

**Prayer:**

**Slide # 1**  
**Romans**

**Theme:** The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

**Outline:**

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39  
God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20  
Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21  
Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39
- **Dispensational:** 9:1-11:36 (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical: 12:1-15:33** (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

We now come to Paul’s closing of the letter of Romans. It is the longest closing in any of his letters that we have. This is perhaps because Paul had never visited Rome and therefore felt the need to explain his ministry in some detail and also served to lay the groundwork for a potential future visit.

**Slide # 2**

- Rom. 15:14-21 – Describes Past Ministry
- Rom. 15:22-33 – Shares Future Plans
- Rom. 16:1-16 – Extended Greetings
- Rom. 16:17-20 – Final Exhortation and Encouragement
- Rom. 16:21-24 – Greetings From Those with Him
- Rom. 16:25-27 – Final Benediction

In the section we are studying today (Rom. 15:14-21), there are two parts.

**Slide # 3**

- Rom. 15:14 – Paul affirms the ministry of the Roman Believers
- Rom. 15:15-21 – Paul explains WHY he has written so boldly

**Romans 15:14–21 (NKJV)**

**14 Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.**

Paul for the last chapter and a half in Romans 14 and 15 has just strongly exhorted the strong and weak brethren who may disagree on secondary issues to get along. But he doesn't want to come off as insensitive or for them to think he is questioning their spirituality.

And so, he affirms them telling them that he is confident that they are full of goodness and knowledge. He at this point is speaking to them collectively as a group. Obviously, there was room for them to grow, but he is speaking generally.

He believes that they are “**full of goodness**” which is to say full of moral excellence. They are full of good character. Goodness is shown to be part of the fruit of the Spirit in Gal. 5:22.

Furthermore, he is confident that they are **filled with all knowledge**, meaning they KNOW what they need to know to properly live out the will of God.

**Goodness** (character) and **knowledge** are both very important in proper balance. Goodness without knowledge leads to error. Knowledge without goodness is harsh and counterproductive. We need both in proper balance.

And Paul was confident that this balance was represented among these Roman Christians. And this balance of goodness and knowledge is essential in properly admonishing one another – which he is confident that they are able to do.

The main thrust of what he has just emphasized in chapters 14 and 15 is that they as fellow believers should receive one another. But here in verse 14 Paul brings in the balance of what he has been saying. Just because we receive one another doesn't mean we never correct one another! It doesn't mean we just always skate along with everything. No, sometimes correction is needed.

Now, of course, it must be done in the right way, as Paul has hammered in the previous chapter and a half.

But the word “**admonish**” means “to warn”, “to instruct”, “to correct”. It is often used in the NT in the sense of warning against wrong conduct (cf. Acts 20:31; 1 Cor. 4:14; Col. 1:28; 1 Thess. 5:12, 14; 2 Thess. 3:15). The word translated here as admonish is used 8 times in the NT and consistently has a WARNING emphasis or to strongly URGE people in the right way to go.

#### **Slide # 4**

##### **Acts 20:31 (NKJV)**

**31** Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

##### **1 Corinthians 4:14 (NKJV)**

**14** I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you.

#### **Slide # 5**

##### **Colossians 1:28 (NKJV)**

**28** Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

##### **Colossians 3:16 (NKJV)**

**16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

This is a ministry of warning or strongly encouraging one another in what is right.

So yes, we are to accept one another, but there is also a place to admonish one another in keeping with goodness and knowledge. There is a place for warning and correction.

Note Paul was convinced that the Roman believers generally were able to do this – not just the elders or the pastor. Paul is addressing the brethren generally. In view is BODY life ministry!

[This is] something that all healthy believers ought to be doing. The Roman believers had no apostle personally ministering among them at this time, and yet they were able to admonish one another.

– **George Zellar**

Note the word admonish here in Romans 15:14...

**Slide # 6**

**ADMONISH**

Gk: noutheteo

Eng: nouthetic

Years ago it was from this word that **Jay Adams** developed what he called, "nouthetic confrontation" which developed into what is called, "nouthetic counseling". Based on this approach Jay Adams wrote a book titled, "**Competent To Counsel**". He properly put the emphasis on the fact that ALL Christians are to engage in this ministry, not just the clergy or a professional class of people.

In terms of what Paul is emphasizing, proper nouthetic instruction is not a professional model but rather a body life model. In fact, the word "noutheteo" in almost no translation is translated as counseling. That is really not the nuance as we commonly think of "counseling". Rather it is consistently translated as **admonish, warn, or instruct**.

