



Paul's Epistle to the Romans

Romans 15

Bearing Kingdom Testimony
in this World

Kingdom Life and Service must bear the Testimony of Jesus

1. Our life in the Kingdom begins with knowing where the King is and what He is doing.
2. In Rom 13-15 Christ's example is mentioned 16 times because His character and selfless love defines His kingdom
3. Paul gives 6 coordinates guiding the servant of the kingdom of heaven as he goes the second mile
 1. 13.11-14 Kingdom servants must remain awake knowing what time it is
 2. 14:7-23 Kingdom servants are aware of the judgment seat of Christ
 3. 15.1-7 Kingdom love accepts and builds up weaker saints rather than pleasing self
 4. 15.8-13 our kingdom testimony serves to make the truth of God's faithfulness and mercy known
 5. 15.14-19 Kingdom servants 'boast' in the stewardship given them by the King
 6. 15.20-29 Kingdom servants aspire to boast of extending kingdom boundaries



Kingdom Life and Service must bear the Testimony of Jesus

Rom. 13.11-14 13.11-14 Kingdom
servants must remain awake
knowing what time it is

1. time to wake up - salvation is
nearer than we think

2. the night leaves us no choice
but to put on the “armor of
Light”

3. “Put on the Lord Jesus Christ”
and make no room for the flesh

KTZ



Kingdom Life and Service must bear the Testimony of Jesus

Rom. 14:7-23 Kingdom servants
are aware of the judgment seat
of Christ(14.10)

1. no place to judge others
2. a place to be careful about
becoming a kingdom
stumbling block 14.13
3. 14.17-18 living in His
kingdom righteousness, peace
and joy in the Holy Spirit

Judgment
Seat



Kingdom Life and Service must bear the Testimony of Jesus

Rom. 15.1-7 Kingdom love
accepts and builds up weaker
saints rather than pleasing self

1. “Accept, receive weaker
ones with open arms” 15.1

2. Christ did not please
himself therefore ... 15.1-3

3. Being Single minded like-
minded with the King 15.5

Kingdom Love in
pleasing others



Kingdom Life and Service must bear the Testimony of Jesus

Rom. 15.8-13 our kingdom testimony is to make the truth of God's faithfulness and mercy known

1. Christ became a servant to kingdom truth to the circumcision to establish the promises of the patriarchs 15.8
2. Christ came to glorify God for His mercy to the gentiles 15.9-12
3. Abound in kingdom joy, peace, faith and hope by the Holy Spirit 15.13

Kingdom Testimony
of Truth and Mercy



Kingdom Life and Service must bear the Testimony of Jesus

Rom. 15.14-19 Kingdom servants 'boast' in the stewardship given them by the King

1. Paul boasts in the testimony of the church in Rome
2. Paul boasts about what the Lord has done in his own ministry regarding the gentiles
3. Paul boasts in God for all that has been done as he has traveled extensively throughout eastern regions of the Roman Empire

Boasting in Christ



Kingdom Life and Service must bear the Testimony of Jesus

Rom. 15.20-29 Kingdom servants
aspire to boast of extending
kingdom boundaries

1. Kingdom sowing the gospel
out among the nations
2. servants of the King love to
travel bearing precious seed
3. A Kingdom servant's motive
is to have the King increase
his "sphere and measure"

Extending Kingdom Boundaries



Rom. 15.1-7 Kingdom love accepts and builds up weaker saints rather than pleasing self

Rom. 15.1 Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves.

Rom. 15.2 Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.

Rom. 15.3 For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “THE REPROACHES OF THOSE WHO REPROACHED YOU FELL ON ME.”

Rom. 15.4 For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Chapter 15 is a continuation of Paul’s instruction for those stronger in the faith to love and sincerely care for those struggling with eating, drinking and rituals they were used to

1. By “strong” Paul means those Jews and gentiles set free of former religious regulations who could be tempted to look down or become impatient with saints of weaker conscience and maturity
2. Taking the cross by not pleasing ourselves frees the servant to build up his “neighbor” in fulfilment of the kingdom command
3. Testimony of Jesus in regard to not pleasing himself comes from the messianic Ps.69.9 where in His zeal for the Lord’s house the Lord denied himself taking on the reproaches of sinners
4. Paul clarifies that our instruction comes from scripture which encourages and strengthens our hope of kingdom reward

Rom. 15.1-7 Kingdom love accepts and builds up weaker saints rather than pleasing self

Rom. 15.5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus,

Rom. 15.6 so that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 15.7 ¶ Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

The end of everything we do as christians in the kingdom is to give Glory to God

1. We glorify God whenever we come to “one mind” about accepting one another which agrees with King Jesus
2. Being in “one accord” glorifies the God our father
3. Remember, Christ accepted us so our rule is the same

