



A D-GROUP CURRICULUM

LIVE BY FAITH

CALLED TO LOVE + SERVE

ROMANS CHAPTERS 15-16

TABLE OF CONTENTS

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE 4

INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS 15:22-16:27 5

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES 42

LIVE BY FAITH SERIES SCHEDULE

WEEK OF	READ	SERMON DATE	SCRIPTURE	PAGE
6/9/25	WEEK 33	6/15/25	ROMANS 15:22-29	7
6/16/25	WEEK 34	6/22/25	ROMANS 15:22-29	12
6/23/25	WEEK 35	6/29/25	ROMANS 15:22-29	18
6/30/25	WEEK 36	7/6/25	ROMANS 15:30-33	23
7/7/25	WEEK 37	7/13/25	ROMANS 16:1-16	28
7/14/25	WEEK 38	7/20/25	ROMANS 16:17-24	32
7/21/25	WEEK 39	7/27/25	ROMANS 16:25-27	38



HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

PURPOSE

The book of Romans is a cornerstone of Christian theology, offering profound insights into faith, salvation, and righteous living. This study guide aims to help you “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18) through an in-depth exploration of Paul’s letter to the Romans. As you engage with this guide, you’ll be equipped to live out your faith more authentically and to share the transformative power of the gospel in your daily life.

STRUCTURE

This guide is designed for a 7-week study, with each week focusing on a specific passage from Romans. Each week’s study includes:

- 1. Introduction:** Provides context and key themes for the week’s passage.
- 2. Scripture:** The full text of the week’s passage from the ESV translation.
- 3. Daily Personal Study:** Five days of reflection questions to deepen your understanding.
- 4. Daily Prayer:** A focused prayer related to the week’s scripture passage.
- 5. Group Discussion Questions:** Divided into three sections:
 - Know: Reflects on personal experiences related to the passage.
 - Grow: Dives deeper into the text, often incorporating related Scripture.
 - Show: Encourages practical application of the passage’s teachings.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

1. Personal Study

- Read the introduction and Scripture passage at the beginning of each week.
- Engage with the Daily Personal Study questions throughout the week, spending time in prayer and reflection.
- Use the provided space to journal your thoughts, questions, and insights.

2. Group Discussion

- Come prepared to share your reflections from your personal study.
- Engage openly and honestly with the Know, Grow, and Show questions.
- Be ready to both share your own insights and learn from others in your group.

3. Application

- Pay special attention to the “Show” questions each week, which challenge you to apply the Scripture to your daily life.
- Look for ways to live out the truths you’re learning in your family, workplace, and community.

4. Continuous Growth

- As you progress through the study, notice how Paul builds his argument throughout Romans.
- Reflect on how each week's passage contributes to the overall theme of "living by faith."

Remember, the goal of this study is not just to gain knowledge, but to be transformed by God's Word. As you engage with Romans, pray for the Holy Spirit to illuminate the text and guide you in applying its truths to your life.

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, 'The righteous shall live by faith.'" — Romans 1:16–17

INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS 15:22–16:27

We have journeyed through Paul's profound theological exposition and practical applications of the gospel in Romans chapters 1–14, we now arrive at the final movement of this magnificent letter in chapters 15–16. These concluding chapters serve as both the culmination of Paul's teaching and a window into his personal ministry and relationships. If Romans 1–11 established the theological foundation of our salvation by grace through faith, and Romans 12–14 showed us how to live out that faith in community, then Romans 15–16 reveals how such faith-filled communities extend Christ's love to the world.

In these final chapters, Paul weaves together several important themes that complete his vision of what it means to "live by faith" as those who are "called to love and serve." He begins by continuing his practical teaching on harmony within communities, calling believers to follow Christ's selfless example in bearing with one another. Then Paul transitions to his missionary vision, revealing how the gospel breaks down barriers between Jews and Gentiles to create one new family of God. We also glimpse Paul's personal ministry plans, his network of ministry partners, and his heartfelt love for the believers in Rome—many of whom he had never met.

Throughout these chapters, we'll discover how mature Christian community operates with both grace and truth, welcoming diversity while standing firm against division. We'll see how the gospel creates unity across cultural divides that seemed insurmountable in the first century. We'll learn what it means to

"strive together" in prayer for God's kingdom work. And we'll witness how Paul's vision of ministry was never about building his own reputation but about bringing glory to God by reaching those who had never heard the good news.

Whether you're struggling with relational tensions in your church family, seeking your place in God's mission, or longing to make a gospel impact in your sphere of influence, these chapters contain practical wisdom and inspiring examples that will deepen your commitment to Christ and His church. In Romans 15–16, we'll discover how Christ transforms not just our individual lives but also our relationships, communities, and ultimately, the world.

WEEK 33: ROMANS 15:22–29

INTRODUCTION

Having explored the transformative power of the gospel and the believer's call to spiritual renewal throughout our journey in Romans, we now turn to Paul's travel plans and ministry partnerships in Romans 15:22–29. In this passage, Paul reveals his heart for both local and global ministry, explaining why he hasn't yet visited Rome and outlining his intentions to bring aid to the Jerusalem church before continuing his missionary work in Spain. This section provides a beautiful glimpse into how early Christians viewed giving—not merely as financial transactions, but as acts of worship flowing from hearts transformed by God's grace. For the original Roman believers, this collection represented a tangible expression of unity between Gentile and Jewish Christians, while for us today, it challenges our tendency to compartmentalize our faith and finances. At the center of this life with Jesus is God's grace and glory, which transforms how we view and use the resources He entrusts to us. As we begin this three-week focus on stewardship, we'll discover that giving is first and foremost an act of worship to God, who owns everything and shares it with us as stewards of His resources on earth.

ROMANS 15:22–29 (ESV)

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.

