



From Mercy to Mission

Recap:

Paul begins the conclusion of his letter by affirming the Roman believers in verse 14. He is convinced they are full of goodness, filled with knowledge, and competent to instruct one another—evidence of the Spirit's work. What once disqualified them is now used by God for his mission.

Paul admits he has written boldly, reminding them of the truths entrusted to him as a minister of Christ to the Gentiles. His priestly task is to offer them an acceptable sacrifice, sanctified by the Spirit. His boldness lies in calling Jew and Gentile into unity, a challenge as daunting then as uniting bitter political enemies today.

In verse 17, Paul declares, "Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God." To glory is to boast, yet his boasting is only in what Christ has done through him. His ministry has been marked by words, deeds, signs, and wonders through the Spirit. Miracles accompanied his work, but the greatest miracle is hearts transformed by the gospel, just as Paul was changed on the Damascus Road.

Paul's ambition has always been to preach where Christ was not known, not building on another's foundation. He longs for those who have not been told to see and those who have not heard to understand, echoing Isaiah 52. His life is consumed by this call to carry the gospel to the ends of the earth.

The letter then reads like a travel journal. Paul explains that though he has long wanted to visit Rome, he must first deliver financial aid from Macedonia and Achaia to the poor in Jerusalem. This offering is a tangible expression of unity: Gentiles who received spiritual blessings now share material blessings with Jewish believers. Generosity becomes a mark of shared life in Christ.

Paul closes by asking for prayer—for protection in Judea, acceptance of the gift in Jerusalem, and a joyful visit to Rome in the fullness of Christ's blessing.

Icebreaker. What's one place you've always dreamed of traveling to, and why?

1. Read Romans 15:14. Paul says he is “convinced” that the believers are full of goodness, filled with knowledge, and competent to instruct one another. What do you think made Paul so confident in this? Do you believe these qualities are true of you—and why or why not?

2. Read verses 15–16. Paul refers to his calling as a “priestly duty” to proclaim the gospel. What does this reveal about how he saw his role? How might that shape the way we view our own callings in everyday life?

3. The sermon talked about how God uses our past struggles to help others. Can you think of a time when God used a hard part of your story to encourage or minister to someone else? Or—are there parts of your story you wonder if He *might* use someday?

4. Read verses 17–21. Paul boasts—but only in what Christ has accomplished through him. What does it look like in your life to “boast in Christ” rather than in yourself? Where are you tempted to shine the spotlight on your own success?

5. The sermon said: “When God chooses you to be the hero, give Him the glory.” Where might God be calling you to step out as a “gospel hero” right now—in your workplace, family, neighborhood, or elsewhere? What might be holding you back?

6. Read verses 25–27. The Gentile churches gave financially to support the poor in Jerusalem. How do you respond to financial needs—either in the church or among people you know personally? How do generosity and unity go hand-in-hand?

7. Read verses 30–33. Paul pleads for prayer as he heads into a risky situation. How do you view the power of prayer – especially for those doing ministry or facing hardship? How could your group grow in being more prayerfully supportive of others on mission?

SUPPORT/PRAYER

(15 min)

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