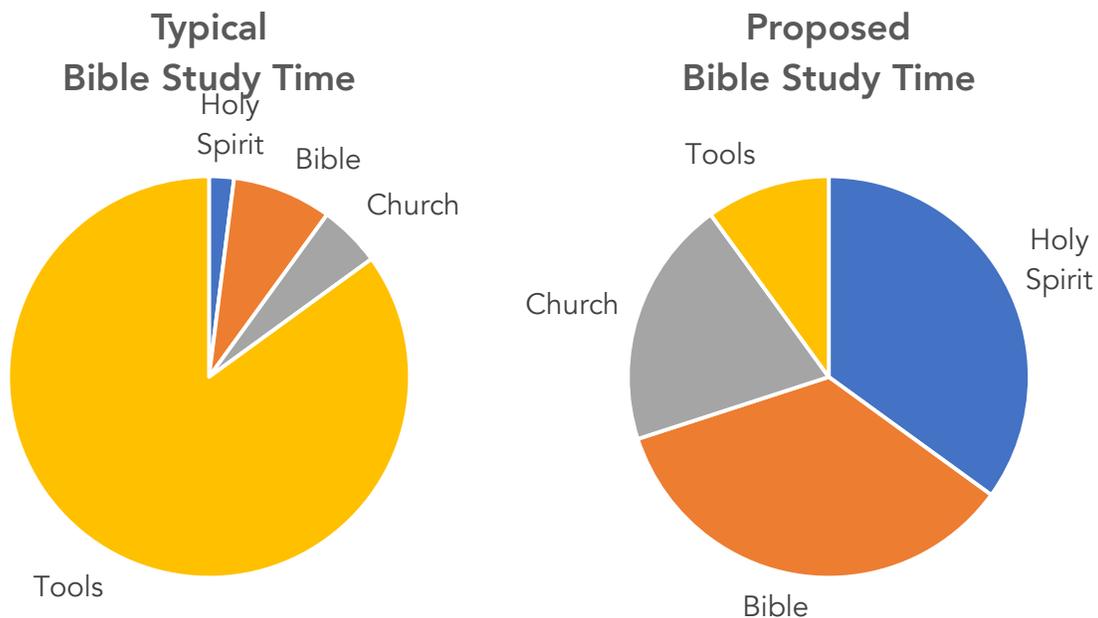


Romans

Paul the Minister to the Gentiles ([Romans 15:14-21](#))

Introduction

A gentle review: **Did we do this?** Spend more time with God and His Word than with anyone and anything else.



Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

Here's our outline of the book of [Romans](#) (summarized from the ESV's outline):

- ✓ Paul's Introduction & Righteousness Introduced ([1:1-17](#)) (three weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Wrath ([1:18-3:20](#)) (six weeks)
- ✓ Saving Righteousness ([3:21-4:25](#)) (three weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Freedom ([5:1-8:39](#)) (11 weeks)
- ✓ Righteousness → Jews ([9:1-11:36](#)) (eight weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Living ([12:1-15:13](#)) (nine weeks)
- 7. Paul's Closing ([15:14-16:23](#)) (November to early December) (five weeks)
- 8. Righteousness Summarized ([16:25-27](#)) (December & wrap up) (two weeks)

Today's text ([Romans 15:14-21](#)) is the first part of this major section.

Read: Paul the Minister to the Gentiles (15:14-21)

14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. 15 But on some points I have written to you very 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 be proud of my work for God. 18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; 20 and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, 21 but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

Explain: Paul the Minister to the Gentiles (15:14-21)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some questions.

Are there any literary/structural observations?

As Paul begins to wrap up his letter, he gets personal again—you can hear his heartbeat and love for these people. He quotes from [Isaiah 52:15](#) as he explains his desire to evangelize where no one else has.

It will be important to draw a distinction between illustrative (descriptive: describing what occurred and/or what the characters desired to occur) and instructive (prescriptive: an example/pattern/process for all believers everywhere to follow) texts here. Paul is illustrating/describing his own passions and interests. He is not commanding these Roman believers (or all believers in all time) to go and evangelize only in places where the gospel has never been preached.

As such, the larger Bible study principle is to know when a text is descriptive and when it is prescriptive. Mixing the two can have disastrously frustrating consequences for a Bible study student.

Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures: The argument of the Epistle has been completed both in the main line (chapters 1-8) and the further applications (9:1-15:13). Here begins the Epilogue, the personal matters of importance.

What do the words mean?

14 I myself am satisfied [perfect middle indicative; convinced, assented, rely, agreed, assured, believed, have confidence in, contented, make friend, obeyed, **persuaded**, trusted, yielded; same word used in **Romans 2:8, 19; 8:38; 14:14**] **about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are** [present middle indicative] **full** [replete, full; same word used in **Romans 1:29**] **of goodness** [goodness, virtue, beneficence], **filled** [perfect middle participle; replete, crammed full, leveled off, furnished, satisfied, executed, finished, verified, accomplished, completed, ended, expired, filled up, fulfilled, perfected, supplied; same word used in **Romans 1:29; 8:4; 13:8; 15:13**] **with all knowledge** [knowing, knowledge, science; same word used in **Romans 2:20; 11:33**] **and able** [dynamai; present middle participle; able, possible, be of power; same word used in **Romans 8:7, 8, 39**] **to instruct** [present active infinitive; to put in **mind**, to caution or reprove gently, admonish, warn] **one another.** **15 But on some points** [piece, part, portion, some; same word used in **Romans 11:25**] **I have written** [aorist active indicative] **to you very boldly** [more daringly, with greater confidence than otherwise, the more boldly] **by way of reminder** [present active participle; to remind of, put in mind], **because** [dia] **of the grace** [charis] **given** [aorist middle participle] **me by God** **16 to be** [present middle infinitive; exist, be] **a minister** [leitourgos; public servant, functionary in the Temple or Gospel, worshipper of God or benefactor of man, minister; same word used in **Romans 13:6**] **of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles** [ethnos] **in the priestly service** [present active participle; temple worker [a compound word consisting of **temple** and **worker**], officiate as a priest, minister] **of the gospel** [gospel, good **message**; used in **Romans 1:1, 9, 16; 2:16; 10:16; 11:28**] **of God, so that the offering** [presentation, oblation (bloodless) or sacrifice, offering (up)] **of the Gentiles** [ethnos] **may be** [second aorist active **subjunctive**] **acceptable** [well received, accepted, acceptable], **sanctified** [hagiazo; perfect passive (Robertson) participle; to make holy, purify, consecrate, venerate, hallow, be holy, sanctify] **by the Holy** [hagios] **Spirit** [pneuma]. **17 In Christ Jesus, then, I have** [present active indicative] **reason to be proud** [boasting, whereof I may glory, glorifying, rejoicing; same word used in **Romans 3:27**] **of my work for God.** **18 For I will not venture** [future active indicative; boldness, venture, act, courageous, bold, dare; same word used in **Romans 5:7**] **to speak** [present active infinitive] **of anything except what Christ has accomplished** [aorist active indicative; work fully, accomplish, finish, fashion, cause, do, perform, work out; same word used multiple times in **Romans**] **through me to bring the Gentiles** [ethnos] **to obedience** [attentive hearkening, compliance, submission, obedience; same word used in **Romans 1:5; 5:19; 6:16**]—**by word** [logos] **and deed** [works, toil, labor], **19 by the power** [dynamis; force, miraculous power, ability, abundance, meaning, might, miracle, strength, violence, mighty work; same word used in **Romans 1:4, 16, 20; 8:38; 9:17; 15:13**] **of signs**

