

## **I. Intro:**

A. “The serial position effect” - to remember the first and last thing you say. The effect is made up of two concepts, first - the primary effect - better recall on the first things heard. The second is the recency effect - better recall for the last of what a person heard.

## **II. Romans 15:14 - 16**

***My brothers and sisters, I myself am convinced about you that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct on another. Nevertheless, I have written to remind you more boldly on some points because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, serving as a priest of the Gospel of God. God's purpose is that the Gentiles may be an acceptable offering, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.***

A. “Wait, I’ve heard this before” - **Romans 1:8-10**

B. If that is true, then why does Paul write AT ALL?

1. Two reasons for his writing the letter to the Romans. First, his role as an apostle to the Gentiles - **1:5, 11:13, 12:3**, and now here. Two, to be reminded.
2. **1 Peter 1:12** “Therefore I will always remind you about these things, even though you know them and are established in the truth you now have.”
3. Remembrance is a huge part of our faith: Sabbath, feasts. And what happened when they forgot? They stopped obeying God and they started living like the world around them. They became self-centered, man-focused, and full of sinful passions.
4. It doesn’t matter the level of maturity you are in the faith, we all need to practice remembering.

C. A few Hebrew terms

1. Rather than serving as a priest in a temple Paul serves as a priest of the gospel to the Gentiles
2. Rather than animals as a sacrifice Paul is making the Gentiles an acceptable sacrifice
3. Rather than their own sanctified work, they will be sanctified by the Holy Spirit

4. But why did Paul do this? The work priestly work at the temple was sacred and holy. So is the work of the Gospel.

### **III. Romans 15:17-21**

***Therefore I have reason to boast in Christ Jesus regarding what pertains to God. For I would not dare say anything except what Christ has accomplished through me by word and deed for the obedience of the Gentiles, by the power of miraculous signs and wonders, and by the power of God's Spirit. As a result, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum. My aim is to preach the gospel where Christ has not been named, so that I will not build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."***

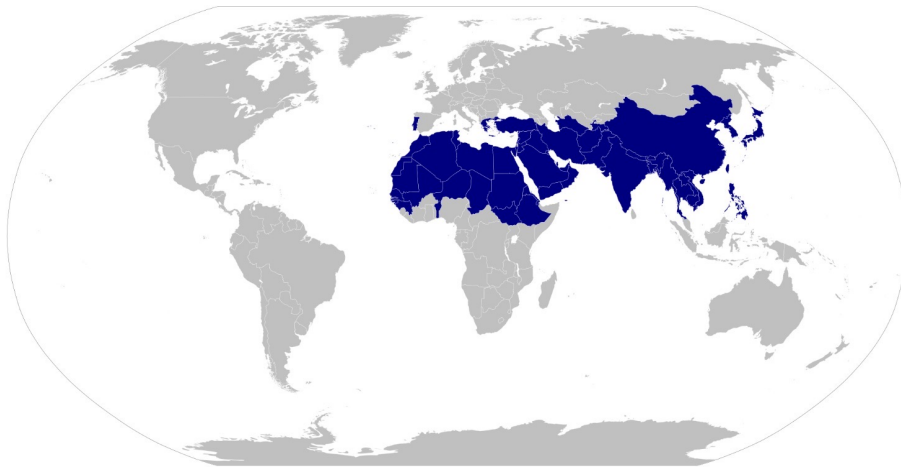
#### **A. Therefore**

1. Paul's work isn't him boasting in self but the Lord.
2. Paul's freedom.
  - a. He is free to work with with the highest of standards - a priest bringing an acceptable offering,
  - b. He is free to boast about it because it is Christ's work not his
  - c. He is free from it being a burden for him, because it is Christ in him who enables and accomplishes the work.
3. Do you boast in the works the Lord has given you to bring Him glory?

