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## Romans: Theology 101

“Time For a Checkup”

Romans 15:14-29

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06-28-20

Introduction: As we come to scripture this morning, it is important to understand the context for this passage.

1. Paul has been focused on healthy relationships.
2. I believe he understood the greatest vulnerability the church faced.
3. Jesus had promised He would build His church & the gates of hades shall not overpower it. Think about that promise.
  - Hades is the Abode of the Dead
  - Gates Represent Authority, Power
  - The Gates of Hades Represents Satan’s Power & the Consequence of Sin, Death
4. The church, built on the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus Christ is able to break Satan’s grip on mankind.
5. The church is not invincible; a house divided cannot stand.
6. Division has always been the achilles heel of the church. That’s why Paul spent so much time focused on healthy relationships.
7. In today’s text he completes this focus & transitions toward the end of his letter. As he does, he shares important truths we can use to evaluate ourselves & our church.

### I. A Roman Pep Talk

#### A. Their Character

#### B. Their Credentials

#### C. Their Competence

### II. A Vision For Ministry

#### A. Spirit Empowered

#### B. Groundbreaking

#### C. Interdependent

Conclusion: As Paul describes the Romans & his vision for ministry, he gives us a standard to measure how we are doing.

1. Self-examination is important, but it can also be challenging.
2. We must avoid the extremes of bias to get an accurate picture.
3. We must develop intentional action steps to improve.
4. As we do:
  - We become the men/women God wants us to be.
  - We become the church God wants us to be.