Martin and Deidre Bobgan wrote many books emphasizing this is to be part of body life ministry, including books such as "**Person to Person Ministry**" with the subtitle, "**Soul Care in the Body of Christ**" or "**Competent to Minister**" with the subtitle, "**The Biblical Care of Souls**".

In modern times the Church has very much professionalized what the Bible emphasizes in terms of BODY life ministry. I am not saying there is no place for professional help – especially in regard to medical or physiological situations. But I am saying in terms of our spiritual lives related to sin, salvation, and sanctification the body has been sufficiently equipped by God to build itself up in love (Eph. 4:11-16). We are able to admonish one another sufficiently.

A biblical model of nouthetic admonition is a body-life model that emphasizes the sufficiency of Christ, the Word, and the Holy Spirit, set in the context of a gifted body of believers who minister to one another. Concerning all matters of faith and practice related to sin, salvation, and sanctification, the Body is fully equipped (Eph. 4; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Pet. 4:7-11; 2 Pet. 1:3-4). The truly biblical model is a **FAMILY MODEL**. In this family model, the emphasis is on discipleship, sanctification, edification, and accountability.

It is sad to say, but for the world, in all their counseling they are desperately trying to achieve peace apart from the Holy Spirit. They want the fruit of the Spirit, but they don't want the Lord. But it doesn't work that way. You can't have peace apart from the Prince of Peace. It all starts with Jesus!

### **Slide # 7**

**Isaiah 48:22 (NKJV)**

**22** "There is **no peace**," says the LORD, "for the wicked."

**Romans 5:1 (NKJV)**

**1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, **we have peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

In Christ, God has given us all we need pertaining to life and godliness (2 Pet. 1:3). He has given us His Spirit (power); He has gifted us, He has given us His promises, He has given us each other as the body of Christ. Nothing is left out. We don't need to borrow from the world to get peace! It is found in Christ and all the spiritual resources He has provided!

Paul in chapter 1 began explaining his calling, his heart, his mission, and his plans. However, in 1:15, after mentioning that he is "***ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also***," that sent him off on an inspired "***bunny trail***" for the next 15 chapters. But now, after that extended excursion, he returns to finish explaining exactly where he is coming from in terms of his heart, motives, mission, and plans.

In order to understand the historical setting of Romans it is important to take Paul's beginning (1:1-15) and concluding (15:14-33) remarks on the purpose of his mission. – ***Evangelical Commentary***

**15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God,**

After reading how forceful he has been in the letter Paul is concerned that the reader doesn't misunderstand. He doesn't think they are "unspiritual" (v. 14) and he wants them to understand he has written pointedly as a way of reminder. People (Christians) need to be REMINDED of what they already know. Much of pastoral ministry involves reminding people! We are so quick to forget! We need to be reminded!

Note Paul is sensitive (v. 14) and careful to explain where he is coming from (v. 15 and on). He was direct and yet affirming. People need this!

Paul now explains how he could write such a forthright letter to a church he had not founded and never even visited. It was not insensitive or presumptuous, but rather in perfect accord with his calling.

And Paul once again emphasizes that his calling was a GRACE calling. He is really speaking of his calling as an apostle. In 1:5 Paul said, “***we have received grace and apostleship***” and in 11:13 he said, “***I am an apostle of the Gentiles***”. In 12:3 he said, “***I say through the grace given to me...***”. Building on this he now again emphasizes His GRACE calling as an apostle to the Gentiles.

Thus, Paul emphasizes he is not a self-made man but a grace-placed man. He is not presumptuous in thus addressing the saints at Rome, but rather this was part of his domain – part of the sphere of his Gentile calling.

Grace is the idea of GIFT – unmerited favor! Paul really was God’s gift to the Gentiles. He did not say this arrogantly but simply as a matter of fact. This was his unique calling.

**16 that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.**

The word “minister” here in the NT has a special religious use in the sense of “priestly ministry”.

### **Slide # 8**

***Minister*** = Leitourgos – (from which we get “liturgy”) – “priestly ministry”

***Ministering*** = Hierourgeo – “to work in sacred things”

***Offering*** = Prosphora - “what is offered up to God”

Paul saw his ministry as a sacred duty – as that of a priest in rendering to God special service. This is how Paul saw his ministry of the gospel to the Gentiles. It was a special sacred type of ministry.

