For The Gospel Part 1
Proclaim The Gospel
Romans 15:14-21
Memory Verses: Romans 15:20

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

What's this thing in my hand here? It's a crowbar. And there's a reason I've been carrying this with me on the stage here for almost an entire year. A crowbar is for one real purpose... leverage! Left to my own devices I can't pull a nail out of a piece of wood. But with this bad boy I can't pull out as many nails as I want to with no problem. It enables me to move things that I otherwise couldn't move. For example, as I've already demonstrated, this communion table is massive and not easy to move. But with the crowbar... look how easy it is to pick up. Leverage! Here's the point... **the crowbar didn't make me stronger... it made my strength go further!**

Leveraging your life for the Gospel doesn't mean you have to strive to be stronger... it means taking the strength you already have and making it go further! What God wants to do in your life is something you could never accomplish alone! But in his hands... you can do more than you ever thought! What if the money you make, the relationships you build, the abilities you possess, and the opportunities you have in front of you aren't just for you? What if they are for you to leverage for something bigger than yourself?

That's what this series is for. This entire year we've been talking about what it truly means to live lives sold out for Christ. What does it mean to do more with our resources for the kingdom of God? What does it truly mean to leverage our lives for the Gospel? And the answer is clear. We have been **given** the Gospel to **advance** the Gospel! God hasn't saved us to simply live better lives. He saved us to better the lives of others. To leverage our lives for our neighbors, our co workers, our city, our country, and the nations! Over the month of November we will be exploring what it means to truly devote our lives to the advancement of the Gospel!

You say, well advancing the Gospel, isn't that the job of the Pastor or the Elders? Isn't that what missionaries and evangelists are for? I'm not one of those. I come to church to learn... but I don't feel a need to share. Let me just tell you... This is sin. This is straight from the pits of hell. Look at James 4:17. If you know what you should do... and you refuse to do it... its sin! The good news of the Gospel is the cure for humanity. It's the only way to eternal salvation. Its the remedy for meaninglessnes. Those who sit it out... are complacent apathetic Christians living out a rebellious existence. If this is you, and I'm not saying it is... please, please, please... resist the exist! Don't determine this isn't for you! This is exactly what you were made to do! Repent of your disobedience and get in the game!

Now, look back at Romans 1:14-16. Paul points out three things. First, he is under obligation to advance the Gospel. He has to do it... it's his duty. Second, he is eager to advance the Gospel. He wants to do it... it's his passion. And third, he is not ashamed to advance the Gospel. He will overcome his fear and boldly advance the Gospel. Now in Romans 15:14-21 we see just how Paul has devoted himself to proclaiming that message! Paul was a man who leveraged his life to take the Gospel to others. The question this morning is whether your life is pointed in the same direction. The main point this morning is simple... **God has given you a life to live and a Gospel to proclaim.** Today we will see three things God wants us to understand about proclaiming the Gospel.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

First... **You Have A Calling To Embrace**. Look at Romans 15:14-15. Paul has spent 15 chapters explaining the Gospel to the church at Rome. He is about to tie the whole thing up. But the last thing he has to leave with his people is this... You have a job to do!

He starts in verse 14 with a word of encouragment – God has already been working in you! You've been growing, learning, and teaching! You are doing it! This sounds like a layperson. These are regular people doing the work of ministry! The point is simple: you don't have to be a professional minister to participate in the ministry! You don't need a pulpit, or a degree, or a place on a church staff... You don't need to know all there is to know or have the right labels... you just need to get involved. You don't have to know **everything** to help someone know Jesus.

But then Paul moves from encouragment to exhortation. In verse 15 he reminds them that as their spiritual leader he has some authority to speak to them boldly. Of course I am no Paul. David and Don are not either. We are far from it. It is only by the grace of God that we can be called your Elders and are allowed to spiritually shepherd you. But because we are your Elders, ordained by the church for the work of overseeing the spiritual affairs of this body... we are called to equip the saints for the work of ministry! That means at times we may call upon you to share the Gospel with the people in your life. That means we may call upon you to invite your lost co workers and neighbors. That means we will consistently press upon you the importance of sharing the Gospel

And this isn't a calling we can give you on our own. This is ultimately a calling from the Lord. It's not from us... it is from God... so be assured you have a calling and be aware of our responsibility to remind you of it! Matthew 28:18-20 is your calling! 1 Peter 2:9 says you are a royal

priesthood and chosen by God to declare the goodness of God to the world. In 2 Corinthians 5:20 we called ambassadors for Christ so that God can make his appeal to the world through us. God stands before us like Isaiah in Isaiah 6:8 saying, who will go for me. It is our responsibility to say... here am I, I will go! Therefore you cannot pretend you aren't called to share the Gospel. You are most definitely called. And here I am as your pastor gently reminding you of this fact! You are called! Embrace it! **God has given you a life to live and a Gospel to proclaim**.

