

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE  
**ROMANS**

Lesson 23  
The CONCLUSION to the Epistle  
(Romans 15:4 to 16:27)

## 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)
CONCLUSION	(15:4 to 16:27)

The previous section ended with Paul's prayer for the united church of Christian Jews and Gentiles. Now he writes specifically to the Christians in Rome, although many of the truths are good for all Christians.

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The conclusion to this epistle has three parts:

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CONCLUSION	(15:4 to 16:27)
1) Paul's Purpose for Writing	(15:14-21)
2) Paul's Purpose for Traveling	(15:22-33)
2) Paul's Praise and Greetings	(16:1-27)

## Paul's Purpose for Writing (15:14-21)

### **Romans 15:14**

<sup>14</sup> And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Paul had close ties to many of the Christians living in Rome, having met them on various occasions in his travels.



## Paul's Purpose for Writing (15:14-21)

### **Romans 15:15-16**

- <sup>15</sup> Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God,
- <sup>16</sup> That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

He now states his purpose in writing this epistle – to fulfill his special appointment as the minister to the Gentiles:





## Paul's Purpose for Writing (15:14-21)

### Romans 15:17-19

- <sup>17</sup> I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.
- <sup>18</sup> For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,
- <sup>19</sup> Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Paul would only testify of his own experiences in the mission field.



## Paul's Purpose for Writing (15:14-21)

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<sup>19</sup> Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Your first-hand account of what Christ has done *for you and through you* is the greatest testimony you can give.





## Paul's Purpose for Writing (15:14-21)

### Romans 15:17-19

- 17 I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.
- 18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,
- 19 Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, **and round about unto Illyricum**, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.



## Paul's Purpose for Writing (15:14-21)

### Romans 15:20-21

<sup>20</sup> Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

<sup>21</sup> But as it is written,

To whom he was not spoken of,  
they shall see:  
and they that have not heard  
shall understand.

There was a certain kind of place Paul looked for to do his missions.



**Romans 15:20-21**

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<sup>21</sup> But as it is written,

To whom he was not spoken of,  
they shall see:  
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shall understand.

“He chose rather to go to such Heathen nations, as were wholly without any knowledge of him; who had only the dim light of nature to guide them; had had no promises nor prophecies of the Messiah, nor so much as any hints, at least very distant ones, concerning him; and where as yet the sound of the Gospel had not reached.”



**Romans 15:20-21**

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<sup>21</sup> But as it is written,

To whom he was not spoken of,  
they shall see:  
and they that have not heard  
shall understand.

**This is from Isaiah 52:**

<sup>14</sup> As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:

<sup>15</sup> So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him:

for *that* which had not been told them shall they see; and *that* which they had not heard shall they consider.



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## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

### **Romans 15:22**

<sup>22</sup> For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.

He began this letter saying, “For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift” (1:11).

Now he explains what kept him away.



## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

### Romans 15:22

<sup>22</sup> **For which cause** also I have been much hindered from coming to you.

### **For which cause:**

Because of the work he did “from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum,” as he “strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named.”





## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

### Romans 15:23-24

- <sup>23</sup> But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you;
- <sup>24</sup> Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you:  
for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your *company*.

Now that his work was complete in these regions, he intended to stop in Rome on his way to Spain, hoping to be refreshed by their company, and to receive support for the rest of his journey.



## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

### **Romans 15:25**

<sup>25</sup> But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.

But first, he intended to return to Jerusalem.



## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

### **Romans 15:26-27**

<sup>26</sup> For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

<sup>27</sup> It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

Paul was bringing a donation from their grateful brethren.



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## Wesley's Explanatory Notes

Spiritual things –  
The preaching of the gospel.

Carnal things –  
Things needful for the body.



## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

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Paul wrote about this collection in 1 Corinthians 16 and 2 Corinthians 8 and 9.



## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

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### 1 Corinthians 16:1-3

- <sup>1</sup> Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.
- <sup>2</sup> Upon the first *day* of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.
- <sup>3</sup> And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem.
- <sup>4</sup> And if it be meet that I go also, they shall go with me.



## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

### **Romans 15:28-29**

- <sup>28</sup> When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.
- <sup>29</sup> And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

Again Paul writes that he will visit them after he goes to Jerusalem, on his way toward Spain.





## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

### Romans 15:28-29

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and have sealed to them this fruit,  
I will come by you into Spain.

<sup>29</sup> And I am sure that, when I come unto you,  
**I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of  
the gospel of Christ.**

Remember his prayer at the start of  
this epistle:

### Romans 1:10

Making request, if by any means now  
at length I might have a prosperous  
journey by the will of God to come  
unto you.



Nelson's Complete Book  
of Bible Maps and Charts

“When Paul wrote 2 Corinthians, traveling from Ephesus to Corinth, the collection was still incomplete. At the time he wrote to the church at Rome, this collection seems to have been completed.



