




ROMANS

FROM NOW ON
WEEK TWENTY-SIX



**MAY THE GOD OF HOPE FILL
YOU WITH ALL JOY AND
PEACE AS YOU TRUST IN HIM,
SO THAT YOU MAY OVERFLOW
WITH HOPE BY THE POWER
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

ROMANS 15:13 NIV

**SCAN TO LET US
KNOW YOU ARE
PARTICIPATING**



WEEK TWENTY-SIX

In week twenty-six, we will study Romans 15:14-33. Paul will end his main portion of the book of Romans before the greeting. He will tell the Romans his plans and encourage them to pray for him on his journey.

SERMON NOTES

14 I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. 15 Nevertheless, on some points I have written to you rather boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 17 In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to boast of my work for God. 18 For I will not be so bold as to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to win obedience from the gentiles, by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit, so that from Jerusalem and as far around as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. 20 Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on someone else's foundation, 21 but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him shall see, and those who have never heard of him shall understand."

22 This is the reason that I have so often been hindered from coming to you. 23 But now, with no further place for me in these regions, I desire, as I have for many years, to come to you 24 when I go to Spain. For I do hope to see you on my journey and to be sent on by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a little while. 25 At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints, 26 for Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. 27 They were pleased to do this, and indeed they owe it to them, for if the gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material things. 28 So, when I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will set out by way of you to Spain, 29 and I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. 30 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, 31 that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, 32 so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. 33 The God of peace be with all of you. Amen.

Romans 15:14-33 NRSV

ROMANS WEEK 26 DAY 1

READ: ROMANS 15:14-16

What is encouraging about what Paul says in verse 14 regarding the Christians in Rome?



We know that even though he had never been to the churches in Rome, he speaks with much authority. He still wants to tread lightly, hoping to speak needed truth without offense. Paul says that even though he commends the Christians in Rome for their faith, their ability to teach and learn from each other he had to be bold in his instructions or reminders to them. Beverly Roberts Gaventa says, “To the extent that the letter is a reminder, it recasts the gospel that auditors have received in order to make memory of what God has done to rescue humanity from sin and its associated powers, to give new life, and to unify Jew and Gentile.”

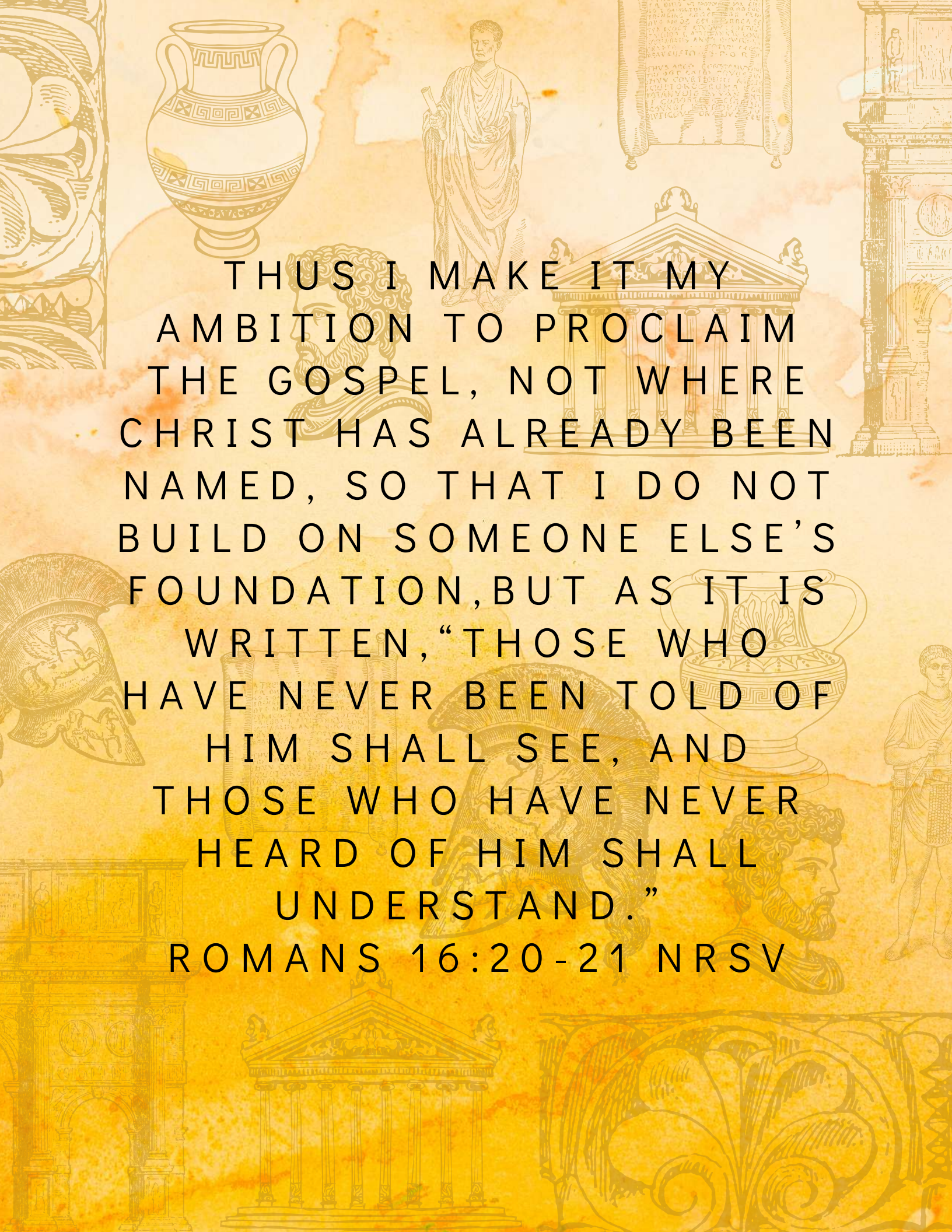
What are some of the “bold” things Paul reminds the Romans of that you can recall from the entire book of Romans?



