

To Go where NONE have Gone BEFORE ~ Romans 15:14-33

→Scripture Reading Romans 15:16-18, 20, 30

INTRODUCTION

→To boldly go where no man has gone before...

→Map

Romans 15:19 (NLT) ¹⁹...I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum. ²⁰ My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the Name of Christ has NEVER been heard...

From Jerusalem to Illyricum ~ Romans 15:14-22

¹⁴ I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another. 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 ¹⁶ 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.

¹⁷ Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. 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 - ¹⁹ 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.

→Map

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. ²¹ Rather, as it is written: Those who were not told about Him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." ²² This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

IMPLICATIONS

¹⁵ ...because of the GRACE given me by God ¹⁶ to be a MINISTER of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles... (ESV)

¹⁵ ...For BY God's grace, ¹⁶ I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit. (NLT)

1 Timothy 1:15-16 (NIV) Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves FULL acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to SAVE sinners - of whom I am the WORST.

¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown MERCY so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life.

¹⁵ ...For BY God's grace, ¹⁶ I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles.

¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH me to BRING the Gentiles to obedience... (ESV)

Galatians 6:14 (NLT) As for me, may I NEVER boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ....

Spain is STILL my Goal ~ Romans 15:23-33

²³ But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to see you, ²⁴ I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

→Map

²⁵ Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the SERVICE of the saints there. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. ²⁷ They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings. ²⁸ So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this fruit, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.

³⁰ I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to JOIN ME in my struggle BY PRAYING to God for me. ³¹ Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. ³³ The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

PRAY THAT... vs. 31-32

- I may be RESCUED from unbelievers
- my service would be ACCEPTABLE to the church
- by God's WILL I can come to you with Joy

IMPLICATIONS

²⁵ ...I am on my way to Jerusalem in the SERVICE of the saints there.

Mark 10:43-45 (NLT) ...Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your SERVANT, ⁴⁴ and whoever wants to be first among you must be the SLAVE of everyone else. ⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be SERVED but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many.

Philippians 2:5-7 (NIV) Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷ but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant...

How do you know if you have a servants heart? By how you act when you are treated like one

TAKE AWAY ??

²⁰ It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known...

Philippians 3:13-14 (NIV) ¹³ ...But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the GOAL to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.