

Purpose

BELIEVERS ARE TO BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT MAKING CHRIST
KNOWN TO ALL PEOPLE.

Romans 15:14-21,30-33

14 My brothers and sisters, I myself am **convinced** **A** about you that you also are full of **goodness**, **B** filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another. **15** Nevertheless, I have written to remind you **more boldly** **C** on some points because of the **grace given me** **D** by God **16** to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, serving as a **priest** **E** of the gospel of God. God's purpose is that the Gentiles may be an acceptable offering, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. **17** Therefore I have **reason to boast** **F** in Christ Jesus regarding what pertains to God. **18** For I would not dare say anything except what Christ has accomplished through me by word and deed for the obedience of the Gentiles, **19** by the power of **miraculous signs and wonders**, **G** and by the power of God's Spirit. As a result, I have **fully proclaimed** **H** the gospel of Christ from Jerusalem all the way around to **Illyricum**. **I** **20** My aim is to preach the gospel **where Christ has not been named**, **J** so that I will not build on someone else's foundation, **21** but, as it is written, Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand. [. . .] **30** Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to **strive together with me** **K** in prayers to God on my behalf. **31** Pray that I may be **rescued from the unbelievers in Judea**, **L** that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, **32** and that, by God's will, I may come to you with joy and be refreshed together with you. **33** May the God of peace be with all of you. Amen.

Exploring Key Words

- A** "Persuaded" (KJV); "satisfied" (ESV). It implies absolute confidence. Paul used the term earlier to describe his belief that nothing separates believers from God's love (Rom. 8:38-39).
- B** Moral excellence and virtue that is lived out in a meaningful way. The word emphasizes action.
- C** Paul's boldness on some points would reinforce truths the Romans already knew and needed to put into practice.
- D** Paul's authority was the result of God's grace, not anything he earned or achieved on his own.
- E** Priests brought offerings to God. Paul's offering included Gentiles who had been redeemed by Jesus and sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
- F** Paul would never boast in his own accomplishments. Rather, he boasted in what Christ had done through his ministry (v. 18).
- G** The supernatural things God accomplished through Paul validated the gospel, as well as his calling as an apostle to the Gentiles.
- H** "Fulfilled the ministry" (ESV). While Paul's ministry was far-reaching, he provided the whole truth of the gospel at every location.
- I** A region along the eastern shore of the Adriatic Sea. This marked the northeastern extent of Paul's travels and includes modern-day Albania.
- J** Paul was setting his sights on pioneer regions. He wanted to minister to unreached people.
- K** Paul recognized the value of spiritual partnerships and asked for the Romans' prayers for his work.
- L** The apostle had a sense that he would face stiff persecution in Judea. This opposition eventually would bring him to Rome.



NOTES

Joint Ministry (Rom. 15:14-16)

- As Paul assessed the Roman believers' readiness for ministry, he was confident they were marked by goodness, knowledge, and the ability to teach one another (v. 14).
- The apostle stated that his purpose was to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. He viewed this as an appropriate offering to Christ. Paul explained his calling to encourage the Christians in Rome to join him in fulfilling this mission.

Spirit's Power (Rom. 15:17-21)

- Paul refused to take credit for any good that came from his past ministry. Christ had accomplished it using him, as evidenced by signs and wonders.
- In the power of the Holy Spirit, Paul had preached the gospel from Jerusalem to Illyricum. His next goal was to preach the gospel where it had not been preached before.
- He wanted to avoid building on what others had done. Instead, he longed to expand the boundaries of God's kingdom by sharing the gospel with unreached groups.

Focused Prayer (Rom. 15:30-33)

- Paul asked the Christians in Rome to pray for him and his upcoming ministry in Jerusalem. Sensing likely opposition there, he asked them to pray for deliverance from unbelieving Jews in Judea.
- He also asked them to pray that his ministry would be acceptable to the believers in Jerusalem and that he would complete his journey to Rome. In the end, the persecution in Jerusalem eventually brought him to the capital of the empire.

Summary Statements

Believers are to be intentional about making Christ known to all people.

- Believers are to join with others in ministry.
- Believers can be assured that the Holy Spirit empowers us to share the gospel.
- Believers need to pray for the spread of the gospel.

Memory Verse

Romans 15:30

Key Doctrine

Cooperation

Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. (See Philippians 1:5; 4:15-16.)