[indication, miracle, sign, token, wonder; same word used in [Romans 4:11](#)] **and wonders** [prodigy, omen, wonder], **by the power** [dynamis; force, miraculous power, ability, abundance, meaning, might, miracle, strength, violence, mighty work; same word used in [Romans 1:4, 16, 20; 8:38; 9:17; 15:13](#), earlier in [15:19](#)] **of the Spirit** [pneuma] **of God—so that from Jerusalem** [the capital of Palestine] **and all the way around to Illyricum** [a region of Europe—possibly the westernmost area Paul had evangelized up to that point] **I have fulfilled** [perfect active infinitive; replete, **crammed** full, leveled off, furnished, satisfied, executed, finished, verified, accomplished, completed, ended, expired, filled up, fulfilled, perfected, supplied; same word used in [Romans 1:29; 8:4; 13:8; 15:13, 14](#)] **the ministry** [note: the words, ‘the ministry’ are not present in the original—also why we won’t be using the ESV going forward after 2017] **of the gospel** [gospel, good message; used in [Romans 1:1, 9, 16; 2:16; 10:16; 11:28; 15:16](#)] **of Christ; 20 and thus I make it my ambition** [present middle participle; a compound word from the words **friend** and **honor**: to be fond of honor, eager or earnest to do something, labor, strive, study] **to preach the gospel** [euangelizo; present middle infinitive; to **announce** good news, evangelize, declare, bring glad tidings, preach the gospel; same word used in [Romans 1:15; 10:15](#)], **not where Christ has already been named** [aorist middle indicative; uttered, mentioned, professed, called, named], **lest I build** [present active subjunctive; be a house builder, construct, confirm, build, edify, embolden] **on someone else's** [another’s, not one’s own, foreign, not akin, hostile, alien, strange; same word used in [Romans 14:4](#)] **foundation** [something put down, substruction, foundation], **21 but as it is written** [perfect middle indicative], [[Isaiah 52:15](#)]

“Those who have never been told [second aorist middle indicative; to announce (in detail), declare, rehearse, report, show, speak, tell] **of him will see** [future active indicative],

and those who have never heard [second perfect active indicative] **will understand** [future middle indicative; puts together, comprehends, acts piously, considers, understands, is wise; same word used in [Romans 3:11](#)].”

Are there any repeated words?

! Christ, God, Gospel, Gentiles, written, Jesus, power Spirit

Are there any repeated topics?

Construction (from prior weeks), sacrifices (from prior weeks)

What are some observations of the text?

14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another [[Mounce: The](#)

believers in Rome were expected to help one another toward spiritual maturity. They were to advise and instruct one another. None were so wise that they had nothing more to learn, and none were so inept that they had nothing of value to share. Spiritual insight is by no means the sole prerogative of those with high intelligence.]. **15 But on some points I have written to you very boldly** [Obviously there were many spots in **Romans** where Paul spoke boldly and plainly to the Roman believers] **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** [Paul viewed the Gentiles he witnessed to as his offering/sacrifice to God—similar to Old Testament offerings], **sanctified by the Holy Spirit.** **17 In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God** [Only in **Christ** was Paul proud of his work]. **18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed,** **19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;** **20 and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation** [F. B. Meyer: The work which really told was not what Paul did for Christ, but what Christ did through Paul. Random odd commentary line of the week: Robertson's New Testament Word Pictures: Paul was a pioneer preacher pushing on to new fields after the manner of Daniel Boone in Kentucky], **21 but as it is written,**
"Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand."

Apply (What is the point?)

1. There is a time for encouraging talk
2. There is a time for bold talk
3. Both kinds of talk can be used to spread the gospel
4. Rejoicing in work done for God in **Christ** is good

Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. Be **encouraging**
2. Be **bold**
3. Spread the gospel
4. Rejoice in what **God** has done

Next week: Paul's Plan to Visit Rome (15:22-33)

22 This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. 23 But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, 24 I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. 25 At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. 26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. 27 For they were pleased to do it, 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 blessings. 28 When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. 29 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, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, 31 that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for 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 May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Homework

Resources (our helps—order matters)

- Holy Spirit
- Bible: [Romans](#) (ESV)
- Church: bit.ly/FlemingSS
- Tools: bit.ly/romans2017

Our process

- Ask (the Holy Spirit for help)
- Read ([Romans](#))
- Talk (about [Romans](#)—bit.ly/romans2017group)
- Send (feedback to jim314@yahoo.com by Wed)

Quotes & Observations

Amy Valovcin (Hughes)

If we are to have lives like Paul's, our hearts must not only see our mission as entirely sacred, but we must give all glory to God. This is so fitting, so right; it's the way we were designed to live.

No matter the outcome, or the part we played all glory is God's. All things are from Him, all glory is due Him. This can be hard to swallow sometimes but it's not about us.

Darla Skinner (Mounce)

The believers in Rome were expected to help one another toward spiritual maturity. They were to advise and instruct one another. None were so wise that they had nothing more to learn, and none were so inept that they had nothing of value to share. Spiritual insight is by no means the sole prerogative of those with high intelligence.