

# ROMANS



# **Romans 15:14-21**

**Paul's ministry and ours**



# **Our 3 Questions**

## **1. What does the text say?**

- **Authorial intent to the intended audience.**

## **2. What does the text mean?**

- **The timeless theological truth.**

## **3. How does this apply today?**

- **What we ought to do with/because of this truth.**

# Romans 15:14-21

**<sup>14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God**

# Romans 15:14-21

**<sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. <sup>17</sup> In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.**

# Romans 15:14-21

**<sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;**

# **Romans 15:14-21**

**<sup>20</sup> and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, <sup>21</sup> but as it is written,**

**“Those who have never been told of him will see,**

**and those who have never heard will understand.”**

# Preview

- **14 – What is satisfying in Paul’s ministry?**
- **15-16a – Paul’s boldness and “grace”**
- **16b – Paul’s priestly analogy**
- **17-18a – Paul’s pride – What he’s doing**
  - **Paul’s responsibility and God’s credit**
- **18b-19 – How Paul does the work**
  - **Word and deed and the power of God**
- **20-21 – Where is Paul called to work**
  
- **Application: What about us?**



# Romans 15:14

**<sup>14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.**

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**Paul's two criteria for being satisfied:**

**Their character: "full of goodness"**

**Their ability to teach themselves:**

**Knowledge → able to instruct one another**

# Romans 15:15-16a

<sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God

<sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles (12:3, 6)

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They can teach themselves, yet Paul is still bold... why?

1. Even the mature need correction
2. It is Paul's God-given "grace" or job

# Romans 15:16

**<sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.**

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**Paul completes an analogy he started in Romans 12.**

**Acceptable: in service of the gospel ...  
sanctified by the Holy Spirit**

# Romans 15:17

**<sup>17</sup> In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. <sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience**

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**Paul is “proud”?**

# Paul's Pride

- **1:30 ... slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents...**
- **2:17, 23 – boasting in condemned in Jews**
- **3:27 Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.**
- **11:20 – Gentiles warned of pride**

# Paul's Pride

15b ... because of the grace given me by God<sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.<sup>17</sup> In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.<sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed,<sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God

# Romans 15:17

**<sup>17</sup> In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. <sup>18</sup> For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience**

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**His only, singular, pride...**

# Romans 15:18b-19

**... to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, <sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;**



# **Romans 15:18b-19**

**In conjunction with the gospel of God to bring the Gentile to obedience (sanctification).**

**How?**

**Paul's work – “word and deed”**

**The Spirit's power – signs and wonders**

# Romans 15:19b

**<sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and wonders,  
by the power of the Spirit of God—so  
that from Jerusalem and all the way  
around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the  
ministry of the gospel of Christ;**

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**Paul has “fulfilled the ministry of the  
gospel of Christ” in these areas?**

# Romans 15:19b

<sup>20</sup> and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, <sup>21</sup> but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see,

and those who have never heard will understand.”

# 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

**<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**

# 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

<sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— <sup>13</sup> each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

# 1 Corinthians 3:10-15

**<sup>14</sup> If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.**

# Applications

**Everyone is called – Matthew 28:16-20**

**15:20**

**Not “if”, but “what?”, “where?”, & “who?”**

**15:18-19**

**Make disciples in “word and deed” with the Lord. Be desperate for the Lord to move.**

# Applications

**15:15**

**According to your calling, be bold for the holiness of others.**

**15:14**

**Make your goal both character and the capacity to grow and learn without you.**

**15:16-17**

**Spend your life on something you can be proud of.**



# Questions

- **Although not everyone is called to be a church planter like Paul, everyone is invited into the work of making disciples and building the Church. Do you know what God is calling you to do specifically or where God is calling you on the map?**
- **When you think of Paul's "word and deed" language, do you think that one or the other is lacking in your present ministry? Do you tell people the gospel? Does your life reflect a life transformed by Christ?**
- **Paul is bold, because it is his job. Can you think of people that God has placed before you that have error in their life that you ought to be bold and speak to? Can you think of a time when you stepped out in boldness to correct something in someone that God didn't call you to?**
- **Think about your life goals. Now think about judgment day. When you contrast those two things, if you accomplished all of your personal goals, how many of them will matter on judgment day? Are you measuring a life well lived in the same way the Lord does? What should change?**