

“Paul’s Ambition in Gospel Ministry”

A Study of the Book of Romans

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Key Truth: Paul’s ministry was motivated by a godly ambition to evangelize the lost and to present an offering to God of mature believers.

All Christian ministry is gospel ministry. The gospel isn’t just for our conversion; it’s also for our sanctification. The solitary means of evangelizing the lost and growing the church is through the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ and teaching the Word of God. This is was the belief and holy ambition of the Apostle Paul. When he was young he had a different ambition: to stamp out Christianity once and for all. But, then he met the risen Lord Jesus and everything changed. He went from zealously destroying followers of Christ, to passionately making disciples of Christ. Having met and confessed Jesus as Lord, his new ambition was to preach Christ crucified, not in areas that have already been Christianized – like Jerusalem – but in unreached parts of the world – places where Jesus wasn’t yet confessed as Lord and Savior.

DISCUSS

Read **Romans 15:14-21** and discuss with the group a statement or concept that stood out to you or impacted you in the sermon entitled “Paul’s Ambition in Gospel Ministry.”

DIG IN

Three Marks for Gospel Ministry :

1. A Grace-Given Ministry (Romans 15:14-16)

In what ways had the Roman Christians grown in their faith?

In what ways was Paul’s ministry grace-given?

In what ways would Paul present the Gentiles as an offering to God?

2. A Christ-Accomplished Ministry (Romans 15:17-19)

In what ways was Paul proud of his work (v. 17)? Was this a sinful pride? Why or why not?

In what ways was Paul’s ministry self-limiting (v. 18)? Did that help or hinder his ministry? Why?

Do you believe true Christian ministry is accomplished by Christ? Why or why not (See John 15:4-5)?

According to verses 18-19, what were the three means by which the Gentiles brought to the obedience of faith (vv. 18-19)? Of those three means, which one was Paul actually responsible for?

3. A Gospel-Centered Ministry (Romans 15:20-21)

Why would Paul not want to build on someone else’s ministry foundation?

In what ways was Paul’s ministry prophetic (verse 21)?

DO

What lessons do you learn from these verses that you will take with you throughout the coming week?