Paul here refers to the gospel as “***the gospel of God***”. The word “gospel” means “good news” so this is God’s good news. It is the message of Jesus and what He has done to save us from our sins (1 Cor. 15:1-4).

In saying it is “***the gospel of God***” Paul indicates that it originates with God which is another way of emphasizing the sacredness of the message.

Note the emphasis here is “***to the Gentiles***,” which would suggest that most of the Church in Rome consisted of those with a Gentile background.

Paul specifically saw his Gentile converts as an offering to God. What did Paul have to show for his “priestly labors”? A. His converts! And what did he do with such? A. He offers them up to God! This is what priests did – they presented OFFERINGS to God. And Paul’s offering was people!

Every time Paul won a Gentile to the Lord he saw it as another trophy of grace being offered up to God.

We believe in the priesthood of all believers. Where is your offering? What do you have to offer up to God? For Paul it was souls! They are the true offering to God. In his priestly service, his priestly duty was to offer up converted souls to God.

Now Paul will go on to emphasize that this is really God’s doing and yet He uses human instruments in the process.

But let me ask you where is your offering? What do you have to present to God in terms of your priestly ministry?

**Dawson Trotman**, founder of the Navigators used to emphasize to the believers that we were “***born to reproduce***”. His challenge that lingers to this day was: “***Where is your man? Where is your woman? Where is your boy? Where is your girl?***”

For Paul ministering the gospel was a priestly ministry and his converts were seen as an offering for God (cf. Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 2:17; 4:18; 1 Pet. 2:5).

And then he specifically says these Gentile converts were “***acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit***.” The Jews in the past saw the Gentiles as unclean and unacceptable, but in conversion, Paul says they are acceptable to God.

They are sanctified (set apart) by the Holy Spirit. This is talking about positional sanctification. In faith, we are set apart by the Holy Spirit as now belonging to Jesus!

By the GRACE of God, we are made acceptable to God on the basis of faith, and in that process, the Holy Spirit sets us apart from the world as belonging to God. This is a spiritual reality for all true believers (cf. Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 6:11...).

Gentiles are no longer to be seen as second-class citizens – at best! No, we are now trophies of grace offered up to God – we are an acceptable offering. God receives us! We are set apart by the Spirit! This is spiritual truth – a spiritual reality for all true believers.

God's willingness to accept Gentiles, set apart by the work of the Holy Spirit, shows His plan in the Church Age is to unite Jews and Gentiles in one body (Eph. 3:6).

– *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

Romans 15:16-21 contains the most complete statement of Paul's "philosophy of ministry" for himself as an apostle. His focus was on reaching the Gentiles in order to present them as an offering for God.

– *The Moody Bible Commentary*

**17 Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God.**

The idea of "glory" is to boast. This is a case of sanctified boasting, but as we will see in the next verse Paul is not really bragging on himself – but rather in what GOD has done through him. The emphasis is really on God. He is bragging on what God has done – and he is privileged to have been the minister.

The flow of thought is that Paul is boasting in what God has done toward the Gentiles through him. That was certainly something to celebrate – something to champion.

If you are not sure whether your pride is selfish or holy, ask yourself this question: Are you just as proud of what God is doing through other people as of what He is doing through you?

– *Life Application Study Bible*

It is wrong to boast in self as if self deserves some credit – but certainly, it is right and proper to boast in our God and what He does in and through us! We glory in God but not in ourselves.

**Slide # 9**



**1 Corinthians 1:31 (NKJV)**

**31** that, as it is written, “He who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”

**2 Corinthians 10:17 (NKJV)**

**17** But “he who glories, let him glory in the LORD.”

These verses are based on the sense of Jeremiah 9:23-24...

**Slide # 10****Jeremiah 9:23–24 (NKJV)**

**23** Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man **glory in his wisdom**, Let not the mighty man **glory in his might**, Nor let the rich man **glory in his riches**;

**24** But let him who glories glory in this, That **he understands and knows Me**, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight,” says the LORD.

Knowing God is really something. That is to be the stand-out thing that one really values. We glory in our relationship with God and give Him all the glory because it is all of grace! As Paul says in 1 Cor. 15:10, “***by the grace of God I am what I am***”.

**18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient—**

Paul refuses to make this about himself and what he has independently accomplished. Rather he will speak only of those things which Christ has accomplished through him. Note the emphasis here is ONLY on that which Christ has accomplished through him. This he would brag on – because really it was Christ’s doing.

