

LESSON 30: ROMANS 15:1-33

United in Christ

1. In what ways are “we” strong and in what ways are others “weak” in the sense that Paul is using these words (v. 1)? What are the failings of the weak, and how are we to bear with them? What does this have to do with not pleasing ourselves?
2. In what way is it good to please one’s neighbor? How is this “for his good, to build him up” (v. 2)?
3. Paul points to Christ as an example in this regard. What is the meaning of the verse that Paul quotes? (See Psalm 69:9.)
4. Explain Paul’s point in verse 4. What does it mean to you, personally? How can God’s Word be a source of practical encouragement for leading the Christian life?
5. What is the great goal does Paul direct our focus toward in his words of blessing (v. 5-6)? Does the unity Paul prays for here mean that Christians must hold to the same beliefs and opinions about everything? If so, why? If not, what does Christian unity mean?
6. How is our welcoming of one another (v. 7) connected to the preceding verses? Compare this verse with 14:1-3. By what standard are other Christians to be welcomed or received?
7. Why did Christ become a servant (vv. 8-9)? How do the Old Testament citations confirm the purpose of the work of Christ (vv. 9-12; see Psalm 18:49; 117:1; Isaiah 11:1-10)?
8. Note the similarity between verses 4-5 and 13. As you struggle to decide what is right or wrong and to accept people with whom you disagree, what encouragement is given in these verses?

9. What is Paul's point in verses 14-16? Paul speaks, in verse 15, of the "grace given me by God." What is this, and what grace has God given to you? Also, what does he mean by speaking of "the priestly service of the gospel of God," and what is "the offering of the Gentiles" to which he refers (v. 16)?

10. How does Paul view his mission and himself? Why is he "proud" of his work for God (v. 17)? What does he mean in verses 18-19? And what is his point in v. 20-21. What is significant about the foundation-laying phase of the church, and why should Paul be concerned lest he "build on someone else's foundation" (v. 20-21; see Isaiah 52:15; 65:1)? To what hindrance is Paul referring in v. 22?

11. Why and how were the Christians of Macedonia and Achaia concerned about the "poor among the saints" in Jerusalem? What spiritual truths are taught? In what way is Paul's attitude towards Jewish and Gentile Christians a model for us (vv. 25-27)?

12. What is the "fullness of the blessing of Christ" in the power of which Paul expects to come to Rome (v. 29)? What does he ask for from them, and what does he hope to enjoy upon arrival? What do verses 30-33 reveal about Paul?