DAILY STUDY TIPS

Day 1

Read Romans 15:22–24 and consider how Paul balances his desire to visit Rome with completing his current ministry obligations. How do you prioritize your commitments in your faith journey? Reflect on Paul's example of stewardship and compare with Philippians 1:9–11 about discerning what is excellent in how we use our time and resources.

Day 2

Focus on Romans 15:24 where Paul expects the Romans to “help me on my journey” to Spain. Consider Paul’s willingness to receive support from others. When have you found it difficult to ask for help from fellow believers? Reflect on 1 Corinthians 12:12–27 and how interdependence strengthens the body of Christ.

Day 3

Study Romans 15:25–26 regarding the collection for Jerusalem’s poor. Notice the Macedonians and Achaians were “pleased” to contribute. Do you give out of duty or delight? Consider 2 Corinthians 9:6–8 about cheerful giving and journal how you might grow toward more joyful, Spirit-led generosity.

Day 4

Examine Romans 15:27 where Paul says Gentiles “owe it” to Jerusalem believers because they’ve received spiritual blessings. How does this challenge our separation of spiritual and material aspects of life? Consider how you might express gratitude through tangible generosity to those who have spiritually blessed you, reflecting on Galatians 6:6.

Day 5

Reflect on Romans 15:28–29 where Paul describes the financial gift as spiritual “fruit.” How might viewing giving as worship transform your perspective on generosity? Meditate on Matthew 6:19–21 about the connection between your treasure and your heart.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Father, thank You for showing me examples of generosity and partnership in Your Word. Help me view my resources as tools for worship and kingdom advancement. Transform my heart to give joyfully, recognizing everything comes from You. Show me how to partner with others in gospel ministry locally and globally. May my giving reflect my trust in Your provision and purposes. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KNOW

These opening questions help us reflect on our personal experiences with generosity and the joy that comes from worship through giving. As we begin

our discussion, let's consider how God has shaped our own perspectives on resources and generosity.

- Share about a time when you experienced unexpected generosity from someone else. How did it make you feel, and what impact did it have on your relationship with that person?
- What was one of the first lessons you learned about money or giving as a child, and how has that shaped your perspective today?

GROW

Paul's travel plans in Romans 15:22–29 reveal important principles about gospel ministry, generosity, and how we manage the resources God entrusts to us. Through this passage, we see how Paul views giving as spiritual worship that connects diverse believers and advances God's kingdom purposes both locally and globally.

- Read Romans 15:22–24. Paul explains that his ministry obligations have “prevented” him from coming to Rome, but he still plans to visit them. What does this reveal about how Paul balances ministry priorities? Consider Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 16:8–9: “But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.” How might this wisdom apply to our own stewardship of time and resources?
- In verse 24, Paul says he hopes the Romans will “help me on my journey” to Spain. This likely refers to financial and practical support for his missionary work. Why is it significant that Paul is comfortable requesting this kind of partnership? How does this challenge our modern discomfort with discussing financial support for ministry?
- Look at Romans 15:25–26. Paul describes the Macedonian and Achaian Christians as having been “pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.” The word “pleased” indicates joyful, willing giving. How does this attitude compare with how many people approach giving today? Consider 2 Corinthians 9:7, which says, “Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”
- In verse 27, Paul says that the Gentile churches “owe it” to the Jerusalem church because they have shared in spiritual blessings from them. What does this teach us about the relationship between spiritual and material blessings?

SHOW

Having explored Paul's perspective on generosity and kingdom stewardship, let's consider how we can apply these principles in our own lives. These

questions help us move from understanding to action as we seek to worship God through our giving.

- After reflecting on giving as an act of worship to God, identify one specific step you could take this week to make your giving more intentional and worshipful. This might involve establishing a regular giving pattern, praying over your resources, or finding a new way to express gratitude through generosity.
- Paul's collection for Jerusalem connected Christians across geographic and cultural boundaries. Is there a ministry opportunity—either local or global—that God might be calling you to support that would strengthen connections between different parts of the body of Christ? What step will you take to learn more about this opportunity? Visit: fellowshipar.com/missions.

NOTES

[illegible]

WEEK 34: ROMANS 15:22–29

INTRODUCTION

Having explored how giving serves as an act of worship to God in our previous session, we now turn our focus to the powerful witness of generosity that crosses boundaries in Romans 15:24–26. Here, Paul highlights his plan to bring aid to the poor saints in Jerusalem—a collection that represents far more than financial assistance. For the original readers, this offering carried profound significance: Gentile believers, once excluded from God’s covenant people, were now expressing their spiritual unity with Jewish Christians through tangible support. This remarkable act of generosity occurred despite the Macedonians’ own “extreme poverty” and “severe affliction” (2 Corinthians 8:1–2), challenging both ancient and modern assumptions about when we’re “ready” to give. Today, as we navigate a world fragmented by cultural, economic, and social divisions, Paul’s collection reminds us that gospel-centered giving doesn’t just meet physical needs—it demonstrates the reconciling power of Christ who breaks down dividing walls of hostility. As we explore these verses together, we’ll discover how our generosity toward those in need—whether prisoners, orphans, or the poor—can become a visible sign of the invisible grace we’ve received through Jesus.

ROMANS 15:22–29 (ESV)

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.

DAILY PERSONAL STUDY

Day 1

Read Romans 15:24–26 alongside 2 Corinthians 8:1–5. Notice the Macedonians giving “out of their poverty” and “beyond their means.” Reflect on sacrificial giving you’ve witnessed despite limited resources. How does this challenge your perspective on when and how much to give? Consider Jesus’ teaching about the widow’s offering (Mark 12:41–44). What would it mean for you to give from sacrifice rather than surplus?

Day 2

Focus on Romans 15:26 where Gentile Christians supported Jewish believers they'd never met. What barriers existed between these groups? Read Ephesians 2:14–16 where Christ breaks down dividing walls. How might your giving cross cultural, geographic, or social boundaries? What prejudices might limit your generosity?

