

15. The Letter to the Romans

I. The new reality of Christian existence (12:1-8) Spiritual worship (v. 1)
Renewing of our minds (v. 2) The body of Christ (vv. 3-8)

II. Moral Exhortation, the paraenesis of 12:15-15:4, which concludes with the exhortation to learn from the Scriptures. A few examples: A staccato exhortation (12:9-21) A particular exhortation for those living: be subject to civil authorities (13:1-7) The primacy of love (13:8-10) There's no time to waste (13:11-14) A particular exhortation for a bicultural community (14:16-23)

III. Paul's Prayer for the Romans and a Hallelujah (15:5-13) A pair of wish prayers (vv. 5-6, 13) Hallelujah: Ps 17:50; Deut 32:43; Ps 117: 1; Isa 11:10 (vv. 7-12)

IV. Paul's Travel (15:18-33) Why he hasn't come, citing Isa 52:15 (vv. 18-22)
What he plans to do (vv. 23-32) A blessing (v. 33)

V. The Conclusion of the Letter (16:1-23, 25-27) Commendation of Phoebe (vv. 1-2) Greetings. Second person greetings. Prisca and Aquila and the church in their house (vv. 3-5a) A number of individuals and four other house churches (vv.5b-15), for example: Andronicus and Junia (v. 7) Rufus and his mother (v. 13) (c) A general greeting (v. 16) Third person greeting (v. 21) A first person greeting (v. 22) Additional third person greetings (v. 23)

VI. The Final Doxology (16:25-27)

Review Questions

1. In what does spiritual worship consist?
2. What does Paul say about obedience to civil authorities?
3. Why did Paul wait so long before he went to Rome?
4. Did women have much of a role to play in Paul's churches?