

The last two chapters

Romans 14 & 15

- These are chapters contain concluding comments & greetings to the believers in Rome:
 - The weak and the strong conclusion
 - Paul's life and calling to the Gentiles
 - His future travel plans
 - Personal greetings
 - Final words



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The weak and the strong conclusion

- Paul concludes the argument in chapter 14 about the strong helping the weak:
 - We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up. ³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.” ⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.
 - ⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶ so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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The weak and the strong conclusion

- ⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed ⁹ and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:
 - "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing the praises of your name."
 - ¹⁰ Again, it says,
 - "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."
 - ¹¹ And again,
 - "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles;
let all the peoples extol him."
 - ¹² And again, Isaiah says,
 - "The Root of Jesse will spring up,
one who will arise to rule over the nations;
in him the Gentiles will hope."
 - 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.

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Paul's life and calling to the Gentiles

- ¹⁴ I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another. ¹⁵ Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me 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.

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Paul's life and calling to the Gentiles

- ¹⁷ Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. 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— ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. 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. ²¹ Rather, as it is written:
 - “Those who were not told about him will see,
and those who have not heard will understand.”
- ²² This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

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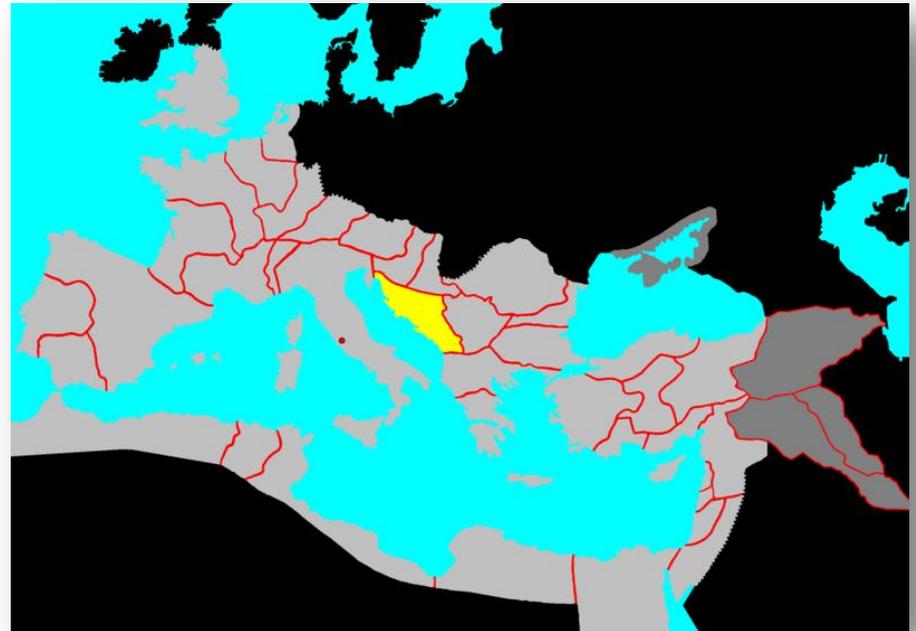
Paul's life and calling to the Gentiles

- A ***minister*** of Jesus Christ to the gentiles
 - Leitourgos
 - In Greek culture, one who discharged a public office at his own expense
 - A public servant
- Proclaiming the gospel
 - where Christ was not known
- By signs, miracles and the power of the Spirit
- Not building on someone else's foundation

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Paul's life and calling to the Gentiles

- **Illyricum** was a Roman province
 - North Albania
 - Croatia
 - Bosnia and Herzegovina



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Paul's life and calling to the Gentiles

THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

MAP 13



The last two chapters

Paul's future travel plans

- 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 visit you, ²⁴ I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while. ²⁵ Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem. 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. ²⁸ So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.

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Paul's future travel plans

- ³⁰ I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.
³¹ Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favourably received by the Lord's people there, ³² so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed. ³³ The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

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Paul's future travel plans

- He is on the way to Jerusalem
- With a gift from the believers in Macedonia and Achaia
 - Note another gift sent previously from Antioch (Paul & Barnabas)
 - As a result of a prophecy
 - By Agabus
 - Acts 11 vs. 27 - 30
- Going to Spain
 - via Rome



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Paul's future travel plans

- He is concerned about unbelievers in Judea
- Agabus comes again and prophesies in Caesarea
 - Paul's belt



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Personal greetings

- 16 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. ² I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me.
- ³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. ⁴ They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.
- 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.
- ⁶ Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you.
- ⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.
- ⁸ Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord.
- ⁹ Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.
- ¹⁰ Greet Apelles, whose fidelity to Christ has stood the test.
- Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus.
- ¹¹ Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew.

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Personal greetings

- Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.
- 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.
- ¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.
- ¹⁴ Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the other brothers and sisters with them.
- ¹⁵ Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the Lord's people who are with them.
- ¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss.
- All the churches of Christ send greetings.

