



Part 9

Final 2 studies in Romans

Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
2. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL** and **NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP**

Study 1 – Ministry Motivators: Why do Ministry?

Romans 15:14-33

(Sermon on 21-July-2024 by Rev Jason Forbes)

Before we begin: What is Ministry? Who does Ministry? Just Gospel workers? Just Ministers?

What is Ministry? Definition: Offering one's whole life for service to God.

Greek Word for Ministry is "diakonia" which means: service or serving others.

Who does Ministry? All Christians.

Jesus says in Mark 10:43-45 – "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

When Jesus washed the disciples' feet; He said this in John 13:14-15: "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you"

1 Peter 4:10 says: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another..."

Romans 12:4-8 says: that we are in one body with many members with distinct functions of service/ministry.

Matthew 28:16-20, the Great Commission – Here Jesus commands the disciples to go and make more disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Before we begin: Why do Ministry?

There are several reasons why we should do ministry:

- a. ***Obedience to God's/Jesus' command*** in Matthew 22:37-39 and Matthew 28:16-20
- b. ***Reflecting Jesus' example*** from Mark 10:43-45 and John 13:14-15
- c. ***Edifying the body of Christ*** as per Ephesians 4:12-13
- d. ***Sharing the Gospel*** – Matthew 28:16-20
- e. ***Meeting practical needs*** – feeding the hungry, clothing the needy, visiting the sick and comforting the broken hearted – as per Matthew 22:35-36
- f. ***Glorifying God*** – see 1 Peter 4:11

Read Romans 15:14-16

1. Remind yourself who Paul was to minister to? (c.f. Acts 9:15; Romans 11:13; Galatians 1:16; 2:7-8)

Ironically, Paul, the proud Jew will minister to the non-Jews, the Gentiles!

Acts 9:15 – But the Lord said to Ananias, “Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel.

Romans 11:13 – I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry

Galatians 1:16 – so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, my immediate response was not to consult any human being.

Galatians 2:7-8 - ⁷ On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. ⁸ For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles.

2. What assessment does Paul give of the Roman Church?

Paul says the Roman Church is ‘full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another’.

Although Paul has had to write to them with some ‘bold points’ to remind them!

3. What is Paul’s purpose in writing to them?

Because of God’s grace given to Paul, he writes to remind them on some points which are included in the rest of the chapter.

4. What’s the **motivation** for Paul’s mission?

Paul’s motivation for ministry is that God in His grace has given Paul the job to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, to perform the priestly job of proclaiming the Gospel, so that Gentiles might be an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit!

Read Romans 15:17-19

5. How does Paul describe his work? Who gets the glory?

*Paul describes his work as ‘**service to God**’ (v17), ‘leading the Gentiles to obey God’ (v18), ‘by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God’ (v19), ‘from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, fully proclaimed the Gospel’ (v19).*

Paul says he glories in Jesus (v17) in his service to God. In other words, all that Paul does, is not for his own glory but to glorify Jesus!

Read Romans 15:20-22

6. What are Paul’s desires in these verses?

*It’s always been Paul’s **ambition** to ‘**preach the Gospel where Christ was not known, so that he would not be building on someone else’s foundation**’. Paul wants to bring the Gospel to new places where people haven’t heard the Good News of Jesus!*

7. Which Old Testament quote does Paul use to support his desire? (cf. Isaiah 52:15)

Isaiah 52:15 - So shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they understand.

8. What does Paul say has hindered him from visiting Rome in verse 22?

Paul has been hindered from visiting Rome because of his ambition to take the Gospel to ‘new’ places that haven’t heard the Gospel before, whereas Rome has already heard the Gospel and has an established Church.

Read Romans 15:23-29

9. What are Paul’s present plans in verses 23-29?

Because there are no more places to work in the region, and because he’s longed to visit Rome for many years; Paul plans to visit Rome when he goes to Spain. He hopes to visit Rome as he passes there on his way to Spain. He hopes that Rome will assist him on his journey.

In the meantime, he is on his way to Jerusalem to serve the Lord’s people there, when he will bring them a collection from the churches in Macedonia and Achaia. Once he has completed this task, Paul plans to go to Spain via Rome on the way.

10. Did Paul ever get to Spain? Did Paul ever get to Rome?

There is no direct Biblical evidence that Paul visited Spain.

There is Biblical evidence that Paul did visit Rome.

