



Romans 15:14-33

LIVING ON MISSION

Paul says in Romans 15 that it is his ambition, his passion, if you will, to make Christ known. Paul's ambition was born from his understanding that God longed for His Son to be glorified in the nations. It was focused so that the "Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit" (Rom 15:16). ...If you have apostolic passion, you are one of the most dangerous people on the planet. The world no longer rules your heart. You are no longer seduced by getting and gaining but devoted to spreading and proclaiming the glory of God in the nations. You live as a pilgrim, unattached to the cares of this world. You are not afraid of loss. You even dare to believe you may be given the privilege of dying to spread His fame on the earth. The Father's passions have become your passions. You find your satisfaction and significance in Him. You believe He is with you always, to the end of life itself. You are sold out to God, and you live for the Lamb. Satan fears you, and the angels applaud you. Your greatest dream is that His name will be praised in languages never before heard in heaven. Your reward is the look of pure delight you anticipate seeing in His eyes when you lay at His feet the just reward of His suffering: the worship of the redeemed. —Floyd McClung

Introduction (1:1-17)

SIN: The Problem of Humanity (1:18-3:20)

SALVATION: The Gift of Grace (3:21-5:21)

SANCTIFICATION: The Growth of Faith (6:1-8:39)

SOVEREIGNTY: The Plan of the Ages (9:1-11:36)

SERVICE: The Life of Worship (12:1-15:13)

Conclusion (15:14-16:27)

In Romans 15:14, Paul begins to bring his letter to a close. In his conclusion, he revisits many of the same themes that he mentioned in his introduction—his encouragement for their faith, his desire to visit, his ministry to the Gentiles, and his focus on the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

PAUL'S PASSION (15:14-21)

To _____
believers of the
gospel (15:14-15).

To _____
as a priest of the
gospel (15:16).



To _____
the gospel in word
and deed (15:17-19).

To _____
the unreached with
the gospel (15:20-21).

Gentiles. Greek, *ethnos*, "a multitude, nation, or people group."

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

Paul's only other use of these three words [signs, wonders, power] in relation to his ministry is in 2 Corinthians 12:12, where he calls them 'the things that mark an apostle' or 'the signs of a true apostle.' This is not to deny that God can perform miracles today, for it would be ludicrous to impose limitations on the Creator of the universe. It is rather to acknowledge that their chief purpose was to authenticate the unique ministry of the apostles [who saw the risen Lord and acted as the foundation of the early church, Acts 1:22; Eph. 2:20; Heb. 2:4]. —John R. W. Stott

PAUL'S PLANS (15:22-29)



- To Jerusalem. To _____ the church (cf. 2 Cor. 8-9).
- To Rome. To be _____ by the saints.
- To Spain. To _____ the unreached.

PAUL'S PRAYER REQUESTS (15:30-33)

With the potentially dangerous journey to Jerusalem on his mind, Paul begs the Roman believers, out of their commitment to Christ and their love in the Spirit, to “wrestle” in prayer with him and for him.

1. S _____. *That I may be delivered...*
2. S _____. *That my service may be acceptable...*
3. S _____. *That I may come to you with joy...*

These prayer requests were not answered in quite the way that Paul expected. He did make it to Rome...three years later...as a prisoner of the Roman Empire (Acts 21-28). But God used Paul's imprisonment for the advance of the gospel and for that Paul was thankful (cf. Phil. 1:12-14).

At this time Spain was experiencing a kind of blaze of genius. Many of the greatest men in the Empire were Spaniards... Seneca, the great Stoic philosopher, who was first the guardian and afterwards the prime minister of Nero was a Spaniard. It may well be that Paul was saying to himself that if only he could touch Spain for Christ tremendous things might happen. —William Barclay

Strive Together. Greek, *sun-agonizomai*, “to contend for victory together, as in the public games; to struggle or to wrestle together (on the same side).”

If I throw out a boathook from the boat and catch hold of the shore and pull, do I pull the shore to me, or do I pull myself to the shore? Prayer is not pulling God to my will, but the aligning of my will to the will of God.

—E. Stanley Jones