

Paul, the Minister to the Gentiles—Romans 15:14–22

Topics: Ambition, Evangelism, Humility, Mission, Pride, Serving, Witnessing

Open It

1. What factors influence a person's calling or vocation in life?

Romans 15:14–22 (ESV)

¹⁴I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

¹⁵But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God

¹⁶to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁷In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.

¹⁸For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed,

¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

²⁰and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation,

²¹but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

²²This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you.

Explore It

2. How did Paul describe the Christians at Rome? (15:14)
3. How did Paul understand his own mission? (15:14–16)
4. What was Paul's "priestly duty"? (15:16)
5. What was the focus of Paul's life? (15:17–18)
6. What was the only thing that Paul was willing to speak of? (15:18–19)
7. To what did Paul credit his success in evangelism? (15:18–19)
8. Why did Paul preach the gospel where Christ was not known? (15:20)
9. What had hindered Paul from coming to see the people in the church at Rome? (15:22)

Get It

10. What has God given you to use in serving Him?
11. How can you tell if your work for God is motivated by selfish pride or selfless devotion to God?
12. What sections of your community have not had enough opportunities to hear the gospel message?

Apply It

13. At this point in your life, what could you do to determine whether your vocation is in line with God's desires for your life?