Paul's Third Mission

Nelson's Complete Book  
of Bible Maps and Charts

Therefore we assume Paul wrote to the Romans from Corinth where he stayed for three months at the end of his third missionary journey, before he traveled to Jerusalem.”



## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

### Romans 15:30-33

- <sup>30</sup> Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me;
- <sup>31</sup> That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which *I have* for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;
- <sup>32</sup> That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.
- <sup>33</sup> Now the God of peace *be* with you all.  
Amen.

Paul closes this section with a fervent appeal for their prayers.



## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

### Romans 15:30-33

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and that my service which *I have* for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;
- <sup>32</sup> That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.
- <sup>33</sup> Now the God of peace *be* with you all.  
Amen.

1.



## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

### Romans 15:30-33

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**and that my service which I have for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;**
- <sup>32</sup> That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.
- <sup>33</sup> Now the God of peace *be with you all.*  
Amen.

2.





## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

### Romans 15:30-33

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- <sup>32</sup> **That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.**
- <sup>33</sup> Now the God of peace *be* with you all.  
Amen.

3.





## Paul's Purpose for Traveling (15:22-33)

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- <sup>33</sup> Now the God of peace *be* with you all.  
Amen.

It is uncertain whether Paul ever made it to Spain, but we know from the book of Acts that he went to Rome and was imprisoned there.



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Paul now offers special commendations to those who were particularly helpful to him. He begins by asking that they welcome and support “Phebe our sister,” a deaconess who apparently was on her way to Rome from Cenchrea near Corinth.



## Paul's Praise and Greetings (16:1-27)

### Romans 16:1-2

- <sup>1</sup> I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:
- <sup>2</sup> That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.



## Paul's Praise and Greetings (16:1-27)

### Romans 16:3-5a

- 3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:
- 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.
- 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house ...





## Romans 16:5b-16

- 5<sup>b</sup> Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.
- 6 Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.
- 7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.
- 8 Greet Amplias my beloved in the Lord.
- 9 Salute Urbane, our helper in Christ, and Stachys my beloved.
- 10 Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household.
- 11 Salute Herodion my kinsman.



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- 10 Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' *household*.
- 11 Salute Herodion my kinsman.

- Greet them that be of the *household* of Narcissus, which are in the Lord.
- 12 Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who laboured in the Lord.  
Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord.
- 13 Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.
- 14 Salute Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermas, Patrobas, Hermes, and the brethren which are with them.
- 15 Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.
- 16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.

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who also were

8 Greet Amplias

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Greet them that be of the household of Narcissus, which are in the Lord.

12 Salute Tryphena and Tryphosa, who laboured in the Lord.

Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord.

13 Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

Paul called *all* Jews his “kinsman according to the flesh” (9:3), but many commentators believe that these men were his cousins.

which are with them.

15 Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.

16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.



## Romans 16:5b-16

<sup>5b</sup> Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.

<sup>6</sup> Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.

<sup>7</sup> Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and **my fellowprisoners**, who are of note among the apostles,

<sup>8</sup> Greet **It is not known if these men actually shared a cell with Paul, or if they shared the experience of imprisonment for the gospel. Not all of Paul's imprisonments are recorded in the Bible. (2 Corinthians 11:23: "... in prisons more frequent...")**

<sup>9</sup> Salute Stachys my beloved.

<sup>10</sup> Salute Apelles approved in Christ. Salute them which are of Aristobulus' household.

<sup>11</sup> Salute Herodion my kinsman.

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<sup>15</sup> Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.

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## Romans 16:5b-16

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- 6 Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.
- 7 Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.
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Greet them that be of the *household* of Narcissus, which are in the Lord.

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Salute the beloved Persis, which laboured much in the Lord.

- 13 Salute Rufus chosen in the Lord, **and his mother and mine.**

Not Paul's biological mother, but an elderly woman who had showed him great kindness.

which are with them.

- 15 Salute Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints which are with them.

- 16 **Salute one another with an holy kiss.** The churches of Christ salute you.

## Paul's Praise and Greetings (16:1-27)

### Romans 16:17-19

- <sup>17</sup> Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.
- <sup>18</sup> For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.
- <sup>19</sup> For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

Paul interrupts his greetings to warn of men who try to cause division among Christians.

(This is a major theme in his epistle to the Corinthians.)



## Paul's Praise and Greetings (16:1-27)

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WHY do they cause division?



## Paul's Praise and Greetings (16:1-27)

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- <sup>19</sup> For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

HOW do they cause division?



## Paul's Praise and Greetings (16:1-27)

### **Romans 16:20**

<sup>20</sup> And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

He speaks of a promise made by God in Eden:



**Romans 16:20**

<sup>20</sup> **And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you. Amen.

Speaking to the serpent,  
the LORD said in **Genesis 3:15:**

And I will put enmity between thee  
and the woman, and between thy  
seed and her seed;  
it [her seed, Christ] shall bruise thy  
head,  
and thou shalt bruise his heel.





