

## **Romans – Bible Study – Chapter 15:1-13**

As we look into tonight's passage, Paul is concluding his teachings on how the weak and strong are to exist together. What should be noted is the idea of unity is being built up, all the way to the end of the passage (verse 13). Keep that in mind and see how this passage not only relates to the beginning of chapter 14, but how it relates to Paul's letter to the Romans in its entirety.

### **Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles**

**(Verses 4-6)** How do the Scriptures encourage us as to produce hope? How are God's gifts of endurance (perseverance) and encouragement to be used? What is the purpose of Paul's prayer? What are some practical evidences of the application of these gifts?

**(Verses 7-12)** Who is Paul directing the command "to accept" to? What is Paul's reasoning for this? How should that inform us when we meet other Christians who are not like us (Philippians 2:3-4)? How have the actions of Christ directed the actions of the Jew and the Gentile? What were the promises given to the patriarchs (Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 56:3-8)? Paul quotes four passages from the Old Testament (2 Samuel 22:50; Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalm 117:1; Isaiah 11:10). What is Paul's purpose in using them here? What do you think the significance of this is?

**(Verse 13)** How does the Holy Spirit help us abound in hope? What does this imply about the source of our hope? What are some practical ways to grow in God's peace, joy, and hope?

Paul emphasizes that the Church needs to be unified when it comes to praising and worshiping God. It pleases and honours God when the church is unified. When it is not, especially on minor and amoral subjects, it dishonours God because it shows each person lives for themselves and not necessarily for God and for others. Paul uses Scripture to show that the Gospel is meant for everyone and because of that, we need to live in harmony and unity so that we bring glory to God.

This concludes Paul's exposition of the theme of the righteousness of God that constitutes the heart of this epistle (1:18—15:13). Paul showed man's need of God's righteousness (1:18—3:20), how God imputes it to people who trust in His Son (3:21—5:21), and how He imparts it to those to whom He has imputed it (chapters 6—8). Moreover, he demonstrated that God is consistently righteous in doing all these things (chapters 9—11). He ends by urging his readers to practice their righteousness in their most important relationships (12:1—15:13).

**Points to Ponder:**

- Do you live for the well-being and benefit of others so that God may be glorified?