Day 3

Study 2 Corinthians 8:9 about Christ becoming poor that we might become rich. How does the gospel provide both the pattern and power for Christian generosity? Journal where you might need to “become poorer” so others can be enriched. Consider Philippians 2:5–8 about Christ's self-emptying love and how it transforms your attitude toward giving.

Day 4

Examine Romans 15:27 where Gentiles “owe it” to Jerusalem believers for “sharing in their spiritual blessings.” Who has blessed you spiritually? How have you expressed tangible gratitude? Consider Galatians 6:6 about sharing “all good things” with those who teach you. What specific step could you take to support someone who has contributed to your spiritual growth?

Day 5

Reflect on Romans 15:28–29 where Paul expresses confidence that his visit will come “in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.” How does Paul's expectation of mutual blessing through giving and receiving encourage you about the role of generosity in Christian fellowship? Consider how your giving might be a source of blessing both to others and back to yourself. Also meditate on Matthew 6:19–21 about the connection between your treasure and your heart.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Father, thank You for the examples of sacrificial generosity in Your Word. Open my eyes to needs both locally and globally. Help me give not just from abundance but through faith and sacrifice. Transform my perspective to see giving as privilege rather than obligation. Remind me of Christ's grace, becoming poor for my sake, and empower me to reflect His generosity.

May my giving strengthen Your church's unity and witness to Your kingdom.
In Jesus' name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KNOW

These opening questions help us reflect on our personal experiences with generosity, need, and how God uses His people to meet needs around them. As we begin our discussion, let's consider how God has worked in our own lives through giving and receiving.

- Share about a time when someone met a need in your life in a way that felt like God's provision. What impact did this have on your faith?
- What person or organization first opened your eyes to needs beyond your local community, and how did that shape your perspective on global giving?

GROW

Paul's heart for both local and global ministry in Romans 15:22–29 reveals important principles about biblical generosity. When read alongside 2 Corinthians 8:1–9, we see how the early church practiced sacrificial giving that crossed cultural and geographic boundaries, demonstrating the unifying power of the gospel.

- Read Romans 15:24–26. Paul mentions bringing “aid to the saints” in Jerusalem. Why was this collection for the Jerusalem church so important to Paul? Consider Acts 11:27–30, where a similar collection occurred earlier.
- In 2 Corinthians 8:1–2, Paul describes the Macedonian churches giving generously despite their “extreme poverty” and “severe test of affliction.” How does this challenge our typical excuses for not giving? How might their example reshape our understanding of when we’re “ready” to be generous?
- Look at 2 Corinthians 8:3–5. What stands out about the Macedonians’ attitude toward giving? Notice they gave “beyond their means,” “of their own accord,” and “first gave themselves to the Lord.” How does this compare with our typical approach to generosity?
- In Romans 15:27, Paul says the Gentiles “owe it” to the Jerusalem believers because they have shared in spiritual blessings. What principle does this establish about the relationship between receiving spiritual benefits and material giving? Consider 1 Corinthians 9:11 and Galatians 6:6.
- In 2 Corinthians 8:8–9, Paul connects the Macedonians’ generosity to Christ’s example: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he

was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.” How does the gospel itself provide both the motivation and pattern for Christian giving?

SHOW

Having explored biblical principles of generosity that crosses boundaries and reflects Christ's sacrificial love, let's consider how we can apply these truths in our own lives. These questions help us move from understanding to action as we seek to grow in grace-motivated generosity.

- Based on our discussion of the Macedonian believers' example, identify one specific way you could grow in generosity this week that stretches you beyond your comfort zone. Consider giving in a way that feels sacrificial rather than convenient, and share with the group what steps you'll take to follow through.
- Paul emphasizes that the Gentile churches were helping those they had never met—believers in Jerusalem with different cultural backgrounds. What is one concrete step you could take to extend your giving beyond your immediate circle to support those in need locally or globally whom you may never meet?

NOTES

[illegible]

[illegible]

WEEK 35: ROMANS 15:22–29

INTRODUCTION

In Romans 15:27, Paul establishes a powerful principle that connects spiritual blessing with material responsibility: “For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews’ spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.” For the original Roman believers, this principle challenged cultural norms about patronage and obligation, inviting them instead to give cheerfully as a response to grace received from God. For us today, this passage addresses tensions we often feel about church finances—perhaps skepticism due to past abuses, questions about ministry priorities, or uncertainty about our personal responsibility. Yet Paul reminds us that just as we depend on our church for spiritual nourishment through teaching, worship, discipleship, and care ministries, God has designed His kingdom to advance through our joyful material support. Our giving isn’t merely maintaining an institution but partnering with God to be salt and light in our communities and beyond.

ROMANS 15:22–29 (ESV)

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.

DAILY PERSONAL STUDY

Day 1

Read Romans 15:27 and 1 Corinthians 9:11–14. Paul teaches that receiving spiritual blessings creates responsibility to share material blessings. Consider what spiritual benefits you’ve received from your church. How might viewing your financial support as a response to these benefits—rather than an obligation—transform your attitude toward giving?

Day 2

Focus on 2 Corinthians 9:6–7 about sowing generously and being a “cheerful giver.” Examine your heart—does your giving stem from guilt or obligation rather than joy? Ask God to cultivate in you a heart that delights in supporting His work through your local church.

Day 3

Study 2 Corinthians 9:8–11 where God promises provision for generous givers, providing “all sufficiency in all things” so we can “abound in every good work.” How does this promise address fears that limit your giving? Consider Matthew 6:25–33 about God’s faithful provision. Journal about where you need to trust God more as you support ministry.

