

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

*“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .*

*And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”*

# Let’s Worship God

22nd-27th July 2013  
Romans



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

[airdrierpcs.org](http://airdrierpcs.org), 01236 620107  
Part of the RFCS - [rpcscotland.org](http://rpcscotland.org)

**Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!**



# Let's Worship God

## Verse To Learn

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

*Romans 8:35*

**reading** Romans 15:1-4 - Pleasing Others

**notes** We all have our failings, but the weak are more subject to them - the weak in knowledge or grace. We must consider them; not trample upon them, but encourage them and bear with them. If through weakness they judge us and speak evil of us, we must bear with them, pity them, and not stop loving them. We should be concerned for them and try to strengthen them, and we should remember that Christ is patient with His weak disciples.

Christians are not to please themselves, they are to please their neighbour. It is not our job to always try to get what we want. Instead, we should put others first, their needs and desires before our own. But notice Paul is very careful to say that it should be pleasing people for their good, for the good of their soul (v.2). We are not to condone or encourage men in their sin, this is not the kind of people-pleasing Paul is talking about. Pleasing God always comes before pleasing people. To go along with another's sin is not pleasing to God. As we seek to put other people's good before our own we will be building them up.

We are to imitate Christ who did not please Himself. He had no where to lay His head, lived upon others' generosity, did not seek His own will, washed His disciples' feet, endured the accusations of sinners, troubled Himself, emptied Himself, and made Himself of no reputation. He suffered shame, reproach, and suffering. He bore our guilt and endured the wrath and curse of God for our sin. And He did all this for us, so we could be declared righteous. His whole life and His death was cheerfully and willingly unselfish. How can we treat other people so selfishly when we are to imitate Christ? The Scriptures have been given us so that we can look at Christ's example, and we can imitate it and be encouraged in it.

- questions**
1. Who are we to please?
  2. How is Christ our example?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 66A:7-12
1. Pray that you would imitate Christ in unselfishness.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.



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Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

*Romans 8:35*

**reading** Romans 15:17-21 - Success Through Christ

**notes** Paul mentions the wonderful things that God has done through him to encourage the Christian church at Rome that they are not alone. Though in the minority in Rome and surrounded by unbelievers, yet up and down the country there are many that are their companions in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.

Paul is diligent in working for Christ. He has preached in many places. He has travelled far as we can read about in Acts. He has done it with his whole heart, and he has done it thoroughly, preaching the full gospel of Christ, not holding back anything necessary. Paul preaches in places that have not heard the gospel before. He introduces Christianity where there is nothing but witchcraft and idolatry. Because of this he meets with many difficulties and discouragements.

Paul's work is effective - it makes the Gentiles obedient. The gospel brings people to be obedient, it is not just a truth to be believed, but a law to be obeyed. What causes Paul's success? Christ. Paul does not say which I accomplished but which Christ accomplished through me (v.18). Whatever good we do, it is not us, but Christ that does it; the work is His, the strength is His. Paul takes every opportunity to make this clear so that all praise may go to Christ. Paul also is careful that his words and actions are consistent with the truth he is proclaiming. God works through Paul's words and Paul's deeds. The Holy Spirit gives Paul the ability to work miracles. He also changes the hearts of those to whom Paul preaches. It is the Spirit's operation that makes the difference. No matter how good a preacher Paul is, no matter how many signs and wonders he performs, he can not make one soul obedient without the Holy Spirit.

- questions**
1. Where has Paul primarily worked?
  2. Who has given Paul success?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 68:1-6
1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
  2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
  3. Pray for family matters.



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**reading** Romans 15:14-16 - Sacrifice

**notes** Paul gives these Christians he has never met high praise. He acknowledges and commends what God's grace has done in their lives. He describes them as being full of goodness. They are men who will take on board what he has said, be thankful for it, and put it into practice. He also describes them as being filled with all knowledge. Goodness and knowledge together! A very rare and an excellent combination; the head and the heart of the new man. Paul says that they are able to instruct one another. They are able to use and communicate what they have for the benefit of others.

Paul admits that he has been quite blunt with them. He has done this to remind them of what they know to be true. Paul appreciates that it is a great honour that God has given him to send him to preach to the Gentiles. Because of this grace given to him, Paul is working his hardest among the Gentiles, that this honour would not be given to him in vain.

Paul knows who's minister he is. He is a minister of Christ Jesus. He is our Master, we serve Him. He knows to whom he is sent - the Gentiles. He knows what he is ministering - the gospel of God. And he knows for what purpose he is ministering - that God might be glorified by the conversion of the Gentiles. The Gentiles are a sacrifice offered up to God by Paul, in the name of Christ, a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God. Paul preaches to them and deals with them, but that which makes them sacrifices to God is their sanctification, and this is not his work, but the work of the Holy Spirit.