Remember that it was Christ Who said, “***without Me you can do nothing.***” (Jn. 15:5) But Paul also said that God has “***made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant***” (2 Cor. 3:5-6). It’s all God’s doing but He uses feeble human instruments to do His work.

And what had Christ accomplished? Well, He had worked through Paul in “***word and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient***”.

In context the phrase “in word” refers to the Word of the gospel and “deed” refers to mighty miracles done by the power of the Spirit. Paul truly had an amazingly unique ministry as an apostle to the Gentiles. It served to bring many Gentiles to the obedience of faith.

The general consensus here is the “**obedient**” here refers to the obedience of faith which Paul mentions as two bookends of the book. The context strongly argues for this understanding. His apostolic calling was to bring people to the obedience of faith – which is to say to the point of saving faith.

### **Slide # 11**

#### **Romans 1:5 (NKJV)**

**5** Through Him we have received grace and apostleship **for obedience to the faith** among all nations for His name,

#### **Romans 16:25–26 (NKJV)**

**25** Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began

**26** but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, **for obedience to the faith**—

I often say, “***We are not saved by the obedience of works, but we are saved by the obedience of faith.***” This reality assumes a human response of obedience in the heart as Paul says in Romans 10:9-10. Yes, God works to bring people to faith – but on the other side of the coin there is also the reality of human response. Obedience is a human response that repents and believes on Christ as personal Savior and Lord!

And Paul makes this argument not only at the beginning and end of Romans but also all along.

### **Slide # 12**

#### **Romans 6:17 (NKJV)**

**17** But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you **obeyed from the heart** that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

**Romans 15:18 (NKJV)**

**18** For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word and deed, **to make the Gentiles obedient—**

For Paul this issue of the obedience of faith is ultimately what separates the unbelievers from the true believers.

**Slide # 13****2 Thessalonians 1:8 (NKJV)**

**8** in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do **not obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The gospel is made available to all because Christ died for all. Those who in the obedience of FAITH receive Christ as Savior and risen Lord are saved. Those who refuse to obey are lost. Paul is very clear in Acts 17:30 that God commands all men everywhere to repent. This is a command of human response for which people are accountable.

But note it carefully: All the glory for the Gentiles coming to faith goes to Christ. He is the one who **made** the Gentiles obedient. This didn't happen in a vacuum. It doesn't happen apart from His mysterious and supernatural working.

No brush takes credit for a masterpiece it was used to paint. No violin takes credit for the beautiful music the musician makes with it.

– **John MacArthur**

**19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.**

There is a LOT of POWER represented here. The NASB translates this: ***“in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit”***.

The phrase “signs and wonders” goes back to the ministry of Moses who was the first one to soundly have his ministry affirmed in this way (cf. Ex. 7:3; Deut. 4:34; 6:22; 7:19; also Isa. 8:18; Dan. 6:27).

**Slide # 14**

**Exodus 7:3 (NKJV)**

**3** And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply **My signs and My wonders** in the land of Egypt.

Mighty signs means mighty miracles. Wonders are things that produce amazement and awe. In the NT miracles are often referred to as signs. Signs point to something. In the case of the apostles, they served to supernaturally affirm their message. The miracles and the message went together with the miracles affirming the message.

We need to realize that the apostles were unique in their calling. They uniquely were verified by God with mighty signs and wonders.

**Slide # 15****2 Corinthians 12:12 (NKJV)**

**12** Truly the **signs of an apostle** were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds.

Not everyone did these things in the early church. "Signs and wonders" were uniquely "***the signs of an apostle***". If everyone was doing these things it would not have set the apostles apart as special or unique. But indeed they were qualifying!

**Slide # 16****Hebrews 2:3–4 (NKJV)**

**3** how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him [**the apostles**],

**4** God also bearing witness both with **signs and wonders**, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

Those who heard Christ were those who personally accompanied Him through the course of His ministry – namely, the apostles. It was those apostles whom God bore witness to through signs and wonders and various miracles.

These were unique SIGN miracles done first by the Lord and then by extension through His special representatives, the apostles who followed after Him. This is the pattern we see in the Book of Acts.

**Slide # 17****Acts 2:22 (NKJV)**

**22** “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man **attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs** which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know—

**Acts 5:12 (NKJV)**

**12** And **through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders** were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch.

