

**Ministry of The Holy Spirit**  
**Application of Grace: Obedience to the Scriptures**  
**Romans 15**

Last time...the application of grace in our lives – personal convictions by both the strong in the faith and the weak in the faith..."Stay in your lane, bro!"  
Prov 11:12b a man of understanding holdeth his peace.

The personal convictions of others are not my business  
Those things are between the Lord and that person, His servant  
But what is my business is if my personal convictions stumble another brother/sister  
That is between the Lord and me!

This time...in Rom 15,

- conclusion of the application of grace to keep/live the Royal Law
- obedience to the Scriptures, the very words of the God of
  - patience
  - consolation
  - hope
  - peace

v1-2 Continuing the same thought/application of grace from the previous chapter...

The strong in the kingdom of God are to carry the weak rather than pleasing themselves (at the expense of the weak, as in the kingdoms of men)

Prov 14:31 He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth Him hath mercy on the poor.

Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive.**

Gal 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

First, we must understand that the strong

- in the faith
- in dependence upon God
  - obedience
  - submission

are themselves weak

2 Cor 12:7-10

God is their strength!

Matt 26:41b **the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

But the strength of God in the strong (of faith and in dependence/obedience/submission upon God) is to

- benefit the weak rather than themselves
- carry the burden, scruples, moral standards of the weaker
- manifest the Law of Love fueled by grace

Every one of us...every part of the Body of Christ because there is always someone stronger and weaker in the faith than each of us...is to serve

- others instead of Self
- others for their good to the edification/building up of the entire Body

As our bodies are fearfully and wonderfully made...a marvel...so is the Body of Christ!

v3 And every part of the Body of Christ is to

- deny Self (a form of suffering!)
- serve others vs Self

because...the Head of the Body did!

1 Peter 2:21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

John 13:13-15 *Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

Jesus did not come to please Himself but His Father that sent Him

Matt 26:38-44

He denied Self and served others at the expense to Himself...to the ultimate!

Although innocent/sinless, He bore the sin, faults, blame, disgrace of all man-kind, which shamelessly disgraced and disrespected the holy God with their disobedience

Luke 23:34

2 Cor 5:21

Rom 1:16

Therefore, for us to follow Jesus' example is...our reasonable service! (Rom 12:1-2)

v4      And everything that is written before...the very words of God recorded by men as they were moved by the Holy Spirit...was written

- for our learning  
    2 Tim 3:16-17      All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
- that thru obedience (manifestation of trust/belief and love) to the Scriptures, (the engrafted Word that is able to save our souls), we would have
  - patience...cheerful endurance in a hostile-to-God environment
  - comfort...solace  
        Ps 23:4      Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou *art* with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.  
        Ps 119:49-50      Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This *is* my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.  
        Ps 119:76      Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.
  - hope...an expected end, a confident expectation (certainty), no despair, no fear  
        Ps 119:114-117      Thou *art* my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God. Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually.  
        Prov 14:26      In the fear of the LORD *is* strong confidence: and His children shall have a place of refuge.

v5-6      Now the God of patience and consolation...

Our Maker is the Sole Source for cheerful endurance and solace for all man-kind  
We cannot put patience and consolation out to bid and select the best 3 bids,  
    make an award, and then negotiate a contract  
We cannot find cheerful endurance and solace in a bottle or a pill  
If you want cheerful endurance and solace in this world, one must go to the  
    Living God

How many times I have been upset or distressed about something in the world or going on in my life that I go to the Word of God and received patience and comfort in the Scriptures!!!

Prov 12:25      Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

How do unbelievers bear up without the Word of God?!

With our obedience to the Scriptures, God gives us like-mindedness  
(the mind of Christ, the members on the same page with the Head of the Body)  
toward one another...the Royal Law, fueled by grace  
according to...possibly only by...Christ Jesus

- our submission to His Lordship and Headship
- our obedience to His Word

that we, His followers and the people of God, may with

- one mind...in one accord with our King, how we think (Rom 12:2)
- one mouth...how we speak (more on that: James 3)

give glory to God our Father for the grace and the love He has poured into our hearts

v7 The particulars of the application of grace

- What...v1-2...strong help the weak
- Why...v3-4...what Jesus did for us
- How...v5-6...obedience to the Scriptures

result is:

Receive each other...love and grace are required  
as Christ received us...supreme acts of love and grace  
to the glory of God...what Jesus did for us on the Cross glorified the Father,  
our picking up our cross and following Jesus also glorifies the Father

As Jesus did, we do

After all, we share the same Living Space...

