

**RO 15:14** I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

**RO 15:17** *Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.* <sup>18</sup> *I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done--* <sup>19</sup> *by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.* <sup>20</sup> It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. <sup>21</sup> *Rather, as it is written:*  
*"Those who were not told about him will see,  
and those who have not heard will understand."*

**RO 15:22** *This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.*

Hey, this is some passage. It amazes me how God brings stuff together when we need to hear it. This series has been going for a while with a heap of interruptions. Yet, it speaks to us where we are at. You may not see it as such, but from a pastoral perspective, this is just so appropriate.

Lets look at a few things.

Verse 14 is saying Paul thinks the people can do the job.

**RO 15:14** I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

Yeh, you are. I also am convinced. This is a talented church. Amazingly so. God has given us every thing necessary to do his work.

**EPH 1:3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

He has blessed us with everything we need to do what we have been designed to do. – Remember a couple of weeks ago – our job is to glorify Jesus. We have everything necessary to do our job. God is not going to put us into a situation we can't handle.

But He does expect us to do what he has prepared for us to do.

I have often spoken about your freedom to do what you want. I have spoken about your choice process to be here on Sunday or not. I have spoken about your right to choose. Now I will speak about your right to do God's work. If you truly love God you will obey, you will be involved in His church, you will do the ministry He has prepared for you. We have the skills, we have the knowledge, we are competent – now we just have to get on with it.

I am convinced we can make a difference.

Paul goes on to talk about making a difference.

***15 I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me <sup>16</sup> to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.***

Paul has said some tough stuff in this book. He has said it bluntly. Why? Because he perceived they needed reminding. And if it is in the bible then we need to take notice of it too. Remember we have talked about sin, grace, love, gifts, heaps of stuff and we needed to hear it.

Paul wrote bluntly so the people would get the point. It was his job. Notice verse 16 – to be a minister.

Now I believe that **all Christians are ministers, that all have a ministry,**

I also believe that some of us are set apart for specific ministry jobs. My job is similar to Paul's. Sometimes I need to say things "quite Boldly". Paul's job was to preach so people, particularly the gentiles, might understand about God. My job is similar. I have a duty to proclaim the "gospel of God".

Paul's communication was so the gentiles could understand, My Job is so that you understand.

Paul's aim was to make the gentiles an acceptable offering, my job is the same.

Paul recognises that it is through the Holy Spirit that the sanctification happens.

I must recognise the same thing. God works in your life by the Holy Spirit. Yet uses me to do it. My job is proclaiming to you what is necessary to have you be an acceptable offering to God.

I need to make a difference in your life. Here is where it hits the road. I have spoken of your freedom to not be at church, but I can't proclaim too much to people who aren't here all that often. **We need to make a commitment to be where God's word is being spoken.** Some of you are regular, some of you are irregular regulars and others come when you feel like it.

We need to hear more of God's word!!!!

**Get yourself inside church regularly,  
get yourself into a bible study,  
get yourself to prayer meeting,**

Make it a weekly thing. Or come to church twice a day, why? To get blessed. The more of God's word you hear, the more blessing.

Look at this next verse.

**RO 15:17** *Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.*

This is what it is about. We need to get a grip on this verse. It doesn't say "I Glory in God because I feel that the music was good today, it doesn't say that I glory in God because my gift got used this week, it doesn't say I glory in God because the sermon was great on Sunday."

It does say **RO 15:17** *Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.*

It is about service. **What we do for God.** There is an element of duty here. I am not saying you don't have choice but I am saying that God has some expectation on you.

**He will let you be disobedient**

**BUT**

**He expects you to obey,**

**He expects you to serve,**

**He expects you to do your bit.**

I struggle with how I am to put this into place as a pastor. Am I to expect things of you. Expect you to do your bit, expect you to serve, expect you to minister. Or is the expecting Jesus role? I am still working through that.

The next bit is cool.

**18** *I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done--<sup>19</sup> by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.*

Paul talks about how God has used him. He still gives the credit to God. God has used Him to proclaim, and God has communicated through Paul in miracles and powerful situations. Wouldn't that be great! Yeh, but the problem is, too often the fact God uses us becomes a pride thing. Paul knows this potential yet He boasts in God.

He talks about this in 1 Corinthians 1. If you have your bible flick over to that.

**1CO 1:26** *Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth.<sup>27</sup> But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.<sup>28</sup> He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things--and the things that are not--to nullify the things that are,<sup>29</sup> so that*

no one may boast before him. <sup>30</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. <sup>31</sup> Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

Paul boasts what God can do with him – the weak Paul. We need to be thinking “what can God do with me???”

Notice Paul says ***“I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.”***

It is like him saying “I have done my job.” No wonder he wants to boast in God.

**He is confident that God has used his efforts.**

I have a theory. It is a theory I have seen work in sporting fields, in music, and in ministry.

It goes like this:

**“There is a direct relationship between the amount of effort put into something and the possibility of improvement.”**

More training – more fitness

More guitar practice – more skill developed

More effort into ministry – more people hear the gospel.

Some may say “But in my weakness God makes me strong” How true. But **it doesn’t say in my slackness I will be blessed.**

Have we fully proclaimed the gospel – the good news of Jesus. I wonder.,

Look at this.

***20 It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.***

What an ambition, to preach where Jesus is not known, oh it burns a preacher, yet. There are people in our community who have not heard the message of Jesus in a way they can understand. Remember that preach is the same as proclaim. It doesn’t have to be done from a pulpit. But what a great ambition. To let people know about Jesus.

**We should make that our ambition as people.**

**It should be our ambition as a church.**

This next verse seems to go against what I have just said.

***21 Rather, as it is written:***

***“Those who were not told about him will see,  
and those who have not heard will understand.”***

This is a quote from Isaiah 52:15.

Paul had not been able to visit Rome because he had been fully occupied elsewhere. For example, conditions in the Corinthian church detained him a long time, so that he did not feel free to move on to another area. His dislike of building "on someone else's foundation" did not come from an overweening sense of self-importance that could be satisfied only when he could claim the credit for what was accomplished.

Actually, he preferred to work with companions, and he was always appreciative of the service rendered by his helpers (cf. 1Co 3:5-9).

But he was impelled by the love of Christ to reach as many as possible (2Co 5:14-15). He felt deeply his obligation to confront everyone with the good news (Ro 1:14).

This is confirmed by the quotation in v. 21 of Isa 52:15.

This last verse is about getting the message out there.

To those who haven't yet heard  
and  
those who can be given the opportunity to respond.