

Romans 15:1-13

Romans Chapter 15 overview: Paul is continuing on the theme of considering other people first over yourself.

- 1 *Now we that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.* We have a duty as a Christian to help others in any way we can. We must consider those who are spiritually weaker than ourselves, not to look down on them but to strengthen them.
- 2 *Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good, unto edifying.* We are to please those we have contact with by lifting them up spiritually, helping them understand the deeper meanings of God's word. When you are first baptized, you are a baby in God's word. Stronger Christians are to take care of these new Christians and help them grow and learn about God's word, no matter how old they are physically. We are on a mission to help weaker Christians grow in the word.
- 3 *For Christ also pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell upon me.* When Jesus Christ came on the earth and put out His word, did man like it? No! They crucified Him! But Jesus Christ didn't come down to earth for Himself, it was for us. He gave up His own self just for us.
- 4 *For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that through patience and through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope.* So many people disregard the Old Testament. It is there to teach us. It is the foundation of the New Testament. If you don't understand the Old Testament, you won't understand the New Testament. The large majority of prophecies in the Old Testament have not yet been fulfilled. This verse tells us to go back and study the Old Testament and to understand it, so that we may have knowledge (hope).
- 5 *Now the God of patience and of comfort grant you to be of the same mind one with another according to Christ Jesus:* God expects us to have patience and that we all be like-minded regarding Jesus Christ. We shouldn't make an issue of petty things that the bible doesn't address. If it's not in the bible, don't worry about it!
- 6 *that with one accord ye may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.* Our task as Christians is to glorify God. We are not here to build ourselves up.
- 7 *Wherefore receive ye one another, even as Christ also received you, to the glory of God.* Treat one another as Jesus Christ treats you. He accepted you as you were and currently as you are. You are to accept others as they are, like Jesus Christ does. Look at people through Jesus Christ's eyes.
- 8 *For I say that Christ hath been made a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, that he might confirm the promises given unto the fathers,* When Jesus Christ came and started His public ministry, it was to the Jews, not the Gentiles. The promises were that a King would come from the house of David and Jerusalem would rule the world, but the Jews rejected Jesus Christ, so the promises have been put off.
- 9 *and that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, Therefore will I give praise unto thee among the Gentiles, And sing unto thy name.* We are to glorify God because He has shown mercy to the Gentiles. If the Jews had studied the Old Testament about the Gentiles singing His praises, they would know.
- 10 *And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.* This is talking about the whole world, all of creation singing God's praises.
- 11 *And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; And let all the peoples praise him.*
- 12 *And again, Isaiah saith, There shall be the root of Jesse, And he that arises to rule over the Gentiles; On him shall the Gentiles hope.* The promises were originally to the Jews, but now they are to everyone.

Luke 2:25-32

- 25 *And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Spirit was upon him.* Righteous and devout means he was looking to God. He studying the Old Testament and he knew a messiah was coming to Jerusalem and Simeon was looking for the signs of the messiah everyday. How many people are dedicated to looking for signs for the second coming of Jesus Christ today as Simeon was then?
- 26 *And it had been revealed unto him by the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.* God was guiding Simeon's steps. God promised Simeon that he would not die before he saw the consolation of Israel.
- 27 *And he came in the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, that they might do concerning him after the custom of the law,* The Holy Spirit told Simeon to get to Jesus Christ now.
- 28 *then he received him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,* Simeon, an old man, ran up and grabbed the baby Christ in his arms and held him up.
- 29 *Now lettest thou thy servant depart, Lord, According to thy word, in peace;* God, you've given me the word that once I saw what I've been waiting for all my life, now I can die in peace.
- 30 *For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,* Simeon knew what the baby meant.
- 31 *Which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples;*
- 32 *A light for revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of thy people Israel.* Before Jesus Christ, people had a long process to go through before they could be allowed to worship God. But the baby Christ would change all that.

Romans 15:13

- 13 *Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, in the power of the Holy Spirit.* We should have joy in peace with whatever is going on in our lives that we may know God will fulfill His promises to us without fail.