For additional commentary, see the Leader Guide or Adult Commentary, available for purchase at [goExploreTheBible.com](https://www.explorethebible.com).

ENGAGE

Which areas of your life come more naturally when it comes to being intentional, and which areas require more effort or discipline? (PSG, p. 118)

- We recognize the importance of being intentional about our health—brushing our teeth, watching what we eat, and staying active. We try to show that same focus with work by getting up when the alarm goes off and arriving on time.
- Likewise, as believers we are to be intentional about making Christ known to all people.

Bonus: What makes self-discipline so difficult? How have you seen it pay off in your life?

EXPLORE

JOINT MINISTRY (ROM. 15:14-16)

Bonus: When have you needed to be bold toward someone else? How did that make you feel?

- Paul expressed appreciation for his brothers and sisters in Rome. He was convinced they were full of goodness and knowledge. They also knew how to teach and reflected their spiritual growth and the character of Christ.
- Still, Paul recognized room for further growth, which was why he had been so bold in reminding them about areas that could help them become more like Jesus.
- God had called Paul to be a minister to the Gentiles. He compared this ministry to the work of a priest. His goal was to present as many Gentile believers as possible to God as an acceptable offering, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

What is our responsibility in becoming spiritually ready to minister to others? (PSG, p. 120)

SPIRIT'S POWER (ROM. 15:17-21)

Bonus: When have you tried something that others hadn't tried? How did that work for you?

- Paul never bragged about his ministry. He knew that Christ worked through him, so he only had "reason to boast in Christ." He wanted the Romans to know that if they chose to support him, they would be supporting Christ's work.
- Paul's ministry had been marked by "signs and wonders," along with preaching empowered by the Holy Spirit. He had served from Jerusalem, where Christianity began, to Illyricum, a Roman province along the Adriatic Sea. Wherever he went, he "fully proclaimed the gospel."
- Paul's next goal was to preach to unreached people groups. He wanted to minister in places where Jesus had not been named. While some were called to build on the foundation laid by others, Paul's passion was to break new ground, serving as a pioneer missionary.

- Paul knew that many would respond to the gospel if they were given the opportunity. He wanted to be God's instrument for giving them that opportunity.

Where do you sense God's Spirit inviting you to attempt something that will fail unless He supplies the power? What is the first step of obedience? (PSG, p. 123)

FOCUSED PRAYER (ROM. 15:30-33)

Bonus: What are some things you pray for regularly? What makes those things so important to you?

- Paul planned to carry the gospel to Spain, and he hoped the Romans would partner with him (Rom. 15:22-24). Before that, however, he needed to deliver a financial gift collected by Gentile believers for needy believers in Judea.
- Prayer is a great way to connect believers to the ministries of those sharing the gospel around the world. Sensing danger in Jerusalem, Paul urged the Roman Christians to "strive" with him in prayer. He asked that they pray for his "rescue" from opponents who would try to silence him and that the financial gift would be welcomed.
- Finally, he asked them to pray that he finally would be able to visit Rome. He wanted to enjoy fellowship with believers in the city. As it turned out, the opposition Paul expected is also what eventually brought him to Rome.

What do believers stand to gain when they unite in prayer for the sharing of the gospel? (PSG, p. 125)

CHALLENGE

As a group, discuss why believers should work together in sharing the gospel with those who have not heard.

Consider ways your group or church can be involved in doing this. (PSG, p. 126)

Identify individuals who are supporting your ministry for the kingdom, as well as others you could enlist.

How much will you trust the power of God's Spirit as you talk with others about Jesus? (PSG, p. 126)

FURTHER DISCUSSION



Scan here for additional discussion questions for this week's study.

BIBLE SKILL (PSG, P. 125)

Create a chart to better understand a Bible passage.

Read the following verses and determine how prayer influences sharing one's faith: Matthew 9:37-38; Acts 4:29-31; Romans 10:1; Ephesians 6:18-20; Colossians 4:2-4; 2 Thessalonians 3:1.

How would you summarize the role of prayer in evangelism? In what ways do these verses motivate you to pray for your sharing of the gospel and those who are taking the gospel to the unreached?

