

Union Bethel AME Church Bible Study

Dial-in Number: (425) 436-6260 Access Code: 141997#

Zoom Meeting ID 863 1188 9288, Passcode 782781

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Tuesday, October 27, 2020, 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Romans 15:1-33



Romans 15:1-6

1 We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. **2** Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor. **3** For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” **4** For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. **5** May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, **6** so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul asked the church in Rome to “put up with” the shortcomings of those who are weak in faith. Our focus should not just be on pleasing ourselves. We need to spend time attending to the needs of our neighbors.

How can we work harder to please our neighbors?

Paul also wrote that Jesus absorbed all of the insults hurled at us. We should therefore not be concerned about those who speak ill of us. We also need to remember that the Scriptures give us a roadmap to how live with each other.

How can we glorify God with one voice?

Romans 15:7-13

7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9 and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written “Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name”; 10 and again he says, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people”; 11 and again, “Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”; 12 and again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.” 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul’s words in these verses are a reason for us to find joy. Gentiles and Hebrews sing praises together. The Holy Spirit rests on both the Jew and the Gentile.

In what ways should we rejoice about our hope in God?

Romans 15:14-21

14 I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. 15 Nevertheless on some points I have written to you rather boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be

acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. **17** In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to boast of my work for God. **18** For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to win obedience from the Gentiles, by word and deed, **19** by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and as far around as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the good news of Christ. **20** Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the good news, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on someone else's foundation, **21** but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him shall see, and those who have never heard of him shall understand."

Paul makes an important point that we are to bring the good news of Christ Jesus to those who have not heard the message. Some have not experienced the love of God in any concrete way due to hardships they have faced in life. Some people are struggling for the basic necessities of life and do not see how accepting Jesus helps them now. Our missionary lens needs to be aware of how people live and how that has an impact on how the Gospel is received.

How do we cooperate with each other to bring the Gospel to those who have yet to really hear the message and see the love of God at work?

Romans 15:22-29

22 This is the reason that I have so often been hindered from coming to you. **23** But now, with no further place for me in these regions, I desire, as I have for many years, to come to you **24** when I go to Spain. For I do hope to see you on my journey and to be sent on by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a little while. **25** At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints; **26** for Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. **27** They were pleased to do this, 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 things. **28** So, when I have completed this, and have delivered to them

what has been collected, I will set out by way of you to Spain; 29 and I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

Paul spoke of his travels and his desire to continue spreading the Gospel. Paul comments that sharing in spiritual blessings should also lead to sharing in physical blessings. It seems necessary for the community to come together to share in God's blessings. Paul does not state specifically that spiritual growth is dependent on sharing material goods, however, he seems to imply that letting go of the need to "collect" that which perishes encourages a closer walk with God.

How can we share in both spiritual and physical blessings? Are both necessary today?

Romans 15:30-33

30 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, 31 that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my ministry to 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 The God of peace be with all of you. Amen.

Paul closed this section with a request for prayer. He wanted prayer for his ministry and his travels. He also asked to be rescued from unbelievers and for a period of refreshing. Paul wrote these verses about the need to take a break, regroup, and not work in difficult situations all of the time.

How do we know when it is necessary to take 2 steps back?
