

**Instruct One Another
(Romans 15:14-21)**

Today's Passage

Romans 15:14-21

(English Standard Version)

Romans 15:14

- ¹⁴ I, myself, am satisfied about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

Romans 15:15-19

- ¹⁵ But on some points, I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
- ¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. ¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

Romans 15:20-21

- ²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹ but as it is written,
- “Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand.” (Isaiah 52.15)

We are Commissioned To “Instruct One Another”

- ¹⁴ I, myself, am satisfied about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, **filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.**
- ² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God. (Romans 12:2)

I. What are a Few Key Things We Have Learned?

A. Background Information

Background Information

--**Author:** the apostle Paul

--**Where written:** Corinth

--**Written for:** the Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians in Rome

--**Date:** 57 A.D. (Paul's three missionary trips 47-57 A.D.)

--**Purpose:**

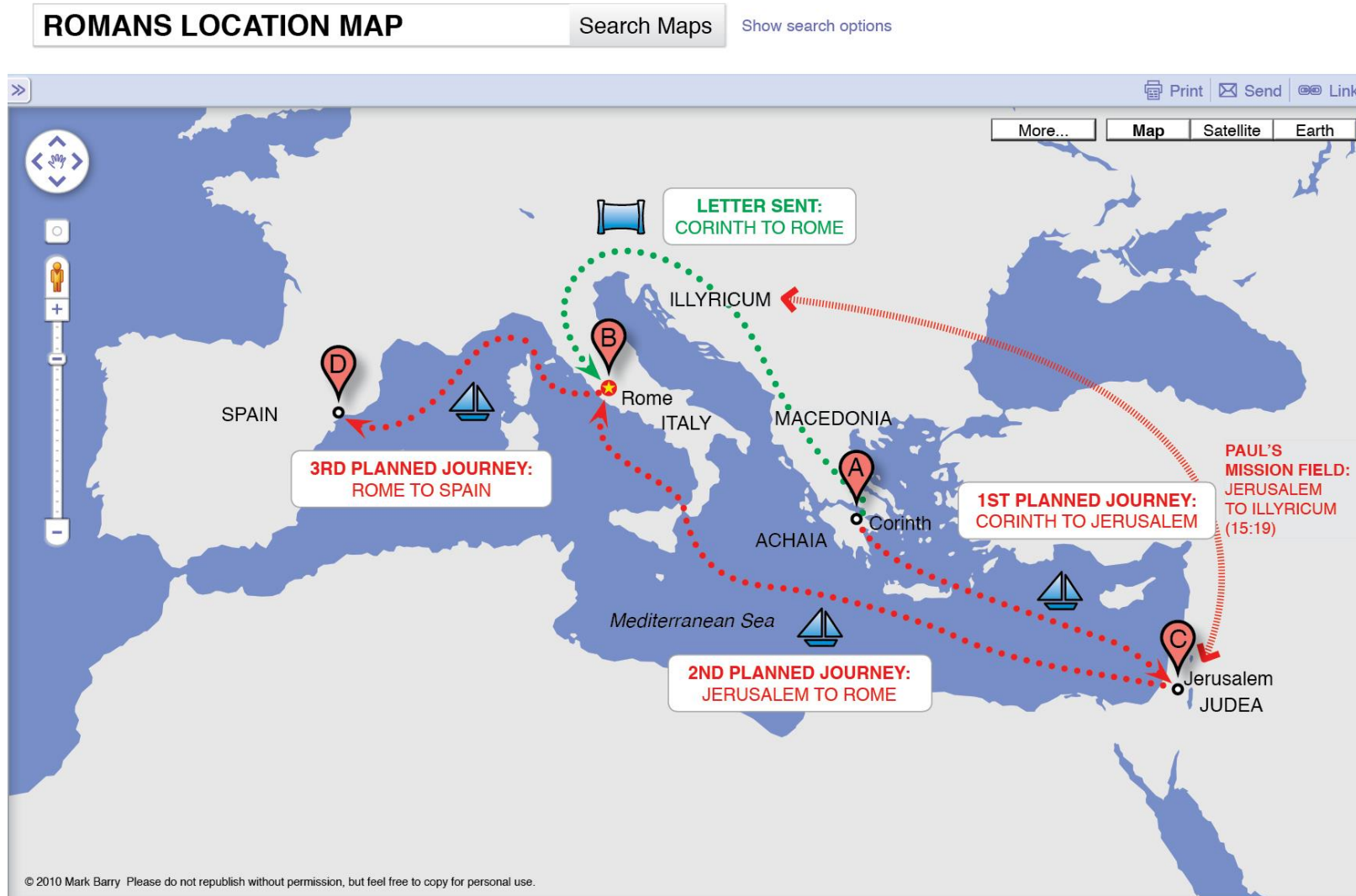
* To spread the gospel of Jesus Christ:

