

“Our Obligation to God”
A Study of the Book of Romans
Pastor Tim Allen

Key Truth: We must bear with the failings of the weak not merely so they may be edified but so God might be glorified.

All of life involves understanding our true purpose. To find meaning in life we need to understand why we’re here in the first place. Many walk the earth never knowing their true purpose and so live hopeless, meaningless lives. Knowing the ultimate “WHY?” of all human existence tends to put all other things in perspective. When we focus our attention on our ultimate Purpose, our life has meaning, we tend to be happier, more fulfilled, and in fact, more successful. God is our ultimate purpose, and his praise and glory should be our ultimate goal. So, when Paul instructs his readers to bear with the failings of the weak, that obligation is not ultimately to the weak, but to God.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 15:1-7** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “**Our Obligation to God.**”

DIG IN

1. Obligation (Romans 15:1-2)

What is the two-fold obligation strong Christians have (vv. 1-2)?

Does this mean Paul wants us to be “people pleasers”? Why or why not (Galatians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:3-4)?

What is the danger of attempting to please those who are weak in faith?

2. Motivation (Romans 15:3)

In what ways does Jesus motivate us to fulfill our obligation as strong Christians?

What does it mean that Christ took reproaches on himself? Whose reproaches?

3. Instruction (Romans 15:4)

What does Paul mean when he says, “For whatever was written in former days?”

Why was this written for our instruction?

In what ways does this give us greater hope?

4. Glorification (Romans 15:5-7)

According to these verses (vv. 5-7), in what ways can the church glorify God?

In what ways has Christ welcomed us? Why should we welcome one another?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?