The NLT translation verses 15- 16 this way. “Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder. For by God’s grace, I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit.” Paul is convinced of these truths, not because of his own accord, but because of “God’s grace.” It is not to boast his own name but for the glory of God. This is the reason he is able to speak so confidently to the Romans.

HOW ARE YOU ABLE TO SPEAK AND SHARE THE
GOOD NEWS? WHERE DO YOU NEED TO DO THAT
MORE BODILY TODAY?





THUS I MAKE IT MY
AMBITION TO PROCLAIM
THE GOSPEL, NOT WHERE
CHRIST HAS ALREADY BEEN
NAMED, SO THAT I DO NOT
BUILD ON SOMEONE ELSE'S
FOUNDATION, BUT AS IT IS
WRITTEN, "THOSE WHO
HAVE NEVER BEEN TOLD OF
HIM SHALL SEE, AND
THOSE WHO HAVE NEVER
HEARD OF HIM SHALL
UNDERSTAND."

ROMANS 16:20-21 NRSV

ROMANS WEEK 26 DAY 2

READ: ROMANS 15:17-21

Why and with what power does Paul have to boast?



Paul gives credit to both Christ and the “power of the Spirit” in these verses. At the end of Paul’s letter to the Romans and in the verses we cover this week, Paul will speak of the Holy Spirit, like he did in chapter 8. Romans 8:9 says, “You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.”

Go back to the week we looked at Romans 8, or read through Romans 8:1-17. What does Paul say about the Spirit in chapter 8 that overlaps with what he is saying in chapter 15?



What do you notice about what is specific to Paul's calling?


Paul is very specific, he wants to preach the Gospel where it has not yet been brought. He was passionate about not building on what someone else had started, but pioneering something brand new. He quotes the second half of Isaiah 52 here, "For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand" (NIV).

WE ARE ALL CALLED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL BUT
THIS CALL WAS SPECIFIC TO PAUL. HOW DOES
YOUR CALL IN SHARING THE GOSPEL OVERLAP OR
DIFFER THAN PAUL'S?

ROMANS WEEK 26 DAY 3


READ: ROMANS 15:22-24

In these verses we are reminded of Paul's letter format. He is telling the Romans what his travel plan is. This could seem out of place in the grand letter of Romans, but what does Paul tell them his plan is?