God is unlimited. He can work miracles anytime, anywhere, and in any way, He wants to do. However, as recorded in the Scriptures “SIGN MIRACLES” were the unique means of authentication of the apostles. It validated their new revelation. Miracles and new revelation very consistently go together in the Scriptures.

We are not receiving new revelation today. There are no apostles on the scene. They gave us the message which was validated by miracles and then left the scene. What remains behind is the validated Word of God which they left us. And that Word is sufficient. We no longer have the apostles on the scene, but we do have the doctrine of the apostles.

So, God works through prayer – perhaps miraculously at times, but the age of SIGN MIRACLES in the Church age is past. Miracles perhaps – sign miracles, NO! Sign miracles at the hands of people, as happened through the apostles, are not happening today. The age of the apostles is gone and so are the sign miracles.

That is why when someone claims to be a special miracle worker or a faith healer, they are invariably shown to be bogus. These are false teachers who are scam artists. I don’t buy any of it!

Sometimes people think if I only lived like Paul, I could see the things happen in my ministry that he saw in his. Yes, it is true we have the same Spirit and the same gospel, but he was unique in terms of having a miraculous ministry. He was uniquely gifted as an apostle!

Also, sometimes people think that if the unbelievers just saw more miracles they would believe. But that is not true. Israel saw all kinds of miracles in the OT and during the ministry of Christ, and yet they consistently rejected the truth of God. Stephen put his finger on the crux of the problem in Acts 7:51.

**Slide # 18****Acts 7:51 (NKJV)**

**51** “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! **You always resist the Holy Spirit**; as your fathers did, so do you.

It wasn't that God's truth wasn't made clear! It's not that the evidence was lacking. The problem was that they had rebellious hearts that always resisted the Holy Spirit. There was no valid excuse!

Not only was Paul's ministry validated with mighty signs and wonders, but this was done by the power of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is real. His power is real! It was on display in Paul's ministry through both word and deed – through both gospel preaching and miraculous working.

And this defined the apostolic ministry of Paul all along the way - in general from Jerusalem in a large arc reaching all the way to the area of Illyricum which in general corresponds to our modern day nation of Albania and regions north (cf. Acts 17:1-9; 21:1-2). Illyricum was a Roman province above Macedonia. This area described covered about a 1400 mile stretch of territory where he fully preached the gospel of Christ. Most believe this is a generalized way of Paul describing the general arc of the territory he covered essentially in the last 10 years of his ministry involving his 3 missionary journeys whereby he advanced the gospel ever deeper into Gentile territory.

**Slide # 19** – Map Jeru to Illyricum

From Jerusalem...to Illyricum describes the geographical extent of his ministry and not the chronological order. – **William MacDonald**

Paul is making the point that his apostolic ministry was proven from Jerusalem all the way through 1400 miles into Gentile territory. As a sample of this note, the pattern in the book of Acts.

### **Slide # 20**

Acts 9:26-27 – at Jerusalem...spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus

Acts 13:6-11 – [at Cyprus] sorcerer... struck with blindness...

Acts 14:1-3 – [at Iconium] signs and wonders done...

Acts 14:8-10 – [at Lystra] a man crippled from birth healed

Acts 16:16-18 [at Philippi] a demon cast out

Acts 16:25 ff. [at Philippi] miraculous deliverance from prison

Acts 19:11-16 [at Ephesus] many healed...demons cast out

### **Slide # 21**

#### **Acts 13:12 (NKJV)**

**12** Then the proconsul believed, when he **saw what had been done,** being **astonished at the teaching of the Lord.**

Note when Paul says he fully preached the gospel throughout this whole area he does not mean to every person. Rather, it is clear from the report of his missionary journeys that he hit major strategic centers along the way and then expected his converts to then carry on the mission. Paul saw his job as a pioneer evangelist to introduce the gospel to the area – and in that sense, the gospel had been preached throughout this whole area in general.

Also, note the parallel between the **gospel of God** in verse 16 and the **gospel of Christ** in verse 19. There is no contradiction because Christ is God. The gospel of Christ is the gospel of God. This is yet another evidence of the deity of Jesus Christ.

Paul effortlessly weaves references to each member of the Trinity [Christ Jesus...God...Spirit of God] in Romans 15:16-19. Paul can't talk about God without recognizing His three Persons. – **David Guzik**

**20 And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation,**

Paul saw his unique apostolic calling to the Gentiles – that of being in word and deed – that being of powerful signs and wonders – to be of a true pioneer nature. Paul’s calling was to take the gospel into virgin territory where no one had ever heard about Jesus before.

