

**In Order That Jews and Gentiles Might Glorify God!
Romans 15:8-33**



15:7 Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8 For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." 10 And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." 11 And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." 12 And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope." 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Vs 7 - Therefore, Paul is making a conclusion. Therefore, based on all he just said. Therefore...

Receive one another, accept one another, befriend one another, bring one another into your lives.

The verb is present tense and an imperative. It is a present tense command. It brings with it the idea of welcome and keep welcoming one another into your lives.

Vs 8-9 - Here is Paul's point, the Messiah (Jesus) became a servant *διάκονος* (diakonos) to the Jews, the circumcised.

Jesus the **promised Messiah**, became a "servant" to the Jew, to the circumcised. The Paul lists three reasons:

- 1) To show **God's truthfulness**.
- 2) To **confirm the promises given to the patriarchs**.

Examples:

To Abraham: *"No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations."* (Ge 17:5 ESV)

To Isaac: *"3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with you and will bless you, for to you and to your offspring I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath that I swore to Abraham your father. 4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, 5 because Abraham obeyed my voice and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."* (Ge 26:3-5 ESV)

To Jacob: *"13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. 14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed. 15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land. For I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."* (Ge 28:13-15 ESV)

- 3) With an additional **benefit** (in order that) **the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy!**

God has fulfilled his promises to Israel that he made across time as given to the patriarchs.

In Christ, God also had the plan of bringing the Gentiles into the family of God!

To prove this third point, which would have been shocking to all reading this letter, in particular those of Jewish descent, Paul once again goes back to the Old Testament, "as it is written" and he quotes four different passages:

1) First, this quote is from II Sam 22:50 or Ps 18:49:

Both of these quotes are from David, and even in the Psalms the context, on the face, would seem to be David, but Paul is implying it is Jesus, and His plan was always praise God's name among the Gentiles:

"For this I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations, and sing to your name." (Ps 18:49 ESV)

Now we might not catch it here, but I want you to begin to see it. Psalm 18 is pointing to a time when the "nations" will worship God together (this is Jew and Gentile), the nations will sing to his name!

Jew and Gentile together. Right there in Psalm 18!

Vs 10 – (2) Again, Paul goes back to quote the Old Testament to prove his point, this time he quotes (**Deut 32:43**). He goes to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, books written by Moses:

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people; For He will avenge the blood of His servants, And render vengeance to His adversaries; He will provide atonement for His land and His people." (De 32:43 NKJV)

Let the language of Deut 32:43 sink it. Rejoice "O Gentiles" with His people. Here Moses, sees into the future a time when Gentiles are rejoicing and worshipping Yahweh with God's people.

So tucked away in the Old Testament we see the amazing promise of a coming time, when Jews and Gentiles would worship God together around His throne!

Vs 11 – (3) Paul goes back to the Old Testament a third time to prove his point. This time Paul quotes **Ps 117:1**:

"Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!" (Ps 117:1 ESV)

Here again, tucked away in the Old Testament, we see a promised time when all the nations (together) would praise the Lord.

Here in a multiethnic assembly, we see Jews and Gentiles worshipping God together!

POP QUIZ! What is Psalm 117 known for?

Yes, it is the shortest Psalm and the shortest chapter in the entire Bible. It is also an amazing Psalm that pictures Jew and Gentile together worshipping God. **Fulfilled right now!**

Vs 12 – (4) Paul goes to a prophecy from Isaiah and quotes **Isaiah 11:10**:

"In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples — of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious." (Isa 11:10 ESV)

A promised day is coming, when the root of Jesse, this descendant of King David, shall stand as banner, as a signal, or as a ruler for all peoples. Paul is here highlighting Gentiles, but the point is all.

This was always God's plan. It was foretold the patriarchs and it was foreshadowed in numerous verses in the Old Testament.

God's plan was to breakdown the hostility that existed between Jew and Gentile and create one new man in Christ.

