

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

### Romans 15:1-13 – Mutual Love and Forebearance

**v1.** “NOW WE THAT ARE STRONG OUGHT TO BEAR THE INFIRMITIES OF THE WEAK, AND NOT TO PLEASE OURSELVES.” (ASV)

This is a continuation of the central theme of Paul’s writing in chapter 14.

**Romans 14:1** “HIM THAT IS WEAK IN THE FAITH RECEIVE YE, *but* NOT TO DOUBTFUL DISPUTATIONS.” (KJV)

We have a responsibility to our weaker brother. We are to bear the infirmities of those who are weak by refraining from doing that which will cause them to stumble or fall as children of God. We are to put ourselves in their place, feel their weaknesses, and to act so as to not lead them into temptation and sin. This an example of becoming all things to all men as Paul said that he did:

**I Corinthians 9:22-23** “TO THE WEAK I BECAME WEAK, THAT I MIGHT GAIN THE WEAK: I AM BECOME ALL THINGS TO ALL MEN, THAT I MAY BY ALL MEANS SAVE SOME. AND I DO ALL THINGS FOR THE GOSPEL'S SAKE, THAT I MAY BE A JOINT PARTAKER THEREOF.” (ASV)

The gospel, the word of God and the harmony of God’s people are to be our primary focus. At the same time we need to point out two things. Paul did not give us any example of condoning or participating in something that is contrary to the word of God. This instruction to support and help the weak pertains to matters of opinion, matters of indifference to God, not matters of doctrine. In addition we have another responsibility:

**Galatians 6:1** “BRETHREN, EVEN IF A MAN BE OVERTAKEN IN ANY TRESPASS, YE WHO ARE SPIRITUAL, RESTORE SUCH A ONE IN A SPIRIT OF GENTLENESS; LOOKING TO THYSELF, LEST THOU ALSO BE TEMPTED.” (ASV)

We have the responsibility to teach our weaker brother and to help him remove any faults that he may have, to help him or her grow in the Faith.

**v.2** “LET EACH ONE OF US PLEASE HIS NEIGHBOR FOR THAT WHICH IS GOOD, UNTO EDIFYING.” (ASV)

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

Does this mean that we are to go along with or condone everything that our neighbor does or practices? No this is restricted to that which will edify or strengthen him in the ways of the Lord; it applies to that which is good in the sight of God. This is also the reason that Paul wrote:

**I Corinthians 9:19** "FOR THOUGH I WAS FREE FROM ALL MEN, I BROUGHT MYSELF UNDER BONDAGE TO ALL, THAT I MIGHT GAIN THE MORE."  
(ASV)

**v.3** "FOR CHRIST ALSO PLEASED NOT HIMSELF; BUT, AS IT IS WRITTEN, THE REPROACHES OF THEM THAT REPROACHED THEE FELL UPON ME."  
(ASV)

Jesus Christ is our example in all things and the apostle here quotes from a declaration made by David that applied to the Christ. A psalm of David that was written when he was in the depths of despair:

"FOR THE ZEAL OF THY HOUSE HATH EATEN ME UP; AND THE REPROACHES OF THEM THAT REPROACH THEE ARE FALLEN UPON ME.."  
**Psalms 69:9** (ASV)

Jesus came to this earth, not to do what he wanted or willed, but to do what God willed:

**John 6:38** "FOR I AM COME DOWN FROM HEAVEN, NOT TO DO MINE OWN WILL, BUT THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME." (ASV)

And to suffer reproaches he did; even much more than that; he suffered the anguish, as a human being, of knowing that he was to die the physical death of crucifixion.

**Matthew 26:39** "AND HE WENT FORWARD A LITTLE, AND FELL ON HIS FACE, AND PRAYED, SAYING, MY FATHER, IF IT BE POSSIBLE, LET THIS CUP PASS AWAY FROM ME: NEVERTHELESS, NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS THOU WILT." (ASV)

**v.4** "FOR WHATSOEVER THINGS WERE WRITTEN AFORETIME WERE WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING, THAT THROUGH PATIENCE AND THROUGH COMFORT OF THE SCRIPTURES WE MIGHT HAVE HOPE."  
(ASV)

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

Because so many people do not understand the divisions of the Bible between the Old and New Testaments, this verse and **I Corinthians 10:11** are emphasized in the Bible Correspondence Courses that I teach. These verses tell us the purpose of the Old Testament scriptures for the modern day.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** "EVERY SCRIPTURE INSPIRED OF GOD IS ALSO PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION WHICH IS IN RIGHTEOUSNESS. THAT THE MAN OF GOD MAY BE COMPLETE, FURNISHED COMPLETELY UNTO EVERY GOOD WORK." (ASV)

All scripture, all the word of God is not only inspired, (God breathed) but, as Paul tells us, profitable to us for all the things that we need in order to be completely furnished for Godly living and good works.