*Acts 28:16 - When we got to **Rome**, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him.*

*Acts 28:30-31 - ³⁰**For two whole years Paul stayed there [Rome] in his own rented house** and welcomed all who came to see him. ³¹He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ—with all boldness and without hindrance!*

Read Romans 15:30-33

11. What does Paul ask for in verses 30-33?

Paul asks that his brothers and sisters in Rome to 'join him in his struggle by praying to God for him' (v30) and pray for his safety from unbelievers in Judea and that the collection he brings to Jerusalem will be favourably received, so that he can come to Rome with joy, and by God's will be refreshed in their company (vv31-32)

12. **Ponder:** How has Paul's example encouraged and challenged you in your own Gospel witness?

Paul's example encourages me to keep going in ministry, despite the obstacles and challenges.

Paul does not forget the value of his brothers and sisters in Rome (v14), I should not forget the 'goodness, knowledge and competency' of those in Toukley.

Paul never forgets his mission to the Gentiles (v16); I should not forget my mission to the folk at Toukley and the surrounding community.

Paul does not deviate from what Christ has led him to do (v18), I should not forget what Christ has led me to do.

Paul also has the ambition to preach the Gospel where Christ was not known (v20). This encourages/challenges me to evangelise and bring the Gospel to people/places who have not heard about Jesus!

Paul asks for prayer (vv30-31), which reminds me that I cannot do ministry alone and without prayer support.

Paul makes plans by God's will (v32) to go to Rome, which reminds me that my plans must be God's plans and God's will!

13. **Ponder:** Whose ministry could you be praying for right now and continue to do so daily?

Recently at Church, David Hinton and myself launched 2030 Vision to place a Bible in 4500 homes in Toukley, Canton Beach and Noraville by the year 2030. We can be praying for this Vision/Mission daily. Much prayer is needed.

We can also be praying for the SRE teachers in our schools and Friday and Sunday Jaffa teachers as they sow the message of Jesus into young hearts.

We can also pray for the Presbyterian Aid Toukley (P.A.T.) team as they serve the homeless in our community.

Read Isaiah 66:18-23

14. How does **Isaiah 66:18-23** relate to **Romans 15:14-33**?

Isaiah 66:18-23 and Romans 15:14-33 are related in the following ways:

World Mission and Worship: *Isaiah 66:18-23 speaks prophetically about a time when people from all nations will come to worship the Lord in Jerusalem. This vision emphasizes the inclusion of Gentiles (non-Jews) in the worship of the one true God. Romans 15:14-33 shows Paul's commitment to fulfilling this prophecy by preaching the gospel to the Gentiles and bringing them into the worship and service of God. **Paul's ministry among the Gentiles aligns with Isaiah's prophecy that people from all nations will worship before the Lord.***

Paul's Mission to the Gentiles: *In Romans 15:16, Paul describes his role as a minister of Christ to the Gentiles, aiming to present them as an acceptable offering to God. This echoes Isaiah 66:19-21, where survivors from various nations are sent out to declare God's glory among the nations and bring offerings to Him. Paul sees his ministry as fulfilling this prophecy by bringing Gentiles into the fold of God's people.*

Worship and Unity: Isaiah 66:23 envisions a time when all flesh will come to worship the Lord. Paul's ministry, as described in Romans 15, aims to unify Jewish and Gentile believers in worship and service to God. He appeals to the Romans for support in his mission to bring the gospel to Spain, emphasizing the unity of believers from different regions in worship and service to Christ.

*In summary, Isaiah 66:18-23 and Romans 15:14-33 **both emphasize the inclusion of Gentiles in the worship and service of God**, fulfilling the prophetic vision of global worship before the Lord. Paul's ministry among the Gentiles aligns with Isaiah's prophecy, as he works to **bring people from all nations into the worship and service of the one true God through Jesus Christ**.*

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Romans 15:14-33**?

The outworking of the Great Commission in Paul's ministry



What **light globe moment** did you have in this study?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

***V20** - It has always been **my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known**, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.*

Finish in prayer: Give thanks to God for the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ask God to present Gospel opportunities to you. Pray for God's blessing on our church's 2030 Vision to place a Bible in 4500 homes by the year 2030!

Study 2 – To God be the Glory

Romans 16:1-27

(Sermon on 28-July-2024)

Read Romans 16:1-2

1. What do we find out about Phoebe? What does Paul think of her?

Phoebe is faithful leader (a deacon) of the church in Cenchreae.

She has been a benefactor to Paul and many others. Therefore, Paul asked the people in the Church of Rome to receive Phoebe in a way that is a proper for someone who has faith in the Lord and is one of the Lord's people.

