

/Let us begin with the sixteenth lecture on Romans. / Today we will begin with chapter 15. / The title of this chapter is “Virtue.”

/First, bear with the weak. / Verses 1-13. / Second, Paul makes sacrifices for the Gentiles. / Verses 14-21. / Third, Paul wishes to evangelize in Spain. / Verses 22-24. / Fourth, volunteer works for the believers. / Verses 25-29. / Fifth, Paul encourages believers to pray. / Verses 30-33.

/Read 15:1./ We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.

/The first thirteen verses continue with the issue of food in chapter 14. / Here, “we who are strong” refer to those who eat food that is forbidden in the Old Testament.

/“The weak” refer to those who cannot eat food forbidden in the Old Testament. / Now, in the period of the New Testament, we can eat food that was forbidden. / Colossians 2:14

/Still, there were some who could not eat food that was forbidden in the Old Testament times. / The verse encourages the strong to bear with the failings of the weak. / No one should turn the eating of meat or not into a creed.

/Eating and not eating is not fundamentally violating the truth. / On this matter, one needs a big heart of understanding. / 1 Corinthians 9:20-22

/“To bear” means to share the burden. / It means to share in the failings of the weak. / The verse also says they were not to please themselves. / They were to love others instead of making themselves the standard.

/Verse 2. / Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

/We should please our neighbors. / True faith is to please God first,/ and then please our neighbors. / We must do good and please others.

/However, we must not yield the truth. / Galatians 1:10 / Ephesians 6:6/ 1 Thessalonians 2:4/ Whatever the case, we must be upright before God and others. / We must live God-centered lives, not self-centered lives.

/We must do good. / 2 Peter 1:5 / It says, add virtue to faith. / "Virtue" is doing good to others.

/Verse 3. / For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."

/The verse quotes Psalm 69:9. / Jesus will take up our weaknesses and sins. / When doing so, He will be much insulted. / "You" refers to God.

/"Have fallen on me," means that insults fell on the believers and on Jesus Christ. / Like Jesus, we must not please ourselves. / Like Jesus, we must be ready to be insulted when we do good.

/Verse 4. / For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

/"Everything that was written in the past" refers to the Old Testament. / The Bible was written to teach us. / It was not only given to us, but to our descendants as well.

/Therefore, we must persevere. / No matter what we encounter, we must receive the teachings and encouragements of the Bible. / We must endure and believe that our hope will come true as the Bible says. / God will absolutely fulfill the words of the Bible.

/Verse 5. / May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,

/Our God is the God of endurance and encouragement. / The source of encouragement in the Bible is God. / We must follow the example of Christ and sacrifice ourselves for others.

/We must bear with the failings of the weak with love. / We must be one in heart and the church must become one.

/Verse 6. / so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

/We must have one mind and one voice in the church. / We must have the heart of Jesus. / We must have hearts to serve. / Then we must glorify God.

/Verse 7. / Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

/We must follow the example of Jesus Christ. / We must accept our brothers who have weak faith. / Jesus accepted us, sinners.

/Just like Jesus, we must accept our brothers who have weak faith. / This is the way to glorify God. / Galatians 4:19

/Verse 8. / For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs

/Our God is truthful. / 3:4 / He fulfilled the promises he made with the Israelites' patriarchs. / God promised to send Christ. / Christ came just as God promised.

/Jesus became a servant of the Jews. /Our Jesus received circumcision. / He is a servant of the Jews. / Christ came just as God promised the ancestors of the Jews.

/Then Jesus served the Jews. / Christ came down to this world to fulfill the covenant of salvation. / Jesus first preached to the Jews.

/Through this, the covenant of the Old Testament was fulfilled. / God's truthfulness was revealed through this. / God kept his promise.

/Verse 9. / so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name."

/The coming of Christ was not only for the Jews. / Jesus also came down to save the Gentiles. / Jesus came to save both the Jews and Gentiles. / Originally, Gentiles are uncircumcised.

/They are outsiders of the promise of God. / Ephesians 2:11-12. / However, God had mercy on the Gentiles and allowed them to believe in Jesus. / God saved the Gentiles.

/Now they are able to glorify God. / Psalm 18:49 / Christ would save the Gentiles, and they would give thanks and praises to God.

/Verse 10. / Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people."

/This is from Deuteronomy 32:43./ It says, "all nations will receive salvation through Christ."
/ Then, "they will rejoice with the Israelites."

/Both the Gentiles and Jews will be saved, and they will glorify God together. / They will rejoice together.