- these bodies!
- we and the Body of Christ are the Temple of the Holy Spirit

Gal 2:20-21a I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but  
Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the  
flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me,  
and gave himself for me. I do not frustrate the grace of  
God...

The majesty of the All-knowing, All-mighty God is His grace for sinners,  
who are thereby by faith transformed into

- His children by His grace
- vessels of His grace in His still-continuing work of seeking and saving the lost
- walking/talking vessels of His love

1 Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among  
yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

The Apostle Paul now moves on from the application of grace to another thought –  
to whom the grace of God is offered by God and his accompanying great desire

v8-9 Jesus Christ was the Minister/Servant of God  
to the Jews

Matt 5:17

Matt 15:24

for the Truth of God

John 1:17-18

The mystery of God further revealed

John 14:6

John 8:31-32

to confirm/establish/deliver on the promises/Word of God unto the fathers

the Seed of the Woman, the righteous line thru ASNSAIJJD

the Ruler (Conqueror) from everlasting

the Son born of a virgin

Acts 26:1-9, 15-18

that the Gentiles might glorify the Father for His mercy

Acts 10:28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean.

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened *his* mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

1 Thes 1:9b-10 how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1 Peter 2:9-10 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy

As it was written in Ps 18:49

v10-12 Regarding the Messiah of Israel and the Savior of the world going also to the Gentiles:  
as it is written...in the inspired, inerrant, infallible Scriptures

v10 Deut 32:43a

v11 Ps 117:1

v12 Is 11:1, 10

v13     Therefore, may the God of hope...the God that makes alive that which was dead...  
fill you with ALL

- joy...cheer, delight
- peace...quietness of mind and spirit
- Rom 14:17

in believing...obeying His Word, the Scriptures

- Mark 9:23-24     Jesus said unto him, *If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.* And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.
- Luke 17:3-5     *Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.* And the apostles said unto the Lord, Increase our faith.

that you...each of us, believers (because unbelievers have no hope)

- may abound in hope...overflowing confidence and security in the certainty of His Word that grows with submission and obedience to the Scriptures  
Prov 10:28     The hope of the righteous *shall be* gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.
- through the power of the Holy Spirit...the indwelling Spirit of God/Christ, the Spirit of promise/earnest whereby we are sealed until the day of Redemption  
Gal 5:5     For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.
- Acts 27:20-25

Our hope is in Jesus Christ alone!

Apart from Jesus there is no hope!

There is no hope in the Church, our good works, or our money/possessions

v14     The Apostle Paul, himself, by obedience filled with the patience and comfort and hope of God, is confident/convicted that the fellowship at Rome is

- also filled with goodness/virtue...the power and the presence of the Spirit of the Living God
- all knowledge  
Prov 9:10     The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.
- able to admonish/warn each other from the Scriptures (the fear of the LORD)

v15-16 He goes on to say that he has written this letter to them more boldly...  
with great confidence, in God and not in his flesh (Phil 3:3)...  
to instruct and remind them

1 Tim 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt  
be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of  
faith and of good doctrine

2 Peter 1:12-15

as the apostle to the Gentiles called to

- preach of the Gospel of Christ...1 Cor 15:3-4, Rom 1:16-17
- present the believing Gentiles (given the power to become the children of God) as an acceptable offering unto God (Heb 11:6, Rom 12:1-2) since they too are sanctified/purified/set apart by the Spirit of God

v17-19a Quite a calling! Very impressive!!!

But...he has nothing to boast of but Jesus Christ

1 Cor 1:30-31 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us  
wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:  
That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in  
the Lord.