Note: It seems highly likely that Phoebe was entrusted with the responsibility of carrying Paul's letter to its destination in Rome.

2. **Reflection:** Spend some time reflecting on the **ministry of the women in our church**. List each woman and their ministry; and pray for each one of them before continuing.

Minister's wife: Heather.

Administration: Lina.

Pastoral Care: Jenny Carson, Juliette Grey and Heather O'Rourke

Committee of Management: Margaret Monaghan (Chairperson); Pat Abel (Treasurer); Lina Bester (Secretary), Lorraine Griffiths, Laurel Cook, Robyn Sanday, Zelka Milkovic.

Presbyterian Women's Association (PWA): Margaret Monaghan, Heather O'Rourke, Pat Abel, Jenny Carson, Lorraine Griffiths, Juliette Grey, Judith McCrea, Christina Bryson, Rosemary Gough, Emile Walther and Judy Roberts

Missions: Judith Kinder

Prayer Chain: Christine Warrell

Bible Reading: Ann Roubos, Ishbel Beadle, Jeanette Morris, Jennifer Turner, Judith Kinder, Juliette Grey, Laurel Cook, Lea Gardner, Margaret Monaghan, Tanya McCrea and Robyn Sanday

Prayers: Diane Dodd, Lorraine Griffiths and Tanya McCrea

Choir: Chris Smillie, Lina Bester, Zelka Milkovic, Jan Mackinnon, Ann Roubos, Penny Macdonald, Rhondda Matthews, Jeanette Morris, Jenny Murdoch and Nicola Farrington.

Sunday Jaffa: Heather O'Rourke, Lorraine Griffiths, Jenny Carson, Jeanette Morris, Ishbel Beadle and Pat Abel

Friday Jaffa: Heather O'Rourke, Lina Bester, Chris Smillie, Zelka Milkovic and Rosie Hinton

Craft Leaders: Heather O'Rourke, Lyn Castledine, Terry Wilson and Deborah Rotgans

Art: Olivia Carter

Kitchen: Joy Souter, Robyn Sanday and Lorraine Griffiths

Morning Tea: Maureen Bevan, Dianne Dodd, Lee Gardner, Juliette Grey, Lorraine Griffiths, Rosie Hinton, Maree Khan, Penny Macdonald and Esma Marstaeller

Welcomers: Pat Abel, Jenny Carson, Heather O'Rourke, Lea Gardner, Lyn Magee, Margaret Monaghan, Judith McCrea, Jeanette Morris, Robyn Sanday and Christine Warrell

Collection: Pat Abel, Juliette Grey, Lyn Magee, Judith McCrea, Tanya McCrea and Margaret Monaghan

Auditors: Eileen Jeffery and Judith McCrea

Working Bee: Zelka Milkovic, Joy Souter, Lorraine Lee

Hakea Grove Aged Care: Heather O'Rourke, Jenny Carson, Elaine Helyard and Juliette Grey

Evangelism: Rosie Hinton, Zelka Milkovic, Jenny Carson and Judith Kinder

*From this list; it's remarkable **how many women serve the Lord in our Church family and many of them serve in multiple ministries.** Praise God!*

Read Romans 16:3-5a

3. Who does Paul greet and what do we know about them? (cf. Acts 18:2, 18, 26).

What do we discover about their house?

Priscilla and Aquila.

Acts 18:2 – There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them.

*From this we know that Aquila is a Jew from Pontus. He has recently come from Italy and his wife is called Priscilla. They have had to leave Rome due to an edict issued by emperor Claudius. From Acts 18:3 we know that Paul shared the same occupation as Priscilla and Aquila; they were **tentmakers**; that's how they paid their way as missionaries!*

Acts 18:18 – Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila.

From this we see that Priscilla and Aquila had accompanied Paul on some of his missionary journeys. Particularly this one to Syria.

Acts 18: 26 – He [A jew named Apollos from Alexandria] began to speak boldly in the synagogue [in Ephesus]. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

*Priscilla and Aquila were **heavily involved in evangelism**.*

*We know from Romans 16:4 that Priscilla and Aquila **risked their lives for Paul** and that Paul, and the Gentile churches are incredibly grateful to them.*

*And we know from Romans 16:5 that Priscilla and Aquila had a **home church**!*

Read Romans 16:5b-16

4. These verses contain various greetings. From these greetings what do we learn about:

a. The **diversity** of the Church?