The Old Testament is full of examples that tell us about the self-denial and patient suffering for the honor of God by good men and the blessings and happiness that this brought them. It teaches us how God deals with mankind. It teaches us how God makes, manages and expects man to obey His laws. The records of God's dealing with the unfaithful and rebellious are as instructive as the records of His blessing of his children. His condemnation of Cain and acceptance of Abel in their worship is a lesson of which most modern men are either completely ignorant or have chosen to ignore. And this spiritual malady is growing rapidly among our brethren. The result is the same; they condemn themselves by their actions. We need both the warnings against evil and the encouragement that we find in the Old Testament to know how to obey God.

**I Corinthians 10:11** "NOW THESE THINGS HAPPENED UNTO THEM BY WAY OF EXAMPLE; AND THEY WERE WRITTEN FOR OUR ADMONITION, UPON WHOM THE ENDS OF THE AGES ARE COME." (ASV)

**v.5-6** "NOW THE GOD OF PATIENCE AND OF COMFORT GRANT YOU TO BE OF THE SAME MIND ONE WITH ANOTHER ACCORDING TO CHRIST JESUS: THAT WITH ONE ACCORD YE MAY WITH ONE MOUTH GLORIFY THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST." (ASV)

In his letter to the church at Philippi, Paul phrased this admonition this way:

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

**Philippians 2:2-5** "MAKE FULL MY JOY, THAT YE BE OF THE SAME MIND, HAVING THE SAME LOVE, BEING OF ONE ACCORD, OF ONE MIND; DOING NOTHING THROUGH FACTION OR THROUGH VAINGLORY, BUT IN LOWLINESS OF MIND EACH COUNTING OTHER BETTER THAN HIMSELF; NOT LOOKING EACH OF YOU TO HIS OWN THINGS, BUT EACH OF YOU ALSO TO THE THINGS OF OTHERS. HAVE THIS MIND IN YOU, WHICH WAS ALSO IN CHRIST JESUS:" (ASV)

We should be so conformed to the mind of Jesus Christ that we are of one mind among ourselves. In order for that kind of harmony to come about, patience, longsuffering are necessary but comfort and great blessings are the result. Only through our love of and compliance with God's will can this be made to be true. As a result we will be united in sympathy and love for one another, the strong helping the weak, the weak rejoicing in the help from the strong and will with one voice will honor and glorify God.

**v.7.** "WHEREFORE RECEIVE YE ONE ANOTHER, EVEN AS CHRIST ALSO RECEIVED YOU, TO THE GLORY OF GOD." (ASV)

Just as Jesus has received each of us despite our weaknesses, despite our faults and infirmities and helps us live as a glory to God we should do the same for each other. Just as Paul had written earlier to this same church:

**Romans 5:1-2** "BEING THEREFORE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH, WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD THROUGH OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST; THROUGH WHOM ALSO WE HAVE HAD OUR ACCESS BY FAITH INTO THIS GRACE WHEREIN WE STAND; AND WE REJOICE IN HOPE OF THE GLORY OF GOD." (ASV)

**v.8** "FOR I SAY THAT CHRIST HATH BEEN MADE A MINISTER OF THE CIRCUMCISION FOR THE TRUTH OF GOD, THAT HE MIGHT CONFIRM THE PROMISES GIVEN UNTO THE FATHERS," (ASV)

Jesus Christ fulfilled all the promises made by God for a Prince and a Saviour to redeem mankind. Jesus Christ fulfilled all the promises made about a King that was to reign over mankind forever.

