

June 28, 2026

**God's Good News Story: The Church Alive & Growing
Romans: For Today's World—Chapter 15:13-16:27**

Living Out the Gospel: Paul's Final Challenge

Paul's letter to the Romans, written around A.D. 57 while he was in the city of Corinth, Greece. It was written to a diverse group of Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome, addresses the challenges of unity and faithfulness in a multicultural, often hostile environment. The Letter to the Romans centers on humanity's universal need for salvation, justification by faith in Jesus Christ, the transformative power of grace, emphasizes unity between Jewish and Gentile believers and the call to live by the Spirit. "Romans For Today's World" highlights how these foundational truths call the modern church to embrace grace, pursue righteousness, break down barriers of division, and embody Christlike love and service in a complex world. In other words, Romans is a life changing, purpose directing book that hopefully will bring a great effect upon us today in 2026.

Today we finally come to a conclusion of the powerful Book of Romans. I started this series with an introduction as if the 1st Century Paul were speaking to us today. Let me begin this final message with a short message written as if Paul again, is speaking to us here at FBC Broussard in 21st Century. Here he recaps what he would want us to remember from the 1st fifteen chapters of Romans.

"Brothers and sisters, If I could stand before you now, I'd remind you why I wrote—why I poured out my heart to the church in Rome, and to you, the church today. From the very start, I told you: I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

*But first, I had to be honest—about the world, about us. All have sinned. All have fallen short.
The Gentile, lost in idolatry and rebellion.
The Jew, trusting in law but missing the heart.
No one is righteous—not even one.
But God—oh, but God!
In His mercy, He sent Jesus.
Justification by faith, not by works.
Grace, not earning.
Abraham believed, and it was credited to him as righteousness—so too for you, if you trust in Christ.
I wrote of peace with God,
Of hope that does not disappoint,
Of the Spirit who pours God's love into our hearts.
Sin's power is broken—
You are no longer slaves, but free in Christ.
I warned you: don't let grace become an excuse for sin.
Offer yourselves to God as instruments of righteousness.
The law? It showed us our need, but it could not save.
But now, in Christ, there is no condemnation.
The Spirit sets you free.
You are children of God, heirs with Christ.
I wept for my people, Israel—
God's promises have not failed.
He is sovereign, merciful, patient.
He grafts in Gentiles, but He has not forgotten the root.*

So, I urged you: Offer your bodies as living sacrifices.

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Love sincerely.

Hate what is evil.

Honor one another.

Submit to authorities, fulfill the law through love,

Clothe yourselves with Christ.

And as for those who are weak in faith—welcome them.

Don't quarrel over disputable matters.

Let each be convinced in their own mind.

Whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

So, church, this is the foundation—

The gospel that saves, the grace that transforms,

The love that binds us together”.

[Segue to Romans 15:13–16:27 closing sermon]

Paul's Prayer (15:13-19)

Paul's Ambition (15:20-24)

Paul's Debt (15:25-33)

Paul's Commendation & Greetings (16 :1-16)

Paul's Final Appeal (16 :16-27)

Living Out the Gospel: Paul's Final Challenge

1. Paul's Prayer (Romans 15:13–19)

Paul begins this section with a powerful prayer for the believers—a prayer for hope, joy, and peace that comes from trusting in God. He reminds them (and us) that the Holy Spirit empowers believers to overflow with hope.

¹³ I pray that GOD, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in HIM. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁴ I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them. ¹⁵ Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder. For by GOD'S grace, ¹⁶ I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to GOD, made holy by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to GOD. ¹⁸ Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to GOD by my message and by the way I worked among them. ¹⁹ They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs & wonders and by the power of GOD'S Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum.

Paul's prayer is not just for the Romans, but for us. He prays that God, the source of hope, would fill us with joy and peace as we trust Him. This is a reminder that the Christian life is not lived in our own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit. When we pray for one another, we invite God's presence and power into our lives and our church. Let's be a people who pray boldly, expecting God to do more than we could ask or imagine.

That is Paul's prayer, as your Pastor here is....

My Prayer:

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you with joy and peace as you trust in Him, so you overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13). Let prayer be your anchor and the Spirit your strength.