#### **B. Principles from Paul's Ministry**

1. How Paul views himself: Paul says in verse 18 - what Christ has accomplished **through** him.
  - a. So for us, how do we view ourselves? Are we content to be the instrument or do we fight for more?
2. How Paul views the recipients of his work: Paul cares greatly about the Gentiles obedience.
  - a. "with a view to obey"

- b. Great Commission “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.**”
  - c. “Obedience is the indispensable consequence of saving faith. It is a vital ingredient to Christian discipleship.”
  - d. How do you view the recipients of the work God gives you? To you work with obedience in mind? For you? For them?
3. How Paul lives out his work: Paul has been an example through “**word and deed**”
- a. “Words explain works but works dramatize words”
  - b. James “faith without works is dead”
  - c. Be a person who dramatizes the words you believe - who makes faith come to life. How are you doing this?
4. How Paul trusts his work: Paul uses three descriptors of the deeds Christ does through him “**by the power of miraculous signs and wonders,**”
- a. **2 Corinthians 12:12** “*The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.*”
  - b. In the ways the Lord calls you to live do you trust Him and His power in your life?
5. How Paul lives by the Spirit: “**and by the power of God’s Spirit**”
- a. The power of the Spirit is through His Word - Sword of the Spirit
  - b. The power of the Spirit is evident every time there is a conversion
  - c. In your life, how do you live by the Spirit experiencing His power through your life and outside of it?
- C. Significance of reach
- 1. 1,000 mile significance vs. 1/2 mile
  - 2. Anything with Christ in mind, is significant to Christ
  - 3. Paul’s main goal was to go to large cities and spend time there, so that those in the large city would go out to neighboring cities. He made disciples so that they too would GO make disciples.
  - 4. 10/40 window



#### **IV. Romans 15:22-29**

***That is why I have been prevented many times from coming to you. But now I no longer have any work to do in these regions, and I have strongly desired for many years to come to you whenever I travel to Spain. For I hope to see you when I pass through and to be assisted by you for my journey there, once I have first enjoyed your company for a while. Right now I am traveling to Jerusalem to serve the saints, because Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. Yes, they were pleased, and indeed are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual benefits, then they are obligated to minister to them in material needs. So when I have finished this and safely diverted the funds to them, I will visit you on the way to Spain. I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing.***

A. Paul's Plans and kingdom minded-ness

B. Gentiles obligation

1. Have you had mentors of faith? Mothers or fathers of faith that poured into you? And then a time came where they needed you - not necessarily spiritually but physically. Did you feel obligation? Did you feel pleased to be of service to them? That's this.

#### **V. Romans 15:29-33**

***I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in prayers to God on my behalf. Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, and that, by God's will, I may come to you with joy and be refreshed together with you. May the God of peace be with all of you. Amen.***

A. Paul's Prayer

B. Did Paul ever make it there?

C. Paul's Story

1. **Acts 20:22-24, 21:27** *"And now I am on my way to Jerusalem, compelled by the Spirit, not knowing what I will encounter there, except that in every town the Holy Spirit warns me that chains and afflictions are waiting for me. But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and the ministry I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of God's grace."*
2. **Acts 21:30** *the Jews seize Paul.*
3. **Acts 22:21** that God was sending him to the Gentiles. *"Is it legal for you to whip a Roman citizen who hasn't even been tried?"*
4. **Acts 23:11** That night the Lord appeared to Paul and said *"be encouraged, Paul. Just as you have been a witness to me here in Jerusalem, you must preach the good news in Rome as well."*
5. **Acts 25:11** Paul appeals to Caesar. On the way there there is a shipwreck and the Roman officers want to kill the prisoners but the commanding officer wanted to spare Paul, so they all lived and made it to shore.
6. **Acts 28** Paul arrives in Rome and is put under house arrest.
7. **Acts 28:30-31** *Paul stayed two whole years in his own rented house. And he welcomed all who visited him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.*
8. Paul died there. But you know what came from prison in Rome? Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, 1 and 2 Timothy, Titus and Philemon

## **VI. Romans 16: 1-16**

A. Fun Facts from chapter 16

1. 1/3 of the people are women.
  - a. **Phoebe** - the deliverer and reader of the letter, is esteemed by Paul calling her sister, servant, saint, and benefactor/patron.

