Lesson 17 Romans 15 & 16

Man On The Move

1. Since Jesus is our supreme example of ministry, what characteristic of His ministry should we try to imitate?

2. What are the five characteristics of Paul's ministry?

3. Challenge Question: Illyricum (vs. 19) is in present day Yugoslavia! How far is that from Jerusalem?
What does this tell you about Paul?

Romans 15:19

19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit [of God], so that from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum I have finished preaching the gospel of Christ.

4. What in Paul's life and mission do you want to see in your life?

5. What has helped you to become more aware of the world's needs? How are you involved in acting on that awareness?

6. Read 16:1-16. In spite of the fact that Paul had never been to Rome, he sends greetings to more than twenty-five people by name. What previous contacts did Paul have with these people?

Note: a concordance for the New American Bible is available on-line at <http://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0839/_FA.HTM> which will facilitate finding these names.

 1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is [also] a minister\* of the church at Cenchreae,

 2 that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the holy ones, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a benefactor to many and to me as well.

 3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus,

 4 who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I am grateful but also all the churches of the Gentiles;

 5 greet also the church at their house.\* Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the firstfruits in Asia for Christ.

 6 Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you.

 7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives and my fellow prisoners; they are prominent among the apostles and they were in Christ before me.

 8 Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.

 9 Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys.

10 Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus.

11 Greet my relative Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus.

12 Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord.

13 Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them.

15 Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the holy ones who are with them.

16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

7. From what we know about Paul and the Romans, how might the people in 16:1-16 have "risked their lives" "worked very hard" and "been a great help" to Paul and others?

8. What type of people were causing divisions and creating problems (vs. 16:17-20)?

17 I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who create dissensions and obstacles, in opposition to the teaching that you learned; avoid them.

18 For such people do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites, and by fair and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the innocent.

19 For while your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, I want you to be wise as to what is good, and simple as to what is evil;

20 then the God of peace will quickly crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

9. How can we overcome the subtle but destructive influence of such people (see question 8)?

10. How do the final words of this letter summarize the scope of our salvation from beginning to end
(16:25-27)?

25 [Now to him who can strengthen you, according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages\*

26 but now manifested through the prophetic writings and, according to the command of the eternal God, made known to all nations to bring about the obedience of faith,

27 to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ be glory forever and ever. Amen.]