2. Paul's Ambition (Romans 15:20–24)

Paul's ambition was to preach Christ where He was not known. He was driven by a passion to reach the unreached and to see the gospel advance.

Romans 15:20–24... ²⁰ *My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else.* ²¹ *I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, "Those who have never been told about HIM will see, and those who have never heard of HIM will understand."* (Is.52:15)

²² *In fact, my visit to you has been delayed so long because I have been preaching in these places.*

²³ *But now I have finished my work in these regions, and after all these long years of waiting, I am eager to visit you.* ²⁴ *I am planning to go to Spain, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed your fellowship for a little while, you can provide for my journey.*

Paul's ambition challenges us to think beyond our comfort zones. He wanted to go to places where no one had heard the Name of Jesus.

This is the heart of missions—taking the gospel to those who have never heard. As a church, are we willing to step out in faith, to support missions, and to share Christ with our neighbors and the nations? The Great Commission is not just for a few; it's for all of us.

My Ambition:

My ambition is to preach Christ and to make Jesus known—across the street and around the world. It is also to encourage and equip you to be an Ambassador for Christ, sharing God's Good News Story.

3. Paul's Debt (Romans 15:25–33)

Paul felt a debt of love and gratitude to the believers in Jerusalem. He organized a collection to support them, showing the unity and generosity that should mark the church.

Romans 15:25–29... ²⁵ *But before I come, I must go to Jerusalem to take a gift to the believers there.*

²⁶ *For you see, the believers in Macedonia and Achaia have eagerly taken up an offering for the poor among the believers in Jerusalem.* ²⁷ *They were glad to do this because they feel they owe a real debt to them. Since the Gentiles received the spiritual blessings of the Good News from the believers in Jerusalem, they feel the least they can do in return is to help them financially.* ²⁸ *As soon as I have delivered this money and completed this good deed of theirs, I will come to see you on my way to Spain.* ²⁹ *And I am sure that when I come, Christ will richly bless our time together.*

Paul teaches us that the gospel creates a family—a family that cares for one another's needs. He saw it as his responsibility to help the struggling believers in Jerusalem. We, too, have a debt of love to one another. This isn't a debt of guilt, but a debt of Gratitude. Because we have received the 'spiritual wealth' of the Gospel, we naturally desire to share our 'material health' with those in need. It's not a bill we have to pay; it's a blessing we get to share.

When we give, serve, and support each other, we show the world what the love of Christ looks like. Let's be known as a church that bears one another's burdens.

My Debt: I realize that I have a debt of love to the believers, serving and supporting you (Romans 15:25–33). Let us carry one another's burdens, giving generously and loving deeply.

4. Paul's Commendation & Greetings (Romans 16:1–16)

Paul takes time to commend and greet many individuals by name. He recognizes their service, their sacrifice, and their partnership in the gospel.

Romans 16:1-5,16... ¹ *I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea.* ² *Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me.* ³ *Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus.* ⁴ *In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches.* ⁵ *Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epenetus. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ....* ¹⁶ *Greet each other with a sacred kiss. All the churches of Christ send you their greetings.*

These greetings remind us that ministry is personal. Paul valued relationships. He honored those who served alongside him.

In the church, every person matters. Every act of service is significant. Let's be a church that encourages, thanks, and recognizes one another.

Who can you encourage today?

Who needs to hear that their service matters?

My Commendation & Greetings:

I want to thank and honor all of you here at FBC Broussard that have served and continue to serve so faithfully. I appreciate and love all of you and I hope we have many more fruitful years of co-laboring together for Christ and His Church. Let us encourage, thank, and build up one another in the work of the Lord.

5. Paul's Final Appeal (Romans 16:16–27)

Paul closes with a final appeal for unity, discernment, and faithfulness. He warns against division and false teaching, and he points the church back to the glory of God.

Romans 16:17–18...¹⁷ *And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them.* ¹⁸ *Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests.*

By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people. ¹⁹ *But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong.* ²⁰ *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.....*

²⁵ *Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed HIS plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time.* ²⁶ *But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey HIM.* ²⁷ *All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.*

Paul's last words are a call to stay true to the gospel. He urges the church to watch out for those who cause division and to cling to the truth. Our unity and faithfulness bring glory to God. Remember what Paul says in verse **20**...