As a group, complete the Bible Skill activity on page 125 of the PSG. Enlist volunteers to read the passages listed and lead a brief discussion about how each one connects prayer and evangelism. Review the questions in the activity. Direct adults to gather in groups of two or three and to spend time praying for ministers and missionaries who are sharing the gospel. Challenge adults to continue praying for these individuals during the week.

OBJECT LESSON: BATTERY

Display a battery. Encourage adults to list different kinds batteries. Record their responses on the board. (*Examples: Car batteries, watch batteries, computer batteries, phone batteries*) Note that we probably use many batteries without even thinking about it.

Remind the group that a battery must be charged by some kind of power source for it to be useful. Say: *If it's not charged, the battery is dead and can't do its job. In the same way, a believer's connection to Jesus Christ offers access to the Holy Spirit's "charge."* Note that believers who rely on the Holy Spirit are strengthened and empowered to share the gospel. Affirm that one way to maintain that connection is through prayer.

Challenge adults to consider their own connection to the Spirit and what hinders them from sharing the gospel. As time allows, spend time in prayer, asking God to give each person boldness to tell others about Jesus.

EVANGELISM

In Romans 15:14-21, Paul laid bare his passion for evangelism, describing himself as a "minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles" (v. 16). The apostle saw his calling as a priestly duty, proclaiming the gospel so Gentiles might become "an acceptable offering, sanctified by the Holy Spirit" (v. 16). For Paul, evangelism was not simply persuading people to make a decision. It involved presenting new communities of believers to God as holy, Spirit-shaped testimonies to His grace.

Paul's evangelism was Christ-centered (v. 18). He refused to measure his ministry in personal terms. Instead, he gave credit to Jesus working through him, by the power of the Spirit. The fruit of evangelism is never the product of human effort. It reflects the out-working of divine power.

Equally important was Paul's pioneer vision. He declared a desire to go "where Christ has not been named" (v. 20). His driving ambition was to reach the unreached, to shine the light of Jesus in places untouched by the gospel. Paul's mission was guided

by Isaiah's prophecy: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand" (v. 21). Paul longed to see that prophecy fulfilled, at least in part, through his ministry.

The closing verses of chapter 15 remind readers that evangelism is not a lone task. Paul urged the Roman believers to "strive together with me in prayers to God on my behalf" (v. 30). Evangelism demands not only preachers, but also partners in prayer. Gospel work advances through both proclamation and intercession. Those who send, support, and pray are as much a part of evangelism as those who go to the field.

Paul's words highlight the truth that evangelism is both the privilege and responsibility of the church. It is Spirit-empowered, Christ-focused, rooted in love, and sustained through prayerful (as well as financial) partnership. At its heart, evangelism is not about building our own legacy. Rather, it's about making Christ known among the people who need to know Him.



These items are available in the *Explore the Bible Leader Pack* (print and digital).

Visit [goExploreTheBible.com](https://www.explorethebible.com) to purchase the pack.

Pack Item 1: Map: The First-Century Roman Empire (Sessions 1-13)

- Locate a map that highlights the key regions and cities that defined the Roman Empire during the time of Paul.

Pack Item 2: Poster: Outline of Romans (Sessions 1-13)

- Refer to page 9 of the PSG to create a poster that outlines the book of Romans.

Pack Item 3: Poster: The Doctrine of Man (Sessions 2, 8)

- Create a poster with a quote from Article III on “Man” in the *Baptist Faith and Message (2000)*.

Pack Item 4: Poster: Key Words in Romans (Sessions 2, 3, 5, 7, 13)

- Create a poster that defines key terms from the book of Romans, such as *atonement, faith, grace, gospel, justification, law, righteousness, sanctification, sin, and works*.

Pack Item 5: Poster: Key Verse: Romans 5:19 (Session 4)

- Create a poster with the text of Romans 5:19.

Pack Item 6: Poster: Key Verse: Romans 12:1 (Session 10)

- Create a poster with the text of Romans 12:1.

Pack Item 7: Poster: Showing Honor (Session 11)

- Create an application poster with three columns: *Authorities, Others, and Christ*. Leave room for responses under each column so adults can suggest ways to show honor to each group over the course of the session.

Pack Item 8: Handout: Romans Time Line (Sessions 1-13)

- Locate a study Bible with a time line of the major people and events related to the book of Romans. Include both biblical and non-biblical historical references for context.