/Verse 11. / And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples."

/This is from Psalm 117:1. / It says that all the nations and its people will be saved through Christ, and all will praise God.

/Verse 12. / And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; the Gentiles will hope in him."

/This is from Isaiah 11:1./ Jesse is the father of David. / Christ will come as a descendant of David. / Christ will come to rule over the nations.

/Then the nations will believe in the name of Christ and put their hope in Christ. / Christ is the hope of all nations and humanity.

/Verse 13. / 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.

/Our God is the God of hope. / He is the subject of our hope. / God gives us the hope of heaven.

/Paul prayed that the believers in Rome would be filled with joy and salvation. /5:5 / He prayed that their hope would be abundant with the power of the Holy Spirit.

/Verse 14. / I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

/Paul hoped that the believers in Rome would be full of goodness. / He hoped that they would be filled with knowledge of faith. / That is why leaders in the church hope that believers would be filled with the truth they came to know.

/Verse 15. / I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me

/2 Peter 1:13/ Paul tried to awaken and discipline the believers. / When he wrote this book, he wrote with humility. / He says he wrote this book because of the grace that God gave him.

/Verse 16. / to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

/What was the grace God gave to Paul?/ God gave Paul the grace of being an apostle of the Gentiles to offer them before God. / Paul was given the grace to preach to the Gentiles and offer them to God. / Galatians 2:8

/Paul offered the Gentiles to God. / This means that the Gentiles believed in Jesus and returned to God. / We must evangelize to other people.

/If someone believes in Jesus, he is offered to God. / This is the offering God receives through the Holy Spirit. / This is the offering God is pleased with.

/Verse 17. / Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.

/Paul said he had nothing to boast about himself. / Yet, there was one thing. / He boasted of God's works that were achieved through him. / Paul was humble. / Galatians 6:14

/He boasted of God's works that were achieved through him. / He boasted that many people were saved through him.

/Verse 18. / I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done--

/Jesus give many powers to Paul so that the Gentiles would obey God. / The Holy Spirit accompanied him. / Mark 16:17-18 / God's powerful words were preached.

/Signs and wonders appeared. / “Signs” are the works of God that transcend the laws of nature. / “Wonders” refer to the works of God that are in the laws of nature. / Healing sicknesses and driving out demons are signs.

/Signs are supernatural. / The greatest sign in Christianity is that Jesus came down to this world. / Another sign is that we have been born again through faith in Jesus.

/God’s powerful works appear when we believe in Jesus. / 1 Thessalonians 1:5/ God also gives us his power when we evangelize.

/Verse 19. / by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

/Paul became an apostle of the Gentiles. / He diligently shared the gospel with the Gentiles. / “Illyricum” is located north of Macedonia,/ the northern region of Philippi.

/Paul went to such places to preach the gospel. / He tried to evangelize to many people. / 1 Corinthians 9:22

/Verse 20. / It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

/Paul tried to preach in areas where no one had preached. / He did not preach where others were already preaching.

/Today, we must not build a church right next to another church. / We must build churches where there are no churches.

/Verse 21. / Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."

/Isaiah 52:15 / God worked through Paul and God let him bear many good fruit.

/Verse 22. / This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

/Paul tried to go to Rome to preach. / 1:15/ There were still many things to be done in Rome. / However, he could not because he was hindered from going to Rome. / He wanted to evangelize in Rome.

/Verse 23. / But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to see you,

/Paul planned to go to the regions of Spain and Portugal. / Paul wanted to pass through Rome to go to Spain and evangelize. / Paul wanted to evangelize to the ends of the earth.

/Verse 24. / I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

/Paul said he was going to pass through Rome on his way to Spain. / He wanted to have fellowship with the believers in Rome. / He wanted to teach them the Word of God. /1:11

/Afterwards, Paul planned to go to Spain. / He hoped that they would pray for him. / He hoped that the believers in Rome would lead him.

/Verses 25-26. / Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the saints there. For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

/Paul was on his way to Jerusalem. / This was because he received donations from churches in Achaia and Macedonia.

/At the time, believers of the church in Jerusalem were experiencing famine. / Therefore, Paul planned to go help the Jerusalem church with the contributions he received.

/Verse 27. / They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.

/Offerings are fruit of faith. / Believers of the Macedonia church offered to help materially with gladness. / 2 Corinthians 9:7/ God loves a cheerful giver. / Paul says the Gentiles owed it to the Jews.

/The Gentiles were indebted to the Jerusalem church. / That was because it was from there that the gospel was preached to the Gentiles.

