

Romans Summary  
Week 25, Wednesday April 12, 2017  
Romans 15:22-16:27

Paul wants the churches in Rome to understand that he hasn't been avoiding visiting them, in fact, he has desired just that. Now is the time! He has finished up his ministry and is moving his eye onto the new horizon of Spain and it's his hope that they will be his sending and supporting church in that new work. However, he isn't just going to rush through; he wants to spend time together refreshing each other.

Before that can happen though, he has one more thing to do to finish his ministry. He has a collection of money from Gentile churches that he is bringing to Jerusalem to give in aid of the Jewish Christians there. This is a big deal in Paul's mind: on the one hand by Gentiles giving to Jews they are showing an acceptance of one family. On the other, by the Jewish Christians accepting the money they are showing their acceptance of the Gentiles into the one family of God, too. This is the prayer work Paul is inviting the Roman Christians into — wrestling indeed!

After commending Phoebe, who carried the letter for him, Paul moves onto his greeting portion of the letter. This is the most robust list because this is not Paul's church so he has to let them know who can vouch for him and at the same time make sure he doesn't miss anyone lest he causes hurt feelings and divisions in the the church. At the same time, those with Paul and other churches, also send greetings to them.

This long list of people seems to remind him to give one last warning; be careful of convincing people who cause division and seek to make others stumble. If this happens use the discipline by turning away from them. This is not an issue that Paul has heard of, so once again he reaffirms their goodness which is known — just be wise and innocent is all.

Paul finishes with a blessing and a promise that God will keep them and finishes with an appropriate blessing of God, because after all, this gospel which Paul has opened up to them reveals God's righteousness!

**“Who Is Judged?” reflection and discussion questions:**

1. How is your understanding of the difference between righteousness based on law vs. righteousness based on grace?
2. How can grace become an idol?
3. Would you agree that God's generosity is what we can't stand about God?
4. Why is going 'up there' based on God being in charge?