This is what he told the church in Ephesus:

"12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 ¶ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.”
(Eph 2:12-17 ESV)

Now, let's not lose the storyline here. Paul has said all this not so that we could simply marvel that this was always God's plan and He clearly articulated His plan.

But to remind us to **accept one another**, like **God in Christ has accepted all of us** and brought us into His family!

Vs 13 - He is the God of endurance (Vs 5), He is the God of encouragement (Vs 5), and here He is the God of hope (Vs 13).

Here we find the second of the five prayers, all starting with the Greek word **δέ (de)**.

May the God of endurance, the God of encouragement, the **God of hope, fill all of us (today and forever)** with **joy** and **peace** by or through the power of the Holy Spirit and may we abound in hope.

May our lives be typified, not by defeat, but by HOPE!

That as the Father is the God of Hope, we might abound in Hope!

Here we are reminded that it is through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Scriptures, that God produces hope within believers.

So that, but the power of the Holy Spirit, whom He gave you at conversion, by that power, you would abound (overflow) in hope!

***Phillips:** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in your faith, that by the power of the Holy Spirit, your whole life and outlook may be radiant with hope.*

OK, as we leave verse 13, you should have this stirring picture of **Jews and Gentiles** around the **throne of King Jesus**, singing hymns and praising the name of Jesus to the glory of God.

All filled with joy and peace and abounding in Hope that is supplied by the Holy Spirit! **That is the picture!**

14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. 15 But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 17 In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. 18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience — by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God — so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have

fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; 20 and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, 21 but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

Vs 14 - Paul, shifts gears now, the teaching is principally over and Paul now shifts to encourage the believers in Rome, that they will indeed do and behave as he has encouraged them to do and to behave.

In this portion Paul will highlight his calling as an apostle to the Gentiles. If you remember he opened this letter with that point:

"Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God," (Ro 1:1 ESV)

Vs 14 - Notice how it opens "I myself" am satisfied that "you, yourselves" are...

Then Paul gives them three points:

- 1) **Full of goodness** – The Greek word here is **uprightness** or **kindness**.
- 2) **Filled with knowledge** – **general knowledge** or **understanding, in context he seems to be saying understanding in reference to all the instructions that he has provided.**
- 3) **Able to teach one another** - The word here is to **warn** or **admonish**. That seems to be what Paul is really going for, in context.

After 11 chapters of deep doctrine, Paul says, but you are able to teach each other and I am convinced of it!

Vs 15 -16 - So, Paul then declares, some of these points, I wrote with **great boldness, to **remind you**, to **refresh your minds**, of the truths you have likely **already heard** and likely **already know**. I did this because of the grace that God has give to me as a minister of the Messiah Jesus to you Gentiles.**

This should remind us of the apostolic authority that existed in Paul.

Equally, as we consider what Paul wrote about, it was the greatest declaration of justification by faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, all to the glory of God alone, that we have in the entire Scriptures.

APPLICATION: We do not learn the gospel and then move on to the meatier matters, rather the gospel itself is the meatier matters, and Paul is here reminding them about the gospel!

Vs 16 – Now this is an **amazing** and even **breathtaking** verse.

Since I am the apostle to you Gentiles, a minister of Christ to you Gentiles, it makes it my **priestly duty** to tell you about the **gospel of God**, in this way I am ensuring **that you are being presented as an acceptable sacrifice to God**, one that has been sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Now when we read the word **acceptable**, my mind tends to think of "**minimum standard**", that is not what the Greek word means. It means **well received, a pleasing or accepted offering**.

Now if this has a familiar ring to it, it should:

"I ¶ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Ro 12:1-2 ESV)

Vs 17 - Here, Paul like a **father with a son, a **mother with a daughter**, as he looks at the Gentiles who he has ministered to, **through the power of the Spirit**, and **by God's grace**, and he says.**

I have reason to be PROUD... Now we tend to flinch when we read the word proud. I will do a little word substitution (for the moment). I have reason to **boast**, I have reason to **rejoice**, I have **reason to glorify God** because of my labor.