/The Gentile churches were spiritually indebted to the Jerusalem church. / Thus, they helped the Jerusalem church with materials. / This was a way of paying back what they owed. / Galatians 6:6

/Verse 28. / So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this fruit, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way.

/Believers in Macedonia and Achaia sent contributions to the Jerusalem church. / Paul said he wanted to go to Spain after he delivered the contributions. / He wanted to go to Spain by passing through Rome. / 2 Corinthians 8:20-21

/Verse 29. / I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.

/He said that when heading to Rome, he would come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ. / What is the full measure of Christ's blessing? / It is the truth. / It is the truth that Paul learned. / Philippians 3:8-10 / Paul tried to help their faith.

/Verses 30-32. / I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed.

/This is the fifth main point. / Paul asked them to pray. / Verses 30-33. / Paul wanted the believers in Rome to pray for him.

/He asked them to pray that he would be delivered from the persecutions of Jews. / He also asked them to pray regarding the help needed by the Jerusalem church. / Finally, he asked them to pray that he would visit them with joy.

/Paul asked them to pray for such great works. / Believers must pray for leaders in the church. / Church leaders must pray for believers.

/Verse 33. / The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

/Our God is the God of peace. / Paul blessed the believers in Rome. / John 14:27/ 2 Thessalonians 3:16/ Paul prayed that God would give them peace. / He blessed them that God would be with them.

/We will continue with chapter 16.

/The title for this chapter is “Greetings.”

/First, receive workers of the Lord. / Verses 1-4. / Second, greetings and exhortations. / Verses 5-16. / Third, leave those who rejected the teachings. / Verses 17-21.

/Fourth, greetings and blessings. / Verses 22-24. / Fifth, Paul glorifies God. / Verses 25-27.

/Read 16:1./ I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea.

/“Cenchrea” is located 14.4 kilometers east of Corinth. / It is a city with ports. / Paul preached before in Cenchrea. / Acts 18:18/ “Phoebe” is a worker in the church in Cenchrea. / She is a leader of the church. /She is a deacon.

/Paul commended Phoebe. / She was to deliver the Book of Romans to the church in Rome.

/Verse 2. / I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me.

/Paul sent Phoebe to the church in Rome. / He asked the believers in Rome to receive her well when she visited. / He asked them to receive her in a way worthy of God’s people. / He asked them to treat her with faith, respect, love, and kindness.

/He asked them to receive and help her. / He also asked that they help her materially. / Matthew 10:41/ Aaron and Hur helped Moses. / Exodus 17:8

/Phoebe was powerful and rich in the Cenchrea region. / She helped Paul and other believers. / She helped them with materials.

/Verses 3-4. / Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.

/Here is Priscilla and Aquila. / They were a married couple. / They were Paul's fellow workers. / Acts 18:2-3/ Acts 18:26/ They helped Paul when he was persecuted.

/They risked their lives for him. / They were faithful in the movement of life. / Thus, Paul commended both of them. / We must be faithful to the gospel with all our lives.

/Verse 5. / Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia.

/“The church” refers to the church that met at the house of Priscilla and Aquila. / Believers gathered in their house to worship. / They offered their place as a place of worship.

/Such cases were common in the early churches. / 1 Corinthians 16:19/ Colossians 4:15/ Philemon 1:2/ Believers offered their lives and materials for the church.

/Here, Paul speaks of “Epenetus.”/ He was the first person to believe in Jesus in Asia Minor.

/Verse 6. / Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you.

/We do not know specifically who Mary was. / There were many women named Mary in those days. / Matthew 10:42

/Verse 7. / Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

/In 9:3 and 11:14, the apostle Paul uses the words, “my relatives.” / His own people were those of the same / and related race. / Andronicus and Junia believed before Paul did.

/Verse 8. / Greet Ampliatus, whom I love in the Lord.

/Ampliatus is said to be a name of a slave. / Slaves believed in Jesus too at the time. / In those days, many slaves believed in Jesus. / Philemon 1:10 / 1 Corinthians 7:21

/Verse 9. / Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.

/Urbanus was Paul's fellow worker. / Stachys was greatly loved by Paul. / They both helped him greatly.

/Verse 10. / Greet Apelles, tested and approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus.

/Apelles was approved in Christ. / His faith was acknowledged by others. / 1 Timothy 3:10/ He withstood many trials.

/There was also Aristobulus. / Some say that he was a great-grandson of Herod. / There were people who believed in Christ even in Herod's family.

