

Series "How Great A Salvation"
"Serving God"
Romans 15:14-33
Part-42

"Closing verses of Romans 15 were written on the eve of Paul's last trip to Jerusalem, Paul reflects on the past 20 years of his ministry as to what God accomplished through him"

In the remaining portion of **Romans 15**, Paul lets us into his heart. **Reminder - Paul did not establish nor had he ever visited this church. The church of Rome really did not know him!** Paul knew that the ministry he had was going into a new phase **Romans 15:28**

Romans 15:14-33 Paul Serving God:
Romans 16:1-24 Paul's Open Heart:
Romans 16:25-27 Praise Be To God:

Thought of Our Passage: "Believers' Service To God Is Sacred, Through Which Yielded Vessels Give The Glory To God Through What He Accomplishes."

- 1. Verses 14-16 Sacred Service.**
- 2. Verses 17-19 God Be Glorified.**
- 3. Verses 20-29 Future Ministry Plans.**
- 4. Verses 30-33 Your Prayers Needed.**

1. Verses 14-16 Sacred Service:

Romans 15:14 And - The Context – Paul has been speaking about Jesus as our example **Verses 7-13 Ministry Of Jesus Was Impartial: Romans 15:13 The Benediction Prayer Of Hope:**

concerning you, my brethren, - Paul is writing to Christians. This epistle was written to reveal what salvation really was. Man's need, God's provision of righteousness.

I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, Believers that have Jesus Christ, have a new nature that follows after righteousness. **Ephesians 5:9**

filled with all knowledge, "*knowledge gained by learning*" A mark of a disciple of Jesus Christ is a student of the Word and His Ways.

admonish – means "*to put in mind, to caution or reprove gently, warn*"
Church Members are Ministers!

Galatians 6:1-2

Romans 15:15 But I have written very boldly to you on some points, We do so in love, but it is a love that is firm.

Romans 6:12-19; 8:9; 11:17-24; 12:3; 13:3,7,14;14:1,15;15:1

so as to remind you again, (Importance Of The Reminding Ministry)

**because of the grace that was given me from God,
Romans 1:9 the preaching of the gospel**

Acts 9 - Paul's conversion. He never forgot the encounter!

Romans 15:16 Note The Trinity – Christ Jesus, Gospel of God, Holy Spirit

**to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, Acts 9:15; 13:2;
Romans 1:5; 11:13; 12:3; Galatians 2:7**

minister – derive from the Greek word *liturgy* speaks of "a priest offering up a sacrifice" *ministry is a sacred worship to God, describes ministry with generous service.*

ministering as a priest the gospel of God, "Priest of God's good news"

Romans 1:16 The message is not us, but it is God!

so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, -
Gentiles excluded from the temple, now through the gospel, became an acceptable sacrifice. **Romans 12:1**

sanctified by the Holy Spirit. - The Jews found it difficult to accept the Gentiles, but Paul notes it was the Holy Spirit that cleansed them!

Philippians 3:3

2. Verses 17-19 God Be Glorified:

Romans 15:17 **Therefore** - Paul's offering an acceptable cleansed offering to God, the Gentiles **in Christ Jesus**. It is because of the sacrifice of Jesus that we can receive the forgiveness of sin.

Romans 15:18 (Paul refused to share his exploits)

through me, not "*with me*" it was not Paul's talents, education... It was Christ!

Paul Glorifies God For 3 Great Accomplishments:

- 1. God Be Glorified In The Gentiles Conversion: resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, Obedience – *“action of belief”***

Change in Character and Conduct!

Romans 15:19

- 2. God Be Glorified Through Confirming The Message: in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit;**

When Paul healed the crippled man at **Lystra (Acts 14)**

- 3. God Be Glorified In The Preaching Of The Gospel 1400 Miles: so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum Yugoslavia -**

“It is when a man ceases to think of what he can do and begins to think of what God can do with him, that things begin to happen”

3. Verses 20-29 Future Ministry Plans:

Romans 15:20 And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, eager, excited

not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation;

Romans 15:21 Isaiah 52:15 God's Servant sprinkling the nations.

**Romans 15:22 often been prevented from coming to you;
Romans 1:13**

Romans 15:23, Acts 19:21 For over **20 Years** Paul promised to visit

Romans 15:24 Spain—Why Spain? Because Spain and Britain were considered the end of the world. Very Western end of Europe.

for I hope to see you in passing, - *“Man proposes, but God disposes”*
Paul would come to Rome in chains.

when I have first enjoyed your company for a while —*“to be filled or saturated with your fellowship”*

Verses 25-28 Significance Of The Gift: Romans 15:25 Jerusalem is the origin of Christianity. It also was equally the origin of opposition

Romans 15:26, 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9 The believing Gentiles were giving a financial gift to the suffering believing Jews in Jerusalem.

Romans 15:27 Yes, they were pleased to do so, - These believers were excited about giving this financial gift to help others.

and they are indebted to them. The Jewish Messiah!

For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things. Romans 11:17

Romans 15:28 have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, - That this giving was the outcome of spiritual growth, or fruit produced by growth as a Christian.

Romans 15:29 I know that when I come to you, Paul had optimism

4. Verses 30-33 Your Prayers Needed:

Romans 15:30 by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, The Holy Spirit is the giver of God's love. **Romans 5:5; Galatians 5:22**

Paul Believed And Relied Upon Prayer: to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, - This word **strive** – *agonize* speaks of "*an athlete giving their all*" - *agonize with me in your prayers*"

Romans 15:31 Paul's 3 prayer requests:

(1) that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, Paul was wanting prayer for the hostile Jews that were opposing him.

Jesus showed courage going to (Cross) Jerusalem. Paul showed courage going, **(Acts 21:12-14)** all believers should not fear
2 Timothy 1:7

(2) and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; - Paul was concerned about this offering that would be a statement **Acts 21:17-20**

(3) Romans 15:32 so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God - Paul did come to Rome in chains. **Acts 28** Paul lived there for 2 years... greeted all people.

by the will of God - every prayer should include this!

Paul was **3 times** delivered from Lynching. – **Acts 21:30; 22:22; 23:10**
Paul delivered **1 time** from Flogging **Acts 22:23**, **1 time** from a plot to kill him **Acts 23:12**

Answered prayer in Paul's joyous reception, **Acts 21:17-20** Paul was seized by unbelieving Jews but not harmed, (Kept in custody for 4 years, 2 years Caesarea, 2 years Rome, delivered from the Jews by Rome **Acts 21:27, 32**. Paul's answer to prayer was his visit to Rome paid by Rome as a prisoner of Jesus Christ **Acts 28:16**, he was later released and probably went on to Spain in his final mission. **1 Timothy 1:3, 2 Timothy 4:13; Titus 1:5; 3:12**

Romans 15:33 Peace is a commodity that our world can't give us.
John 14:27

the God of peace - The person who has God's peace can face life's perils!

Application:

- 1.** In Serving God, We Must See Our Service As Sacred. Seeing Ourselves As Priests Offering Up Our Service As An Acceptable Offering To God.
- 2.** In Serving God, We Must Give God The Credit In Everything. Praise Him Now For What He Is Doing.
- 3.** We Need To Be Visionaries. What Would We Like To See God Do? Pray And Look For Opportunities.
- 4.** We Must Place Our Dependence Upon God. This Takes Place Practically And Daily Through Prayer.