**Galatians 4:4-5** "BUT WHEN THE FULNESS OF THE TIME CAME, GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON, BORN OF A WOMAN, BORN UNDER THE LAW, THAT HE MIGHT REDEEM THEM THAT WERE UNDER THE LAW, THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE ADOPTION OF SONS." (ASV)

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

The Christ, the Messiah had to come from the seed of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob:

**Genesis 17:14-16** “AND THE UNCIRCUMCISED MALE WHO IS NOT CIRCUMCISED IN THE FLESH OF HIS FORESKIN, THAT SOUL SHALL BE CUT OFF FROM HIS PEOPLE; HE HATH BROKEN MY COVENANT. AND GOD SAID UNTO ABRAHAM, AS FOR SARAI THY WIFE, THOU SHALT NOT CALL HER NAME SARAI, BUT SARAH SHALL HER NAME BE. AND I WILL BLESS HER, AND MOREOVER I WILL GIVE THEE A SON OF HER: YEA, I WILL BLESS HER, AND SHE SHALL BE A MOTHER OF NATIONS; KINGS OF PEOPLES SHALL BE OF HER.” (ASV)

This is one of the undeniable truths that confirms that Jesus was the one promised to Abraham.

**v.9** “AND THAT THE GENTILES MIGHT GLORIFY GOD FOR HIS MERCY; AS IT IS WRITTEN, THEREFORE WILL I GIVE PRAISE UNTO THEE AMONG THE GENTILES, AND SING UNTO THY NAME.” (ASV)

Since the Roman church was made up of both Jews and Gentiles, it was important that they also understand that God's promise for a Messiah and eternal salvation was made to all mankind. Paul uses the same words here that Jesus used so many times in his teaching and preaching “IT IS WRITTEN” that God's name would also be confessed among the Gentiles. Just as God told Abram when he called him from Haran to Canaan:

**Genesis 12:1-3** “NOW JEHOVAH SAID UNTO ABRAM, GET THEE OUT OF THY COUNTRY, AND FROM THY KINDRED, AND FROM THY FATHER'S HOUSE, UNTO THE LAND THAT I WILL SHOW THEE: AND I WILL MAKE OF THEE A GREAT NATION, AND I WILL BLESS THEE, AND MAKE THEY NAME GREAT; AND BE THOU A BLESSING; AND I WILL BLESS THEM THAT BLESS THEE, AND HIM THAT CURSETH THEE WILL I CURSE: AND IN THEE SHALL ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED.” (ASV)

Paul also helps us understand what David wrote in that he applies David's words to Christ:

**Psalms 18:49** “THEREFORE I WILL GIVE THANKS UNTO THEE, O JEHOVAH, AMONG THE NATIONS, AND WILL SING PRAISES UNTO THY NAME.” (ASV)

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

**v.10-11** “AND AGAIN HE SAITH, REJOICE, YE GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE. AND AGAIN, PRAISE THE LORD, ALL YE GENTILES; AND LET ALL THE PEOPLES PRAISE HIM.” (ASV)

Verse 10 is from the prophecy of Moses:

**Deuteronomy 32:43** “REJOICE, O YE NATIONS, WITH HIS PEOPLE: FOR HE WILL AVENGE THE BLOOD OF HIS SERVANTS, AND WILL RENDER VENGEANCE TO HIS ADVERSARIES, AND WILL MAKE EXPIATION FOR HIS LAND, FOR HIS PEOPLE.” (ASV)

Verse 11 is from the shortest chapter in Psalms:

**Psalms 117:1** “O PRAISE JEHOVAH, ALL YE NATIONS; LAUD HIM, ALL YE PEOPLES.” (ASV)

Then Paul provides further conclusive and undeniable proof that the Gentiles were to be heirs of salvation in Christ equally with the Jews and that through Christ the Jews and Gentile peoples should be one.

**v.12** “AND AGAIN, ISAIAH SAITH, THERE SHALL BE THE ROOT OF JESSE, AND HE THAT ARISETH TO RULE OVER THE GENTILES; ON HIM SHALL THE GENTILES HOPE.” (ASV)

To seal this fact Paul also includes the prophecy of Isaiah, who calls Christ first a rod representing the scepter of the king and then as an ensign or flag that represents a ruler or country:

**Isaiah 11:1** “AND THERE SHALL COME FORTH A SHOOT OUT OF THE STOCK OF JESSE, AND A BRANCH OUT OF HIS ROOTS SHALL BEAR FRUIT. **v.10** “AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THAT DAY, THAT THE ROOT OF JESSE, THAT STANDETH FOR AN ENSIGN OF THE PEOPLES, UNTO HIM SHALL THE NATIONS SEEK; AND HIS RESTING-PLACE SHALL BE GLORIOUS.” (ASV)

**v.13** “NOW THE GOD OF HOPE FILL YOU WITH ALL JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING, THAT YE MAY ABOUND IN HOPE, IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.” (ASV)

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

Through Jesus Christ hope, peace and joy gained through belief and obedience is available to all men, both Jew and Gentile. Paul's prayer for the Roman brethren is that they might enjoy this relationship with God and with each other.