- b. **Priscilla** - she is mentioned with her husband Aquila, but her name is first. There are a few reasons this is - maybe she converted first, maybe she was more active in the faith, possibly outstanding in the community, or the more dominant personality.
- c. **Junia** - Junia is the only female apostle mentioned in the NT.
- d. Four women are singled out as “hard-working” - this term is not used on anyone else besides these four ladies. **Mary, Tryphaena, Tryphosa, and Persis**

- 2. **Ampliatius, Urbanus, Hermes, Philologus, and Julia** were common slave names indicating there social standing.
- 3. **Rufus** - is linked to Simeon of Cyrene, as Mark 15:21 tells us the man who carried Jesus’ cross has a son named Rufus.
- 4. Two people are likely not Christians but their households are- **Aristobus** and **Narcissus**. Both famous names that Paul made sure to mention for their families’ sake. Aristobus is likely the grandson of Herod the Great. And Narcissus was a close friend of Emperor Claudius. Notice how it says not to greet the person but their household.

B. Could you do this? Who would be on a list like this for you? Who are you grateful for??

- 1. Who is a servant in the church? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Who is someone that works in ministry with you? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Who are people that meet and minister in your home? Or you in theirs? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Who is someone you watched convert to Christianity? \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Who is someone who has worked hard for you in the faith? \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Who is a dear friend in the Lord to you? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Who is a whole household you are thankful for? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Someone who works hard in the Lord and you reap the benefits? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Name a mother and/or father in the faith to you. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Name a sister and/or brother in the faith to you. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Name another church family you are grateful for. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. Someone you consider noteworthy in light of the gospel. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Who is someone who has suffered/carried your burdens? \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Greet

1. To greet is a hospitable term, its showing courtesy, regard, and the openness to receive gladly a person's presence. It to acknowledge with spoken words.
2. If we do not "greet" a person, what is it we do? We ignore, shun, or snub them.
3. The standard of greeting - we acknowledge each other with kind words and an intimate gesture. It shows love and unity, care and delight.

### **VII. Romans 16:17-20**

***Now I urge you to, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who create divisions and obstacles contrary to the teaching that you learned. Avoid them, because such people to do not serve our Lord Christ but their own appetites. They deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting with smooth talk and flattering words.***

***The report of your obedience has reached everyone therefore I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise about what is good, and yet innocent about what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.***

- A. The greatest hope for God's people to combat those who create divisions as false teachers is a unified body who knows and obeys God's Word. The closer we are as a family we will be able to see who is not "for" the family - greeting is our first line of defense.
- B. Warning of Division: the opposite of greeting them. These are the people you ignore and shun.
- C. "The hearts of the unsuspecting" - what would make a person unsuspecting? Ignorance.
- D. False teachers are good at deceiving people who do not know the Bible or how to handle it.
- E. "Be wise about what is good, and yet innocent about what is evil"
  1. Live in a way that the world is not worthy - the more you devote your time to what is good, lovely, admirable, wise, true the natural result will be becoming innocent to what is wicked, evil, and ungodly. But when the counterfeit comes across you, you will now

**VIII. Romans 16:21-23, 25-27**

***Timothy, my coworker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow countrymen, greet you. I, Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord. Gaius, who is host to me and to the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, and our brother Quartus greet you.***

***Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation about Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept silent for long ages but now revealed and made known through the prophetic Scriptures, according to the command of the eternal God to advance the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles – to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ – to Him be the glory forever! Amen.***

A. The last run-on

B. “Now to Him \_\_\_\_\_.”

**For them then, us always, and me now - *Now to Him...***