

new Christians and cause division. Their motivation is self-love they serve “their own belly” They seek promotion and followers and usually will attack the church leadership.

**This is not new; consider a few examples.**

(2 Timothy 4:14-18) Alexander withstood Paul’s teaching so effectively that all men forsook him.

(3 John 9-11) Diotrefes was a false believer who was exerting control in the church to the point of rejecting John’s letters, speaking evil of John and throwing those whom he sent out of the church.

(Titus 1:5-16) It’s believed Titus was written to encourage a young preacher (Titus) who wanted to leave Crete. Why would he want to leave? The people who professed Christ were a bunch of backslidden reprobates described in Vs 16. He was to rebuke them sharply, get good pastors and teach Chapt 2-3 to them. He didn’t want to be there and they didn’t want him there! God did though!

**How should we respond when false teachers bring division into a church?**

Romans 16:17

The church should “mark” these people and not fellowship with them until the matter is resolved. There is no hope for a church that will not follow this verse in such a situation

**Saturday/Sunday**

(Vs 20) The God of peace will care for Satan shortly

(Vs 25-27) God is able to preserve us in this life and the next!

**Daily Devotions**

Romans Week 6

**Monday:** Romans 14:1-23

One distinguishing trait of Christians is their love one for another. In the early church there were 2 main groups. Jews; who had an aversion to some food (left over from the dietary laws) and Gentiles who had no problems with some of the things the Jewish Christian had problems with. Love is to be the governing factor in these things.

(Vs 1-12) God ultimately will judge every man...we are not God.

(Vs 13-16) The law of love calls for Christians to judge whether we are a stumbling block for weaker Christians (Vs 13+15) Weak Christians are concerned only for their rights, Mature Christians are concerned about their responsibilities.

(Vs 17-23) The “law of love” calls Christians to live far above the “standard” so that we are not pulling others down. You see: The focus is not on me, but others spiritual development. (Vs 19+21)

After 7 years in the pastorate I can say that very, very few people truly want to be “in ministry” Many want to do things in the church but they will resent living by the “law of love” If you want to serve God you must love others more than your rights! How is your life? Are you a stumbling block to some younger Christian?

**Tuesday:** Romans 15: 1-13

(Vs 1-3) These verses are part of Chapt 14. Read these verses again. Ask yourself these questions. Who am I to please? Should I be concerned with my desires or my brother’s edification? (Growth) Who set the example for me? You see it is biblical for a church to hold their pastor, and church leaders to a certain standard so the rest of the church can follow. As go the leaders so goes the church.

(Vs 4-13) Paul speaks to the root of the problem. They saw 2 different groups in the church (Jew and Gentile), when they were really one. (Vs 4-7) I have been in a Bulgarian church while they sang in their language and I in English. It was wonderful; we through Christ have a common bond! It transcends language, culture and country. We are His people! How should we accept all fellow believers? (Vs 7)

### **Wednesday:** Romans 15:14-33

Paul is winding down the Epistle (letter). There are some interesting things.

(Vs 14) The Romans were filled with goodness and knowledge and therefore were able to admonish (exhort one another) May we strive to be filled with these things to help our fellow believers

(Vs 25-28) Most of the verses we use for “Missions” are not exactly what we make them out to be. I have said it and it is true, we say the giving of the churches of Macedonia (2 Corinthians 8, etc) was for worldwide evangelism. Not entirely so; it enabled worldwide evangelism, but the collections were for the believers needs (food, clothing, shelter) as expressions of Christian love (See 1 John 3:16-18)

(Vs 25) This original church was scattered through persecution. Paul was going to minister to them.

(VS 26) This is the offering referred to in 2 Corinthians 8. They were given to care for the needs of the saints.

(Vs 27-28) The gentile churches had a debt to pay to those who had ministered to their spiritual needs. Paul was making a special trip to deliver the money and minister to them.

(Vs 29-33) Paul closes with a request for prayer for safety and that the gifts would be accepted in Jerusalem.

It falls unto us who are wealthy (and we are) to give to help believers all over the world.

### **Thursday:** Romans 16

I am sure you can see there are a lot of people named in this chapter. It is clear that Paul had much help and that there were many people serving in this Roman church.

Let me draw out a few things for the rest of the week.

(Vs 1-2) Paul dictated this letter to Tertius (Vs 22). Phebe, who was originally from a church east of Corinth, delivered the letter and stayed in Rome. Paul commended her to this church with a glowing recommendation. Never underestimate the power and need for godly women in a church.

(Vs 3-5) Who were these people? Apparently the Roman church met for services in their home. There is more to this couple...

Aquila had been a tentmaker in Corinth (who fled Rome) when Paul met him. Paul stayed with his family (Acts 18:1-3) This good couple decided to travel with Paul to Ephesus (Acts 18:18)

In Ephesus they found a young man who was a mighty preacher, but needed to be discipled. (Acts 18:24-28) What a difference this couple is making!

When Paul wrote this epistle, they were faithful Christians in Rome.

May we all find our place of service and be faithful!

### **Friday:** Romans 16

(Vs 17-18) After listing a lot of the good people of the church in Rome, Paul warns against troublemakers.

(Vs 17-18) In every age truth has had subtle enemies and Satan will seek to get people into churches that will cause division over their teaching.

(Vs 18) These people do not look like bad people, in fact, they have silver tongues and fair speeches but they seek out the simple, the

