

- **Unity and Sharing:** “contribution” is literally *koinonian* (a “fellowship”) – a way to show unity between Gentile and Jewish sectors of the Church.
- **Obligation:** It was something owed by Gentiles to the Jews since they have benefited from the Jewish new covenantal blessings (see chapters 9-11).
- **Witness:** This gift may also be part of how the Gentiles spur Israel to embrace the Lord out of envy (chapters 9-11).
- **Joy:** It was a pleasure for them to give.
- Paul has confidence he will complete his mission and come to them to go to Spain.
- His role is to “deliver”– literally “*put a seal on*”
- “what has been collected” – literally “*the fruit*”
- When he does, he will come in full blessing of Christ.

“Paul may... want to make sure... Jewish Christians in Jerusalem understand the [gift’s] significance... a sign of the worldwide rule of God, bringing Gentiles, together with Jews, into one united people of God.” C. Ash

3. PRESENT: An Appeal for Prayer Support – 15:30-33

- He appeals or urges them to support him in prayer.
- The prayer is a work of striving (Greek: “*agonize*”).
- He asks prayer for deliverance from Jewish unbelievers, acceptance of the offering by the Jewish church, and that by God’s will he may come in joy to Rome.
- Then a brief benediction for the God of peace to be with them all.

Schedule:

- We conclude Romans next week (7/20).

Previous Handouts

- Online: www.theheightschurchmn.org/adult-sunday-school

Credits:

Main sources for outline and shared quotes are:

- *Epistle to The Romans (NICNT)* by Douglas Moo [Eerdmans, 1996]
- *Romans (IVPNTC)* by Grant Osborne [IVP, 2004]
- *Teaching Romans, Volume Two: Unlocking Romans 9-16 for the Bible Teacher* by Christopher Ash [Christian Focus, 2009]
- *Paul’s Letter to the Romans (PNTC)* by Colin G. Kruse [Eerdmans, 2012]

V. Transforming Power of Gospel: Christian Conduct (12:1-15:13)

B. Love and Unity in the Community (14:1-15:13)

3. Bear with the Failings of the Weak – 15:1-6

4. Accept One Another - 15:7-13

a) Exhortation to All: Welcome One Another (15:7a)

- “Therefore” – Connecting the call to welcome others, is our desire that God be glorified.
- “Welcome” again means more than just “tolerate” – it is to welcome into your home, an intimate, familial reception.

b) Reasons for the Exhortation: Christ Has Welcomed All of You, and Confirms God’s Covenant Promises to Jews & Gentiles (15:7b-9a)

- (1) Christ Welcomed them first (15:7b)
- (2) Christ’s Ongoing Work Is Devoted to their Unity (15:7b)
 - Servant/Minister of the Jews to show God’s faithfulness – “God keeps his covenant promises.”
 - (a) To confirm (or guarantee) the promises to the patriarchs.
 - (b) So that the Gentiles will glorify God for His mercy.

c) OT Proofs: God has All Along Intended Mercy for the Gentiles Who Shall Praise and Hope in Him (15:9b-12)

- **Psalm 18:49** [2 Sam. 22:50]
 - In this psalm, David praises God after defeating his enemies. – From among them, he praises God.
 - David is a type of Christ here as “head of the nations”.

“Through his death and resurrection, Gentiles who had not known the righteous rule of the Lord can now be brought into submission to him, glorifying him for his mercy to them.” ~ Doug Moo

- **Deuteronomy 32:43** [Greek OT]

- In this song, Moses “calls upon the nations to rejoice with Israel that God has delivered them.”

- **Psalm 117:1**

- Again the Gentiles [*all nations... all peoples*] are asked to praise God, specifically for his mercy and truth (per the OT Greek) [*both terms emphasized in Rom. 15:8-9*].

- **Isaiah 11:10** [Greek OT]

- In this passage, Isaiah speaks of the messianic “root of Jesse” who “arises” (alludes to Jesus’ resurrection) to rule nations.