Paul now sends greetings from the people in his company:



## Paul's Praise and Greetings (16:1-27)

### Romans 16:21-22

<sup>21</sup> Timothy my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.

<sup>22</sup> **I Tertius, who wrote *this* epistle, salute you in the Lord.**

<sup>23</sup> Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you.

Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.

<sup>24</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.



## Paul's Praise and Greetings (16:1-27)

### **Romans 16:25-27**

- <sup>25</sup> Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,
- <sup>26</sup> But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:
- <sup>27</sup> To God only wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

Paul's epistle to the church at Rome ends with this benediction:



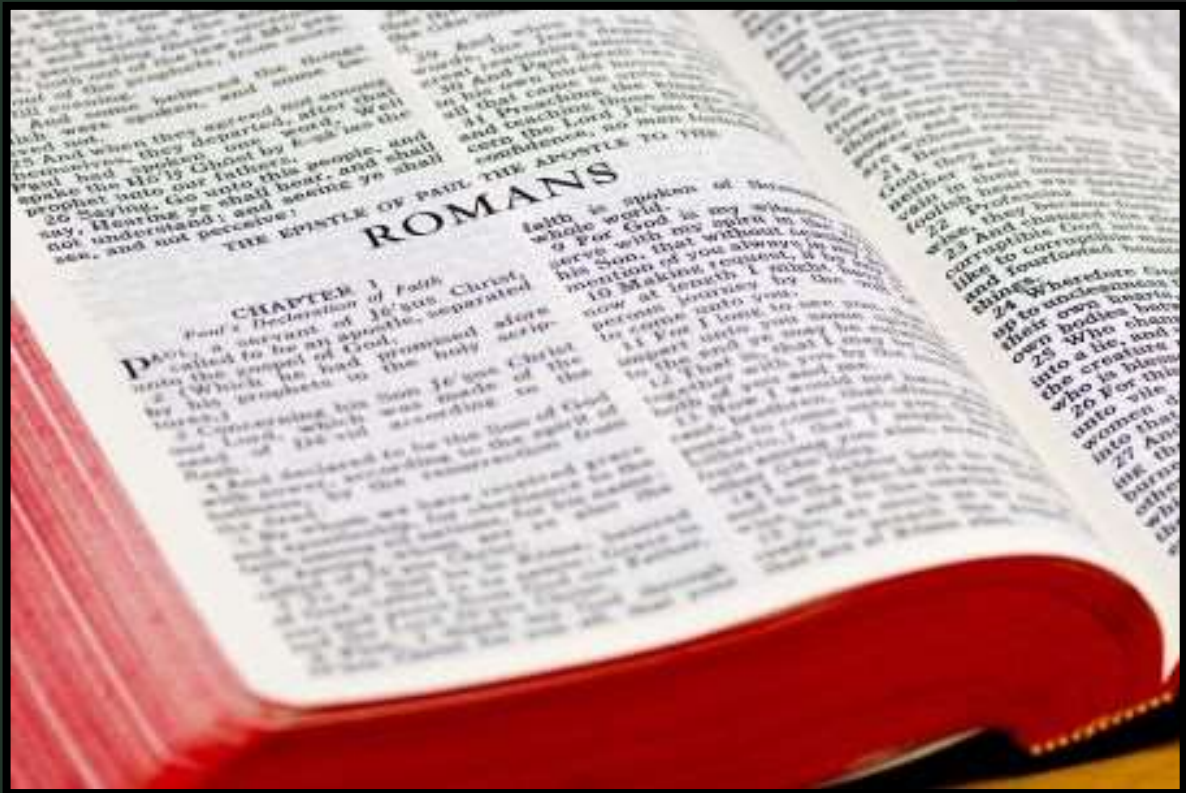
## Paul's Praise and Greetings (16:1-27)

### Romans 16:25-27

- <sup>25</sup> Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to **the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,**
- <sup>26</sup> But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:
- <sup>27</sup> To God only wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

He teaches more about this mystery – That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel – in his epistle to the Ephesians.





But for now, this concludes our study of the amazing epistle to the Romans.



## Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. According to Romans 15:20, at what kind of place did Paul prefer to preach?
2. In Romans 15:22, Paul wrote that he had been "much hindered from coming" to Rome. What kept him away?
3. Paul wanted to visit Rome on his way to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. But first, he needed to go to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In Romans 15:27, why did Paul say the Gentiles were in debt to the Jews?
6. Did Paul write Romans at the end of his (a) first (b) second or (c) third mission?
7. In Romans 15:31-32, what were the three things Paul asked the Christians to pray with him for?
8. According to Romans 16:18, why do some people cause division?
9. According to Romans 16:18, how do they cause division?
10. According to Romans 16:22, who wrote this letter as Paul spoke the words?

**FINALLY, write a one-page essay on what this class meant to you.**

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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