

## **The Mess / The Mercy / The Mission**

Of the fifteen “therefores” in St. Paul’s Letter to the Romans (1:24; 2:1; 4:22; 5:1, 12, 18; 6:4, 12; 8:1; 12:1; 13:2, 5, 10; 14:13; 15:7, 9), there are three “great therefores.”

After Paul’s Introduction (Romans 1:1–15), Paul describes

**The Mess We’re In** (Romans 1:16–4:25)

**The Mercy We’ve Received** (Romans 5:1–11:36)

Romans 5:1–5

**Therefore**, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**The Mercy We’re To Return and Share / The Mission** (Romans 12:1–15:7)

Romans 12:1–2

I appeal to you **therefore**, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 15:7

Welcome one another, **therefore**, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.