Pack Item 9: Handout: Praying Scripture in Romans (Sessions 1-13)

- Create a handout to help adults pray through key Scriptures in the book of Romans. Focus on these questions: *What does this passage teach you about God and His character? How is God leading you to respond to what He is showing you about Himself?*

Pack Item 10: Handout: Justification by Faith (Sessions 3, 8)

- Using a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource, create an article that describes the biblical teaching of justification by faith, both theologically and practically, especially as it applies to Romans.

Pack Item 11: Handout: A New Way of Life (Sessions 4-7)

- Using a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource, create an article that describes how Paul used baptism as a symbol of a believer’s new life in Christ and why it is significant in Christianity.

Pack Item 12: Handout: To Do or Not To Do (Session 6)

- Create a handout that allows adults to identify things they do that they should not and things they want to do but don’t (Rom. 7:14-23). Provide additional space for adults to list practical steps for aligning their lives with God’s plan.

Pack Item 13: Handout: Adoption in the First Century (Session 7)

- Using a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource, create an article that describes adoption in the first century and how Paul used it as an illustration of a believer’s relationship with God.

Pack Item 14: Handout: Jewish and Gentile Believers in Rome (Sessions 9, 12)

- Using a study Bible, Bible dictionary, or other resource, create a handout with three columns: *Jewish Believers in Rome, Gentile Believers in Rome, and Key Principles from Romans*. Under the first two columns, list distinctives of each group. In the third column, highlight key principles for their unity from the book of Romans.

COMING **NEXT QUARTER**



1 SAMUEL

Session 1: **Prayer** (1 Samuel 1:9-18,24-28)

Session 2: **Calling** (1 Samuel 3:1-14)

Session 3: **Savior** (Luke 2:8-20)

Session 4: **Supremacy** (1 Samuel 5:1-10; 6:13-15,19-20)

Session 5: **King Demanded** (1 Samuel 8:1-9,19-22)

Session 6: **Obedience** (1 Samuel 15:7-23)

Session 7: **Valued** (Psalm 139:1-10,13-16,23-24)

Session 8: **Anointed** (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

Session 9: **Victory** (1 Samuel 17:32-47)

Session 10: **Friendship** (1 Samuel 18:1-9; 20:35-42)

Session 11: **Respect** (1 Samuel 24:1-11,16-20)

Session 12: **Discernment** (1 Samuel 25:14-19,29-35)

Session 13: **Guidance** (1 Samuel 30:1-8,21-25)

Explore

“You will seek me and find me when you search for me
with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

This map illustrates the Roman Empire at its peak, showing the extent of Roman control across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. The map is color-coded to distinguish between different types of territories and includes a legend, a scale bar, and a north arrow.

Legend:

- City (Black dot)
- Territory under Roman control (Red outline)
- Senatorial provinces (Purple)
- Imperial provinces (Orange)
- Principal client states (Green)
- Unconquered territory (Yellow)
- Provincial boundaries (Dashed line)

Geographical Features and Regions:

- Europe:** Includes Britain (Britannia), Gaul (Gallia), Hispania (Lusitania, Tarraconensis, Baetica), Italy (Narbonensis, Cisalpine Gaul), and various Germanic and Slavic states to the north.
- North Africa:** Shows Egypt, Cyrenaica, and Libya, with major cities like Alexandria, Carthage, and Rome.
- Middle East:** Includes Syria, Judaea, Parthia, and Mesopotamia, with cities like Antioch, Jerusalem, and Babylon.
- Asia:** Shows the eastern provinces of the empire, including Cappadocia, Pontus, and Bithynia.
- Mountains and Seas:** The Caucasus Mountains, Alps, and Pyrenees are marked. The map also shows the Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea.

Scale and Orientation:

- Scale:** 0 to 750 Miles and 0 to 1200 Kilometers.
- North Arrow:** Points towards the top of the map.

ROMANS

In some ways, we live in a world defined by sound bites and social media posts. We condense key events of our days down to 280 characters or to quick videos that are here today and gone tomorrow. While brevity can be a good thing, our obsession with what's temporary also runs the risk of trading genuine substance for empty cliches. In his letter to the Christians at Rome, Paul rejected flimsy theology. His systematic and logical explanation of the gospel left no doubt about the world's need for a Savior and our responsibility as Christ followers. By studying his words to the Romans, we can gain a better understanding of who God is, what God does, and the impact it should have on our lives each day.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

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