His goal was to forge forward into brand new territory with the gospel, and he was especially gifted and equipped by God to do this.

### **Slide # 22**

#### **John 4:38 (NKJV)**

**38** I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors.”

Jesus said this to the 12 disciples, and it certainly applies to most all of us as well. But Jesus did not say this to Paul. Paul was uniquely an apostle to the Gentiles sent forth into the Gentile world to reach ever further and further into unreached territory.

Thus, Paul was a true trailblazer. And what a massive job he did by the grace of God. By the time he was done, he had evangelized about half of the Roman World – the known world of the Gentiles. No one has ever done what Paul did in terms of reaching unreached virgin territory with the gospel.

Paul’s example in pioneering in new areas does not necessarily bind other servants of the Lord to this exact activity. Some are called to move in and teach, for example, after new churches have been planted. – **William MacDonald**

Paul himself recognized this. For example, in 1 Cor. 3:10, Paul said...

### **Slide # 23**

#### **1 Corinthians 3:10 (NKJV)**

**10** According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder **I have laid the foundation**, and **another builds on it**. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.

Paul saw himself as a FOUNDATION builder! Others then would build on that foundation. Thus, Paul had a special and in many ways a very unique calling that we are still building on today (cf. 2 Cor. 10:15-16; Eph. 2:20).



(This is one evidence that Peter had not founded the churches at Rome, or had been to Rome; for this would have prevented Paul from going there.) – **Warren Wiersbe**

**21 but as it is written: “To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand.”**

Paul here draws a principle from the OT text of Isaiah 52:15 where it says that ultimately kings shall see what had not been told them and what they had not heard they shall understand. However, instead of kings Paul here makes the application to the Gentiles in general who had never before even heard of Christ and yet upon hearing they came to believe.

Paul consistently grounds everything he is about in terms of message and mission to Biblical principle. He did not just function in a vacuum – but in fulfillment of a BIGGER picture grounded in the Scriptures.

Paul’s passion was to tell those who had never heard the gospel before. He deeply felt the obligation to confront ALL people with the gospel.

### **Slide # 24**

**Romans 1:14–15 (NKJV)**

**14 I am a debtor** both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise.

**15 So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel** to you who are in Rome also.

Paul lived to preach the gospel! Everyone needs to hear. We are not responsible for what they do with it – but they need to HEAR! That was Paul’s passion, and it should be ours as well. People need to HEAR the good news of Jesus!

A question I often like to ask people is this: ***Are you familiar with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?*** People often lie saying, “Yes”. But then the follow up question of ***“What is your understanding of the gospel?”*** often reveals that they really don’t know what the gospel is.

It is amazing how many people who claim to be Christian don’t even really know what the gospel is. Just to make sure I don’t walk away from this message without telling you – here it is.

**Slide # 25****THE GOSPEL....**

WHO JESUS IS...

- a. God-Man (Lord)
- b. Savior

As Savior Jesus died for all our sins – as Lord over all He rose again the third day. We must believe on Him as Savior and Lord to be saved. It has to be real from the heart. As Paul says in Romans 10:10, “***with the heart one believe unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made...***”.

Not all believers are gifted to be pioneer evangelists, but all are empowered by the Spirit to be Christ’s witnesses on one level or another – in one way or another (Acts 1:8). Proverbs 11:30 says, “***he who wins souls is wise***”.

**We now have 12 grandchildren** in the world (2 in heaven). I call them the true treasures. In truth, souls are the true treasures. Jesus came to this earth on a rescue mission to save souls (Lk. 19:10). Jesus said to lay your treasures up in heaven (Matt. 6:19-21). I believe the true treasures are souls (cf. Lk. 16:9).

**1 Thessalonians 2:19 (NKJV)**

**19** For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?

**2 Timothy 2:10 (NKJV)**

**10** Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. No! no! Tell a man whose house is on fire, to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hand of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen – but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. – ***William Lloyd Garrison***

Mr. Garrison passionately spoke those words in relation to the scourge of physical slavery. How much more should our passion be in reference to those in spiritual bondage?

So, let me ask you: Where is your man, where is your woman, where is your boy, where is your girl? Where is your treasure? What do you have as an eternal offering to the Lord?

God help us to be busy about our Father's business in making known His gospel to everyone! This is our mission too!