

The Book of Romans
15:14-33
07/03/2019 Wednesday PM

Introduction

- Paul has for 15 chapters now dealt with almost every major theological subject and how believers are to practically apply them to their lives.
- He is now winding down his letter and he stops in chapter 15 to give the reason for writing his letter and to make a few other closing remarks.
- In the verses we are about to read, we will be able to get a really good sense of the missionary zeal that Paul had for his fellow Jews and especially the Gentile people.

Romans 15:14-22

¹⁴I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. ¹⁵I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done-- ¹⁹by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. ²⁰It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. ²¹Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." ²²This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

- **V. 14** – Paul was convinced of the goodness and complete knowledge of the Roman church despite never having met most of the believers there.
- This is a really impactful verse because it shows that their reputation must have preceded them.
- **Vv.15-16** – Even though Paul did not found the church in Rome, he was the apostle to the Gentiles and had a commission from God to reach out to Gentile believers.
- The Roman church was full of Gentiles and even though they were “complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another,” Paul felt a mandate to write this letter full of bold Christian basics to them.
- He wanted to ensure that the “Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit”
- **Vv.17-19** – Paul did not find glory in what he had done, he found his glory in what God had done through him.
- Being proud of what God is doing through you is not a sin, it is worship because you are taking satisfaction in what God is accomplishing and not in what you are accomplishing.
- God worked many signs and miracles through Paul and the other apostles to validate who they were and the power and authority that they stood on.
- Paul had proclaimed Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum. This was a Roman territory between present day Italy and Greece. It covered much of the same territory as what was Yugoslavia.
- **Vv.20-22** – These verses really encapsulate Paul missionary mindset.
- He usually went into population centers, started a church, made sure it had a good foundation and then moved on.
- He did not go into places that already had churches; he went into places that had no church presence at all.
- This is something that church planters today need to really get into their minds.
- Paul understood that the Gentiles would soak up the gospel because it was a part of Gods plan from the beginning.
- Because of his driving force to bring the gospel to people who had not yet heard it, he had been “hindered” from going to Rome.

Romans 15:23-33

²³But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to see you, ²⁴I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while. ²⁵Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the saints there. ²⁶For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among

the saints in Jerusalem. ²⁷They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings. ²⁸So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this fruit, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. ²⁹I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ. ³⁰I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. ³¹Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, ³²so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. ³³The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

- **Vv.23-24** – Now that Paul has basically been able to see the evangelism of most of the known world at the time, he could make it to places where there was already a church.
- It is estimated that Paul traveled over 10,000 miles during his 3 missionary journeys. To talk around the entire earth, it would be 24,902 miles. He covered 40% of that trek.
- Paul planned also to visit Spain and was going to seek the Roman church's help in getting there.
- Before he was going to be able to do that however, he had to make it back to Jerusalem to take the contributions that he had collected from the Macedonians and the Achaeans.
- This offering that he had collected was special, because it was Gentile believers that were sending provisions for the needy Jews in Jerusalem. It was an awesome showing of the mercy and grace of God working through believers.
- **Vv.25-33** – Paul ended this chapter by reiterating his intentions to come to see them and to solicit their prayers and support for him as he went back to Judea and to Jerusalem.



Next Week's Study

Romans 16:1-27