

## St. Paul's Letter to the Romans

### Collect for Lent

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness. May obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord

*Amen*

### Questions on Romans 13-14

#### Romans 15: 1-6

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### I. Bearing burdens in Love

- A. The Strong are to not only care for themselves, but for the weak also
- B. This obligation does not mean pleasing oneself (self sacrifice)
- C. Bearing up for the weak is done for the good of the community not making our neighbors happy at all cost – (indifference)

#### II. Our Example – Christ

- A. Paul does not note one event – rather the entire ministry of Jesus
- B. He quotes Psalm 69:10 as proof

This was a common understanding of the Sacrifice Nature of the Cross in early Christianity

### III. The Place of Scripture in our Lives

- A. All Scripture is to be read with the Christ event in mind
- B. We can look for instructions in every Scriptural passage
- C. As to Hope it indicates the continuing presence of God in our lives and the community

### IV. He ends this passage with prayer for the community to have Hope and Encouragement

#### **Romans 15: 7-13**

Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 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, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise thee among the Gentiles, and sing to thy name"; and again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and further Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, he who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles hope." 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.

#### I. The Welcome of the Christian Community – Christ is again our example

- A. Accept everyone even the weak in Faith
  - 1. Faith is a gift of God
  - 2. Christ came for both the Jews and the Gentiles
- B. The Economy of Salvation may be different, but to the same end
  - 1. Jews through God's Promise (His People)
  - 2. Gentiles through Christ as a merciful act of the Divine Nature

#### II. The Series of Scriptural Quotes

- A. To confirm the Gentiles Praise of God
- B. To confirm God's Plan being revealed

#### III. The Second Prayer

That Joy and peace is the fulfillment of believing in the power of the Holy Ghost

How do we feel about that statement? Is it always true, everywhere, for everyone?

### **Romans 15:14-21**

I myself am satisfied about you, my brethren, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God 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. In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has wrought through me to win obedience from the Gentiles, by word and deed, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that from Jerusalem and as far round as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ, thus making it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on another man's foundation, but as it is written, "They shall see who have never been told of him, and they shall understand who have never heard of him."

I. Paul now expresses his confident

A. The Roman Community is full of knowledge and goodness

B. Paul's writing to them is not as primary evangelism, but as a reminder

II. Paul's role as an evangelist

A. Paul refers to his role in three ways

1. A Minister of a Gospel

2. Service as a priest

3. Offering for the people of God

B. Paul is referring to the cultic priesthood of Israel not the priesthood as we understand

1. Paul's role is to stand in for the people (Jewish Thought) – giving them the knowledge that they have been sanctified and so can offer their prayers and praise

2. This role is noted as it applies to Rome, because Paul's ministry is to the Gentiles

### III. Paul as an Apostle

A. His authority does not come from a blood line or his ability but from God

B. Paul notes the two areas of his ministry (Geography)

1. First to the east – as a tool of God he was first led to the east
2. He is to go where the Gospel has not yet been preached

Paul is setting up the discussion of his trip to Rome and then his being sent forth to the West

#### **Romans 15:22-33**

This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. 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, I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be sped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a little. At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem with aid for the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem; they were pleased to do it, and indeed they are in debt 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. When therefore I have completed this, and have delivered to them what has been raised, I shall go on by way of you to Spain; and I know that when I come to you I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of Christ. I appeal to you, brethren, 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, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

#### I. Preaching Technique

Tell them what you are going to tell them, tell them and then tell them what you told them.

A. Paul is returning to the beginning of this letter

1. Why he has not yet visited Rome as the Apostle to the Gentiles
2. It is that he is being led by the Spirit not his own desires

B. Moving to the next stage - Now he is being moved to come

## II. The New Ministry - Old was to the East new is to the West

A. Come to Rome

B. To be refreshed, encourage and to receive encouragement

## III. The Collection

A. Paul then notes his duty to deliver the collection to the church in Jerusalem

1. These are monies from Gentiles

2. There will be opposition in Jerusalem to accepting Gentile Money

3. In accepting the collection the ministry of Paul to the gentiles will be publically recognized

## IV. Coming to Rome – A Blessing for Paul

A. It is a next step for him to complete before turning to the West, Spain

B. It will be a source of Prayers for his trip to Jerusalem

## Romans 16:1-2

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deaconess of the church at Cenchreae, that you may receive her in the Lord as befits the saints, and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a helper of many and of myself as well.

I. Phoebe is the one who carried the letter

A. A sister in Christ and a deacon

We should not be confused with this translation. *Diakonos* is servant or one who serves it is not referring to the office of the church rather her role. Some translations use deaconess others say servant of the church in Cenchreae

B. Paul asks for her welcome and assistance for her ministry

## Romans 16:3-16

Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I but also all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks; greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert in Asia for Christ.

Greet Mary, who has worked hard among you. Greet Androni'cus and Ju'nias, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners; they are men of note among the apostles, and they were in Christ before me. Greet Amplia'tus, my beloved in the Lord. Greet Urba'nus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. Greet Apel'les, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobu'lus. Greet my kinsman Hero'dion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcis'sus. Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphae'na and Trypho'sa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. Greet Rufus, eminent in the Lord, also his mother and mine. Greet Asyn'critus, Phlegon, Hermes, Pat'robas, Hermas, and the brethren who are with them. Greet Philol'ogus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olym'pas, and all the saints who are with them. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

## I. Greetings

### A. Individuals and Churches

B. Why – to show his existing support that already exists in the Roman Community

C. What is important?

1. 26 individuals – men and women
2. Husband and wife teams

## II. The Holy Kiss

This is probably the liturgical Kiss or greeting used at the Eucharistic Feast

### **Romans 16:17-20**

I appeal to you, brethren, to take note of those who create dissensions and difficulties, in opposition to the doctrine which you have been taught; avoid them. For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by fair and flattering words they deceive the hearts of the simple-minded. For while your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, I would have you wise as to what is good and guileless as to what is evil; then the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

I. The Warning – an abrupt injection into the series of greetings

- A. The Roman Community is now commanded (Much like Paul's Other Letters)
- B. This is contrasted to the cautious approach in the rest of the Letter

II. The warnings

- A. Avoid outside trouble makers
- B. Cling to the basic Teachings
- C. Do not engage in rhetorical discussions, lest you be swayed
- D. This attack on the community is part of satan's assault on the community of Christ

**Romans 16:21-24**

Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosip'ater, my kinsmen. I Tertius, the writer of this letter, greet you in the Lord. Ga'ius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Eras'tus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you. The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen

I. The Customary of Letter writing

- A. Paul usually identifies the senders rather than those who are to receive the letter
- B. Timothy is mentioned more than anyone else as a fellow worker with Paul
- C. The Scribe is usually silent in letters, but as a brother Christ he is named and sends greetings
- D. The Church at Corinth is named (Remember Pau is writing from Corinth)
- E. The usual Pauline ending the Grace

This is the original end of the Letter

## Romans 16: 25-27 – The Gloss

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed and through the prophetic writings is made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith to the only wise God be glory for evermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

I. A Liturgical Doxology

II. Not found in any of Paul's other writings