

The Letter of St. Paul to the ROMANS

XII

OPENING WORSHIP

Read together **Isaiah 49:5-6** for your opening devotion. As you reflect on this section, consider how important it is to reach all people with the gospel of salvation. Why is this such a challenging concept to put into practice?

INTRODUCTION

As Paul leads into the conclusion of his letter to the Romans, his feelings for the Christians in Rome become more and more evident. We gain glimpses into his missionary philosophy and learn more about the extent of his travels.

STRONG AND WEAK

Read Romans 15:1-13. The words *strong* and *weak* are used throughout Scripture to describe different people in their faith life. What are some hallmarks of a *strong faith*? What indications characterize a *weak faith*?

How does Paul encourage us to imitate Christ (v. 3)?

Give practical ways that you can learn from “everything that was written in the past” (v. 4).

What is the goal of our Christian faith expressed *within* the church (v. 5, 6)?

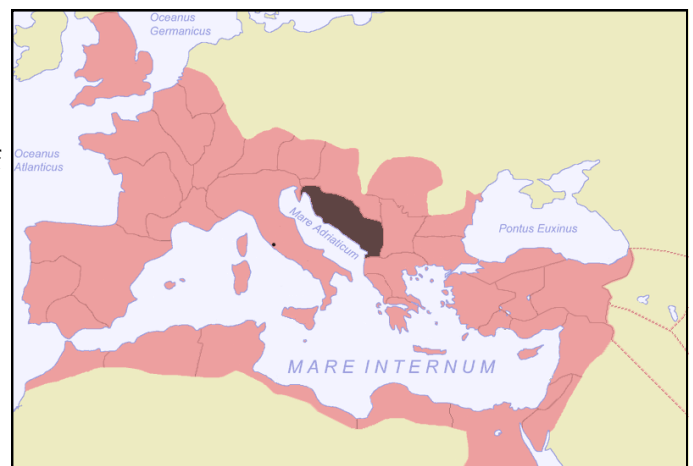
Trace Paul’s logic in verse 8: God’s goal is that _____ be saved. To accomplish this, God’s Son Jesus placed himself under the _____, to fulfill the promises to the _____. As a result, the _____ can now glorify God for his mercy.

What does it mean for you to “overflow with hope”?

Read Romans 15:14-22. Back in chapter 3 Paul said, “There is no one righteous, not even one . . . there is no one who does good, not even one” (3:10,12). Here in chapter 15 he tells the Romans that they are “full of goodness.” How do you resolve these two statements?

How are believing Gentiles “an offering acceptable to God”?

The Roman province of Illyricum (v. 19) comprised most of the east shore of the Adriatic Sea. Note the extent of Paul’s missionary travels. Why had Paul been hindered from visiting Rome up until this point?



Read Romans 15:23-33. What does verse 23 tell you about Paul's work in these regions?

Describe Paul's "mission philosophy."

What was Paul's plan for visiting Rome? How did his dream of visiting Rome actually come true in reality?

What does the word *amen* mean? Why is the word a fitting close to both prayers, declarations, and Bible studies?

VERSE TO REMEMBER

Romans 15:33 *The God of peace be with you all. Amen.*