This is true for you and me. We have each been gifted, when we see God use us, and the gift He has given us, it should **make us rejoice**.

We too, can boast in God and in what He is doing with **simple clay!** Not that we are something, **but that God is something**.

Vs 18-19 - So, Paul is like, I am not even going to talk about anything other than what **the Messiah has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience (by word and deed)**.

You see Paul is boasting, but not in himself or in the Roman Christians, but in God and what Christ has accomplished in him, by bringing the Gentiles into obedience to Christ!

By the power of signs and wonders: This reminds us that the **apostles' ministries were confirmed with the power of signs and wonders**.

Vs 19b - So that from **Jerusalem**, and all the way around to Illyricum, I have **fulfilled** the ministry of the **"good news"** of the Messiah!

Paul ministered throughout this area. Here is what God did with one man. This is breathtaking in what God can do through a person!

But notice, something surprising, something shocking, Paul said he had "fulfilled" the ministry of the gospel of Christ in this region!

The Greek word is **πληρώω (pleroo)** it means to **fill up**, to **cause to abound**, to **carry to completion**.

Now **think for a moment; how is Paul's ministry fulfilled across this region?** Is everyone saved from Jerusalem to Illyricum? Has everyone from Jerusalem to Illyricum heard the gospel?

How can Paul say he has fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem to all the way around to Illyricum?

Paul has planted churches from Jerusalem to Illyricum. Paul has established gospel outposts from Jerusalem to Illyricum. These churches will carry on the mandate to push the gospel into every area of their world (local, national, and international).

Paul has done his part!

APPLICATION: We each have a part to play in the expansion of the Kingdom!

Vs 20-21 - Then Paul says... I make it **my ambition**, my **goal**, my **aim**, the **target**, the thing for which **I am striving**.

I make it my aim to **"preach the gospel."** To fulfill the mission of the gospel. Not where Christ has already been declared, but instead where Christ has not been called upon.

For I do not want to build on another man's work, but instead lay foundations so that others can come behind and build on my work. This is the heart of Paul.

This is also the heart of a person who has the primary Spiritual gift of evangelism and that is to evangelize!

But, see the heart of Paul, to push the gospel to places it has never been! To plant churches everywhere. **To create worshippers of God for His glory!**

Vs 21 – then he quotes the Old Testament. This is a quote from **Is 52:15**. It is a beautiful prophecy about the coming Messiah, I will pick up in verse 13:

“13 Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. 14 As many were astonished at you — his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind — 15 so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him; for that which has not been told them they see, and that which they have not heard they understand.” (Isa 52:13-15 ESV)

Paul saw his ministry fulfilling the prophecies that the gospel would go into all nations and those who had never heard would hear!

22 This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. 23 But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, 24 I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. 25 At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. 26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. 27 For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. 28 When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. 29 I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

Vs 22-23 - So Paul writes, it is **for this reason**, that I have been hindered from coming already to Rome.

For what reason? For the reason of spreading the gospel to those who had never heard it. So that: *“Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”*

Paul is saying, I have **wanted to come**, I have **wanted to be with you**, but there were still those, right here, where I am ministering who did not have a gospel outpost established!

This is why I have been hindered. This is in the imperfect tense, which generally represents a **continual or repeated action**. I have been continually hindered from coming because of those who have not heard right here where I am ministering.

Now here is what we see, for years Paul has wanted to come to Rome. The key word is **“wanted.”**

But now... Since I no longer have **“any room for work”** in these regions. Since, I have **spread the gospel** in the areas where I have been ministering and churches are established.

Paul sees he work in spreading the gospel in the eastern part of the kingdom as **completed**.

Vs 24 - I hope to see you. I am planning to see you...

Paul did indeed see them, although not exactly as planned! He went as a prisoner! But we see his arrival in Acts 28.

IN PASSING... As I go to Spain! So, Paul planned to stop in Rome, but his eye was on taking the **gospel to Spain.**

By the first century AD Spain was firmly a part of the Roman empire and provided significant crops to the empire.

