



# **ROMANS**

The Gospel of God

## **The Gospel and People!**

**Romans 15:1-33**

Message #32 of 33 – S1163

**Sermon given on August 31, 2025**



Sunday Morning Service

**Pastor Rick Lancaster**

# **The Gospel and People!**

## ***Romans 15:1-33***

### **Opening Comments**

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 14**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

### **Teaching**

- **The Gospel and People!**
- It is getting close to thirty years since Jesus saved me.
- There is no way anyone could have explained to me what being in a relationship with God actually meant thirty years ago.
- Kelly tried many times, but there was no way I could understand it.
- Still, after more than two decades of pastoring and teaching, I don't think I have the words to fully express what it means to be in a relationship with Almighty God.
- I know God loves me. But how do I know that?
- The Bible tells me God loves me, but how do I know it is true?
- I feel God's love for me, but how do I know those feelings are real?
- I have experienced God's love in countless ways for almost thirty years, but how do I know it is God's love I am experiencing?
- I just know! By faith, I know God loves me.
- God loves me – He has always loved me – He will always love me.
- What I am still trying to figure out is how to love God back.
- How do you love God, Almighty, Sovereign, Creator of heaven and earth?
- How do you love God's Son, Christ Jesus, who stepped down out of heaven and died for my sins?
- How do I love God's Spirit living inside me helping, leading, guiding, and teaching me?
- How do I love God, who I can't go to, or see, or touch?
- Thankfully, God gave me a book, The Bible, His holy Word, to help me.

- God created me to be in a relationship with Him.
- The Bible teaches me how to do that.
- I wasn't created just to be in a relationship with God but also with other people.
- The Bible teaches that loving God includes loving people, especially other people who are loving God. **1 John 4:20-21**

<sup>20</sup> **If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? <sup>21</sup> And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God *must* love his brother also.**

- God has taught me that the primary way I love Him is by loving people, especially those people who love God.
- That is where the challenge begins.
- Loving God is easier than loving people because God is perfect, people are not.
- Romans 15 tells some things about loving people.
- Paul starts by speaking to those who are spiritually stronger than others.
- **Romans 15:1-3**
- My ability to love God is tied directly to my faith.
- As my faith grows, so does my ability to love God.
- It is no different with loving people, it requires faith.
- The greater my faith becomes, the easier it is to love others, even those people who make it harder to love them.
- What makes some people harder to love? Their faith!
- Faith is what moves us to loves others and it helps us to be lovable by others.
- Paul is saying to the stronger in faith to help those who are weak in their faith.
- 'bear with the scruples' – weaknesses or failings of the spiritually weaker.
- Our goal ought to be building each other up until we are all...

### **Ephesians 4:13**

<sup>13</sup>...**till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ...**

- That will mean putting yourself aside to help others.

- I have found that helping others grow in their faith is a mutually beneficial experience – my faith grows as I help them grow.
  - Paul says that is what Jesus did.
  - Paul then tells us the Bible is given to us to help us with that.
  - **Romans 15:4**
  - ‘written before’ is probably referring to the Old Testament, since much of the New Testament hadn’t been written yet.
  - Whole Bible teaches us of Christ, God, and how to love Him and each other. **2 Timothy 3:16-17**
- <sup>16</sup> **All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**
- Every part of the Bible is important – even genealogies.
  - Paul then calls us again to unity.
  - **Romans 15:5-6**
  - Unity is not optional for Christians.
  - That doesn’t mean we agree about everything in life or this world, but we are very careful about how we disagree with each other.
- Colossians 3:14**
- <sup>14</sup> **But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection.**
- Paul ends this section the same way he began it.
  - **Romans 15:7**
  - Receive means to accept or welcome one another.
  - Unity in church brings glory to God, builds faith, and nurtures love.
  - Paul then shifts from what we should do with each other to what Christ did so that we could do that.
  - **Romans 15:8-12**
  - The church in Rome was a mixture of Jews and Gentiles, non-Jews.
  - Paul quotes from four Old Testament Scriptures, from the four different sections of the Old Testament.
  - V9 = 2 Samuel 22:50 – History - V10 = Deuteronomy 32:43 – Law - V11 = Psalm 117:1 – Poetry - V12 = Isaiah 11:10 – Prophets.
  - Whole Old Testament testifies of Christ and God’s plan to save the Gentiles – that would be us. Hallelujah!
  - The church is for all people.