### Romans 15:14-33 – Paul's Labors and Intentions

**v.14** "AND I MYSELF ALSO AM PERSUADED OF YOU, MY BRETHREN, THAT YE YOURSELVES ARE FULL OF GOODNESS, FILLED WITH ALL KNOWLEDGE, ABLE ALSO TO ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER." (ASV)

Paul is confident, even though he has not yet been to Rome, that these brethren are full of goodness, that they are knowledgeable and that they are able to admonish and help one another. As we will see in chapter 16, there were those with some spiritual gifts that had gone to Rome, either from Jerusalem or from other places that Paul had preached and established churches and the church at Rome was apparently well established and grounded in The Faith.

**v.15** "BUT I WRITE THE MORE BOLDLY UNTO YOU IN SOME MEASURE, AS PUTTING YOU AGAIN IN REMEMBRANCE, BECAUSE OF THE GRACE THAT WAS GIVEN ME OF GOD," (ASV)

Even though Paul has not been to Rome and does not know many of the Roman brethren personally he has written to them boldly under his authority as an apostle. And even though he knows that they are knowledgeable in the scriptures he has recorded from God many things that are designed and written to strengthen and encourage them further.

**v.16** "THAT I SHOULD BE A MINISTER OF CHRIST JESUS UNTO THE GENTILES, MINISTERING THE GOSPEL OF GOD, THAT THE OFFERING UP OF THE GENTILES MIGHT BE MADE ACCEPTABLE, BEING SANCTIFIED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT." (ASV)

Here Paul presents his credentials, his authority to speak for God. Paul was chosen specifically by the Lord to be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles just as the Lord had told Ananias when he sent him to Saul in Damascus:

**Acts 9:15-16** "BUT THE LORD SAID UNTO HIM, GO THY WAY: FOR HE IS A CHOSEN VESSEL UNTO ME, TO BEAR MY NAME BEFORE THE GENTILES AND KINGS, AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL: FOR I WILL SHOW HIM HOW MANY THINGS HE MUST SUFFER FOR MY NAME'S SAKE." (ASV)

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

So Paul could write to them with the authority of one having been given a special commission in addition to the fact that he was an apostle of Jesus Christ.

**v.17** "I HAVE THEREFORE MY GLORIFYING IN CHRIST JESUS IN THINGS PERTAINING TO GOD." (ASV)

Paul could glory or be proud of his work for God and the cause of Christ. But the only glory that Paul received or wanted was that which came through his submission to God, obedience to Jesus Christ and the work that he was chosen to do. Just as he wrote to the Galatian church:

**Galatians 2:20** "I HAVE BEEN CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST; AND IT IS NO LONGER I THAT LIVE, BUT CHRIST LIVING IN ME: AND THAT LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE IN THE FLESH I LIVE IN FAITH, THE FAITH WHICH IS IN THE SON OF GOD, WHO LOVED ME, AND GAVE HIMSELF UP FOR ME." (ASV)

Every person who stands to teach or preach the Word of God should have the same mindset and humility as Paul shows here. At the same time it is necessary for Paul to present his credentials, to verify his charge from the Lord to preach, teach and write as he did to encourage and admonish them.

**v.18** "FOR I WILL NOT DARE TO SPEAK OF ANY THINGS SAVE THOSE WHICH CHRIST WROUGHT THROUGH ME, FOR THE OBEDIENCE OF THE GENTILES, BY WORD AND DEED," (ASV)

Paul planted many churches and converted many people who, as would be expected, converted others and planted other churches. But Paul says he does not glory in the work of these others but rather only in that which he has done himself. Even at that:

**v.19** "IN THE POWER OF SIGNS AND WONDERS, IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT; SO THAT FROM JERUSALEM, AND ROUND ABOUT EVEN UNTO ILLYRICUM, I HAVE FULLY PREACHED THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST;" (ASV)

Nevertheless, through the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God Paul has had the privilege of preaching the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem to the region of Illyricum, which was a Roman province on the outer coast of Southern Europe just across the Adriatic Sea from Italy. We have no record by Luke that Paul journeyed from the Aegean Sea coast of Macedonia where Philippi and Thessalonica are located over the mountain range and up into the region that is north of Macedonia in Europe but he apparently did.

