

**Riverview Baptist Church Wednesday Night Class:
A Study in the Book of Romans – Lesson 16**

VII. Personal Messages and Benediction, 15:14–16:27

A. Paul's Plans, 15:14–33

B. Paul's Personal Greetings, 16:1–16

C. Paul's Concluding Admonition and Benediction, 16:17–27

We now come to the end of the book of Romans. Paul shares with his readers his final plans and thoughts to the church at Rome. Acts records that Paul would eventually reach Rome. According to Acts 28:30-31 he spent two years in rented quarters. This was a time of imprisonment from where he wrote the prison epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon). Apparently, his accusers did not show up in Rome and Paul was released. He would be later arrested, tried, and executed (See 2 Timothy 4).

A. Paul's Plans, 15:14–33

Romans 15:14 – Paul was one who was an _____. He takes the time to say good things about the Christians at Rome. One of the things he says about them (remember that at this point he had not been to Rome) was that they were able to admonish or _____ one another.

The word for used here for “admonish” is *νουθετέω* – “to provide instruction as to correct behavior and belief.” One of Paul's greatest strengths was his ability to teach through the written word. Sound doctrine is a major factor in his epistles. Paul was encouraging his readers about their abilities to teach one another!

This is a valuable lesson for us today. We all as believers in Christ should be admonishing other believers in sound doctrine (Acts 20:31; Rom. 15:14; 1 Cor. 14:14; 1 Thess. 5:14; 2 Thess. 3:15).

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Romans 15:15-16 – Paul evidently believed that the Christians at Rome were well educated biblically speaking. So why did Paul write in this epistle on the basics of the Christian faith?

The answer is given in verse 15 – “...so as to remind you again...” Paul was doing what great teachers should do, use _____ to solidify knowledge. What is the best way to learn something? _____.

Paul was also fulfilling God’s purpose for him. Paul was called of God to be an apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13; 1 Timothy 2:7). His ministry was to share the Gospel and instruct the Gentiles. What is your calling as a Christian?

Romans 15:17-19 – In all the ministry Paul had done, he knew that all the glory goes to God! This should be the attitude of all believers and what they do in service to the Lord! Paul also recognized that he was _____ of that service (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1).

This raises a good question. Does God need you?

The ministry that Paul had among Jews and Gentiles was what he _____ and what he _____. The work that we do for the Lord is up to us. The results are up to God!

Romans 15:20-27 – Paul’s desire was to continue to spread the Gospel to areas that had not heard it. He wanted to go as far as Spain! How far do you want to take the Gospel?

What prevented Paul from traveling to Rome up to this point? His desire was to spread the Gospel to _____ territories. Rome had already had the Gospel taken there. So, the opportunities to go to areas where no Gospel message had been preached “hindered” Paul from taking the time to travel to Rome.

The right opportunity had now presented itself for Paul to choose to head that direction. In doing so, Paul was able to deliver a love offering to the saints at Jerusalem. This is a

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good point to remember. There are times when Christians need to help other Christians in need. This is called _____.

Romans 15:28-29 – Paul declares that he will plan to come to Rome _____ he finishes his ministry at Jerusalem. He then intends to continue on to Spain. How long did Paul desire to spend with the saints at Rome? He said in verse 24, that he desired to stay for a while.

I like Paul's statement in 15:29 – "I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fulness of the blessing of Christ." This goes back to Romans 1:11-13. Paul desired to bring spiritual _____ that they may be grounded or established in their faith. He wanted them to grow in the blessings of Christ.

Romans 15:30-33 – Paul requested that the Roman Christians _____ for him. He wanted to be delivered from the difficulties of the ministry. He wanted to have a _____ ministry among the _____. He wanted to come to them for a time of rest and blessings.

Paul expresses his heart for other believers often in his epistles. We see this in verse 33. "Now may the God of peace be with you all. Amen."

Romans 16:1-16 – Notice the names of all those whom Paul was at least acquainted with outside of Rome. Let's take some time to learn a few principles from this list.

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Romans 16:17-27 – Paul concludes his epistle with some encouragements.

1. Beware of those who cause dissensions and hinderances related to _____. Here again, Paul is emphasizing _____ doctrine. Those who oppose sound doctrine are looking at themselves and not Christ. Such persons should be avoided.

2. Paul did not consider the believers at Rome to be “unsuspecting” or “naïve.” He mentioned that their testimony was well known as being obedient. This is a good thing! He also warned them to be wise in what was good and innocent in what is evil.

3. I really like the truth of verse 20. Witmer comments on this. “To conclude this warning Paul added the promise, The God of peace (cf. 15:33; Heb. 13:20) will soon crush Satan under your feet (cf. Gen. 3:15). The false teachers (Rom. 16:17–18) were under Satan’s influence, but he will be destroyed and God will establish peace (Rev. 20:1–6).”¹

4. The mystery of the Gospel of Christ (16:25-27). Paul expresses a statement of _____ and worship. All of this benediction leads up to the thought began in verse 25, “Now to Him...be the glory forever!” This should be what we desire in all things as well!

¹ John A. Witmer, “Romans,” in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 501.