

**Slide Romans 15:14-22****The Importance of the Gospel**

Intro We are now in the closing section of Romans. Romans 15:14-33, Paul is talking about his ministry in the past (15:14-21), his ministry in the present (15:22-29) and his ministry in the future (15:30-33).

V14-16 Paul has heard about the faith of the Roman church even though he has not visited them. He knows that they are: full of goodness which comes from the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22), complete in the knowledge of God through the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and competent to instruct one another. Paul knows that they are mature believers in the faith.

**Slide** "Morally, they were 'full of goodness,' intellectually they were 'complete in knowledge,' and functionally they were 'competent to instruct one another.'" Mounce, *Romans*

He has been 'bold' in his writing to the Roman church because he knows that they will be able to handle the truths that he is telling them and he has the authority of an apostle. He is able to boldly instruct them as believers through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. The Roman believers clearly know and love God.

V16-17 It is by God's grace given to Paul (15) that he is able to instruct the Roman church as an apostle.

**Slide** "Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God." Romans 1:1

After Paul was converted by the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9), the Lord gave him a particular calling. He reveals this calling to Ananias,

**Slide** "But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man (Paul) is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel." Acts 9:15

Paul is reminding the Romans of this calling in that he is to be a 'minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God'.

**Slide** "Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. <sup>6</sup> And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ." Romans 1:5-6 (v18)

Paul is fulfilling the calling which the Lord Jesus Christ placed upon himself. It is Paul's divine responsibility to proclaim the gospel to the Gentiles. He views this as a high calling and calls this a 'priestly duty that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.'

For Paul, bringing the Gentiles to faith is a form of worship to God. This is not a prideful declaration, rather it is from one who recognizes that he is working for the Lord and fulfilling the calling God has given him. A priest serves God and that is how Paul sees this vital ministry that Jesus has called him to. Paul serves God by proclaiming the gospel to the Gentiles.

**Slide** “Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.” Romans 15:17

**Slide** “Though he is involved in the dusty, mundane business of traveling the ancient world on foot, suffering from exposure, threats, beatings, and rejection, in his heart of hearts he sees himself in priestly garb in the temple, lifting up the souls of men which then ascend as a sweet smelling fragrance to Christ.” R Kent Hughes, *Romans*

For Paul, this means that proclaiming the gospel to the Gentiles is his purpose in life; it is his motivation. Paul then, is called by Jesus Christ himself, set apart for the gospel and appointed as the apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 1:5). Paul has already told this to the believers in Rome.

**Slide** Paul has preached the gospel from Jerusalem all the way round to Illyricum.

The preaching of the gospel included signs and miracles that came through the anointing power of the Holy Spirit. Through these signs and miracles the Gentiles believed in the resurrected Savior Jesus Christ (v19). Paul has always been a missionary taking the gospel to different areas. For Paul it was his, ‘ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known’. He is a pioneer missionary preaching the gospel message to those who have never heard it. Today we would call this unreached people groups.

It is on account of his priority to preach the gospel in new territories which has kept him from visiting the Roman church.

**Slide** “I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.” Romans 1:13

**Slide** “This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.” Romans 15:22

In other words, Paul has been so busy fulfilling his calling and preaching the gospel in new areas that he literally has not had time to visit Rome! Paul lives his life in urgency to preach the gospel. It is in his very being and nature.

**Slide** “For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!” 1 Corinthians 9:16

**Slide** “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.” Romans 1:16

Declaring the gospel to the Gentiles is of first importance to Paul. As a reminder, the gospel then, is the good news that God sent his Son Jesus Christ to die for the sins of mankind; both Jew and Gentile. Jesus died, was buried and God raised him to life. This is God's power of salvation.

**Slide** "Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. **2** By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. **3** For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, **4** that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures," 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

### **That Christ Died for our sins and was buried in the tomb.**

As humans we all have a sinful nature.

**Slide** "There is no one righteous, not even one; <sup>11</sup> there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. <sup>12</sup> All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." Romans 3:10-11

**Slide** "This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Romans 3:22-24

**Slide** "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us." 1 John 1:8

In the bible God's punishment for sin is death.

**Slide** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

**Slide** Separated from God by sin.

This was why Jesus came to earth.

**Slide** "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus, was born of a virgin and conceived by the Holy Spirit and therefore he was sinless. He was the only human being not to have sinned

**Slide** "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him

the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet:<sup>23</sup> “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). Matthew 1:20-23

The sin penalty had to be paid which was death. It was God’s plan all along to reconcile mankind back to himself. The only way that this was possible was for God to sacrifice his own son Jesus whom he loved.

**Slide** “You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.<sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.<sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:6-8

**Slide** Jesus on the cross

God loves you so much that he sent Jesus to this world to die for your sins and mine. Jesus has paid the death penalty for sin. You will notice that the cross is red which represents his blood shed for the sins of mankind. Jesus was innocent and sinless and therefore did not deserve God’s death penalty for sin. After Jesus died on the cross at calvary he was laid in the tomb.

However, death had no power to hold Jesus because he was sinless and did not deserve to die. Therefore God raised Jesus back to life, he is the risen resurrected Savior of the world.

**Slide** “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.<sup>18</sup> I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” Revelation 1:17-18

Jesus has defeated sin because he paid the price for it. Jesus has defeated death because he did not deserve to die, and Jesus has defeated hell. He is the victorious, risen, resurrected Savior. Jesus is the only solution for the forgiveness of sin.

**Slide** “Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

Repent means to turn from your sin and confess it. Accept that Jesus died for your sin and paid the price with his blood. Put your faith in him and trust him as your Savior.

**Slide** “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

**Slide** “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” John 14:6

There is no other way to receive forgiveness of sin. When you put your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior you are accepting that he died for your sins. On account of that, God forgives you, and you no longer have to pay the death penalty for your sin. You are reconciled to God.

#### **Slide** reconciled to God

When you are reconciled to God you are ransomed, that is the price of sin has been paid by Jesus God's Son. God gives you the gift of eternal life with him and you are no longer separated from him. You will spend eternal life with him spiritually in heaven.

**Slide** "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:16,17

However, when you reject Jesus Christ and his offer of salvation you reject God's provision for sin. You remain spiritually separated from God and under the death penalty for your sin for which you are guilty. You will spend eternal life spiritually separated from God and his love in a place called hell.

**Slide** "Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." John 3:18

**Slide** "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them." John 3:36

#### **Prayer**

Dear Lord Jesus, I acknowledge that my sins have separated me from you. Please forgive me for my sins. I repent from them and turn towards you. Father, thanking you for sacrificing your son Jesus Christ who died for my sins on the cross at Calvary. Thank you for loving me and wanting to reconcile me back to you. I declare the Jesus rose from the grave, has defeated sin, death, and hell. I now turn to Christ to rescue me from my sin by placing my faith in him alone for forgiveness and eternal life. Amen