¹⁵ So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. (Rom.1:15)

• To present key doctrines of the Christian faith

* To strengthen the unity between Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome

Paul's Travel Plans



A Well-Structured Letter

1. Prologue (1:1-15)
2. Doctrines (1:16-11:36)
3. Applications (12:1-15:13)
4. Epilogue (15:14-16:27)

B. We are All Sinners in Need of a Redeemer
Romans Chapters 1-3

B. We are All Sinners in Need of a Redeemer

1. Our Sinfulness/Unrighteousness

- **(Romans 1:18-32)** Immoral people are guilty before God (Gentiles/ “Pagans”)
- **(Romans 2:1-16)** Moral people are guilty too (Philosophical ethicists)
- **(Romans 2:17-3:8)** Even religious people are guilty (Jews)
- **(Romans 3:9-20)** The whole world is guilty before God (Everyone)

- ²³ **For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)**

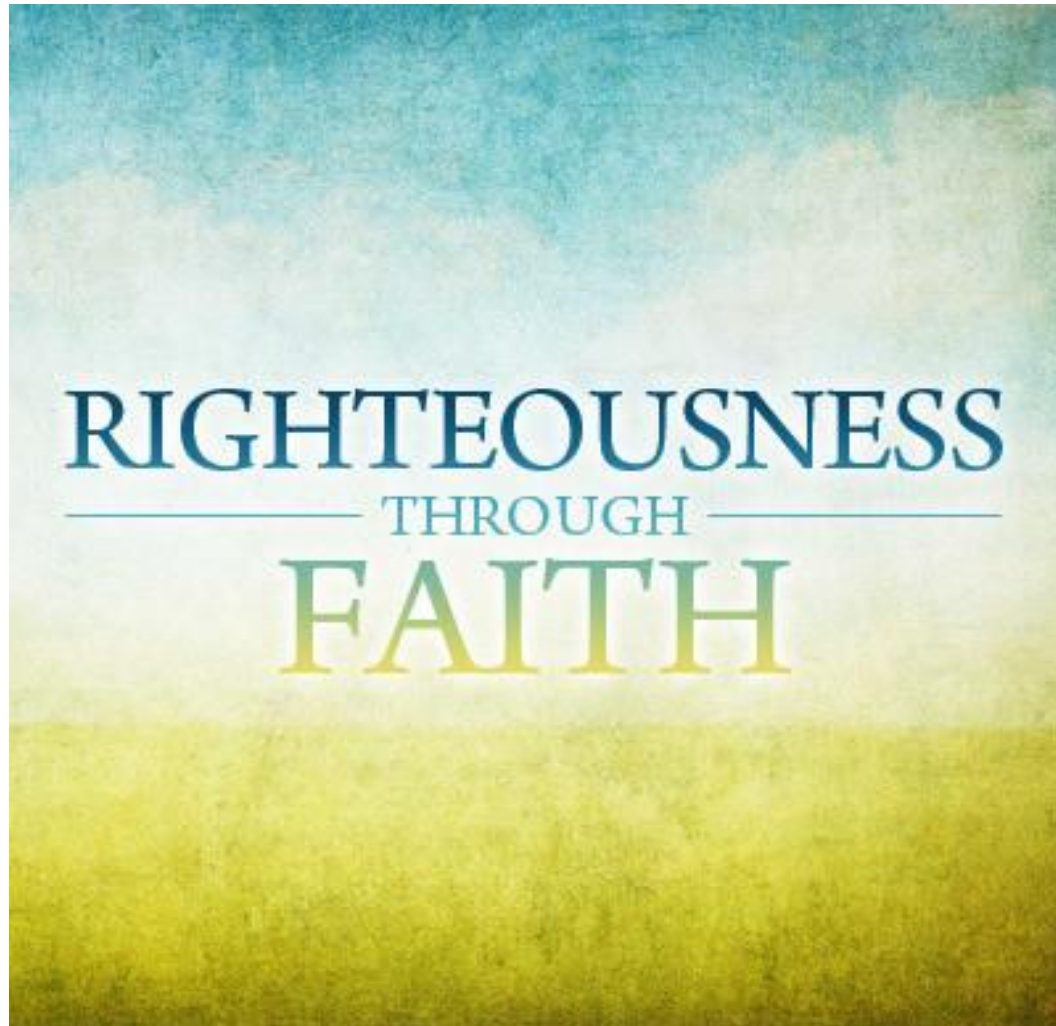
We are in a quandary

- God, as holy and righteous, demands that we be holy and righteous to be in relationship with Him rather than being separated eternally from Him.
- However, it is impossible for unrighteous human beings to achieve God's standard of righteousness
- So, what is a sinner to do?

No Way Out



The Faith-Righteousness Connection



B. We are All Sinners in Need of a Redeemer

2. Our Imputed Righteousness

- **(Romans 3:21-31)** The righteousness of God/Christ imputed to us through faith (The Solution)

Romans 3:21-25

- ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—
- ²² **the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.** For there is no distinction:
- ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,
- ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness,

A Review of What We Have Learned

Our Righteousness

- **Romans 1:16-17 (ESV)**

- ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith,^[a] as it is written, “**The righteous shall live by faith.**”^[b]

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- a. Romans 1:17 Or *beginning and ending in faith*

- b. Romans 1:17 Or *The one who by faith is righteous shall live*

- ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed beginning and ending in faith, as it is written, **The one who by faith is righteous shall live.**

A Review of What We Have Learned
Our Righteousness

The Origin of Romans 1:16-17 is Habakkuk

- **Habakkuk 2:4 (ESV)**

⁴ "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him,
but the righteous shall live by his faith.^[a]

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a. [Habakkuk 2:4](#) Or *faithfulness*

Who is “Righteous”?

