

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE
A Study in the Book of Romans

Paul's Mission and Plan

Romans 15:14–33

"Therefore, I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God." Romans 15:17

Read Romans 15:14–16.

1. Paul's description of the Roman believers in verse 14 sounds too good to be true. What phrases does he use to describe them? In what way is this description true of all believers, even you? (v. 14; 2 Cor. 3:5, 18)

2. Scan back over the section headings in the book of Romans, reviewing the many issues Paul has written about "quite boldly" (v. 15) indeed. Why was he able to write so boldly to people he had never met? (vv. 15–16)

3. The language Paul uses in verse 16 to describe his "priestly duty" is that of the Old Testament sacrificial system.
 - a. What is the "offering" Paul writes of here?

 - b. How is this offering a surprising new covenant twist on the old system? (Acts 21:27–30)

 - c. How did the unclean Gentiles become "acceptable to God" (v. 16b)? (v. 16)

Read Romans 15:17–22.

4. What is Paul's attitude toward the many things accomplished in his widespread ministry?

Who gets the credit?


5. Think about an accomplishment that you are proud of. Who gets the credit? Why?

6. Paul writes that through him, Christ has been "leading the Gentiles to obey God" (v. 18). We might have expected him to write that Gentiles were "believing in" God. Why do you think he chooses the wording he does? (compare Rom. 1:5; James 2:14–17)

Read Romans 15:22–27.

7. What reason does Paul give for why the Gentiles owed the Jewish Christians a portion of their material blessings? (v. 27; Rom. 11:17–18)
8. Paul asks his Roman readers to pray that the Jewish believers in Jerusalem would accept the gift from the Gentile church. Why would this even be a concern? (Acts 10:27–28; 11:2–3)
9. Why do *you* think Paul so clearly wants the Roman church to know about this gift and be praying about it?

Read Romans 15:28–32.

10. In verses 28–29, Paul states confidently his plans to go to Rome and Spain. Into whose hands does Paul entrust his future? (vv. 31–32)
11. Under what circumstances does Paul in fact get to Rome? (Acts 25:10–12) ( Acts 27:1; 28:16–19)
12. Look at James 4:13–16. How do you view your future?

Is there any room for boasting? Is there any need for fear?

Read Romans 15:30–33.

13. How does Paul ask the Romans to join in his “struggle” (v. 30)?
14. What phrases does Paul use to give his request for prayer more weight? (v. 30)
15. How do you view praying for missionaries?

How urgent to you is their need for prayer?