1 Cor 2:1-5 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of  
speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God.  
For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus  
Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in  
fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching  
*was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in  
demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should  
not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Therefore, Paul will not be so bold, would not dare to, speak of ANYTHING but  
that which

- the Lord had worked fully in him
  - the Holy Spirit had revealed to him
- 2 Cor 12:7-8

No opinions, no private interpretation

Always "as it is written"...Scripture interpreting Scripture

That the Gentiles, to whom he was sent, would be obedient to the Scriptures...  
in talk and in walk (wherein is Truth)

v19b-20 Paul was sent and anointed to preach the Gospel

- by the power of the Spirit of God Who bore witness of Jesus Christ with mighty signs and wonders
- to the Jews first and then the Gentiles
- in Jerusalem and Judea and the uttermost parts of the world (moving west)
- where Jesus had not yet been preached, planting churches/Bodies where there were no churches/Bodies...not building a flock of God by stealing sheep from another flock

Because...

v21-22 it is so written...Is 52:15

And his faithful obedience to his calling...the Lord's will...has hindered a great desire of his: To go to Rome, the center of the world

All roads lead to Rome, the very heart of the Roman Empire  
What greater/more impactful place to preach the Gospel than in Rome!

Note: Paul has also been hindered by Satan, who undoubtedly would like to keep this man of God out of his city!

Both can be true

- faithful obedience to the will of God can hinder our personal desires
- faithful service to the Lord is opposed by the devil

v23 But now, in his perceived "state of the ministry", Paul has no other place to go to preach the Gospel...he has covered all the territory into which he has been sent

- Jerusalem
- Judea
- Syria
- Cyrus
- Cilicia
- Pamphylia
- Galatia
- Phrygia
- Asia
- Mysia
- Macedonia
- Achaia

What's left?

Rome, his great longing...Rom 1:9-15



v24-25 Paul desires to push westward in the “uttermost parts of the earth”...to Spain  
And in so doing, he trusts that he will go to Rome,  
to minister to the saints there and to preach the Gospel in the center of the world

But first...some important business in Jerusalem, the center of the Jewish world

v26-27 It has pleased the saints in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, and Corinth  
(where Paul is writing this letter)  
to bless the poor and persecuted saints in Jerusalem, impoverished by excommunication  
from Jewish society for their faith in Jesus Christ, with a freewill love offering

And rightly so!

The saints in Jerusalem have blessed them with spiritual riches in Christ Jesus  
It is only right and proper for them to share worldly riches with them to bless  
them in their physical need/tribulation

Why we have gone to Israel

Why you should come to the virtual tour next month

v28-29 Once Paul has accompanied the elders of these Gentile churches to bless the church in  
Jerusalem...chronicled in Acts 20-28...he will go to Rome on his way to Spain,  
coming to them unashamed of the Gospel, in the fulness of the Gospel as he has  
everywhere else

There would be no other good reason to go to Rome, a vile city

Did Paul go to Rome?

Yes

Did Paul get to Rome the way he “planned”, either How or When?

No

Prov 3:5-6 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine  
own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall  
direct thy paths.

v30-32 Paul is aware of the dangers and trials that await his return to Jerusalem

So, “Strive with me in prayer, for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ and for the love of the Holy Spirit!”

1. That I be delivered from those of my people who do not believe and hate me
2. That my service to the church in Jerusalem will be a blessing,  
pleasing/acceptable to them
3. That I may come to you in Rome
  - with joy
  - by the will of God
  - to be refreshed by you...fellowship with like-minded believers is refreshing!!!

Will God hear his and their prayers?

Yes

Will He answer those prayers?

Yes

Will He answer in Paul's way and time or in His way and time?

His

We get to participate in what God is doing via, first and foremost, by prayer  
But we walk by faith, not knowing where we are going (Heb 11:8)

v33 May the God of peace accompany you (wherever you go!)

Ps 119:165 Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

### **Application/Exhortation**

By obedience to the Scriptures...

- every word of God, letting none of them fall to the ground (1 Sam 3:19)
- the entire counsel of God (Acts 20:27)

we have what God alone can give:

- patience...cheerful endurance unto the end
- comfort...solace in every situation and circumstance
- hope...confident expectation, certainty in a world without hope
- peace...stillness of spirit and mind in a world gone mad

This is our message and our invitation/offer to those in darkness

We can only give as we have received...by submission and obedience to the Word of God