

Rom 15:14-21

14 I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that you are full of goodness. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them. 15 Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder. For by God's grace, 16 I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit. 17 So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God. 18 Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. 19 They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum.

20 My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. 21 I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says,

"Those who have never been told about him will see,  
and those who have never heard of him will understand."

**We don't know much about Paul's life prior to his conversion.**

- We do know that he was known as Saul,
- he was from a city called Tarsus
- which today is located in south central Turkey.

We do know he was a **well educated individual**, a **Roman citizen**.

In Philippians 3:5-6 he says that he was circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

**Paul most likely considered himself a good man.**

- He was doing things right **according to the law**.

**His mission**

- was to destroy the church.

Then one day he was radically changed and at that very moment he asked two questions.

- Who are you Lord and
- what do you want me to do?

Many of us have asked that very question,

After Paul's conversion the Lord spoke to Ananias in a vision and told him to

- go to the street called Straight and
- ask for the man called Saul of Tarsus.

We know that Ananias was afraid because he'd heard of Saul and what he's been doing to Christians.

Paul is finished with the letter to the Romans

- in terms of exposition,
- as far as key doctrine is concerned.

The 4 major sections of Romans have come to a close.

There are 3 major division in the NT.

The letter to the Romans is the third of 3 major divisions in the N.T.

The first division is the 4 gospels,

- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The second division which we finished studying a little while back, the book of Acts.

Now we're in the third major division in the N.T., and that is the

- letter to the Romans.

And in this division of Romans we can say that we have 4 sections:

- Wrath of God - 1:18 - 3:20
- Grace of God - 3:21
- Plan of God - 9 - 11
- Will of God - 12 - 16 - about practical behavior, **how to live out your life.**

If you're going to talk to someone about something that is difficult:

- it's always good to start with something positive.

That's how Paul opened the letter to the Romans. After his salutation in chapter 1 he goes on to encourage his readers.

Rom 1:8-9

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. 9 For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers,

**Now as he's coming to a close in the letter to the Romans**

- he begins once again to encourage the believers.

**That's what the Lord does with us,**

- He takes the ugliness in us and
- He makes us appealing to the Father

It's always a good thing to end a conversation on a positive note.

14 Now I (emphatic in Greek) myself am confident concerning you my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

**Paul is convinced of 3 things. But before he address those 3 things he first calls these Gentiles brethren or brothers.**

**The first thing Paul is convinced of is that they are filled with:**  
goodness: He's speaking of their **moral character**.

filled (perfect tense, meaning they're completely full)

with all knowledge, **(this is the second thing Paul is convinced of, their knowledge)**

**Paul is saying,** you know the scriptures, do **what good you ought to do**.

**The third thing Paul is convinced of is that they are able to admonish each other.**

**Some translations use the word "teach".**

**Paul is saying,** you guys have the ability to instruct one another.

**This is more than teaching,**

- this is admonishing which is
- to exhort or to counsel.

What are some signs of a healthy church???

**Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the walls of Jerusalem and burned down the city gates, the Israelites no longer had any protection around them.**

**Nehemiah** and others built the walls again!

That's how the church body operates. When there is a need the body responds.

**D.L. Moody said it best**, he said that he'd rather put a thousand men to do the work of one than for him to do the work of a thousand men.

15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God,

**Talking about his apostleship. In other words,**

- God put me in a place of apostleship,
- he's in a position of authority.

**Paul is doing the same thing Peter did in 2 Peter 1:12-15. Peter says, I'm gonna keep reminding you of your responsibilities as a believer.**

**Paul is doing the same,**

- he wants them to **endure sound doctrine.**

**He's simply reinforcing what they know.**

**We know that Paul didn't take the gospel to Rome,**

- but he still reminds them that he's an apostle and is in a position of authority.

**Now in verses 16 & 17 he reminds them of his priestly ministry.**

16 that I might be a minister (leitourgós) of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Usually **when we hear the word minister we think of the word "servant"** which is the word diakonos, to serve or wait upon. But not here.

**Here the word used is leitourgós used only of that of a priest.**

**This word first was used of a Priest in the temple offering sacrifices to God.**

**This is significant because**

- Gentiles were not allowed into the temple.
- They had their own court known as the outer court.

So Paul was **essentially saying that the Gentiles were now a holy offering to God.**

He went on in Ephesians 2:14 to say that Christ Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,

This means there are no longer any barriers between any individual that surrenders to Christ and Christ Himself.

**When you share the gospel you become a**

- priestly minister to the Gentiles.

Peter wrote in 1 Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**This simply means that there is no longer a special priesthood in the NT.**

**Jesus commanded in Matt 28 for us to share the gospel.**

17 Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God.

**If you're going to glory in anything, let it be in Christ.**

**Have you ever considered witnessing as a form of worship?**

**Paul says**, that's exactly what I'm doing, sharing the word and that's as worship to the Lord.

18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me in word and deed to make the Gentiles obedient

**Paul said in 2 Cor 3:5** Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as *being* from ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* from God,)

You know, **when Paul boasted, he boasted in Christ.**

Rom 15:18

18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient –

19 in mighty signs (What more do people want, the bible says that the heavens declare the glory of God, Ps 19:1) and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, (Paul was filled with the Spirit, he was moved by the Spirit.)

Do what the Lord has called you to in ministry and do it well.

So many of us are losing out on His blessings by not being active for Him.

In fact, Paul said in 1 Cor 9:16, Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. So whether we help within the body of Christ or not, we are called to share God's word with others.

20 And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation,

21 but as it is written:

"To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand." He's quoting Isaiah 52:15.