

Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service: Bible Study

Topic: Greetings & Final Summary
Text: Romans 15:14-33 & 16

Date: April 27, 2022
Teacher: Pastor Bimbola Lawore

Today we conclude our study of the book of Romans, Paul reminded the Romans why he wrote the letter. His goal was to explain the Gospel to them and reveal the plan of God from the beginning of time to save all people both Jews and Gentiles. He reminded them of His call by God to share the good news specially to the Gentiles. He spent time greeting and acknowledging all those who have contributed to His ministry and to the growth of the church in Rome. He ended the book of Romans by instructing the church to stay united, avoid division, avoid smooth talkers and to continue doing what is right Romans 16:17-18.

Study Objectives

- Understand that we all have a purpose in God's Kingdom
- Understand that we all have a role to play in building a healthy Church community
- Understand that we all have a role to play in sharing and spreading the good news
- Identify the qualities of good leadership in Paul that we can all adapt in our life relationships

1. Paul's Reason for Writing – Romans 15:14-22

Romans 15:14-19 *"I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them. 15 Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder. For by God's grace, 16 I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit. 17 So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God. 18 Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. 19 They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum."(NLT)*

- Paul challenge them to share the good news and teach one another the truth, vs 14
- Paul reminded them of his ambition, his goal, his "why", vs16, vs20
- Paul reminded them this is all fulfillment of what was prophesized vs 21, Isaiah 52:13-15
- Paul was sensitive to were help is needed most when it comes to ministry, vs 22

2. Paul's Travel Plans – Romans 15:23-33

Romans 15: 30-32 *"Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to God for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit. 31 Pray that I will be rescued from those in Judea who refuse to obey God. Pray also that the believers there will be willing to accept the donation[n] I am taking to Jerusalem. 32 Then, by the will of God, I will be able to come to you with a joyful heart, and we will be an encouragement to each other."* (NLT)

- Genuine kingdom work yields mutual blessings. The believers in Macedonia and Achaia gave financially to support the believers in Jerusalem, vs 26-27
- Paul requested for prayers as He continues in his ministry assignment, we also must pray for those who are laboring tirelessly for the spreading of the Gospel, evangelist, missionaries, etc. vs 30.

Do you support any mission effort? Do you pray for missionaries?

3. Leadership Qualities in Paul

- ⇒ Teacher: Paul always finds every opportunity to share what God has revealed to Him. He was generous with his knowledge. Romans 15:14 -15
- ⇒ Accountable – He spoke about His plans and intentions. He was also transparent about his whereabouts and the finances of the ministry. Romans 15:23-29
- ⇒ Humble – He connects with people from different background and status, he asked for financial support, he asked for prayers. Romans 15:30-31
- ⇒ Relational – He enjoyed fellowship, he wanted to spend time with the people and connect with them. Romans 15:32

What other qualities do you see in Paul?

4. Greetings - Roman 16:1- 16

- Paul took time to acknowledge his friends, partners and co-laborers in ministry. You cannot do kingdom life in isolation.
 - ⇒ Who is Sister Phoebe? Who is Priscilla and Aquila?

What does this say to you about the role of women in ministry?

- Regardless of your gender or marital status, you are valuable in God’s Kingdom, you have a role to play, serve God passionately.
- What you are doing for God’s Kingdom is being recorded in Heaven.
 - ⇒ Greetings to workers and leaders
 - ⇒ Greetings to co-laborers
 - ⇒ Greetings to friends
 - ⇒ Greetings to household churches (our own version of small group, life groups and fellowship)
- Paul’s greetings was to all categories of people, Jews and Greeks, men and women, young and old, new converts, long standing believers, everyone matters.

5. Final Instructions from Paul – Romans 16:17-27

Romans 16:17 – 20 *“And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people’s faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them. ¹⁸ Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people. ¹⁹ But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong. ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus^{lf} be with you.” (NLT)*

- We must watch out for people who cause division especially on doctrines of the bible, we must silence them
- We must be grounded in the truth and not fall prey in the hands of smooth talkers

Romans 16:25-27 *“25 Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time. 26 But now as the prophets[h] foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him. 27 All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen” (NLT)*

Conclusion - Share one thing that inspired and transformed you from Paul’s letter to the Romans