**questions**  
1. What does Paul say about the Roman Christians?  
2. What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

**praise pray**  
Ps. 67C:all  
1. Give thanks for the leadership of the church.  
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.  
3. Pray for family matters.



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**reading** Romans 15:5-6 - Prayer for Unity

**notes** In the middle of his exhortations, Paul breaks off to pray in these two verses. He calls God the God of endurance and encouragement. God is the reason why we can endure and the reason why we can be encouraged. He confirms and keeps His people. He gives us the Holy Spirit to support us and to help us bear up with courage and cheerfulness under our trouble. A God that bears with us and comforts us can enable us to love our brothers, to preserve and maintain unity, to be patient with one another, and to comfort one another. We can love and be patient towards others because God loves and is patient toward us.

Paul is asking God to enable Christians to live in harmony, to be like-minded. But this like-mindedness must be according to Jesus - according to His pattern and example and according to His truth. There can be no peace unless it is first rooted and grounded in the truth, for the wisdom from above is first pure and then peaceable. This like-mindedness is a gift from God, and it is to God that we must go, like Paul, when we are seeking it.

The end goal of Paul's desire for like-mindedness is that God may be glorified. We should have the glory of God in the forefront of every prayer we pray. Christians who are united according to Christ bring glory to God. The unity of Christians glorifies God as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, because it is a kind of counterpart or type of the oneness that is between the Father and the Son.

**questions**  
1. How does Paul describe God?  
2. What does He pray for?

**praise pray**  
Ps. 66B:all  
1. Pray that you would be like-minded according to Christ with believers.  
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.  
3. Pray for family matters.



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**reading** Romans 15:7-12 - Welcomed By Christ

**notes** Paul exhorts believers to welcome one another. Those who have received Christ by faith must receive all Christians by brotherly love; even though poor in the world, persecuted, and despised, even though it may be a matter of reproach and danger to welcome them, even though you disagree in your personal opinions, even though there might have been private quarrels in the past, laying aside all these things, you are to welcome one another. Why? Because Christ has welcomed us. Christ has been so kind to us, how can we be unkind to those who are His?

Christ has welcomed us to the glory of God. The purpose of our salvation, of our being welcomed by Christ, is that we might glorify God in this world, and be glorified with Him in Heaven. We are to welcome one another to the glory of God. This should be our goal in all our actions - that God may be glorified.

Christ welcomes both Jews and Gentiles; in Him they are one. Christ was a servant to the Jews. He was Himself circumcised, and kept the Jewish ceremonial law, and preached the gospel to the Jews. Christ was a witness to the truth of God. He made good the promises God gave to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that God would bless all nations through them, that through Israel would come a Saviour and a King. Christ received the Gentiles as well that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy towards them. The greatest mercy of God toward any people is the receiving of them into covenant with Himself. Paul also points out that the receiving of the Gentiles fulfilled the Scriptures by pointing out several prophecies of the Gentiles praising God and hoping in Christ. If Jews and Gentiles are united in Christ's love, why can they not be united in one another's love?

**questions**

1. What is the purpose of our salvation?
2. How was Christ a servant to the Jews?

**praise pray** Ps. 67A:all

1. Give thanks for the mercy we have in Christ.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



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**reading** Romans 15:13 - Peace, Joy, and Hope

**notes** Here is another of Paul's prayers. He addresses it to God as the God of hope. God is the foundation on which our hope is built, and He is the builder; He is both the object of our hope, and the author of it. That hope is false, and will deceive us, which is not based on God, and which He has not worked in us.

Paul asks that the believers might be filled with all joy and peace in believing. As we saw in chapter 14, verse 17, the kingdom of God consists of joy and peace. Joy in God and peace with God both come from a sense of our justification, of our being declared not guilty but righteous. True joy and peace are filling. They can satisfy our soul's desires. How do we get this joy and peace? By prayer. We must go to God for it. By believing; that is the means to be used. True, substantial joy is the fruit of faith. It is because of the weakness of our faith that we lack so much joy and peace. Only believe; believe the goodness of Christ, the love of Christ, the promises of the covenant, and the joys and glories of heaven. The result must be joy and peace.

Paul asks that believers might abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. The joy and peace of believers comes mainly from their hope. Therefore the more hope they have, the more joy and peace they have. We abound in hope when we hope for great things from God. Christians should want an abundance of hope, a hope that will not make them ashamed. This is through the power of the Holy Spirit. The same almighty power that works grace conceives and strengthens this hope.

**questions**

1. How do we get joy and peace?
2. What do we hope for from God?

**praise pray** Ps. 67B:all

1. Give thanks for the hope, joy, and peace we have in Christ.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.