

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE
ROMANS

Lesson 19

The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God:
The Righteousness of God Demonstrated in Christian Liberties, Part 2
(Romans 15:1-13)

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION

(1:1-17)

PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God

(1:18 to 8:39)

PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God

(9:1 to 11:36)

PART 3: The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God

(12:1 to 15:13)

(A) The Righteousness of God Demonstrated in Christian Duties (12:1 to 13:14)

(B) The Righteousness of God Demonstrated in Christian Liberties (14:1 to 15:13)

1) Principles of Christian Liberty

(14:1-23)



2) **Practices** of Christian Liberty

(15:1-13)

Romans 15:1

- ¹ We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

A healthy congregation will be a mix of seasoned believers and novices in Christ. Those who are strong in faith have a special duty to those who are weak:



Romans 15:1

¹ **We then that are strong** ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Our strength is measured by our calm assurance in the saving grace of Christ.



Romans 15:1

- ¹ We then that are strong ought to bear the **infirmities** of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

Strong's Bible Concordance

INFIRMITIES

ἀσθένημα asthenema

error arising from weakness of mind.



Romans 15:1

- ¹ We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, **and not to please ourselves.**

Our love is measured by our sacrifice for others.



Romans 15:2-4

- 2 Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification.
- 3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written,
The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.
- 4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

The essence of Christian love – the willingness to suffer for the benefit of those who scarcely appreciate it – is modeled most perfectly by Christ himself.



Romans 15:2-4

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Reproaches: scorn and taunts



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This is from Psalm 69:

- 7 Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face.
- 8 I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.
- 9 For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.



Romans 15:2-4

- ² Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification.
- ³ For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written,
The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.
- ⁴ For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

We can expect a similar experience:

John 15:18-19, 21

- ¹⁸ If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before *it hated* you.
- ¹⁹ If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.
- ²¹ But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.



Romans 15:2-4

- 2 Let every one of us please *his* neighbour for *his* good to edification.
- 3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.
- 4 **For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning,** that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

The suffering Jesus endured on our behalf was written for our learning. The reproaches he bore for us teach us about “bearing the infirmities of the weak and pleasing not ourselves.”



Romans 15:5-7

- 5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:
- 6 That ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 7 Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

Now, Paul prays that all Christians will walk in the unity that can only be found in Christ:



Romans 15:8-9a

- ⁸ Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers:
- ⁹ And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy;

As this section – and this epistle – draws closer to its conclusion, Paul celebrates the truth that Jesus came to save both Jews and Gentiles.



Romans 15:8-9a

- ⁸ Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers:
- ⁹ And that the Gentiles might glorify God for *his* mercy;

Peter was the apostle to the circumcision and Paul the apostle to the uncircumcision.

Jesus Christ was minister to both.



Romans 15:9b

⁹ as it is written,
For this cause I will confess to thee among
the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

Paul quotes the Psalms, the Law, and the Prophets to show that God's purpose has always been to unite both Jew and Gentile into one body.



Romans 15:9b

⁹ as it is written,

For this cause I will confess to thee among
the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

This is from Psalm 18:

⁴⁹ Therefore will I give thanks unto
thee, O LORD, among the heathen,
and sing praises unto thy name.



Romans 15:10

¹⁰ And again he saith,
Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

This is from the Law.



Romans 15:10

¹⁰ And again he saith,
Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

Deuteronomy 32:43

⁴³ Rejoice, O ye nations, *with his people*: for he will avenge the blood of his servants, and will render vengeance to his adversaries, and will be merciful unto his land, *and to his people*.



Romans 15:11

¹¹ And again,

Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles;
and laud him, all ye people.

Next, Paul quotes Psalm 117.



Romans 15:11

¹¹ And again,

Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles;
and laud him, all ye people.

Psalm 117:1-2

¹ O praise the LORD, all ye nations:
praise him, all ye people.

² For his merciful kindness is great
toward us:
and the truth of the LORD
endureth for ever.

Praise ye the LORD.



Romans 15:11

¹¹ And again,

Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles;
and laud him, all ye people.

Psalm 117:1-2

¹ O praise the LORD, all ye nations:
praise him, all ye people.

² For his merciful kindness is great
toward us:
and the truth of the LORD
endureth for ever.

Praise ye the LORD.

With only 2 verses, Psalm 117 is the shortest psalm in the Bible
and the only one that speaks exclusively to the Gentiles.



Romans 15:12

¹² And again, Esaias saith,
There shall be a root of Jesse,
and he that shall rise to reign over the
Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

Now from the prophet Isaiah:



Romans 15:12

¹² And again, Esaias saith,
There shall be a root of Jesse,
and he that shall rise to reign over the
Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

Isaiah 11:10

¹⁰ And in that day there shall be a
root of Jesse, which shall stand for
an ensign of the people;
to it shall the Gentiles seek:
and his rest shall be glorious.



Romans 15:13

¹³ Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Paul concludes this part of his epistle with another prayer that shows God's desire for his church:



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CONCLUSION	(15:4 to 16:27)

UP NEXT

Only one lesson remains:

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. According to Romans 15:1, what is the duty of "strong" Christians?
2. In Romans 15:9 to 12, Paul quotes the Psalms, the Law, and the Prophets. What two Psalms does he quote?
3. What part of the Law does he quote?
4. What does he quote from the Prophets?
5. What is God's desire for his church, revealed by Paul's two prayers in this section (15:5-6 and verse 13)?
6. Bonus question (worth 20 points): In these two prayers, what are the three names given to God?

Each question is worth 20 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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