

ROMANS

Chapter 15:1-13

Unity in Christ to the Glory of God

The strong admonished

- “Now we who are **strong** out to bear the weaknesses of those **without strength**...”
 - Gr – *dunatos* – able, powerful, mighty, strong ; firm in conviction and faith
 - Gr – *adunatos* – without strength, powerless, impotent ; Christians whose faith is not yet firm
 - Instead of strong vs weak, emphasis is better understood as able and unable.
 - The obligation of the strong is greater than the weak

The strong admonished

- “...Bear the weaknesses”
 - Gr – *bastazein* – to carry a burden; a jar of water (Mark 14:13) a coffin (Luke 7:14), a cross (Luke 14:27, a yoke (Acts 15:10) – to bear patiently, put up with, endure
 - In this context – NOT endure, but carry
 - Here, Paul is requiring from the strong much more than to tolerate – build up, help carry the burden of the weak, take the weight off them and put it on their own shoulders.

The strong admonished

- “...not just to please ourselves.”
 - This must be kept in context
 - Not a command to never please ourselves, but a command to avoid our own pleasure AT THE EXPENSE of causing hurt to the weak
- “each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.”
 - The necessary qualification here is edification – not flattery or condoning wrong-doing

The example of Christ

- “For even Christ did not please Himself, but as it is written: “THE TAUNTS OF THOSE WHO TAUNT YOU HAVE FALLEN ON ME.”
 - Romans 14:15
 - Christ is the perfect example of putting others ahead of Himself, surrendering His life for even those whom He never knew.

Hope in the Scriptures

- Paul has used reference to the scripture through inspiration of the Holy Spirit throughout his letter to the Romans and does so here in its conclusion.
 - Psalm 69 was written to provide comfort and to produce patience.
 - The God of patience and comfort caused the scriptures to be written for OUR HOPE – the Christians hope of glory (Romans 5:3-5)

Unity of Christians

- God, being the source and giver of patience and comfort, has shared this with us through the scriptures for the purpose of uniting Christians in the hope and glory of Himself.
 - Through unity Christians can be comforted and provide comfort to one another by cherishing the same views and living together in harmony
 - In harmony, Christians glorifying God together can rise above the troubles of Chapter 14

To the glory of God

- Accepting each other in our strengths and weaknesses is something Christ has done for us to the glory of God
- Our acceptance of each other's strengths and weaknesses is also to the glory of God.
- When we accept each other as Christ accepted us, we are glorying God in the same way Christ did

Proof that Christ's work aimed at the glory of God

- Jesus completely surrendered His will to that of His Father.
 - In doing so Jesus showed the truth of God and confirmed the promises given to the fathers, that through them all nations would be blessed.
 - The blessing came in the form of the Messiah who was in perfect submission to God the Father.
 - Through the Messiah, God showed faithfulness to fulfill his promises and mercy to the Gentiles.

Scriptures confirm Christ's purpose

- The Law, The Prophets and the Psalms all agree
 - David praises Jehovah after the conquest of his enemies (Psalm 18:49)
 - A command for Gentiles to rejoice together with God's own people (Deuteronomy 32:43)
 - All nations and people summoned to praise God (Psalm 117:1)
 - The Messiah of the Jews should be the desire and hope of the Gentiles (Isaiah 11:10)

Paul's closing wish

- Paul wishes joy and peace in the hope of the Lord to those who he labors to deliver the good news to.
 - The world is full of anxiety and hostility towards God and Paul directs us towards the opposite IN Christ – Joy and Peace
 - Believing – the necessary requirement for joy and peace
 - Abounding in hope – the purpose of Paul's hope
 - The Holy Spirit's connection with hope (Rom 5:5; 8:1-17, 23, 26)

Next week

- Romans 15:14 – 16:27
 - Concluding remarks by Paul
 - 15:14-29 The reason for writing the epistle
 - 16:1-16 Greetings to various individuals in Rome
 - 16:17-20 A warning against false teachers
 - 16:21-23 Greetings from various individuals
 - 16:25-27 A closing ascription of praise to God