Day 4

Examine Romans 15:22–24 where Paul expects the Romans to “help me on my journey” to Spain. This reveals the early church’s pattern of supporting missionary efforts, similar to Acts 13:1–3. How does your church participate in sending and supporting missionaries? Reflect on your role in this kingdom partnership through prayer, giving, or potentially going.

Day 5

Reflect on 2 Corinthians 9:12–15 where giving produces three outcomes: meeting needs, expressing thanks to God, and prompting others to praise God. How might your church support serve as a testimony drawing others to Christ? Consider Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:14–16 about being “light of the world.” Pray about one way your support might shine Christ’s light in your community this week.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Father, thank You for the privilege of participating in Your work through my church. Help me see giving as a joyful response to spiritual blessings received. Make me cheerful and generous, trusting in Your provision. Show me how to partner with my church in advancing the gospel. May my support reflect Your generosity and bring glory to Your name. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KNOW

In Romans 15:24–26, Paul describes his plan to visit the Romans on his way to Spain after first delivering aid to the saints in Jerusalem. This collection for the poor believers demonstrates how the early church extended care beyond local boundaries. As we begin our discussion about giving locally and globally, let's reflect on our own experiences with need and generosity.

- Share about a time when someone met a practical need in your life in a way that truly touched your heart. What made that act of generosity especially meaningful?
- What's one global issue (hunger, clean water, orphan care, etc.) that particularly moves your heart, and why does that specific need resonate with you?

GROW

Paul's description of the collection for Jerusalem in Romans 15:22–29 reveals important principles about Christian generosity that transcends geographic, cultural, and economic boundaries. This passage, alongside 2 Corinthians 8:1–9, shows us how the early church understood giving as both an act of worship and a practical expression of unity in the body of Christ.

- Read Romans 15:25–26. Paul mentions that the Macedonians and Achaians were “pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.” What does their attitude toward giving reveal about their understanding of Christian community? Consider Acts 2:44–45 and 4:32–35, which describe the early church's radical approach to sharing resources.
- Look at 2 Corinthians 8:1–2. Paul describes the Macedonian churches as giving generously despite their “extreme poverty” and “severe trial.” How does this challenge our typical excuses for not giving? What might this teach us about the relationship between suffering and generosity?
- In 2 Corinthians 8:3–5, we learn that the Macedonians gave “beyond their ability” and “gave themselves first to the Lord.” How does this sequence—first dedicating ourselves to God, then giving sacrificially to others—transform our approach to generosity? Compare this with Romans 12:1, which calls us to present our bodies as “living sacrifices.”
- Romans 15:27 states that the Gentiles “owe it” to the Jewish believers because they have “shared in their spiritual blessings.” What does this teach us about the connection between receiving spiritual blessing and responding with material generosity? Consider Jesus' words in Matthew 10:8, “Freely you have received, freely give.” How might this principle apply to our support of both local and global ministries today?

- In 2 Corinthians 8:7, Paul encourages believers to “excel in this grace of giving” just as they excel in faith, speech, knowledge, and love. Why does Paul classify giving as a “grace” rather than merely a duty or obligation? Consider Ephesians 2:8–10, which discusses the relationship between grace, faith, and good works.
- In 2 Corinthians 8:9, Paul grounds his appeal for generosity in the ultimate example of Christ, who “though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor.” How does the gospel itself provide both the motivation and pattern for Christian giving? Think about Philippians 2:5–11, which describes Christ’s self-emptying.

SHOW

Having explored the biblical principles of giving locally and globally from Romans 15:22–29 and 2 Corinthians 8:1–9, let’s consider practical ways to apply these truths in our own lives. These questions help us move from understanding to action as we seek to grow in the grace of giving.

- After learning about our church’s “buckets” for giving (Education, Orphan Care, Food/Health/Shelter, Church Strengthening), which area resonates most with your heart? What is one specific step you could take this week to learn more about or begin supporting ministry in this area?
- The Macedonians gave “according to their means” and even “beyond their means” (2 Cor. 8:3). Take a moment to honestly assess your current giving. Is there an area where God might be calling you to increase your generosity—whether financially or through serving with your time and talents? What would be your next step in responding to that call?

NOTES

[illegible]

WEEK 36: ROMANS 15:30–33

INTRODUCTION

Having explored the importance of generosity and stewardship in our previous weeks' study of Romans 15:22–29, Paul now turns to another vital aspect of supporting God's work—prayer. In Romans 15:30–33, Paul makes an urgent appeal for the Roman believers to join him in spiritual battle through prayer. This passage reveals how deeply Paul valued the prayers of his fellow believers, seeing them as essential partners in his ministry. Just as the early Roman Christians faced opposition and needed to support one another through prayer, we too live in a world where following Christ brings challenges that require spiritual warfare. Paul's language is striking—he “beseeches” the Romans to “strive together” with him in prayer, using military and athletic imagery to convey the intensity and effort required. As we study this passage, we'll discover that prayer is not merely a passive activity but a powerful act of spiritual engagement that God uses to accomplish His purposes in the world. Through Paul's example, we learn that even the most mature believers need the prayer support of others, and that there is profound spiritual power when believers unite in focused, fervent prayer.

ROMANS 15:30–33 (ESV)

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.

DAILY PERSONAL STUDY

Day 1

Read Romans 15:30–33. Notice how Paul appeals “by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit.” Why ground his request in these aspects of God? Connect this to his teachings about Christ's sacrifice and the Spirit's work in Romans 8:26–27. How might Christ's love and the Spirit's presence transform your approach to praying for others?

Day 2

Focus on “strive together with me in your prayers” (v.30). The Greek word (*sunagōnizesthai*) suggests intense struggle, like athletes competing or soldiers fighting. Compare with Colossians 4:12, where Epaphras is “wrestling in prayer.” What's the difference between striving in prayer and offering routine prayers? How could you bring more spiritual intensity to your prayer life?