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

This is the area in the Balkans that is shared today by the countries of Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia/Herzegovina and Croatia.

**v.20** “YEA, MAKING IT MY AIM SO TO PREACH THE GOSPEL, NOT WHERE CHRIST WAS ALREADY NAMED, THAT I MIGHT NOT BUILD UPON ANOTHER MAN'S FOUNDATION;” (ASV)

Paul had worked and planned to preach the gospel where other men had not gone. It would even appear that the greater the sin or alienation of the local population from God the stronger the call for Paul to go preach there. He did not want to build upon a foundation laid by others but wanted to use his talents and God given abilities to reach out to those who had never heard of Jesus Christ. This was his aim even though when he went to the principle cities he went first to the synagogues to teach. He did that because of the direction by God that the Jews should hear the word of God first.

We have missionaries that do the same thing today. The work of at least two men that I know, seem to have followed the same pattern. One went to Taiwan, into a culture that did not recognize God or Jesus Christ and into a city that did not have a local congregation of the Lord's church. Later another went to the Falkland Islands. A place that most people hadn't heard of until England and Argentina fought a war there. He went because there are no Christians and consequently no church of Christ there.

**v.21** “BUT, AS IT IS WRITTEN, THEY SHALL SEE, TO WHOM NO TIDINGS OF HIM CAME, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND.” (ASV)

It is written is a fulfillment of prophecy. Paul sought to preach and teach Jesus Christ to men who had never been taught, where Christ was unknown

**Isaiah 52:15** “SO SHALL HE SPRINKLE MANY NATIONS; 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 UNDERSTAND.” (ASV)

Paul's work and purpose was totally in harmony with the will of God and an example for us today concerning our mission work.

**v. 22-23** “WHEREFORE ALSO I WAS HINDERED THESE MANY TIMES FROM COMING TO YOU: BUT NOW, HAVING NO MORE ANY PLACE IN THESE REGIONS, AND HAVING THESE MANY YEARS A LONGING TO COME UNTO YOU,” (ASV)

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

Part of the reason that Paul had not been to Rome is that he was busy preaching and teaching in all of these other areas. Now that he had covered most of Asia Minor and Southern Europe in Macedonia, Greece and perhaps even in the Southern Balkans, his desire to preach also in Rome was that much greater. But Rome wasn't his only destination.

**v.24** "WHENSOEVER I GO UNTO SPAIN (FOR I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN MY JOURNEY, AND TO BE BROUGHT ON MY WAY THITHERWARD BY YOU, IF FIRST IN SOME MEASURE I SHALL HAVE BEEN SATISFIED WITH YOUR COMPANY)." (ASV)

Though we don't hear much about it and the record of Luke in Acts ends with Paul in Rome, his plan was to go through Rome on a missionary journey to Spain. Spain was a Roman province at that time, just as was England and much of France. Consequently a great many Jews had traveled to Spain and lived there for several hundred years until the great inquisition and persecution by the Roman Catholic church during and after the crusades. Paul also indicates in the latter part of this verse that he wanted or even expected that some of the members from Rome would travel with him and/or help him to make the journey by providing for part of his needs as a missionary.

**v.25** "BUT NOW, I SAY, I GO UNTO JERUSALEM, MINISTERING UNTO THE SAINTS." (ASV)

Bible scholars place the writing of this book at about AD 58 from Corinth on Paul's third missionary journey just before he returns to Jerusalem and is imprisoned. These verses support that analysis.

**v.26** "FOR IT HATH BEEN THE GOOD PLEASURE OF MACEDONIA AND ACHAIA TO MAKE A CERTAIN CONTRIBUTION FOR THE POOR AMONG THE SAINTS THAT ARE AT JERUSALEM." (ASV)

Paul was carrying the contribution from the church in Macedonia and Achaia, the Roman title for Greece, to the church at Jerusalem. We can study about this activity in **Acts 19** and **Acts 20**. This again shows us the harmony and cohesiveness of the scriptures.

