

“I Have Made It My Aim to Preach the Gospel”

Romans 15:14-21

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Teaching Aim: To understand Every Christian should be familiar with the basic truths of the Christian faith. To go wherever God has called us to minister and to give Him all the glory for what He does. To recognize the need that people have for Jesus and the call that God has given us to evangelize. To share the Gospel of Christ with those who need to hear about Jesus.

DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)

Part I: Paul’s special calling to minister to the Gentiles (Rom. 15:14-16)

1. According to **verse 14**, what news had Paul received about the Roman Christians? What significance, if any, is there in Paul’s use of the word “*brethren*” in addressing the Roman Christians? Who do you consider to be your brothers and sisters in Christ today? Why do you think there is so much division and disunity within the body of Christ today? How does this affect the testimony of the Christian church to both believers and unbelievers?
2. Is having a good understanding of Scripture all that is needed to make you a good Christian, or is there more to our Christian faith than that? (See **Rom. 2:13; Jam. 1:22-25; 2:17**) What is required? (See **John 3:3,5**) What did Paul mean when he told the Roman church to “*admonish*” one another? (See Dictionary) What are some ways that Christians should admonish one another in the church setting today?
3. In **verse 15**, Paul informed the Roman church that he had written them more “*boldly*” on some points. What were those points? (See **Rom. 3:10-26; 5:8-9; 9:10-13; 10:9-11; 12:1-2**) It is important to realize Paul wrote during an era in which the Roman Empire ruled the known world. Why was it so important for the church at Rome to have the right gospel? What effect would their church have on the rest of the world? Do you think it is important for the church in the United States to have the right gospel today? If so, why? What effect will the church in America have on the rest of the world? Why?

4. How would you define the word “*grace*” (**vs. 15**). (See Dictionary) Paul considered himself to be the chief of all sinners, as a result he was very sensitive and grateful for the grace that God had given him in his life. (See **1 Tim. 1:15-16**) Why do you think Paul was especially grateful for this grace? (See **Acts 7:57-8:3; 9:13-14; 22:3-5**) NOTE: Paul was called “*Saul*” in the early chapters of the Book of Acts; his name was later changed to Paul in **Acts 13:9**. The name “*Paul*” means “*small*,” or “*little*.” What can we learn about Paul from this name change? Do you feel like you deserve God’s grace? Why or why not? What makes God’s grace so important? (See **Eph. 2:8-10; Tit. 3:4-8**) According to these passages, are we saved by our good works or unto good works?

5. According to **verse 16**, what unique ministry had Paul been called to? Why would Jewish believers likely take offense to this? (See **Matt. 10:5-10; 15:24**) In **verse 16**, “*ministering*” means to render priestly duties; Paul was called to be a minister (or priest) of the gospel of Christ sharing the good news of Jesus with others. In the Old Testament, the Levitical priesthood offered various sacrifices (sin offerings; burnt offerings; grain offerings, etc.). What kind of offerings do we find New Testament priests making according to **verse 16b**? (Also see **Rom. 12:1; Phil. 4:18-20; Heb. 13:15-16**)

Part II: Paul’s desire was to boast about Jesus Christ, not himself (Rom. 15:17-20)

1. In light of **verse 16**, what could Paul glory about in **verse 17**? How would you define the word “*glory*?” (See Dictionary) Who was Paul “*boasting*” about according in **verse 17**? Who do you find yourself boasting about today when it comes to ministry, yourself or the Lord? Have you ever found yourself taking the credit in ministry for what God did? What are some ways that we can glorify God when He does something special in ministry?

2. What did Paul refuse to boast about (**Vs. 18**)? In what two areas was Christ at work in Paul’s life according to **verse 18**? When Paul spoke of making the Gentiles “*obedient*” in **verse 18**, he was referring to their coming to faith in Jesus Christ. Does God invite people to come to faith in Christ or does He command them to? (See **John 3:16; Rev. 22:17; Acts 17:30-31**) Why is it so important for people to come to faith in Christ? Through what amazing act did God put His stamp of approval upon the redemptive work of Christ? Is there any other way for a person to be saved than by grace through faith in Jesus Christ? (See **John 14:6; Eph. 2:8-10**) Have you received Jesus Christ as your Savior? If not, what is stopping you?

3. According to **verse 19**, how did God verify Paul's ministry among the Gentiles? Was this also true when it came to the ministry of Jesus? (See **Acts 2:22**) Did the apostles also perform signs and wonders? (See **Acts 5:12**) According to **verse 19**, where did the power come from to do these miracles? How far had Paul's ministry reached by the time he wrote the Book of Romans according to **verse 19**? (See Commentaries)

4. When Paul said that he had "*fully preached the gospel of Christ*" from "*Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum*" in **verse 19**, did he mean that he had preached to every city, town, and person? What did Paul mean? What methods of evangelism do you think were used by Paul? Do you think Paul held back from preaching the fullness of the gospel, or did he lay it all out for the people listening to him? Why do you think so many churches today are moving away from preaching the hard truths of Scripture? Is the church becoming weaker or stronger because of this lack of teaching?

Part III: Paul's desire to preach the gospel where it had never been preached before (Rom. 15:20-21)

1. According to **verse 20**, what was Paul's aim in ministry? What did Paul not want to do according to **verse 20**? Why? (See **1 Cor. 3:5-9**) What spiritual gift did Paul's special calling require? (See **Eph. 4:11-13**) Is everyone called to be an Apostle Paul or a Billy Graham? Is everyone called to evangelize? What are some ways that you are sharing the gospel with other people today?

2. What passage from the Old Testament was used by Paul to make his point in **verse 21**? (See Commentaries) How does this passage relate to **Isaiah 53** (the great "*Suffering Servant*" chapter of the Bible)? Who is this chapter written about?

3. Discuss how each point below can be used in evangelism to better reach the lost for Christ:

1. Prayer.
2. Friendship evangelism.
3. Seasoning our speech with salt.
4. Inviting people to Church, to Bible study, or even into your home.
5. Playing Christian music in the background.
6. Knowing and ultimately sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ verbally with others.
7. Handing out Bible tracts that share the Gospel message.

4. Do you consider your lifestyle as a lifestyle of evangelizing others? Why, or why not? Will you commit to trusting God when it comes to sharing Jesus with others? Note: There is nothing more important in life or death than where people stand with Jesus when they die.

MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!*

- Every Christian should be familiar with the basic truths of the Christian faith.
- Paul saw himself as a priest offering the people he led to Christ as a sacred offering to God.
- Paul was determined to give all glory to Christ and not to take any for himself.
- Paul's ministry was affirmed by mighty signs and wonders through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Paul's aim was to preach the gospel where it had never been preached before.
- Every Christian should minister to the glory of God in the power of the Holy Spirit.
- The most important thing in life or death is where you stand with Jesus.