- The result of loving God and others and walking in unity comes next.
- **Romans 15:13**
- That is the fruit of a welcoming, loving church seeking God and walking in faith, love, and obedience.
- Paul then commends Roman church.
- **Romans 15:14**
- Three things: goodness, knowledge, and ability to admonish.
- That is high praise from Paul. That is their reputation.
- Rest of chapter 15 is very personal to Paul.
- **Romans 15:15-16**
- Paul's ministry = ministering the gospel of God to Gentiles – non-Jews.
- Paul's act of worship to God was to love God by helping Gentiles learn how to love God and each other.
- We worship God however He made us to and called us to.
- Setting up chairs, making coffee, playing an instrument, greeting, changing diapers, and teaching kids are all acts of worship.
- Paul then brags about his ministry.
- **Romans 15:17-21**
- God used Paul to do radical things.
- Says he won't take credit for anything God didn't do through him.
- Recognizes God used him two ways: word and deed.
- Word – share the gospel, share the truth.
- Deed – do the right things, no matter what others think.
- Paul called to be missionary/evangelist/apostle to people who had not heard of Christ.
- Not everyone's calling - find your purpose and do it.
- Paul now explains why he hasn't visited yet.
- **Romans 15:22-24**
- Paul was busy taking gospel to people who didn't know about Christ.
- The Romans knew about Christ.
- His plan was to go on to Spain, probably didn't make it there.
- Reminds us, we should make plans but then let God change them if He so chooses.

- Paul did end up in Rome, but probably not the way he would have planned it.
- You can read about that in Acts.
- Paul has completed his work in Asia.
- He has something to do before he visits them.
- **Romans 15:25-29**
- The church in Jerusalem was struggling.
- Predominantly a Jewish church and the Jews persecuted and ostracized Jewish converts to Christianity.
- Churches of Asia Minor felt they owed it to the Jerusalem church to help.
- Many churches collected money to aid and Paul was escorting the money to Jerusalem.
- Paul then asks the church in Rome to pray for him.
- **Romans 15:30-32**
- Paul, greatest Christian to live, begged them to pray for him.
- Paul didn't know exactly what was going to happen to him at Jerusalem but he knew there were many who opposed his ministry to the Gentiles.
- Paul knew prayer was important and effective.
- Before you do anything – pray. When you can't do anything – pray. When you don't know what to do – pray. In fact, Paul says, pray without ceasing!
- Paul was looking forward to spending time with the believers at the church in Rome.
- He was expecting to be refreshed by their faith.
- Doing the work of the ministry can be hard sometimes.
- Everyone needs to take time to be refreshed so that they can get back to the work of loving God and helping others to love Him and each other.
- Paul's visit may not have been as refreshing as he might have hoped but Paul was living in the will of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- Paul will end up going to Rome in chains and be shipwrecked on the way.
- That doesn't sound refreshing to me but from a Roman prison cell Paul wrote books like Ephesians, Colossians, and Philippians.
- Faith makes it possible to find rest and refreshing wherever God is.
- If God is with you, which He is, you can be refreshed even in the midst of a storm.
- You can rest even in the darkest of times, because you know, my God is with me.
- Paul ends this chapter with the hope of God's presence.
- **Romans 15:33**
- You will never be anywhere in this world or during your life where God is not with you.
- As a Christ-follower, He is living in you. **Psalm 16:11**
- <sup>11</sup> **You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**
- That should be a source of indescribable peace.
- If you are not experiencing that peace, ask God to grow your faith so that you can.
- If you are struggling to love others, pray and ask God to give you His love for them.
- Brothers and sisters, we are brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Faith and love are how we walk through this life together.
- Let's pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help us to grow together.
- **Pray! Last Song!**