“The God of peace will crush Satan”.

WE HAVE VICTORY IN CHRIST. As we finish this series, in the Book of Romans, let's commit to living out the gospel—praying for one another, pursuing God's mission, caring for each other, encouraging one another, and standing firm in the truth.

My Final Appeal:

I urge the church to stand united, discerning, and faithful—living out the gospel until Christ returns and guard against division, to hold fast to the truth, and to give all glory to God.

CONCLUSION

As we close, let's make Paul's words our own. Let our prayer be that God fills us with His hope, joy, and peace as we trust Him. Let our ambition be to share Christ boldly—across the street and around the world. Let's remember our debt to one another, caring for the needs of our church family and beyond. May our commendation be found in how we encourage, honor, and serve each other faithfully. And let our final appeal be to stand united in truth and love, living out the gospel together for the glory of God. May we, as His church, rise to this challenge—today and every day.

Romans 16:27... All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

INVITATION

Romans 15:13-33...¹³ I pray that **GOD**, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in **HIM**. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. 14 I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them. 15 Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder. For by **GOD'S** grace, 16 I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to **GOD**, made holy by the Holy Spirit. 17 So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to **GOD**. 18 Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to **GOD** by my message and by the way I worked among them. 19 They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of **GOD'S** Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum. 20 My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. 21 I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, "*Those who have never been told about **HIM** will see, and those who have never heard of **HIM** will understand.*" (Isaiah 52:15) 22 In fact, my visit to you has been delayed so long because I have been preaching in these places. 23 But now I have finished my work in these regions, and after all these long years of waiting, I am eager to visit you. 24 I am planning to go to Spain, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed your fellowship for a little while, you can provide for my journey. 25 But before I come, I must go to Jerusalem to take a gift to the believers there. 26 For you see, the believers in Macedonia and Achaia have eagerly taken up an offering for the poor among the believers in Jerusalem. 27 They were glad to do this because they feel they owe a real debt to them. Since the Gentiles received the spiritual blessings of the Good News from the believers in Jerusalem, they feel the least they can do in return is to help them

financially. 28 As soon as I have delivered this money and completed this good deed of theirs, I will come to see you on my way to Spain. 29 And I am sure that when I come, Christ will richly bless our time together. 30 Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to join in my struggle by praying to **GOD** for me. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit. 31 Pray that I will be rescued from those in Judea who refuse to obey **GOD**. Pray also that the believers there will be willing to accept the donation I am taking to Jerusalem. 32 Then, by the will of **GOD**, I will be able to come to you with a joyful heart, and we will be an encouragement to each other. 33 And now may **GOD**, who gives us **HIS** peace, be with you all. Amen.

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¹ I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a deacon in the church in Cenchrea. 2 Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me. 3 Give my greetings to Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in the ministry of Christ Jesus. 4 In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches. 5 Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend Epenetus. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ. 6 Give my greetings to Mary, who has worked so hard for your benefit. 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews, who were in prison with me. They are highly respected among the apostles and became followers of Christ before I did. 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, a good man whom Christ approves. And give my greetings to the believers from the household of Aristobulus. 11 Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew. Greet the Lord's people from the household of Narcissus. 12 Give my greetings to Tryphena and Tryphosa, the Lord's workers, and to dear Persis, who has worked so hard for the Lord. 13 Greet Rufus, whom the Lord picked out to be **HIS** very own; and also his dear mother, who has been a mother to me. 14 Give my

greetings to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers and sisters who meet with them. 15 Give my greetings to Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and to Olympas and all the believers who meet with them. 16 Greet each other with a sacred kiss. All the churches of Christ send you their greetings.

¹⁷ And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them.

18 Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are serving their own personal interests. By smooth talk and glowing words they deceive innocent people. 19 But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong. 20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. 21 Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you his greetings, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow Jews. 22 I, Tertius, the one writing this letter for Paul, send my greetings, too, as one of the Lord's followers. 23 Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings, and so does our brother Quartus. 25 Now all glory to God, who is able to make you strong, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed **HIS** plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time. 26 But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey **HIM**.

27 ALL GLORY TO THE ONLY WISE GOD, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, FOREVER. AMEN.

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