Second... **You Have A Power To Depend On**. Look at Romans 15:16-19. Paul now shares about his calling. He is a minister to the gentiles. He is to go beyond the Jews, who in Romans 1:16 he clarifies. that the message was first for. Jesus preached to the Jews, Peter, James and the other disciples focused on the Jews... but Paul is to go to the pagan foreigners.

And he is not just to evangelize them but he is to disciple them. Paul isn't satisfied with people claiming to be Christians. He wants real, sold out, bible reading, always praying, never quitting, soul winning Christians. In fact, Paul says, in vs17, I can only be proud of what I've done, if I produce real committed sanctified believers! Christians who are set apart! Again, set apart is another term for being called! You have a job to do that is not like the rest! You are set apart for a purpose!

But notice what he says next in vs18. He says he won't speak about anything except what Christ has done. The confidence of **ministry** is a confidence in **Christ's** power. Even though Paul could find some pride in his ministry and calling... in the end its all because of the Power of Christ working through him. This power of the Holy Spirit is seen in vs19 as signs and wonders. Paul was so filled with the Spirit and so dependent on the power of God that it was manifest in his ministry by signs and wonders.

So get this... we don't have the power to save people? We don't even really have the power to share the Gospel in our own strength. But Christ does... his Holy Spirit does. And when we allow Christ to use us, when we say “here I am, send me.” When we step out of our comfort zone and stand in faith and allow God to use us to share the Gospel the Holy Spirit will empower us. And we will see miracles!

I remember I was probably 10 years old on my way to school and I was sitting next to one of the kids that lived in my neighborhood. And I remembered what the pastor had just preached in church about sharing the Good news of Jesus. And I remember being scared to death. My hands were shaking. I told God I can't do this. And he said... pray! And so I prayed that God would help me to witness to the boy. When I opened my eyes I felt a power that couldnt be explained and I freely shared with the boy. And he prayed to receive Christ! The point is God doesn't need your power... he needs a willing participant! He'll provide the power. Trust God's **power** to work through your **faithfulness**! **God has given you a life to live and a Gospel to proclaim**.

Third... **You Have A Mission To Pursue**. Look at Romans 15:20-21. Simply put Paul had a specific mission. To take the Gospel into new territory! The church exists for those who haven't yet accepted Christ. Our mission is to reach every people group, tongue and tribe! The overall **mission** isn't finished while people still need to hear the **message**.

But again that was Paul's specific mission and mission field. What's your specific mission and mission field? To share the Gospel with the lost where God has established you! You have a job given to you by God to share the Gospel with your co-workers. You have a house given to you by God in a neighborhood to share the Gospel with your neighbors. You have a school given to you by God to share the Gospel with your schoomates. You have a team given to you by God to share the Gospel with your teammates. Where you live isn not an **accident**... it's you **mission field**! God has given you a life to live and a Gospel to proclaim.

Application

Proclaiming the Gospel is not the calling or mission of a few elite Christians. It is the calling and mission of every single believer. And you've all been empowerd by the Holy Spirit to share the Gospel and because of this we will see signs and wonders in the lives of those we encounter. So why aren't you?

Conclusion

Again, the easiest most simple way to do this is to find just one person. This person is your one! Each one reach one! Pray for them and opportunities for relationship.Care for them and build the relationship. Earn the right to share the Gospel.

George Liele was born enslaved around 1750, but after coming to faith in Jesus Christ, he began preaching the Gospel to other enslaved people in Georgia. In 1783, after gaining his freedom, he moved with his family to Jamaica. He could have focused on rebuilding his own life, but he continued proclaiming the Gospel, preaching to enslaved people and helping establish Baptist congregations. George didn’t have wealth, fame, or extraordinary resources, but he had a message worth sharing. He took the life he had been given and leveraged it to take the Gospel to people who needed to hear it.

We are regular people of all different backgrounds. If George can devote his life to proclaiming the Gospel... so can we! **God has given you a life to live and a Gospel to proclaim**.