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Personal greetings

- People are *important* to Paul
- He commends Phoebe
 - Who possibly delivers the letter to Rome
 - A *servant/minister* of the church in Cenchrea
 - Diakonos
 - (Paul shaves his head as a vow)
 - (Leaves with Priscilla & Aquila)



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Personal greetings

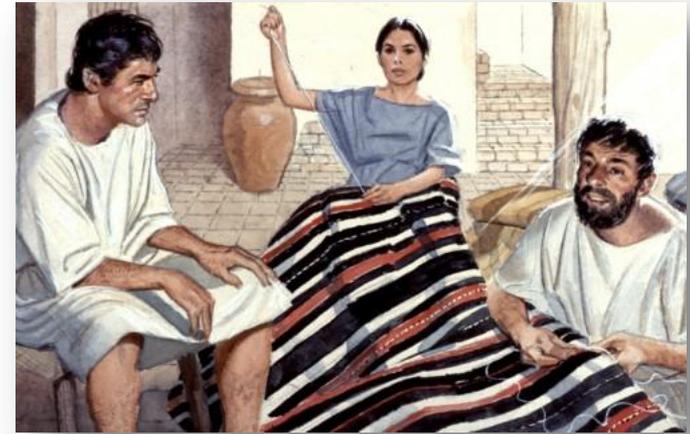
- Greetings are sent to over 25 specific people
- Plus a number of households
- Plus the church
- This includes:
 - 8 women
 - The first convert in the province of Asia
 - ***Epenetus***
 - A saint in the Greek Orthodox Church and Roman Catholic Church, considered one of the seventy disciples and may have been the first Bishop of Carthage.



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Personal greetings

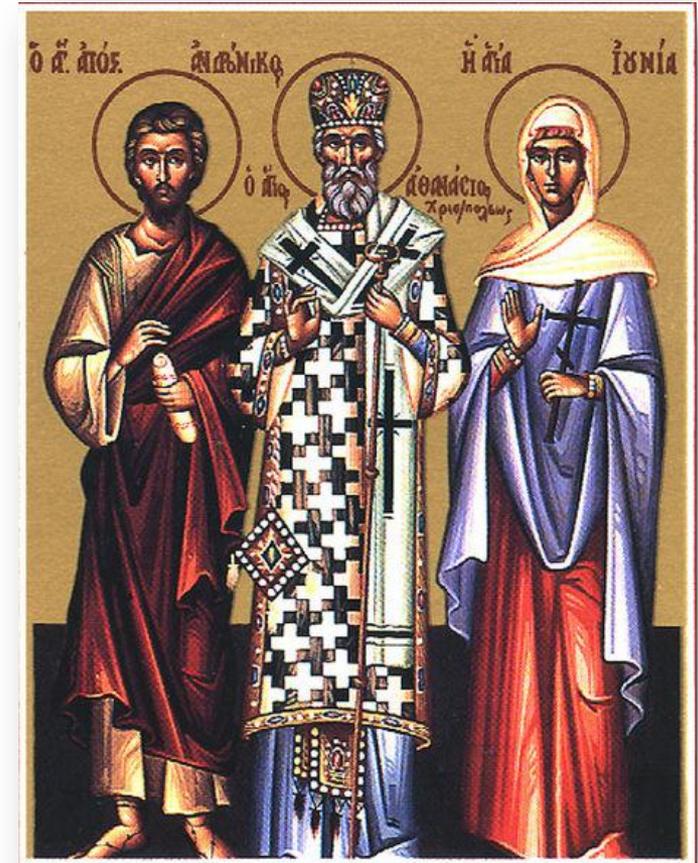
- *Priscilla and Aquila*
- Jewish christians
- Co-workers of Paul
- Met in Corinth & travelled with Paul
 - After Claudius expelled all Jews from Rome in AD 49
 - Left in Ephesus
 - Presumably returned to Rome
- According to the account in Acts 18:26, Priscilla and Aquila privately explained to Apollos the way of God more adequately
- Mentioned in Acts, Romans, Corinthians and Timothy



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Personal greetings

- 3 relatives of Paul
- Rufus's mother
 - (Simon of Cyrene)
- Two apostles
 - ***Andronicus & Junias***
 - Epiphanius (315 - 403 AD)
 - in the Index of Disciples says,
 - "Junias, of whom Paul makes mention,
 - became Bishop of Apameia of Syria."



Andronicus, Athanasius of Christianopoulos and Saint Junia

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Personal greetings

- Greet one another with a holy kiss.



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Final words

- ¹⁷ I urge you, brothers and sisters, 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. 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. ¹⁹ Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I rejoice because of you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.
- ²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.
- The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
- ²¹ Timothy, my co-worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, my fellow Jews.
- ²² I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord.
- 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. [²⁴]

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Final words

- ²⁵ Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, ²⁶ but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith— ²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.