**v.27** "YEA, IT HATH BEEN THEIR GOOD PLEASURE; AND THEIR DEBTORS THEY ARE. FOR IF THE GENTILES HAVE BEEN MADE PARTAKERS OF THEIR SPIRITUAL THINGS, THEY OWE IT TO THEM ALSO TO MINISTER UNTO THEM IN CARNAL THINGS."(ASV)

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

The Gentile churches in these regions were glad to help the poor Jews in Jerusalem and Paul says that they should. They were indebted to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem for providing and sending the missionaries that converted them to Christ. Since they participated or benefited in spiritual things from the work of the Jerusalem brethren they owed the Jerusalem brethren their help and support for their material needs. They needed to help provide the necessities of this world in return.

**v.28** "WHEN THEREFORE I HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THIS, AND HAVE SEALED TO THEM THIS FRUIT, I WILL GO ON BY YOU UNTO SPAIN." (ASV)

When Paul had completed or sealed his obligation to the Jerusalem church then he would come by Rome on his way to Spain. Again we see his intent to visit that country in spite of the fact that we have no inspired record that he ever did so.

**v.29** "AND I KNOW THAT, WHEN I COME UNTO YOU, I SHALL COME IN THE FULNESS OF THE BLESSING OF CHRIST." (ASV)

Paul is confident that when he does get to come to Rome he will do so with the full blessing of God and the gospel. He sought to help and strengthen them, partially by bringing them gifts of the Spirit some of which they apparently did not yet have:

**Romans 1:11-13** "FOR I LONG TO SEE YOU, THAT I MAY IMPART UNTO YOU SOME SPIRITUAL GIFT, TO THE END YE MAY BE ESTABLISHED; THAT IS, THAT I WITH YOU MAY BE COMFORTED IN YOU, EACH OF US BY THE OTHER'S FAITH, BOTH YOURS AND MINE. AND I WOULD NOT HAVE YOU IGNORANT, BRETHREN, THAT OFTENTIMES I PURPOSED TO COME UNTO YOU (AND WAS HINDERED HITHERTO), THAT I MIGHT HAVE SOME FRUIT IN YOU ALSO, EVEN AS IN THE REST OF THE GENTILES." (ASV)

**v.30** "NOW I BESEECH YOU, BRETHREN, BY OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND BY THE LOVE OF THE SPIRIT, THAT YE STRIVE TOGETHER WITH ME IN YOUR PRAYERS TO GOD FOR ME;" (ASV)

Paul labored continually in danger from both those who proposed to be friends of God but were false teachers; those who were his personal enemies and those who were the enemies of Christ. He recognized that he needed and wanted, as so should we, the prayers of his Christian brethren.

## Romans Chapter Fifteen

**v.31** “THAT I MAY BE DELIVERED FROM THEM THAT ARE DISOBEDIENT IN JUDAEA, AND THAT MY MINISTRATION WHICH I HAVE FOR JERUSALEM MAY BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE SAINTS;” (ASV)

Paul knew that there would probably be trouble in Jerusalem. There were those there who opposed the church entirely. There were those who opposed Paul because of their false teaching. He indicates that he even may not have been sure that the Jerusalem church would accept the gifts that were being sent from the Gentile congregations. There were some very strong feelings among the Christians in Judea concerning the Gentiles being accepted in the church. The sending of the offerings were a seal of fellowship from them and for the Judean Christians to accept it would also seal their acceptance of fellowship with the Gentile Christians. In addition, when Paul went to Rome from Jerusalem he wanted:

**v.32** “THAT I MAY COME UNTO YOU IN JOY THROUGH THE WILL OF GOD, AND TOGETHER WITH YOU FIND REST.” (ASV)

He was not to achieve that desire was he? Paul didn't get to come to Rome in joy by the will of God refreshed from his visit to Jerusalem but rather as a prisoner of Rome, some two to three years after this letter is written. He had been concerned about the unbelievers, the disobedient to God in Jerusalem and his fears were well founded. So he ends his letter here, with the exception of the salutations and final admonitions in chapter 16.

**v.33** “NOW THE GOD OF PEACE BE WITH YOU ALL. AMEN.” (ASV)

Paul wishes them well and that the peace of being God's children, citizens of God's kingdom should be with them.