We have the following diversity:

Ethnic diversity: *those from Jewish background like Andronicus and Junis (v7) and Herodion (v11) and also Gentiles – as there are a lot of Greek sounding names.*

Gender diversity: *In a male dominated culture; the mention of females, challenges the stereotypes of the time and underscores the inclusive nature of the Church.*

Females like Mary (v6); Junia (v7) who is described as outstanding among the apostles; Tryphena and Tryphosa who worked hard in the Lord (v12); Persis who worked very hard for the Lord (v12); Rufus' mother who was like a mother to Paul (v13); and other brothers and sisters mentioned in v14; and Nereus' sister (v15).

Social diversity: *People from different social status and occupations. Some described as co-workers and others from different households and families. Some of the names suggest common slave names. Some commentators suggest Aristobulus (v10) was the grandson of Herod the Great and friend of Emperor Claudius and that Narcissus (v11) was a well-known rich and powerful man who had profound influence over Claudius. Rufus may well be the son of Simon of Cyrene who carried Jesus' cross (Mark 15:21).*

Cultural diversity: *The names mentioned—both Jewish and Greek—suggest a mix of cultural backgrounds within the church community.*

b. The **unity** of the Church?

Shared Faith and Fellowship: Despite the diversity of backgrounds and roles mentioned, the common thread running through all these greetings is their **shared faith in Jesus Christ**. They are **united in their belief and commitment to the gospel**, which transcends any differences they may have had.

Recognition and Respect: Paul's greetings indicate a mutual respect and recognition among members of the church. He acknowledges their labor, dedication, and service in the Lord (e.g., Phoebe in verse 1, Priscilla and Aquila in verse 3, the hard work of Mary verse 6, Tryphena and Tryphosa verse 12, and Persis verse 13); co-workers like Urbanus verse 9). All showing that their efforts are valued and appreciated within the community.

Mutual Support and Encouragement: Paul's greetings convey a sense of mutual support and encouragement within the church. By mentioning individuals by name and recognizing their contributions, Paul fosters a sense of community where each member is valued and supported by others.

Spiritual Unity: Beyond mere social or organizational unity, these greetings reflect a spiritual unity among believers. They are part of the body of Christ, each playing a unique role but all working towards the same goal of glorifying God and advancing His kingdom.

5. **Ponder:** which description of ordinary church members in verses 1 to 15 particularly strikes you?

- *How Priscilla and Aquila risked their life for Paul and the Gentile churches (v3)*
- *How Andronicus and Junia and Paul were imprisoned for the Gospel (v7)*
- *How Rufus' mother (v13) mothered Paul – which shows a true Church family*
- *The way Paul refers to these members as brothers and sisters (v14) – again shows a true Church family*

Read Romans 16:17-20

6. What warnings does Paul give the Church in Rome in verses 17 to 20?

Paul warns the Church in Rome to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in the way that are contrary to the teaching they have learned (v17); in other words, watch out for false teaching which can cause disunity!

Paul also warns against falling for smooth talk and flattery that might deceive them (v18). If they are naïve, they will fall for this nonsense (v18). Instead, they are to continue in the obedience that Paul has heard of them and to be wise about what is good and innocence about what is evil (v19)

Satan is the one causing this disunity in the church – but God will soon crush Satan under their feet (v20)

Read Romans 16:21-24

7. Whose greetings does Paul send?

Paul sends the greetings of his co-worker, Timothy; as well as Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, all fellow Jews.

Paul also sends greetings from Tertius who wrote down Paul's dictation of the letter.

As well as Gaius' greetings – who offered hospitality to Paul and the whole church. And Erastus the director of public works in Corinth (2 Tim 4:20) and Quartus also sent their greetings.

Note: v24 is a textual variant and only in some Greek manuscripts; where it reads "May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

Read Romans 16:25-27

8. Spend some time meditating on verses 25-27 and let them move you to praise God!

Father God, you alone have the power to save.

You alone are the only source of true wisdom. You are the only wise God.

In your infinite wisdom, the revelation of salvation, which was hidden in ages past, you have gloriously revealed through the Old Testament prophets your plan of salvation through the Gospel Good News of our Lord Jesus.

We thank you that the Gospel Good News of Jesus is able to establish us on firm foundation – where we have the blessed assurance of the forgiveness of our sins – and the certain hope of resurrection to eternal life.

To God be the glory forever, in and through our Lord Jesus. Amen!

