

## 1. Intro:

- Paul begins the conclusion of his letter to the church in Rome.
- Paul starts his conclusion by:
  - Mentioning one of a few reasons he wrote the letter to them.
  - He then boasts about Christ and the life-transforming power of the Gospel and the Holy Spirit.
  - And then he shares his ambition in life which is why his visit to them has been delayed.

## 2. Text: Romans 15:14-22

### Romans 15:14-15a

- We all need **reminders** of the truths in God's Word.
  - Some reminders Paul gave in Romans:
    - Not ashamed of the Gospel (Rom 1)
    - In His grace, God made us right with Him by presenting Jesus as the sacrifice for our sin. We're made right with Him when we believe that! (Rom 3-4)
    - We as believers are dead to the power of sin. (Rom 6)
    - We will receive a new sin-and-sickness-free body and live on a new curse-free earth one day! (Rom 8)
    - NOTHING will ever separate you from the love of God. (Rom 8)
    - You have been given a Spirit-given gift to do certain things well. (Rom 12)
    - Love - agape love - others! (Rom 12-15)
    - We are to aim for harmony in the church rather than let preference issues divide us. (Rom 14-15)
  - **John 8:31-32** - "Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you **remain faithful to my teachings**. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
  - **Romans 12:1-2** - "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. **2** Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think**. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

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

- Transformed lives are the result of the **Gospel** message and the **Holy Spirit** - not the messenger. The messenger's role is to be faithful and available to God.
  - The power for transforming lives comes from the Gospel message and the Holy Spirit, not the messenger.
    - **Romans 1:16**
    - **2 Corinthians 4:3-7**
      - We are fragile clay jars... the power is from Him.
      - We are merely the **thingamabobs** that he does his work through!

### **Romans 15:20-22**

- Paul's incredible ambition: **Preach** the Good News where the name of Christ has never been **heard**.
  - This is the ambition that Paul said delayed his visit to them... he's been busy preaching in places where people have never heard of Jesus Christ.

### **3. Application**

- Do your current ambitions have eternal value or merely temporal value? Do you need to reevaluate your ambitions in life?
- Ask God to help you become a faithful and available messenger that He works through to transform lives.