I have to imagine if I was a Christian in Rome listening to this letter, I may be slightly confused about Paul's plans. Though he is eager to come see Rome, it is merely a stop on the way to Spain—where he really is trying to go.

Knowing what we know about Paul's calling and what is happening in Rome, why would he only stop on the way to Spain?



Paul clearly wanted to remind and instruct the Christians in Rome, though part of his point in writing Romans is for his journey to Spain. From what we know of Paul's letters and travels, he never actually makes it to Spain. There was much effort in planning to go to Spain and we can assume Paul even felt that God wanted him to visit Spain to share the Gospel there. We see that though Paul likely does not make it to Spain his preparations greatly impacted not only the Christians in Rome, but Christians today

N.T. Wright puts it this way,

“Perhaps God sometimes allows us to dream dreams of what he wants us to do, not necessarily so that we can fulfill all of them – that might just make us proud and self satisfied– but so that we will take the first steps toward fulfilling them. And perhaps those first steps (as they appear to us) are in fact the key things that God actually wants us to do. Paul may not have got to Spain. That didn't matter; the gospel got there fairly soon anyway. What mattered then, and has mattered enormously in the whole history of the church, is that, as part of his plan to go to Spain, he wrote Romans. We should never underestimate what God will do with the things we see as small steps to a larger end.

THINK ABOUT PAUL'S PLAN TO VISIT SPAIN NOT
COMING ABOUT. WHERE DO YOU SEE SIMILAR
THINGS IN YOUR LIFE?



ROMANS WEEK 26 DAY 4

READ: ROMANS 15:25-29



Locate Corinth on the map above. This is where Paul is assumed to be at the time of writing Romans. If his final destination is Spain through Rome, what do you notice about him visiting Jerusalem before hand?



If Paul's travel seems peculiar to you, it is. Though it makes perfect sense to go west to Rome from Corinth then further west to Spain, it seems silly to go the complete opposite direction, over 700 nautical miles to Jerusalem.

Paul does tell us the reason for his visit being so out of the way, for people have given financially to the new believers in Jerusalem. Though, Paul does not specify say why the believers in Jerusalem are poor, he says the Gentile churches felt they “owed” it to them because they have received spiritual blessings from the believers (likely Jewish) in Jerusalem. He says they made a “contribution” translated from the Greek word, *koinōnia*, meaning fellowship. The gifts they had brought them together in a special type of partnership.

HOW HAS GOD USED YOU FINANCIALLY TO BRING THE
FELLOWSHIP AMONG OTHERS OR MINISTRIES?
WHERE ARE YOU CHALLENGED BY THIS?



ROMANS WEEK 26 DAY 5

READ: ROMANS 15:30-33

With these verses, Paul will close the main portion of his letter. What does he urge the Romans to do?



Read how The Message Version translates these verses, “I have one request, dear friends: Pray for me. Pray strenuously with and for me—to God the Father, through the power of our Master Jesus, through the love of the Spirit—that I will be delivered from the lions’ den of unbelievers in Judea. Pray also that my relief offering to the Jerusalem believers will be accepted in the spirit in which it is given. Then, God willing, I’ll be on my way to you with a light and eager heart, looking forward to being refreshed by your company.

God’s peace be with all of you. Oh, yes!”

How do you see Paul’s plea for prayer in these verses?



I love that The Message translates how Paul says to pray. “that I will be delivered from the lions’ den of unbelievers in Judea.” He was calling to them to pray for people that were not just for him, but actively against him. Many times God calls us into places that are uncomfortable and many times will call us to pray for those who are against us. N.T Wright says this, “At the core of the gospel is God’s generous love for those who are not only undeserving, but also an active opposition. Even if we think we are correct and seeing certain others as in the wrong, they might just be the very people we ought to be helping.”

IS THERE SOMEONE WHO IS AGAINST YOU, YOU
NEED TO PRAY FOR TODAY? WRITE THAT
PRAYER HERE AS WE END THIS WEEK.



REFLECTION FOR THE WEEK

WHAT VERSES (OR VERSE) HAVE STUCK OUT TO
YOU THE MOST THIS WEEK?



WHAT DO YOU FEEL THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADING
YOU TO DO OR BELIEVE THIS WEEK?





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Created by Katie Anderson