

The Solid Rock on Which We Stand:

“The Heart of Effective Ministry”

Romans 1:8-15
Pastor Dave Dechape

The Big Idea:

**Effective ministry stems from a heart set on glorifying Jesus and blessing others.
(Romans 1:8-15)**

The Heart of Effective Ministry

1. Effective ministry begins with a grateful heart. (Romans 1:8)
2. Effective ministry comes from a prayerful heart. (Romans 1:9-10)
3. Effective ministry comes from a longing heart. (Romans 1:11-13)
4. Effective ministry comes from an indebted heart. (Romans 1:14)
5. Effective ministry comes from an eager heart. (Romans 1:15)

The Big Step:

Write down the names of 2 unbelievers and 2 believers that you will pray for and encourage with the Gospel this week. Next to those 4 names, write down what you will specifically say to them, and then expect God to do great things with your obedience.

September 20, 2026

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Romans 1:8-15 (study guide)

Read Romans 1:8-15

1. **The Shepherd Lifestyle:** Analyze the "shepherd heart" of Paul as described in Romans 1:8-15. How does this model challenge the modern distinction between "clergy" and "congregation"?
2. **Knowledge vs. Action:** Evaluate the author's argument against "spiritual anemia" and "spiritual constipation." How does the text propose a balance between Sunday worship and weekday service?
3. **Identity and Behavior:** Explore the "self-fulfilling prophecy" mentioned in the text. How does the identity of being a "blood-bought saint" rather than a "victim" or a "loser" change one's approach to ministry?
4. **Ministry in Hostile Environments:** Discuss Paul's eagerness to go to Rome. Why did he view the seat of Emperor-worship as an "opportunity unlimited" rather than a place to avoid, and what does this suggest about the nature of heart-to-heart ministry?
5. **The Five Pillars of Heart-to-Heart Ministry:** Synthesize the five heart attributes (grateful, prayerful, longing, indebted, and eager). How do these traits collectively contribute to what the text defines as "effective ministry"?