- The “righteous” are those who are saved by grace through faith in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ who died for us on the cross to pay the price for our sins
- ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that **in him we might become the righteousness of God.** (2 Corinthians 5:21)

The Necessity of Redemption

- ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the **redemption** that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness. (Romans 3:24)
- Original definition of "redemption": To buy a slave and free them
- **Definition of Redemption:** "The process by which sinful humans are 'bought back' from the bondage of sin into relationship with God through grace by the 'payment' of Jesus' death" (*Pocket Dictionary of Theological Terms*)

Paul “Fleashes Out” the Doctrines

Old Testament Exempla of Faith

Romans: Chapter 4

Old Testament Examples of Righteousness through Faith

1. Abraham's Faith
2. David's Faith

- **Two Testaments but Only One Means of Righteousness: Faith**

Our Faith is Counted as Righteousness

Romans 4:20-25

- 20 No unbelief made him [Abraham] waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God,
- 21 fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.
- 22 That is why **his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”**
- 23 **But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone,**
- 24 **but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord,**
- 25 **who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.**

The Benefits of Righteousness

Romans Chapter 5

- Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1 ESV)
- ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in **hope** of the glory of God. (Romans 5:2)
- “And hope does not put us to shame, because God's **love** has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5 ESV)

Baptism by the Holy Spirit and of Water

Romans Chapter 6

- ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
- ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.
- ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.” (Romans 6:3-5)

Water Baptism

Why do we get baptized? Because the Holy Spirit compels us to do so

- ³⁴ So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. ³⁶ Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, *here is* water. What hinders me from being baptized?”
- ³⁷ Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.”
- And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”
- ³⁸ So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. (Acts 8:34-37 NKJV)

Sanctification: Slaves of Righteousness

Romans Chapter 6

¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed,

¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.

¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification [more holiness]. (Romans 6:17-19)

C. The Workings of the Holy Spirit

(Chapter 8)

The Workings of the Holy Spirit

Romans Chapter 8

- **The Holy Spirit and Our Spiritual Identity**

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"

16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
(Romans 8:14-16)

The Workings of the Holy Spirit

Romans Chapter 8

- **The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Yearnings:**
- ²³ And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Romans 8:23)
- **The Holy Spirit and Prayer:**
- For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. (Romans 8:26b)

The Workings of the Holy Spirit

Romans Chapter 8

- **The Holy Spirit and Abundant Living:**
- ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God, God works all things together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)
- **The Holy Spirit and the Kingdom of God:**
- For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17)

Paul “Fleashes Out” the Doctrines

Paul's Pep Talk

Romans Chapter 8

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,

³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:37-39)

God's Sovereignty and Human Free Will

Romans Chapter 9-10

- **Election/Limited Atonement: Only those “called” are saved**
- ¹⁰ And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls. (Romans 9:10-11)
- **Free Will/Unlimited Atonement: All who turn to Christ are saved**
- ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

* **Sharing the Gospel Message**

Romans Chapters 10-11

- **The Gospel Saves:**
- “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16).
- **Pray for Others to Be Saved:**
- Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved. (Romans 10:1)
- **Salvation by Grace, Not by Works**
 - ”But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise, grace would no longer be grace” (Romans 11:6)

The Redemption of Israel

Romans Chapters 9-11

- **Paul desires for his fellow Israelites to be saved:**
 - “Brothers and sisters, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them [the Israelites] is that they may be saved” (Romans 10:1)
- **Israel, though rebellious, is still God’s chosen people:**
 - ¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. (Romans 11:18)

* A Doxology of Faith

(Marks the End of Paul's Section on Doctrines)

- ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
- ³⁴ "For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?"
³⁵ "Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?"
- ³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen.

(Romans 11:33-36)

Applications

Romans 12:1-15:13

The Transformed Life

Romans Chapter 12

Practice Spiritual Humility:

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you **not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think**, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. (Romans 12:3)

Use Your Spiritual Gifts to Uplift Others:

- ⁴ For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having **gifts** that differ according to the **grace** given to us, let us use them (Romans 12:4-6)

A Checklist for Christian Love: Part 1

Romans 12:9-13

1. Love must be sincere
2. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good
3. Be devoted to one another in brotherly/sisterly love
4. Honor one another above yourselves
5. Do not lack zeal; maintain spiritual fervor
6. Serve the Lord
7. Be joyful in hope and patient in affliction
8. Be consistent in prayer
9. Share with God's people in need
10. Share with visitors and sojourners in need

A Checklist for Christian Love: Part 2

Romans 12:14-21

1. Do Not Seek Revenge
2. Pray for Those Who Try to Harm You
3. Do What is Praiseworthy
4. Hospitality Brings Shame Upon Your Opponent
5. We are Responsible for Living in Peace
6. If you Play with Wickedness, You Will Get Burned
7. Evil Begets Evil; Good Begets Good
8. Leave Vengeance to God
9. Love Defeats Hatred
10. Practice Intellectual Humility: Know that Your Knowledge is Limited

Civic Responsibilities

Romans Chapters 13

We Have Dual Citizenship:

- a. “Civilian Life”: Civic Responsibilities to Society
- b. “Spiritual Life”: Spiritual Obligations to the Lord

- Pay What You Owe
- Pay an Unending Debt of Love
- The Bible is Our Legal Standard
- Renew Your Mind (Read the Bible regularly)
- Avoid Political “Ideology” (No political party is perfect)
- Be Humble (God is in control: we put our faith and trust in Him)

Congregational Responsibilities

Romans Chapters 14

- Love Fulfills the Law
- Keep things in perspective: most issues are secondary in importance
- What is primary? Love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and others as God loves you
- Have a *personal relationship* with Jesus as Savior and Lord of your life
- Pursue: hope, love, peace, joy, righteousness, faith, and mutual uplifting
- The Holy Spirit will help you fulfill your responsibilities

II. What Should We Do with What We Have Learned?

A. Instruct One Another

B. Share the Good News of Jesus Christ

For Additional Review

- An easy way to review in more detail the sermons on Paul's Letter to the Romans—and to immerse yourself into a lot of great Scriptural passages—is to skim through the PowerPoints posted on our website via:

NLF website main page: **Current Teaching Series**

then click on **Paul's Letter to the Romans**

A silhouette of two hands holding a glowing cross against a sunset background. The hands are positioned in the center-right of the frame, with the fingers spread and the palms facing each other. A bright white cross is centered between the hands, emitting a strong glow and lens flare. The background is a warm, golden sunset over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and spiritual.

Let Us Pray