

Lesson 33 – Romans 15:14-21

The blessing to the Gentiles is that they have been grafted into the family of God. How rich are the blessings of the Lord who showed us great mercy. We must, therefore, use our position for the purposes of the kingdom and encourage those weaker in the faith. As we serve, we find peace, joy, and hope.

Paul had to remind the Romans even though they were capable – 14-16

Paul's conviction – "... that you are full of goodness" – generosity in kindness

- Two contributors:
- 1) They have been filled with the knowledge (of truth)
 - 2) They are capable of teaching each other (truth)

Paul's instruction – "... I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder..."

The cause for this instruction? "grace" – The grace of God prompts action in our lives. For Paul this action was to write the Romans to remind them of doctrine they were forgetting.

The purpose? "to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles" – Paul had to write to the church at Rome, sacrificing personally for his service in Christ to the Gentiles.

The result? "the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable." – Paul sees his work among the gentiles as an offering to the Lord. His prayer is that they would be acceptable on the basis of the Holy Spirits sanctifying work in them.

Paul was proud of his own efforts in the cause of Christ – 17-21

Paul's pride was isolated to what Christ had done through him to bring the Gentiles to repentance (salvation). This work was done by:

1. Word and deed – the way Paul lived and preached
2. Power of signs and wonders – the miraculous works of God through Paul
3. Power of the Spirit of God – the working of the Spirit through Paul

Paul's work was widespread: "from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum"

Paul's ambition was extensive: "to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named." Not that Paul didn't mind discipling those whom others had won, but that he wanted to expose more Gentiles to the gospel who had never heard that good news.

Paul's quote proved his perspective: "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."