Day 3

Study verse 31's specific prayer requests—protection from unbelievers and acceptance by believers. Paul faces challenges both outside and inside the faith community. Compare with 2 Corinthians 11:23–28. What challenges do you face in serving God, both from secular culture and fellow Christians? How might prayer address both types of obstacles?

Day 4

Examine verse 32 about coming to Rome “with joy” and being “refreshed” through fellowship. Connect this with Romans 1:11–12 on mutual encouragement. How do prayer and Christian fellowship work together? Recall a time when fellowship refreshed you spiritually. How might your prayers refresh others?

Day 5

Reflect on the blessing in verse 33: “May the God of peace be with you all.” Throughout Romans, Paul emphasizes peace as a gospel fruit (5:1, 8:6, 14:17). How does this blessing relate to his prayer requests? Consider 2 Kings 6:15–17, where Elisha prays for his servant to see the spiritual battle around them. Ask God to help you recognize both the battles requiring “striving” and the peace He provides.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Heavenly Father, thank You for inviting me to join in Your work through prayer. Help me understand what it means to truly “strive” in prayer rather than treating it casually. Show me the spiritual battles requiring my engagement, and teach me to pray with both urgency and confidence. Let me be refreshed in fellowship with other believers as we pray together, and may Your peace rule in my heart. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Father, thank You for establishing governing authorities as part of Your sovereign plan. Help me to honor and respect those in leadership, even when I disagree with them. Give me wisdom to discern when obedience to You requires respectful resistance to human authority. May my citizenship on earth reflect my primary citizenship in heaven, bringing glory to Your name. Let me live by faith in Your sovereignty over all earthly powers. In Jesus' name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KNOW

In Romans 15:30–33, Paul urgently appeals to the Roman believers to join him in prayer for his upcoming journey to Jerusalem. His language is striking—he urges them to “strive together” with him in prayer, using imagery of spiritual battle. As we begin our discussion today, let’s reflect on our own experiences with prayer and spiritual support.

- What’s one time when you knew someone was praying specifically for you, and how did that knowledge impact you emotionally or spiritually?
- Think about your prayer life: do you find it easier to pray for practical needs (like health or finances) or spiritual matters (like someone’s growth in faith or resistance to temptation)? Why do you think that is?

GROW

Paul’s appeal for prayer in Romans 15:30–33 reveals how deeply he valued the prayers of fellow believers. His language is urgent and intense, showing that he considered their prayers essential to his ministry success. This passage gives us profound insights into the nature and importance of intercessory prayer in the body of Christ.

- Read Romans 15:30. Paul appeals “by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit.” Why do you think Paul bases his appeal on these specific aspects of God? How does this connect to his earlier teachings in Romans about Christ’s sacrifice and the Spirit’s work?
- Paul uses the Greek word *sunagōnizesthai* (“strive together”) when asking them to pray, which is a word picture of athletic or military struggle. What does this tell us about how Paul viewed prayer? Compare this with Colossians 4:12, where Epaphras is described as “wrestling in prayer.” How might this change our approach to prayer?
- In verse 31, Paul requests prayer for two specific concerns: deliverance from unbelievers in Judea and acceptance of his ministry by believers there. What does this reveal about the challenges Paul faced within and outside the church? How might these prayers relate to the theme of unity Paul emphasizes throughout Romans?
- In verses 32–33, Paul expresses his hope to come to Rome “with joy” and “be refreshed” by their company, ending with “the God of peace be with you all.” How does this conclusion connect prayer with fellowship, joy, and peace? Consider how this relates to Paul’s teaching about peace in Romans 5:1–5 and Romans 14:17–19.
- *“Wearied and battered servants of God need the refreshment that comes from fellowship with other believers. The Roman Christians could*

provide Paul the human comfort he needed.” — Douglas Moo, The Epistle to the Romans

- When Paul prays for the offering to be “acceptable to the saints,” he connects prayer with giving. How does prayer support and strengthen our giving to ministry? Consider 2 Corinthians 9:6–15, where Paul also connects prayer and giving.
- Throughout Romans, Paul emphasizes both God’s sovereignty and human responsibility. How does this prayer request demonstrate the balance between trusting God’s plan and human participation through prayer? What insights does this give us about how prayer actually “works”?
- *“Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness.” — Martin Luther*

SHOW

Having explored the depth of Paul’s call to prayer in Romans 15:30–33, we now consider how to apply these truths in our daily lives. Paul clearly believed that the prayers of believers had real power to affect outcomes in ministry and spiritual battles. Let’s consider how we can “strive together” in prayer for our church and its ministry.

- Paul was specific in his prayer requests rather than vague. What is one specific ministry of our church that you could commit to praying for regularly this week? What particular aspects of that ministry need prayer support?
- The word “strive” implies effort and intentionality. What practical step could you take this week to make your prayer life more intentional and consistent? (Examples might include setting aside specific times, creating a prayer journal, or finding a prayer partner.)

NOTES

[illegible]

WEEK 37: ROMANS 16:1–16

INTRODUCTION

In Romans 16:1–16, Paul moves from theological depth to relational warmth as he greets numerous individuals who have served, sacrificed, and supported the ministry of the gospel. For the original Roman church—likely meeting in various homes and comprised of both Jewish and Gentile believers from different social backgrounds—these greetings would have powerfully illustrated the inclusive community that Christ’s grace creates. For us today, this passage challenges our tendency to view church as merely an organization rather than a family where each member is known, valued, and needed. Just as Paul recognized specific contributions of men and women, slaves and free, Jews and Gentiles, we too are called to notice and encourage the diverse ways God’s people serve. As we study these seemingly simple greetings, we’ll discover a beautiful picture of what it means to be a gospel-centered community where faith is expressed through mutual appreciation, honor, and love.

