

# Romans 15

## Lesson 19

One of the key words in the closing chapters of Romans is *ministry*. We have learned the basic doctrines of Christianity, we have learned the behaviors of Christianity, and now we will be studying the example of the *ministry* of Christianity. The result of receiving and walking in Christ is passing on to others the wonderful truths we have learned. May this lesson inspire you to do so.

### DAY ONE: Read Romans 15

1. Read through this week's verses.
  - a. Romans 15 has been divided into four sections. List below the subject(s) covered in each section.

**Verses 1-6**

**Verses 7-13**

**Verses 14-21**

**Verses 22-33**

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

After titling each segment division, record a title for Chapter 15.

2. Record the key words listed below.  
New to this lesson: *one/one another*
3. The term of conclusions *therefore* and *for* are used several times in Romans 15. Record one conclusion that Paul arrived at and what it was based on.
4. Now, choose a key word from the list in question #2 and make a list of what the text reveals about that word. Include the referenced verse(s) in parenthesis at the right of each item.

### DAY TWO: Read Romans 15:1-7

1. Romans 15:1-7 continues the subject concerning attitudes and responsibilities of believers toward one another. Thoughtfully consider the instruction given in Romans 15:1 as you write it here.

a. *We then who are strong ought (are under obligation) to bear with the scruples (weaknesses) of the weak...* The word *bear* is used here in the sense *to bear with, to be indulgent to, to endure patiently, not to contend with*. Consider this along with the phrase in the last part of this verse *and not to please ourselves*. How does this speak to you?

1.) Give an example of how this could be applied.

b. View the objective for pleasing another believer instead of pleasing our self by completing Romans 15:2: *Let each of us please his neighbor for his \_\_\_\_\_ leading to \_\_\_\_\_.*

Challenge: Define the word *edification*.

2. How should Christ's example used in Romans 15:3 minister to us as Christians?

a. In what ways should His great sacrifice affect the way we view any personal sacrifice we are called to make for another?

3. What purpose for the Scriptures is revealed in Romans 15:4?

a. How have the Scriptures strengthened you?

4. Read Paul's prayer for the believers in Romans 15:5,6. How did He describe God?

a. Share a time when you experienced the *patience and comfort* of God.

b. Record what Paul desired for them according to these verses.

1.) What is the wondrous result of Christian unity according to verse 6?

5. Think about Paul's concluding exhortation to believers in Romans 15:7. Write what this verse says to you by putting it in your own words.
  - a. If believers would do this, how would it solve the problems described in Romans 14?

### **DAY THREE: Read Romans 15:8-13**

1. The topic of *ministry* is woven throughout the closing paragraphs of Paul's letter to the Romans. In Romans 15:8 he referred to the *ministry* of Christ to the Jews. Then in verses 9-12 he used Old Testament Scriptures that spoke about God's blessings being ministered to the Gentiles. Choose and record a few phrases from verses 8-12 concerning these things.
  - a. There was great hostility between Jews and Gentiles in Jesus' day and was still present in Paul's day. In what way do these verses reveal that it was always God's plan to unite Jews and Gentiles?

Challenge: Record similar phrases in the following Old Testament Scriptures that are quoted in Romans 15:9-12: Psalm 18:49, Psalm 117:2, Isaiah 11:10.

2. Romans 15:13 has been called a benediction by some Bible expositors. How does Paul describe God in this verse?
  - 1.) Explain how God is a *God of hope* as you would to someone who did not know Him.
  - a. What is Paul's desire for each believer as revealed here?

### **DAY FOUR: Read Romans 15:14-24**

1. Paul's writing took on a personal note through the remainder of the letter. Observe Paul's expression of affirmation to these Christians from Romans 15:14 NIV: *I myself am convinced,*

*my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.* Circle the words that Paul used to describe them.

- a. Now read Romans 15:15,16 NIV: *I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.* What do you observe about Paul's ministry?
2. Read Paul's testimony of God's work through this ministry from Romans 15:17-19. What captures your interest the most?
    - a. *Illyricum* is thought to be present-day Yugoslavia. One Bible expositor has written that the area mentioned in verse 19 covers 1400 miles. Consider the energy, commitment, and perseverance of Paul. How does Paul say he accomplished this?
      - 1.) What does 2 Corinthians 3:5,6a add to this?
  3. Record further insights into Paul and his ministry from Romans 15:20,21.
    - a. According to Romans 15:22 what was Paul not able to do because of his expansive ministry?
    - b. What do you discover about his heart's desire and plans in Romans 15:23,24?

#### **DAY FIVE: Read Romans 15:25-33**

1. Read Romans 15:25-27. Write a brief news report on Paul's proposed trip to the church in Jerusalem.
2. The Gentile believers in Greece wanted to *minister* to the poor Jewish believers in Jerusalem through their monetary gift. Paul referred to their gift as *fruit* in Romans 15:28. What meaning does this give to financial giving?
3. Record Paul's declaration in Romans 15:29.

- a. *After all these long years of waiting, I am eager to visit you Romans 15:23b NLT.* Review what Paul had written to them in the beginning of his letter in Romans 1:11,12. What do these verses reveal about Paul?
  
4. Paul urged the believers to pray for him in Romans 15:30-32. Study this carefully and write your observations from each of the following verses:
  - a. verse 30a
  
  - b. verse 30b
  
  - c. verses 31,32

1.) What application can you draw for your life from these verses?

5. Meditate on Paul's benediction in Romans 15:33 and write it here.
  - a. What does the name *the God of peace* mean to you?

#### **DAY SIX: Review Romans 15**

1. From Romans 15:1-7 summarize Paul's closing instructions to believers concerning the issues that he addressed in Romans 14.
  
2. In what way does Romans 15:8-13 reveal that both Jew and Gentile are meant to bring glory to God?
  
3. Record something you learned through your study of Romans 15 about:
  - a. the believers in Rome
  
  - b. Paul's ministry and plans

c. the ministry to the church in Jerusalem

d. prayer

4. Reflect on the following descriptions of God: the *God of patience and comfort*, the *God of hope*, and the *God of peace*. Which one particularly encourages you today? Why?

5. How have you been ministered to through this week's lesson?

*There is joy in the Lord. There is love in His Spirit.  
There is hope in the knowledge of Him.*

*-Cheri Keaggy*