









#### This Week's Sermon

"The God of Peace"
Romans 15:23-33

# Romans 15:23-33

23 But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, 24 I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. 25 At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. 26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

#### Romans 15:23-33

27 For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. 28 When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. 29 I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

#### Romans 15:23-33

30 I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, 31 that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, 32 so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. 33 May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

#### 1. Paul's Mission

2. The God of Peace3. The Community of Peace



### Romans 15:25-28

25 At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. 26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. 27 For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. 28 When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you.

"What they shared is put in general terms, spiritual blessings, but there is no doubting that Paul means the gospel above everything else. That was the supreme privilege; nothing in all this world is to be compared to the gift of God in the gospel, and the gospel came first to the Jews. When the Gentiles received it, it was because Jewish missionaries proclaimed it to them and invited them to share in its blessings. It is reasonable, then, that the Gentiles should serve the Jews with their material blessings."

~Leon Morris, The Epistle to the Romans, The Pillar New Testament Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI; Leicester, England: W.B. Eerdmans; Inter-Varsity Press, 1988), 521.

#### Romans 15:30b-31

strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, 31 that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints



# Romans 15:23-24, 28b-29

23 But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, 24 I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while...I will leave for Spain by way of you. 29 I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of

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#### **Romans** 15:33

33 May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

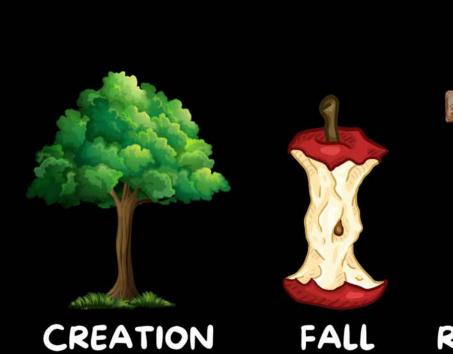
# The "God of Peace" in Romans

We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ Romans 5:1

the Spirit is life and peace. - Romans 8:6
So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual

• For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on

- So then let us pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:19
- The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. Romans 16:20







#### The God of Peace

Peace comes from God and it is his gift of wholeness. In Christ, God has ended *our* conflict with God. God initiates the reconciliation process with the people who have rejected him.

God pays the cost to make peace with us. It is only in Christ that we can have peace with God. God will restore all things to peace.

# What will create peace?



# Ephesians 2:11-22

11 Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands — 12 remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

# Ephesians 2:11-22

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

# Ephesians 2:11-22

18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

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#### **Peace**

eirénē (from eirō, "to join, tie together into a whole") – properly, wholeness, i.e. when all essential parts are joined together; peace (God's gift of wholeness).

Peace is a fruit of the Spirit.

Peace-making is a characteristic of those who know God because he is the God of peace. (Matthew 5:7)

# Ephesians 2:18-22

18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

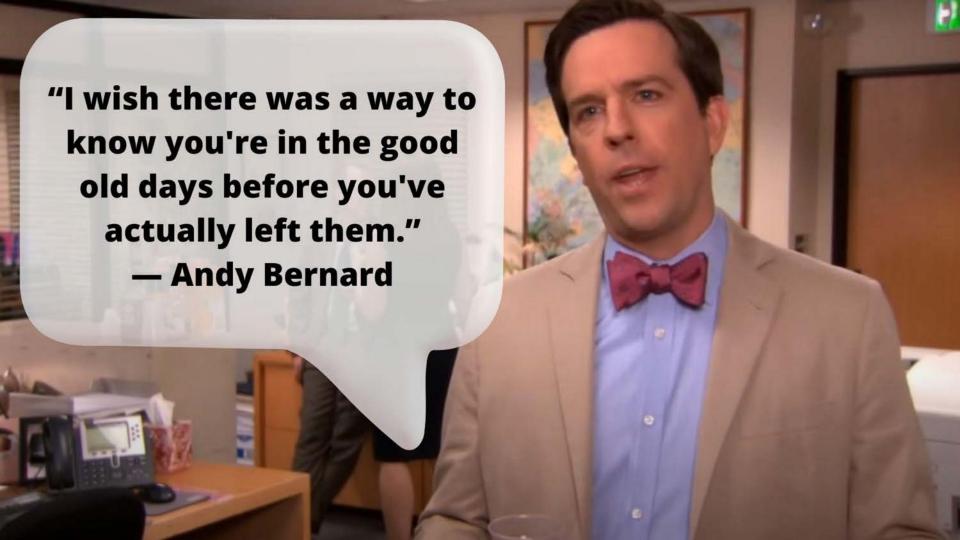


# Gospel Culture

"The shared experience of grace for the undeserving: the corporate incarnation of the biblical message in the relationships, vibe, feel, tone, values, priorities, aroma, honesty, freedom, gentleness, humility, cheerfulness – indeed, the total human reality of a church defined and sweetened by the gospel."

"The chapter closes with a prayer: "May the God of peace be with you all." He is the God of peace in the sense that he alone can give peace. As Paul wrote elsewhere, it is a peace that "transcends all understanding" (Phil 4:7). It can be experienced and enjoyed, but not rationally explained.

<sup>~</sup>Robert H. Mounce, Romans, vol. 27, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1995), 271.



# Living as Peacemakers

- 1. Share spiritual blessings aka remind each other of the truth of the gospel
- 2. Share material blessings
- 3. Pray and be prayed for
- 4. Enjoy the refreshment and joy of gospel community
- 5. Turn this outward to others

"Christians can always help a struggling brother or sister by praying. Christians can always come alongside those whom they have never met, by praying...Our prayers are part of our service to fellow Christians. As the great Reformation pastor and theologian John Calvin put it, "The godly ought to pray for their brethren...they are to assume their person, as though they were placed in the same difficulties."







Little Hopes

# GUARANTEED OFFER



# What keeps us from sharing, praying, and participating in the mission?

# Ephesians 2:14-17

14 For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility 15 by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near.

#### Gospel Response

Enjoy God's Peace

Live as a Peacemaker