ROMANS 16:1-16 (ESV)

¹ I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, ² that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well. ³ Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. ⁵ Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaphroditus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia. ⁶ Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. ⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me. ⁸ Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. ⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. ¹⁰ Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. ¹¹ Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. ¹² Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. ¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. ¹⁴ Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. ¹⁵ Greet Philologus, 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.

DAILY PERSONAL STUDY

Day 1

Read Romans 16:1–5a, noting Paul’s commendation of Phoebe and Prisca and Aquila. What qualities does Paul highlight about these servants? Consider

Phoebe's role as a "servant of the church" and how this reflects women's importance in early church ministry.

Day 2

Examine Romans 16:5b–7 regarding Epaphroditus ("first convert in Asia") and Andronicus and Junia ("outstanding among the apostles"). Why does Paul highlight these pioneers? Reflect on someone who was a "first" in sharing Christ with you or your community. Have you thanked them for their influence? Journal about the impact of spiritual "firsts" in your life and faith journey.

Day 3

Study Romans 16:8–11, noting Paul's tender language: "beloved," "fellow worker," "approved in Christ." How does this relational warmth complement the theological depth of Romans? Consider 1 John 4:7–12 about the connection between knowing God and loving others. How might you express similar appreciation to someone in your church family this week?

Day 4

Read Romans 16:12–14, where Paul mentions women who "worked hard in the Lord" (kopiaō - laboring to exhaustion). Think about those serving tirelessly behind the scenes in your church. How do you recognize their contributions? Consider Jesus' words in Matthew 10:42 about rewards for small acts of service. List ways you can better notice and affirm these "hard workers."

Day 5

Consider Romans 16:15–16 and the "holy kiss" greeting. While expressions differ culturally, what principle about Christian relationships is Paul establishing? How does this connect to Romans 14–15 on unity despite differences? What's one way you could express sincere fellowship to believers different from you this week? What barriers might prevent this, and how can you overcome them?

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Lord Jesus, thank You for building Your church with diverse people and gifts. Help me notice those serving faithfully around me and express sincere encouragement. Make me quick to recognize others' contributions and

slow to seek recognition. Help me serve humbly, knowing You see every act done in Your name. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KNOW

After spending eleven chapters describing the theological foundations of the gospel and then four chapters on practical Christian living, Paul now concludes his letter with personal greetings that reveal the depth of his care for the body of Christ. In Romans 16:1–16, we see Paul's pastoral heart as he acknowledges individuals who have sacrificed, served, and supported the ministry of the gospel. Let's begin by reflecting on our own experiences with recognition and appreciation in the body of Christ.

- Think about someone in your church family who has deeply impacted your spiritual journey. What did they do that made such a difference, and have you ever told them about their influence on your life?
- When was a time you felt truly appreciated for serving in the church? What was that experience like, and how did it affect your desire to continue serving?
- Romans 16 reveals Paul's connection to a diverse community of believers. How has being part of a church family with different backgrounds, ages, and life experiences enriched your faith journey?

GROW

In Romans 16:1–16, Paul exemplifies what it means to value and honor fellow believers who have contributed to the ministry of the gospel. These personal greetings show us that the Christian faith is not just theological but deeply relational. The gospel creates a family where each person is known, valued, and has a vital role to play. Let's explore how this passage reveals Paul's understanding of the church as a diverse community on mission together.

- Read Romans 16:1–2. Paul begins by commending Phoebe, calling her a “servant” or “deacon” (diakonos) of the church. What does Paul's commendation of Phoebe reveal about women's roles in the early church? Why is his request that the Romans “receive her in the Lord” and “help her in whatever she may need” significant?
- In verses 3–5, Paul mentions Priscilla and Aquila, calling them “fellow workers in Christ Jesus” who “risked their necks” for him. What does their example teach us about sacrificial partnership in ministry? How does Acts 18:1–3, 18–19, 24–26 deepen our understanding of this couple's impact on the early church? Consider how uncommon it was in the ancient world for a wife's name to be mentioned before her husband's, yet Paul does this with Priscilla.

- Look at verses 5–7. Paul mentions Epaphroditus as “the first convert to Christ in Asia” and Andronicus and Junia as “prominent among the apostles.” What is significant about Paul honoring these pioneers and early believers? What might it mean for us to recognize and encourage those who are “firsts” in our communities today?
- In verses 6 and 12, Paul specifically highlights several women who “worked hard” (*kopiaō*, meaning “to labor to the point of exhaustion”) for the church. What does this reveal about Paul’s view of women’s contributions to the church? How does this compare with some misconceptions about Paul’s attitude toward women in ministry? Consider Galatians 3:28 as you discuss this question.
- Throughout this passage, Paul uses warm, affectionate language — “beloved,” “kinsmen,” “approved in Christ,” “chosen in the Lord.” How does this personal language contrast with the formal, theological language in earlier chapters of Romans? What does this tell us about the Christian community Paul envisions?
- Verse 16 mentions the “holy kiss,” a cultural greeting in the early church. While the specific greeting may differ across cultures, what principle does this verse establish about how believers should relate to one another? How might we appropriately express this same warmth and acceptance in our cultural context today? As theologian Gordon Fee notes: “The holy kiss was not simply a social greeting, but a sign of recognition that they belonged to one another as the family of God.” (Paul, the Spirit, and the People of God, p.116)

SHOW

Having explored the richness of Paul’s greetings to this diverse community of believers, we are reminded that the church is not just an organization but a family where each member is known, valued, and needed. As Howard Hendricks once said, “You can impress people from a distance, but you can only impact them up close.” Let’s consider how we can apply the principles from this passage to strengthen our church family today.

- Look at your church community through Paul’s eyes. Who is a “Phoebe” (faithful servant), “Priscilla and Aquila” (sacrificial helper), or “Mary” (hard worker) that you could specifically thank and encourage this week? Make a commitment to reach out to at least one person with a note, call, or personal word of appreciation.
- Paul knew specific details about how each person had contributed to the gospel. How might you become more aware of and celebrate the various ways people serve in your church? What practical step could you take to become more observant and appreciative of others’ ministry contributions?

