

3. Who was making this contribution to the poor saints at Jerusalem? (Romans 15:26) _____

The Christians at Macedonia and Achaia are Gentiles. "They are their debtors," Paul says. *For the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things* (Romans 15:27). They felt because the Jews shared their spiritual things, they were indebted to them to share in their carnal things.

Paul was not only concerned about the treatment he would receive from the unbelieving Jews, but he also had misgivings about how his offering would be accepted by the Church in Jerusalem. As it turned out, the Church apparently received the contribution with gratitude (Acts 21:17-20). However, his fears of what the unbelieving Jews would do proved to be well grounded. His presence, however, caused a riot. He was almost lynched, but he was rescued by the Roman guard (Acts 21:20-34). Ultimately he was sent to Rome as a prisoner.¹

"The man who writes to Rome, full of far-reaching schemes, who is planning to reach the capital on his way to remoter fields of enterprise, was brought to Rome worn by years of imprisonment, in chains, his hope disappointed, his active career at an end." Thus in the mystery of providence did the Apostle come **by the will of God** to Rome.¹ _____

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Volume 8, p. 277.

FIFTEENTH STUDY

FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

BEARING WITH THE WEAK (Romans 15:1-6)

We begin Chapter 15 with a continuation of the subject in the last part of Chapter 14, which is *bearing with the infirmities of the weak* believers (Romans 15:1-3).

To bear, in the Greek, means literally, to endure, sustain, receive, carry, take up, lift.

Infirmities, in the Greek, means a scruple of conscience, or an uneasiness or doubt about an act.

1. In Romans 15:1,2, Paul instructs the strong Roman believers in what they ought not to do and what they ought to do toward the weak believers. What ought they not to do? _____
2. In Romans 15:3, Paul declares even *Christ pleased not Himself*. What do you think he meant by that? _____

Everything that was written anywhere in the Scriptures, *aforetime*, was written for our learning *that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope* (Romans 15:4).

Christ lived the life of self-denial; but there are many instances recorded also in the Old Testament, of those who lived lives of self-denial that brought

glory to God. It would be much easier for us to live a selfish life, bringing glory to ourselves; but we would miss out on the real joy of our lives: experiencing the bringing of the glory to God. His glory would, in-turn, be revealed in us now; and to us at the time of our eternal reward.

Part of God's will for us is to be like minded toward one another as Christ has been toward us. Christ is our greatest example of self-denial; He went to the Cross for us.

Paul is praying this over the Roman believers in Romans 15:5,6 ...*That they may with one mind and one mouth glorify (praise) God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

THE GOSPEL TO THE GENTILES (Romans 15:7-13)

1. In Romans 15:8-12, see if you can find 3 prophecies Paul gives concerning the promises about the Gospel coming to the Gentiles.
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____
2. In Romans 15:12, Who is the Root of Jesse, Isaiah was talking about? _____

PAUL - ON HIS MINISTRY (Romans 15:14-21)

1. Name the 3 verses in Romans 15:14-21, where Paul explains his ministry to the Romans.
(1) _____
(2) _____
(3) _____

Paul speaks of himself as a minister of Christ to the Gentiles; *ministering the Gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost* (Romans 15:16). Because some believed the Gentiles unclean, because they were not circumcised, Paul wanted to make it plain that they were sanctified by the Holy Ghost who had come to dwell in them (Romans 15:16).

PAUL'S PLANS FOR TRAVELING (Romans 15:22-33)

On his planned journey to Spain, Paul intends to stop over in Rome (Romans 15:24). He seems to have finished his work where he now is, and there are no more demands on him there (Romans 15:23).

1. What does Paul say to the Romans in Romans 15:22 is his reason for not coming to them earlier? _____

Paul was hindered many times because of his obligation to finish his ministry in other quarters (Romans 1:13).

Another reason he gives is that he fears that he might build on another man's foundation (Romans 15:20).

Paul hoped, as appears in Romans 15:24, that some of the members of the Roman Church might accompany him on his mission.

2. What was the first his first stop to be, and why? (Romans 15:25,26) _____