Rom. 15.8-13 our kingdom testimony is to make the truth of God's faithfulness and mercy known

Rom. 13.8 Rom. 15.8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

Paul shows the Romans that the Testimony of Jesus was as a servant who by His sacrifice caused both Jews and Gentiles to be “accepted” into the Kingdom

1. in v. 8 the Jews were accepted into God's kingdom by Christ's sacrifice to “confirm” as true God's Promise made to Abraham
2. Jesus also confirmed the promises of a coming messiah who would bring in the kingdom
3. This confirms what Jesus said about being first sent to the lost sheep of the house of Israel **Matt.15.24**

Rom. 15.8-13 our kingdom testimony is to make the truth of God's faithfulness and mercy known

Rom. 15.9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

Rom. 15.10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

Rom. 15.11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.

Rom. 15.12 And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

Rom. 15.13 ¶ Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Paul especially wants to show from scripture that gentiles also have a testimony of Jesus glorifying God for His Mercy

1. Paul then proceeds to confirm that the gentiles have also been included in the kingdom using 4 OT passages mentioning Gentiles
2. v. 9b from **Ps.18.49** - thanks is given among the nations
3. v.10 from **Deut.32.43** - the nations rejoice along with the Jews
4. v.11 from **Ps.117.1** - the nations praise the Lord for His Hessed
5. v.12f from **Isa.11.10** - the nations shall trust in the reign of the root of Jesse

Paul ends by praying the God of Hope fill both Jews and gentiles with Kingdom Hope and its abounding fruit of joy and peace and the Holy Spirit

Rom. 15.14-19 Kingdom servants 'boast' in the stewardship given them by the King

Rom. 15.14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

Rom. 15.15 But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God,

Rom. 15.16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Paul now shares his own testimony as he begins closing his letter

1. “**concerning you**” - now Paul personally turns to the Romans and begins to share his past ministry and future plans including his hope of visiting Rome
2. he assures the Romans he is aware of their kingdom testimony and their gospel ministry in Rome
3. but Paul has spoken boldly about some matters because of the particular foundational stewardship given to him as a priest specifically commissioned to offer the gentiles up to God as a holy sacrifice

Rom. 15.14-19 Kingdom servants 'boast' in the stewardship given them by the King

Rom. 15.17 Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God.

Rom. 15.18 For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed,

Rom. 15.19 in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Paul “boasts” of his own ministry attesting to what the Lord has done as he has ministered throughout the eastern regions of the Roman Empire

1. Glorifying, boasting, proud confidence in NT = *kau/chsiß*- the root greek word means something is expanding within
2. unlike today boasting is normal as all nature as well as mankind was created to glory in something - the key is whether there is substance to it
 - a. it can be good when we boast in the what the Lord has wrought 1 Cor 1.31, 15.31; 2 Cor 7.4; 10.15; Gal 6.4
 - b. it can be bad when we boast in ourself 1 Cor 5.6, Jas 4.16
3. So Paul can swell with confidence over what the Lord has done to the glory of God

Rom. 15.20-29 Kingdom servants aspire to boast of extending kingdom boundaries

Rom. 15.20 And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation;

Rom. 15.21 but as it is written, "THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."

Rom. 15.22-23 For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you; but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you

Rom. 15.24 whenever I go to Spain — for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while —

Paul explains his plans to eventually visit the saints in Rome as continues his goal to expand the western edges of the kingdom boundaries

1. An apostle of the kingdom lays original foundations in new territory and not where the kingdom has come
2. Paul bases his desire upon **Isa.52.15** where the Messiah shares his heart to expand his kingdom
3. This goal has prevented him visiting Rome as he labors to faithfully lay foundations at places already begun but now has covered the east and hopes to extend west
4. So his visit to Rome would only be on the way to new places beyond but knows his visit will bless him

Rom. 15.20-29 Kingdom servants aspire to boast of extending kingdom boundaries

Rom. 15.25 but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints.

Rom. 15.26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

Rom. 15.27 Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.

Rom. 15.28 Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain.

Rom. 15.29 I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

Paul explains his plans to eventually visit the saints in Rome as continues his goal to expand the western edges of the kingdom boundaries

1. Paul explains his immediate stewardship of funds as a kingdom plan to provide for the poor saints in Jerusalem
2. He takes the opportunity to testify of kingdom unity seen among churches who have joined in this ministry of provisions
3. His eventual plan to visit Rome in fullness of blessing happened but not in the way anyone expected

Paul's Epistle to the Romans

- next time: Rom 16
- Greetings and Messages to those in Rome