WEEK 38: ROMANS 16:17–24

INTRODUCTION

Having explored the beauty of Christian fellowship through Paul's warm greetings to his friends and co-workers in ministry, we now turn to his urgent warning in Romans 16:17–24. In this passage, Paul suddenly shifts from affectionate greetings to a stern admonition about those who cause division and create obstacles to sound doctrine. For the original Roman church—a diverse congregation of Jewish and Gentile believers navigating cultural tensions—these warnings served as a protective guardrail against those who would undermine the gospel of grace with smooth talk and flattery. For us today, this passage addresses similar challenges: How do we discern between essential beliefs and secondary issues? How do we maintain unity while standing firm for truth? As we study this passage, we'll discover that living by faith means being filled with both the wisdom to recognize false teaching and the power to promote unity that strengthens the local church's mission.

ROMANS 16:17–24 (ESV)

¹⁷ I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. ¹⁸ For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive. ¹⁹ For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil. ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. ²¹ Timothy, my fellow worker, greets you; so do Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen. ²² I Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord. ²³ Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus, greet you. ²⁴ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

DAILY PERSONAL STUDY

Day 1

Read Romans 16:17–24, noting Paul's shift from warm greetings to a stern warning about divisive people. Why place this warning at the letter's end? Reflect on Proverbs 6:16–19, where “sowing discord” is listed among things the Lord hates. Ask God for discernment to recognize divisive influences in your church community.

Day 2

Examine Romans 16:18 where Paul describes divisive people serving “their own appetites” rather than Christ. Compare with Philipians 3:17–19 and 2 Peter 2:1–3.

Search your heart today—are there areas where you put personal preferences above church unity? Ask the Spirit to reveal any self-serving motivations in your church involvement.

Day 3

Consider Romans 16:19: “Be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil.” How does this balance affirmation with guidance? Compare with Jesus’ instruction to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” (Matthew 10:16). In what areas do you need more wisdom about good or innocence regarding evil? Journal specific growth steps in both areas.

Day 4

Meditate on Romans 16:20: “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” How does this connect to Genesis 3:15 and offer hope amid warnings about division? Identify areas where you see Satan’s divisive influence. Let Romans 8:37 remind you that we are “more than conquerors through him who loved us.”

Day 5

Note how Paul returns to greeting individuals (verses 21–24) after his warning. How does the unity of these different individuals contrast with the divisive people? Consider how your financial giving to our church demonstrates trust in God’s provision and supports this unity. Reflect on 2 Corinthians 9:7–8 about God’s love for cheerful givers who support His work.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Father, give me discernment about division and wisdom to promote peace. Help me examine my heart for selfish motives and support true gospel ministry through my resources. Thank You for promising victory over Satan. May I contribute to your church’s unity and mission, living by faith in You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KNOW

As Paul concludes his letter to the Romans, he shifts from personal greetings to a serious warning about those who would cause division within the church. In Romans 16:17–24, Paul emphasizes the importance of unity in the body of Christ

and how true ministry serves Christ rather than personal agendas. Before we dive deeper into the text, let's reflect on our own experiences with unity, division, and how we can support the ministry of our local church.

- When was a time you witnessed someone bring people together in a powerful way? What qualities did that person demonstrate that helped create unity?
- What was your first impression of our church that made you want to become part of this community? How has your perspective changed or deepened since then?
- Think about a time when someone's generosity toward a church or ministry made a lasting impact on you personally. What about that act of giving inspired you?

GROW

Paul's warning in Romans 16:17–24 comes after extended greetings to beloved friends and co-workers in ministry. This context makes his sudden shift to a serious warning all the more striking. Paul's concern for the Roman believers reveals his pastoral heart, wanting to protect them from those who would undermine the gospel message and the unity of the church that he has spent fifteen chapters developing. Let's examine this passage to better understand the dangers Paul identifies and the hope he offers.

- Read Romans 16:17–18. Paul warns believers to “watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught.” What specific characteristics does Paul attribute to these divisive people? How might these same traits manifest in churches today?
- In verse 18, Paul states that divisive people “serve not our Lord Christ, but their own appetites.” What might these “appetites” or self-interests include? How does this contrast with Paul's description of true ministry in Romans 15:15–16 where he describes himself as “a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles”?
- Look at verse 19: “For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil.” How does Paul balance affirmation with admonition here? How does this connect with Jesus' instruction to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves” in Matthew 10:16?
- Verse 20 promises that “the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” How does this promise relate to Genesis 3:15 and the ultimate victory of Christ over evil? Why is this an important reminder in the context of dealing with division in the church?
- Examine verses 21–24, where Paul returns to greetings from his companions. Why might Paul sandwich his warning about division between sections of

warm personal greetings? What does this teach us about maintaining both truth and love in church relationships?

- Throughout Romans, Paul emphasizes the importance of financial support for ministry (Romans 15:25–28). How does his warning against divisive people connect to the proper stewardship of church resources? Consider 2 Corinthians 9:7–8.

SHOW

Understanding the dangers of division and the importance of supporting true gospel ministry calls us to action. Paul not only identifies the problem but implicitly calls believers to promote unity and support genuine ministry efforts. Let's consider how we can apply these principles in our lives and church community today.

- Based on Paul's description of divisive people who serve "their own appetites," what is one specific way you can examine your own motives this week when discussing church matters or theological issues to ensure you're serving Christ rather than personal preferences?
- Paul encourages believers to be "wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil." What is one practical step you can take this week to deepen your knowledge of Scripture so you can better discern true teaching from false teaching?

