

Messenger to the Gentiles

Romans
15:14-33

Background: Paul and the church in Rome

- 1) Romans 1:8,13,15 They never met
- 2) As an apostle to the Gentiles, Paul wants to bless the church in Rome and speak boldly to remind them (1:11-12) (English writer Samuel Johnson said, “People need to be reminded more than they need to be instructed.”)
- 3) The main content of this letter pretty much finished on Rom 15:13
- 4) Starting Rom 15:14 – A personal, friendly address to the Christians in Rome.

Explore Romans 15:14-16

- 1) What are the characteristics of the church of Rome?
- 2) What is the ultimate effect of the gospel?
- 3) An important responsibility of believers toward one another often missed?

Romans 15:14-16

- 14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.
- 15 But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God
- 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

Key words

1) Goodness(v14) – Moral excellency. Fruit of Spirit.

2) Knowledge (v14) – Knowing the will of God. Studying diligently the Word of God. (Not the philosophy of this world)

3) Instruct one another (v14) – Teaching and Counseling

4) Boldly (v14) – Not hesitating in the face of danger. Courage and daring.



Key words

5) 15:16 Sanctified by the Holy Spirit

Sanctified: Make holy (sanctus)

Sanctification: Progressively becoming like Jesus
(David Mathis, desiring God)

It is the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit (Rom
15:16)

A reality (honesty, integrity, purity....)

Key words

Sanctification

- Renewal/change of nature
- Regeneration
- Transformation
- Work of the Holy Spirit

Regeneration is a subject which lies at the very basis of salvation, and we should be very diligent to take heed that we really are "born again", for there are many who fancy they are, who are not. (Charles Spurgeon, Morning and evening)

Key words

Sanctification

- Main goal of apostle Paul (church) is to offer to God an acceptable people that is truly “born again” and sanctified.
- John 3:5-8 Born Again
- Rom 12:1-2 , A willingness to yield (a living sacrifice) and commit our lives to the Spirit’s renewal power
- Not by personal efforts or self-help methods



Sanctification

Implication

- Don't be a Casey Junior Christian (I think I can)
- John 15:4-5 "Abide in me" "Apart from me you can do nothing"
- Phil 2:12-13, 1 Cor 15:10 A partnership with God in active "obedience"
- Depend on the Spirit daily for sanctification
- In prayer, in adoration, in studying of the Word (Charles Spurgeon, Morning and Evening)



Romans 15:14-16

- 14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, **that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to Instruct one another.**
- 15 But on some points I have written to you very **boldly** by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God
- 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the **priestly service** of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

A community efforts of Sanctification

A practice that often ignored or avoided

- V14 “Instruct one another”
- Counselling
- Admonition (Acts 20:31, 1 Cor 4:14) – “counsel” or “warning” against fault or oversight (Merriam-Webster)
- Mild, kind, yet earnest reproof (Free Dictionary)

Discussion Questions: Counseling (admonish)

- 1) Is it difficult to counsel others?
Why?
- 2) In what situation or context should this counsel occur?
- 3) What basic quality or attitude of one who counsel others?

Summary: Romans 15:14-16

- 1) Sanctification is the ultimate effect of the gospel. Work of the Spirit.
- 2) Sanctification is a progress. A daily yielding to the work of the Spirit.
- 3) As a church we have the responsibility to admonish/counsel (1 Thess 5:14) one another. Correction of sinful behavior or erroneous doctrine.

Romans 15:17-19

- 17 In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.
- 18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed,
- 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

Illyricum?

- A Roman province created by Augustus in 27 BC
- Modern day Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Hungary, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia, Slovenia



Explore Romans 15:17-19

- 1) v17 “proud of”. Is Paul boasting? Do we sometimes tempted to boast in our serving?
- 2) What kind of attitude we learn here about serving Christ?

Explore Romans 15:17-19

(Gal 6:14)

- Boasting/pride is worldly behavior (1 John 2:16)
- God is the one empowers us to serve (Rom 15:18)
- God hates pride (Ps 31:23)

Romans 15:20-21

²⁰ and thus I make it my **ambition** to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation,

²¹ but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”

Explore Romans 15:17-21

Paul's ambition is the gospel to spread across the entire Roman Empire. What is our ambition?



Romans 15:28-31

28 When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you.

29 I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

30 I **appeal** to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to **strive together with me in your prayers** to God on my behalf,

31 that I may be **delivered from the unbelievers** in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be **acceptable to the saints**,

Summary

- 1) Sanctification. Work of the Spirit. Not individual efforts.
 - Yield to God daily for his power to renew.
 - A sanctified community helps each other.
- 2) Counselling/Admonition requires “boldness”, “care” to build up one another
- 3) Avoid Boasting in serving or personal success. To God be the glory.
- 4) Set goals to pray for our church’s ministry be acceptable to God and saints.