

A still life photograph featuring two red apples. One apple is significantly larger than the other, positioned to its right. Both apples are placed on a light-colored wooden surface. The background is a textured, light-colored wall. The lighting is soft, creating subtle shadows and highlights on the apples' surfaces.

# The SALVATION Series

Part 22 – Strong vs Weak

# Introduction...

- Romans 15 continues Paul's teaching about unity and mutual acceptance among believers, a theme he began in Romans 14.
- He urges the strong to bear with the weak, points to Christ as the supreme example of selflessness,
- and emphasizes God's plan to bring Gentiles and Jews together in praise of His mercy.
- The chapter concludes with Paul's personal travel plans and a prayer request.



# Bible Reading...

- *We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*
- *<sup>2</sup>Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, leading to edification. <sup>3</sup>For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, “The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.”*
- *<sup>4</sup>For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*

- *<sup>5</sup>Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus,*
- *<sup>6</sup>that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
- *<sup>7</sup>Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.*

Romans 15:1-7



# Ought...

- *“We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.”* (v. 1)
- Paul urges believers who are strong in faith to carry the burdens of the weak.
- Christ didn’t please Himself but bore insults and suffering for others.
- **“Ought to”** indicates a strong moral obligation
- **“Bear with”** means more than just tolerate—it implies carrying, supporting, or sustaining.
- Spiritually mature believers should support those who struggle or have sensitive consciences—not criticize them or demand they grow faster insensitively.



# Build...

- *"Each of us should please our neighbours for their good, to build them up." vs2*
- This reinforces verse 1 with a proactive angle: don't just avoid pleasing yourself—**actively work for your neighbour's benefit.**
- **"Please"** here means acting in a way that's thoughtful toward others—not mere people-pleasing, but edifying.
- **"To build them up"** (Gk: *oikodomē*) = to strengthen or encourage spiritually.
- Your strength isn't a weapon—it's a tool to build others' faith
- True Christianity is an ecosystem of gifts, skills and abilities serving each other for the common good of all.



A silhouette of a cross stands on a hill against a vibrant sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright glow and long shadows. The sky transitions from deep blue at the top to orange and red near the horizon, with scattered clouds catching the light. The cross is the central focus, its dark form contrasting sharply with the bright background.

# Christ.

- *For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: 'The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.'* vs3
- Paul appeals to **Christ's example**—ultimate humility and selflessness.
- He quotes **Psalm 69:9**, a Messianic psalm describing the suffering of a righteous servant.
- Jesus bore the reproach, shame, and rejection meant for others, including those who mocked God.
- If Christ endured hardship for others, how can we refuse to do the same for our weaker brothers and sisters?

An open book with a beam of light shining down on it. The book is open, showing two pages of text. The light is bright and creates a soft glow around the book. The background is dark and out of focus.

# Scripture...

- *"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." vs4*
- Paul explains using the Old Testament: **Scripture has enduring relevance.**
- The OT is not obsolete—it shows God's character, His promises, and the long arc of redemptive history that encourages faith.
- The OT and the NT are connected. They are both the Word of God. Any teaching that relegates the OT as irrelevant or inferior is heresy.

# Endurance..

- *"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had," vs5*
- A strong prayer that empowers us to behave like Christ.
- Paul prays that the believers would **think the same way toward each other** as Christ did: selflessly, graciously
- Unity doesn't come naturally—it's a **gift of God** and the result of **Christ-centered minds**.
- Note that we can draw, endurance and encouragement from God



# One Voice..

- So that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Vs6
- The **goal** of unity is **worship**.
- “With one mind and one voice” means harmony in heart and expression.
- When the church is unified, it **magnifies God** more clearly to the world
- Division distorts our witness; unity amplifies our praise.



# Accept...

- "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."  
vs7
- This is the **summation and climax** of the entire passage.
- **"Accept"** (Greek: *proslambanō*) = fully welcome, receive warmly.
- Christ **welcomed sinners** at great cost—so we should welcome each other, despite differences.
- This kind of acceptance results in **worship**, not just peace
- We glorify God not just by *what* we believe, but by *how* we treat other believers.



# Bible Reading...

- *<sup>8</sup> Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God,*
- *to confirm the promises made to the fathers,*
- *<sup>9</sup> and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written:*
- *“For this reason, I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name.” Ps18:49*
- *<sup>10</sup> And again he says:*
- *“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!” Deut 32:43*

- *<sup>11</sup> And again:*
- *“Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles!  
Laud Him, all you peoples!”  
Ps117:1*
- *<sup>12</sup> And again, Isaiah says:*
- *“There shall be a root of Jesse;  
And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles,  
In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”  
Isaiah 11:1*
- *<sup>13</sup> Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:8-13*

# Quotes...

- Paul is addressing the Jewish audience to his letter with all these OT quotes.
- He is using the Scriptures to divide Scripture.
- This is a skill we should all have to help teach and impart wholesome truth to others.
- Throughout scripture the truth about Jesus Christ is revealed.



# Bible Reading...

- *14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.*
- *15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God,*
- *16 that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*
- *17 Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God..”*
- *18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient—*
- *19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.*
- *20 And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man’s foundation,*
- *21 but as it is written:*
- *“To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand. Romans 15:14-21*

# Reflection...

A scenic landscape featuring a large, lush green tree in the foreground. The tree is reflected in a calm body of water, likely a lake or a wide river, which also reflects the surrounding mountains and the clear blue sky. The scene is peaceful and serene, with soft lighting suggesting a clear day.

- Paul commends the Roman believers' maturity but explains his bold teaching.
- He sees himself as a priest offering the Gentiles to God as an acceptable offering.
- Highlights his principle of preaching where Christ is not yet known
- Paul sees his ministry as a priestly service, spreading the Gospel to new regions.

# Bible Reading....

- *22 For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you.*
  - *23 But now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you,*
  - *24 whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be helped on my way there by you, if first I may enjoy your company for a while.*
  - *25 But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints.*
  - *26 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.*
  - *27 It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things.*
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- *28 Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.*
  - *29 But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing<sup>[i]</sup> of the gospel of Christ.*
  - *30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,*
  - *31 that I may be delivered from those in Judea who <sup>[k]</sup>do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,*
  - *32 that I may come to you with joy by the will of God and may be refreshed together with you.*
  - *33 Now the God of peace be with you all.  
Amen.*



# Reflection..

- Paul asks for prayers
- For deliverance from unbelievers in Judea
- He plans to visit Rome on his way to Spain but must first deliver aid to Jerusalem.
- Paul is open, vulnerable and not sounding like some super Apostle.
- He asks for them to STRIVE in prayers! Not just pray but battle!!
- The tone of his letter here is one of partnership in the Gospel
- The key principle here is that we travel together in the Grace and Mercy of God to fulfil the requirements of the Ministry.
- I beg you...

# Family Time...

- Reflect together on some of the principles in this chapter.
- What does it mean for the strong in the family to bear up the weaknesses of the weak.
- It would be good to have this reflection with your nieces, nephews, sons and daughters
- Sibling rivalry is real, and this can speak into how brothers and sisters can be kinder and gentler with each other.
- Helping others around the house and with chores etc



Family  
Time

The text "Family Time" is written in a dark teal, rounded, hand-drawn font. The word "Family" is on the top line and "Time" is on the bottom line. There are four red hearts: one above the 'i' in "Family", one below the 'T' in "Time", one below the 'e' in "Time", and one to the right of the 'y' in "Family".