NOTES

[illegible]

[illegible]

WEEK 39: ROMANS 16:25–27

INTRODUCTION

In Romans 16:25–27, Paul concludes his magnificent letter with a doxology that brings everything full circle. We find the perfect culmination of Paul's teaching on grace, faith, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. For the original Roman audience—a diverse congregation navigating tensions between Jewish and Gentile believers—these final words would have reinforced that God's eternal plan always included all nations. The mystery once hidden has now been fully revealed in Christ. For us today, this passage addresses a similar tension: how do we move from merely understanding doctrine to allowing it to transform our lives and fuel our worship? As we've journeyed through all of Romans, we've seen that living by faith means being filled with God's power and hope, and now Paul reminds us that this journey ultimately leads to one destination—giving glory to “the only wise God.” The same gospel that strengthens us for daily obedience culminates in eternal praise.

ROMANS 16:25–27 (ESV)

*²⁵ 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 that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶ but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—
²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.*

DAILY PERSONAL STUDY

Day 1

Read Romans 16:25–27, focusing on “Now to him who is able to strengthen you.” Why does Paul emphasize God's strengthening power in his conclusion? Reflect on times you've experienced God strengthening you through the gospel. How does this connect with Romans 8:37 where “we are more than conquerors through him”? Identify areas where you currently need God's strength rather than relying on yourself.

Day 2

Consider the phrase “according to my gospel” in verse 25. Paul uses personal terms like “my gospel” elsewhere (Romans 2:16) and “our gospel” (Romans 1:1). How has the gospel become personal to you—moving from “the gospel” to “my gospel”? What aspects of Christ's work revealed in Romans have become most meaningful to you personally?

Day 3

Examine “the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages” (v.25). Compare with Colossians 1:25–27 and Ephesians 3:4–6. What is this revealed mystery? How does it relate to God’s plan for Jews and Gentiles that Paul addresses throughout Romans? Consider how God’s timing in revelation displays His wisdom.

Day 4

Study verse 26: the purpose is “to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.” This echoes Romans 1:5, framing the entire letter. What does “obedience of faith” suggest about believing and obeying? Where might your faith need fuller expression through obedience? How does living by faith naturally lead to this “obedience of faith”?

Day 5

Reflect on verse 27: “to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ!” After presenting profound theology, Paul concludes with worship. How does sound doctrine lead to doxology? Write a prayer of praise expressing what you’ve learned through Romans and how it has impacted your life. Include specific attributes of God you now treasure more deeply.

DAILY PRAYER FOR THIS WEEK

Almighty God, as I complete Romans, I’m in awe of Your wisdom and plan. Thank You for strengthening me through the gospel and revealing mysteries once hidden. Help me respond with faith-fueled obedience, living by Your power, not mine. May my entire life—thoughts, words, actions, and resources—bring You glory through Jesus Christ. Amen.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

KNOW

As we begin our final discussion on Romans, let’s reflect on how this letter has shaped our understanding of God’s glory and how we’ve personally experienced His strengthening power in our lives.

- Share a time when you witnessed God’s glory revealed in an unexpected way or place in your life. How did that experience impact your faith?

- What part of the Gospel message has become most “personal” to you—moving from just “the Gospel” to “my Gospel” as Paul describes in Romans 1:16–17?
- Think about a situation where you felt completely inadequate, but God strengthened you beyond your own abilities. What did you learn about depending on His power rather than your own?

GROW

Paul’s final doxology summarizes the majesty of God’s redemptive plan that he’s unfolded throughout Romans. This beautiful conclusion reminds us that the same God who strengthens us through the Gospel is worthy of eternal glory and praise.

- Read Romans 16:25. Paul begins, “Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ.” How does the Gospel specifically strengthen believers? Consider how this connects to Romans 1:16 where Paul calls the Gospel “the power of God for salvation.”
- In verse 25, Paul also mentions “the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages.” What is this “mystery” he’s referring to? Look at Ephesians 3:4–6 and Colossians 1:26–27 for additional insight.
- Verse 26 states this mystery “has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations.” How does Paul connect the Old Testament (“prophetic writings”) with the New Testament revelation of Christ? Consider Romans 1:1–4 where he makes a similar connection at the letter’s beginning.
- Paul states in verse 26 that this revelation is “according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith.” How does this phrase “obedience of faith” serve as a bookend with Romans 1:5?
- Look at verse 27: “to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.” Why does Paul emphasize that God is the “only wise God”? How does this contrast with the worldly wisdom he criticized in Romans 1:22–23?
- Throughout Romans, Paul has explained how the Gospel reveals God’s righteousness, grace, and wisdom. How does ending with this doxology of glory demonstrate the proper response to sound doctrine?

SHOW

As we conclude our study of Romans, let’s consider how this magnificent letter should transform our lives as we seek to live by faith.

- Paul emphasizes that God is “able to strengthen you according to my gospel” (v.25). Identify one specific area in your life where you need God’s

strengthening power right now. What step will you take this week to rely on His strength rather than your own?

- The doxology reminds us that the Gospel is meant to bring about “the obedience of faith” among all nations (v.26). How can you practically support our church’s mission efforts—whether through prayer, giving, or personal involvement—to help make the Gospel known to those who haven’t heard?

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

- *Romans 8–16 For You* by Timothy Keller — <https://a.co/d/dyzadVr>
- *Knowing the Bible: Romans* by Jared Wilson — <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-romans>
- *Exalting Jesus in Romans* by Tony Merida
- *Romans: A Concise Guide to the Greatest Letter Ever Written* by Andrew David Naselli — <https://www.amazon.com/Romans-Concise-Greatest-Letter-Written/dp/1433580349>

to them who are und
may be stopped, and "a
by before God.
by the deeds of the law
d in his sight: for "

*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.*



ely 'by his grace, "thru
n Christ Jesus :
llset forth 'to be a propiti
s blood, to declare his rig
ession of 'sins that are pe
of God;
at this time his right