- In the Messiah – the Gentiles will hope.
- “Hope” looks back to 15:4 what the Scriptures bring – and it looks forward to the prayer of 15:13.

d) Concluding Prayer-wish: (15:13)

- “Peace and joy refer to the internal harmony and joyous spirit that come to the church through the Holy Spirit in 14:17.” (Osborne)

VI. The Letter Closing (15:14-16:27)

A. Paul’s Ministry and Travel Plans (15:14-33)

1. PAST: Paul’s Ministry in the East (to Gentiles) - 15:14-21

a) Paul affirms the Roman Believers and Explains the Nature of His Ministry (15:14-16)

- He is confident they are good, knowledgeable and can instruct.
- Paul’s boldness in part, is by way of reminder and because of his authority as a minister to the Gentiles.
- Paul has a special role to perform priestly service as a minister by offering the Gentiles as spiritual sacrifices to God.

“it is ultimately God himself, by his Holy Spirit, who ‘sanctifies’ Gentiles, turning them from unclean and sinful creatures to ‘holy’ offerings fit for the service and praise of a holy God.” ~ Doug Moo

b) Paul Boasts in What Christ has Done through Him (15:17-21)

- (1) Paul’s Boasting (15:17-18b)
 - Christ is the **actor**, Paul is just the **instrument**.
 - He describes the harvest as bringing the Gentiles to “obedience”.
- (2) Paul’s Ministry (15:18c-21)
 - (a) His Preaching (15:18c)
 - “by word and deed” – this is Paul’s preaching and laboring in the Gospel – ordinary faithfulness to spread the gospel
 - (b) His Power (15:19a)
 - “by the power of signs and wonders” – these are the signs of an apostle (2 Cor. 12:12)

“The word ‘signs’ speaks of the meaning of the miracles (as ‘signposts’ to truth), and the word ‘miracles’ (or ‘wonders’) to their character as surprising and wonderful” ~ Christian Ash

- “by the power of the Spirit of God” – the Holy Spirit used both preaching and practical ministry, and apostolic signs.

(c) His Plan (15:19b; 20b-21)

- Paul’s strategy has been to do pioneer mission work and not build on another’s foundation.

John Stott: *“His own calling and gift as apostle to the Gentiles was to pioneer the evangelization of the Gentile world, and then leave to others, especially to local, residential presbyters, the pastoral care of the churches.”*

(d) His Ambition (15:20a)

- Paul’s “aim”, “ambition” what he “strived” or “aspired” to was spreading the Gospel.

2. FUTURE: Jerusalem, Rome, and Spain – 15:22-29

- We can compare Paul’s plans with what Acts 20-28 records.
- He did intend to leave the East finally (Acts 20:25).
- He intended to go on a fourth missionary journey to Spain.

a) Paul’s Plan to Visit Rome on His Way to Spain (15:22-24)

- Paul now gets back to his point – this strategy and burden to minister to the Gentiles where Christ is not named – that has prevented and hindered him from coming to Rome.
- Now he has no “room” or “place” anymore for pioneer work. (v. 23a)
- So his plan is to come to Rome on his way to Spain. He wants to now focus on the West.
- Paul’s desire is “to be helped” on his journey by them.

b) His Duty to Bring the Collection to Jerusalem First (15:25-29)

- (1) About the Collection
 - A contribution has been set aside by the Gentile churches of Macedonia (Philippi) and Achaia (Corinth) for the poor Christians among the Jewish Churches.
 - This collection for the poor is what the church at Corinth was setting aside weekly (1 Cor. 16:2).
 - Yet they had to be stirred up to make good on their promises to give (2 Cor. 8-9).
 - The poor Gentiles in Macedonia were an inspiration to the church at Corinth to give.
 - Not just Philippi and Corinth: Acts 20:4 indicates there were people with Paul (presumably to help with the collection) from other churches (Berea, Thessalonica, Derbe, & Asia [Minor]).

(2) Purpose for the Collection