

## - Week 22 -

### *Romans 15*

#### **Read verses 1-7**

Paul presents three arguments for the strong believer's "obligation" to the weak.

1. It builds up the weak (2).
2. It mirrors Christ's attitude toward those less than him (3-4).
3. It is God's will that we live in harmony (5-6).

Why do you think Paul equates welcoming (or accepting) one another into community and relationship with the glory of God?

#### **Read verses 8-13**

What are the different perspectives of the Jews (the circumcised) and the Gentiles in verse 8? How does Christ's service affect the two groups?

It might sound repetitive, but why does Paul quote these various passages (from Psalms, Deuteronomy and Isaiah) in verses 9-12? What issue is he addressing in the Roman church?

The benedictory line in verse 13 seems a little out of place. Why would hope be something Paul prays for in the context of the preceding verses?

#### **Read verses 14-22**

Based on this text, do you think the Roman church was doing a good job of reaching non-Jews?

What does Paul mean when he talks about preaching the Gospel "not where Christ has already been named"?

#### **Read verses 23-32**

Paul seems to indicate that he thinks he has done everything he can in the area he was ministering in at the time. He has a clear plan as to his next step.

How important is it to understand your "next step" in Christian ministry?

Have you ever stayed in a role too long? Left too early and regretted it?

Do you notice Paul's reference to "unbelievers in Judea"? Who could he be describing?