Read Genesis 3:13-15

9. How does this passage relate to Romans 16:1-27?

Genesis 3:13-15 God speaks to the woman (Eve) and the serpent (aka Satan/Devil). The woman explains to God how the serpent deceived her.

So, God dishes out His punishment to the serpent.

V14-The serpent will be cursed above all livestock and all wild animals. The serpent will crawl on its belly from now on (suggested before this; it was upright?) and eat dust all the days of its life.

Then in v15 – God gives an amazing promise – it's often referred to as – Protoevangelium – the first mention of the Gospel

The verse unpacked says: *And I [God] will put enmity between you [the serpent/Satan] and the woman [Eve], and between your offspring [Satan/Devil] and hers [Eve's offspring]; he [Eve's offspring, Jesus] will crush your [Satan's] head, and you [Satan] will strike his [Jesus'] heel.*

In pictorial form – it would look like this below.

Satan thinks he has defeated Jesus on the cross – by striking Jesus' heel – but Jesus has crushed Satan's head by being the once and for all sacrifice for sin on that cross – and by raising from the dead on the third day – to defeat the final enemy – death itself. So, Satan is powerless!



Genesis 3:13-15 relates to Romans 16:1-27 in two ways:

- a. As Romans 16:15 says – the revelation of the mystery of the Gospel – was revealed in prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God. The first mention of this revelation comes in the first book of the Bible in Genesis 3:15. And in fact the Old Testament constantly alludes to the coming of Jesus – sometimes opaquely and other times more clearly.
- b. As Romans 16:20 – says the God of peace will soon crush Satan under our feet. Satan was defeated at the Cross, and he will be removed completely

when Jesus returns. In the meantime, Satan prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour – so we need to be alert (1 Peter 5:8) – because Satan knows his time is short (Revelation 12:12).

In one sense, Satan is already defeated. Jesus won the victory over him through the cross and the resurrection (Colossians 2:15). It is now possible to defeat Satan every day in our own lives. The Holy Spirit empowers God's children to say "no" to Satan's agenda and walk in the Spirit, living a life pleasing to God (Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16, 25). The ultimate defeat of Satan is yet to come, when he will be condemned to the lake of fire forever, unable to propagate his evil ever again. Though Satan still reigns as the god of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4), Christians can live in light of the truth that he is a defeated foe.

10. **Optional Question:** How has the second half of the book of Romans led you to:

a. Love God more?

In Romans 8:1 we are told that "there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ" and Romans 8:31 says "if God is for us, who can be against us". These are profound promises which should lead us to love God more and do as Romans 12:1 says and present our bodies to God as a living sacrifice holy and pleasing to God and as Romans 12:2 says to no longer conform to the patterns of this world but be transformed by the renewing of our mind. If we fully embrace this – it leads to us loving God more.

b. Enjoy your identity as God's child more?

Romans 5-11 explain how we are justified by faith in Jesus. This means that through faith in what Jesus has done in His death and resurrection, we are now declared right with God and approved by God. We are a new creation, and we can embrace this new identity in Christ of being an adopted child of God (Romans 8:14-17). This intimate relationship with God as our Father brings a sense of security, belonging, and joy in our identity. And so, we can live in the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, and display the fruit of the Spirit.

c. Offer yourself as a living sacrifice in new ways?

When we know we have a renewed mind because of Jesus (Romans 12:1-2), we can offer our lives in service to God and others by exhibiting our spiritual gifts (Romans 12:3-8). This can spur us on to a more genuine love and humility as we exhibit Christian love (Romans 12:9-21). It also inspires us to live in unity and edify one another (Romans 14:1-15:7); and to think about how we can continue Paul's mission to the Gentiles (Romans 15:14-33) and pray for this Gentile mission (Genesis 15:30-33).

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Romans 16:1-27**

The church in its unity and diversity works together to bring the Gospel and to glorify God!



What **light globe moment** did you have in this study?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

V27 - to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen

Finish in prayer: Thank God for the Apostle Paul's ministry and in particular his letter to the Romans. Thank God for His Holy Word and how it speaks to our hearts and minds, each time we read and meditate on it!

Studies prepared by Paul O'Rourke
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Resources:

The MacArthur Study Bible

New Bible Commentary (Carson, France, Moyter & Wenham)

Romans 8 to 16 for you (Timothy Keller)

The Message of Romans (John Stott)

Romans (Geoffrey B. Wilson)

Romans 1 to 8 (William Hendrikson)

The Epistle to the Romans (Floyd E. Hamilton)

The Epistle to the Romans (John Murray)