Pastors, Ministers, and workers such as nursery/children's workers
  - ♦ Elders (Pastors) should receive double honor..... **1Tim 5:17**
  - ♦ We bless those materially who bless us spiritually..... **Acts 28:10**
  - ♦ Nursery & children's workers should at least be relieved and not carry the burden all by themselves. Share the workload. Don't treat them as free babysitters while you enjoy the sermon & fellowship
- All of these listed saints will hear the Lord's tribute to them, "Well done thou good and faithful servant"
  - ♦ Will we hear this about our service?

**NEXT WEEK: Proverbs 1.** Solomon was known as a wise man, but he was not very prudent. He knew what to do, but he often did things his own way. But that doesn't mean God couldn't use him to write sound proverbs, which would be included into Holy Script and for us to learn from.



**Keep your eyes on those who cause problems...Rom 16:17**