

Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome – Part 5 (Winter 54/55)

Romans 15:14–16:27

Looking Back—Paul's Ministry in the East

15:14 Now I myself also am convinced about you, my brothers, that *you* yourselves also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to instruct one another.

15 But I have written to you more boldly on *some* points, so as to remind you *again* because of the grace that has been given to me by God,

16 with the result that I am a servant of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, serving the gospel of God as a priest, in order that the offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

17 Therefore I have a reason for boasting in Christ Jesus regarding the things concerning God.

18 For I will not dare to speak about anything except *that* which Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed,

19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit, so that from Jerusalem and *traveling* around as far as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

20 And so, having as my ambition to proclaim the gospel where Christ has not been named, in order that I will not build on the foundation belonging to someone else,

21 but just as it is written, "*Those* to whom *it was* not announced concerning him will see, and *those* who have not heard will understand." [[Isa 52:15](#)]

Looking Ahead—Paul's Plans for Jerusalem, Rome and Spain

22 For this reason also I was hindered many *times* from coming to you,

23 and now, no longer having a place in these regions, but having a desire for many years to come to you

24 whenever I travel to Spain. For I hope *while I* am passing through to see you and to be sent on my way by you, whenever I have first enjoyed your *company* for a while.

25 But now I am traveling to Jerusalem, serving the saints.

26 For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

27 For they were pleased *to do so*, and they are obligated to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual *things*, they ought also to serve them in material *things*.

28 Therefore, *after I* have accomplished this and sealed this fruit *for delivery* to them, I will depart by way of you for Spain,

29 and I know that *when I* come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

A Request for Prayer

30 Now I exhort you, brothers, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to contend along with me in your prayers on my behalf to God,

31 that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and my ministry in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,

32 so that, coming to you with joy by the will of God, I may rest with you.

33 Now *may* the God of peace *be* with all of you. Amen.

Commendation of Phoebe

16:1 Now I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is also a servant of the church in Cencrea,

2 in order that you may welcome her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever task she may have need from you, for she herself also has been a helper of many, even me myself.

Greetings to Roman Brothers and Sisters

3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

4 who risked their own necks for my life, for which not only I am thankful, but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

5 also *greet* the church in their house. Greet Epenetus my dear *friend*, who is the first convert of Asia for Christ.

6 Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.

7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my compatriots and my fellow prisoners, who are well known to the apostles, who were also in Christ before me.

8 Greet Ampliatus, my dear *friend* in the Lord.

9 Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear *friend* Stachys.

10 Greet Apelles, who *is* approved in Christ. Greet those of the *household* of Aristobulus.

11 Greet Herodion my compatriot. Greet those of the *household* of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

12 Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, the laborers in the Lord. Greet Persis, the dear *friend* who has worked hard in the Lord.

13 Greet Rufus, the chosen one in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers with them.

15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints *who are* with them.

16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

A Warning, a Promise and a Prayer for Grace

17 Now I exhort you, brothers, to look out for those who cause dissensions and temptations contrary to the teaching which you learned, and stay away from them.

18 For such people do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own stomach, and by smooth speech and flattery they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

19 For *the report of* your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, and I want you to be wise toward what *is* good, but innocent toward what *is* evil.

20 And in a short time the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you.

Greetings from Paul's Companions

21 Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you, and Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my compatriots.

22 I, Tertius, the one who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.

23 Gaius, my host and *the host* of the whole church, greets you. Erastus the city treasurer greets you, and Quartus the brother.

24 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with all of you. Amen.

Closing Doxology

Some manuscripts include vv. 25–27:

[25 Now to the one who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that had been kept secret for eternal ages,

26 but now has been revealed, and through the prophetic scriptures has been made known according to the command of the eternal God, resulting in obedience of faith to all the Gentiles,

27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for eternity. Amen.]

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