Paul wants to be in Rome, but he must, preach where Christ has not been named. He wants to visit those in Rome, he is compelled to establish gospel outposts for the glory of the one who is at work in Him!

APPLICATION: Is there a lesson here for you and I about wants and musts?

The evangelist was ever pushing to evangelize and as he said, not where others have already evangelized, but instead where others have not evangelized. **Paul, has his eye on pushing the gospel to the outer edge of the Roman empire.**

So he planned to spend some time there, he expected to enjoy their company for a while. He was hoping that they would help fund sending the gospel into Spain!

Vs 25 - This amazing want, but here is another need, another must...

A pressing mission that must be fulfilled first, This journey is recorded in Acts which results in his arrest, which surprisingly enough also results in him going to Rome, but not like he imagined! **Ref: I Cor 16:1-4 and II Cor 8-9.**

Vs 26 - Christians from Macedonia and Achaia, have provided monies for the suffering saints in Jerusalem and Paul is carrying that money.

This would have been churches like Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, and Corinth.

I hope you see **Paul's priorities:**

- 1) **Establishing churches** in regions where Jesus had not been proclaimed.
- 2) **Brining an offering back to Jerusalem** (works of charity)
- 3) Then after years of wanting to come to Rome, coming to Rome, but only for a time...
- 4) Because of the **need to go to Spain.**

The need to expand the kingdom was number 1, the need to do charity work for the church was #2, and then lastly the desire to go to Rome, where a church already existed was last.

Extra Note: Did Paul ever make Rome? We do not know. It is not recorded in the New Testament.

It is possible that following his release from house arrest in Rome:

"30 He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, 31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance." (Ac 28:30-31 ESV)

Vs 27 - So these Gentiles joyed in helping the saints in Jerusalem and as Paul says, they have an obligation.

For the Gentiles have come to share in the spiritual blessings that once belonged solely to Israel. It is only right and natural that they would provide material blessings for the Jews suffering in Jerusalem.

Vs 28 - I am completing my mission in Jerusalem and then I am leaving for Spain, with a lay-over in Rome. Eye on Spain but planning to minister to the believers in Rome.

Again, he delivered the collection, but was arrested Acts 21. He made it to Rome, but not as he imagined at the time.

Vs 29 - When I come, I am certain it will be with the blessings of Christ who will allow me to come.

30 I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, 31 that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, 32 so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. 33 May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Vs 30 - Here is Paul's **closing appeal**, as he wraps up this amazing letter. I appeal to you, by our Lord Jesus who is the Christ, and by the love of the Spirit.

That you **strive together**, with me, in your prayers **to God for me**.

Vs 31 - He recognizes that many unbelieving Jews hated him, they saw him as an **enemy of the state**, and he is praying that God would deliver him, from them.

Unbelieving Jews have resisted him at every turn. He recognizes that will not stop now.

**** Although arrested, Paul was delivered from the Jews who sought desperately to take his life Acts 21:30 – to almost the end of the book.**

He is **also praying** that his service of collecting money and delivering to the saints in Jerusalem might be **“acceptable.”** Again, not minimum standard, but well-pleasing to the saints.

Was it? We could assume yes, here is all we are told when Paul testified before Felix:

*“16 So I always take pains to have a clear conscience toward both God and man. 17 Now after several years **I came to bring alms to my nation and to present offerings.** 18 While I was doing this, they found me purified in the temple, without any crowd or tumult. But some Jews from Asia — 19 they ought to be here before you and to make an accusation, should they have anything against me.” (Ac 24:16-19 ESV)*

Vs 32 - So that by the **will of God**, he will **arrive in Rome**, filled with joy and while with them he would be refreshed, prior to taking on the work of taking the gospel to Rome!

Vs 33 - Now this is a closing salutation, and as we read it, it seems like this is the end of the letter. But Paul, **clearly being Baptist**, is not quite done and he picks it up again!

Lord willing, after Paul says a few more things he desires to say, we will conclude our study in this amazing book!