/Verse 11. / Greet Herodion, my relative. Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

/Herodion was a relative of Paul. / Narcissus, we believe, was a sister of Herodion, considering that both of them were females.

/Verse 12. / Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord.

/Paul greeted Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis. / They worked hard for the church. / We receive heavenly rewards according to the amount of work we do for the Lord.

/Verse 13. / Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.

/"Rufus" was the son of Simon of Cyrene in Mark 15:21. / "Rufus" was the son of Simon of Cyrene in Mark 15:21. / "Simon of Cyrene" is the man who carried the cross for Jesus.

/Later on, Simon of Cyrene believed in Jesus. / John 1:39-46/ Simon's wife believed. / His son also believed.

/They became faithful workers in the early church. / Paul served Rufus' mother just like his own mother.

/Verses 14-15. / Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brothers with them. Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the saints with them.

/All these people mentioned were faithful believers. / They were leaders of the church. / Paul greeted these people. / He greeted the churches they led.

/Verse 16. / Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ send greetings.

/He asked them to greet one another with a holy kiss. / This is the most cordial way of greeting others. / 1 Thessalonians 5:26/ 1 Corinthians 16:20/ 2 Corinthians 13:11

/It says that after service, men kissed men and women kissed women. / Each country has its own ways in greeting one another. / We must do good to others.

/Verse 17. / I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

/Paul urged the brothers to keep away from those who believed teachings contrary to what they had learned. / He told them to stay away from those who caused divisions. / Galatians 5:9/ Those who spread false teachings must be governed. / Yeast spreads through the entire dough. / We must build up the correct truth.

/Verse 18. / For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

/There are those who chase after selfish desires. / Philippians 3:19/ They say they believe in Jesus, but they only fill their greed. / We must not follow them.

/They deceive the innocent. / 2 Thessalonians 2:11-12/ We must stand firm in the truth. / We must not follow false teachings. / We must not follow deceivers.

/Verse 19. / Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

/Believers in the church in Rome obeyed. / News of their obedience spread. / 1 Thessalonians 1:8/ We must be wise about what is good. / We must follow what is good. /

We must be innocent about what is evil. / We must get rid of evil.

/Verse 20. / The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

/There will come a time when God will crush Satan under our feet. / There will come a time when God will judge those who persecute believers. / God judges deceivers. / He judges those who only seek to fill their own appetites. / God gives grace to believers.

/Verse 21. / Timothy, my fellow worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, my relatives.

/From verses 21-23 are the believers who were with Paul. / Paul greeted the believers in Rome with them. / Timothy was Paul's son in faith. / Philippians 2:19-23/ 1 Timothy 1:2

/"Lucius" appears in Acts 13:1, / "Jason" appears in Acts 17:5-7, / and "Sosipater" appears in Acts 20:4. / They were believed to have been preachers. / They were fellow workers of Paul. /They were leaders in the church.

/Verse 22. / I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord.

/Paul was said to have frail eyes. / He asked others to write his letters for him. / Then he signed them in the end. / 1 Corinthians 16:21/ Galatians 6:11/ Colossians 4:18 / 2 Thessalonians 3:17

/Verse 23. / Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings. Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their greetings.

/"Gaius" was baptized by Paul. / 1 Corinthians 1:14 / He was an owner of an inn. / He served his visitors with food, with his own wealth. / He served the members of the church with goods.

/The "director of public works" can be seen as a steward. / "Erastus" was in charge of public works in the city of Corinth.

/Verses 24-25. / Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past,

/This gospel was hidden. / When time came, it was revealed. / It was revealed through Christ.

/Verse 26. / but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him--

/This gospel was revealed in the Old Testament Bible. / Many prophets taught it in the Old Testament. / They prophesied. / 1 Peter 1:11-12 / This was so that all nations might believe and obey God.

/The “revelation of the mystery” refers to the gospel. / “Revelation” means to open and show. / Colossians 2:2/ Christ is God’s mystery. / Christ is the gospel. / Romans 1:2-4

/Our spirits have been reborn through faith in the gospel. / Faith gradually grows and it becomes firm.

/Verse 27. / to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

/Our God is a wise God. / He is a mighty God. / He is omniscient and omnipotent. / Paul is glorified this God through Jesus.

/We must glorify our God who saved us. / We must give thanks, praises, and glory to God for ever and ever. / We must be thankful to God who gave us the gospel.

/We must be thankful to God who saved us. / We must glorify and praise only the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. / Amen.

/With this we will conclude the lectures on the Book of Romans. / Thank you very much. / Well done.