

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

Letter Conclusion (15:14-16:27)

- 1) Why he wrote the letter
- 2) Why he has been hindered in visiting Rome
- 3) His future plans, which include these believers

¹⁴ And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

¹⁵ But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God,

¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that *my* offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁷ Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God.

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

¹⁹ in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

²⁰ And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was *already* named, so that I might not build on another man's foundation;

²¹ but as it is written,

"THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE,
AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."

(Romans 15:14-21)

Why Romans?

- to establish the Christians at Rome in his gospel as part of his apostolic ("priestly") ministry to the Gentiles

Paul's Boast (in Christ)

- The fruit of Paul's gospel-ministry is entirely the work of Christ through him

1. The Goal

- the obedience of the Gentiles – the comprehensive response of faith in Christ Jesus

Paul's Boast (in Christ)

- The fruit of Paul's gospel-ministry is entirely the work of Christ through him

2. The Means

- by word and deed
- by signs and wonders

Therefore they spent a long time *there* speaking boldly *with reliance* upon the Lord, who was testifying to the word of His grace, granting that signs and wonders be done by their hands. (Acts 14:3)

The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and powers. (2 Cor. 12:12)

After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, ⁴ God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by works of power and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will. (Hebrews 2:3-4)

Paul's Boast (in Christ)

- The fruit of Paul's gospel-ministry is entirely the work of Christ through him

2. The Means

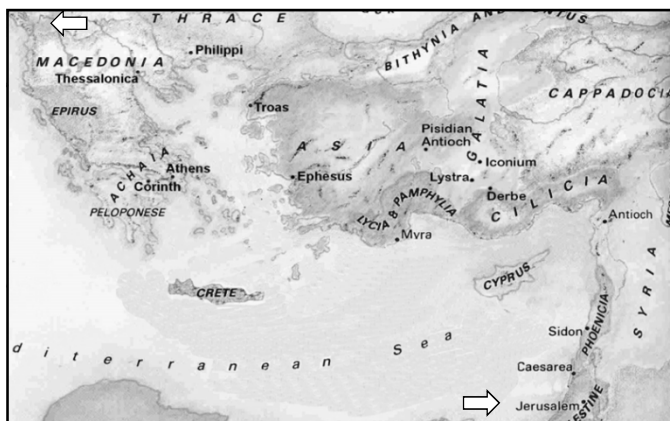
- by word and deed
- by signs and wonders
- by the power of the Spirit

Paul's Boast (in Christ)

- The fruit of Paul's gospel-ministry is entirely the work of Christ through him

3. The Results

- Paul "fulfilled the gospel" from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum



Paul's Boast (in Christ)

- The fruit of Paul's gospel-ministry is entirely the work of Christ through him

3. The Results

- Paul brought to completion in these regions his own special apostolic task of planting strategic churches

Paul's Boast (in Christ)

- The fruit of Paul's gospel-ministry is entirely the work of Christ through him

4. The Strategy

- Paul's primary focus was proclaiming the gospel and establishing churches where there was no church ("foundation builder")
- Based on the Scriptures: Isaiah 52:15

- 13 Behold, My servant will prosper,
He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.
- 14 Just as many were astonished at you, *My people*,
So His appearance was marred more than any man
And His form more than the sons of men.
- 15 Thus He will sprinkle many nations,
Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him;
For those who had no news of him will see,
And they who have not heard will understand.

(Isaiah 52:13-15)

Are we moved to gospel-action by the reality of peoples who have no news of Christ?