

A Heart for the Lost

Romans 15:14-33

Introduction

I Paul's Encouragement to the Church

- A. He was convinced that they were:
 - 1. Full of **goodness** - Gal 5:22-23; Eph 2:10
 - 2. Complete in knowledge - Prov 1:7; 2 Pet 3:18
 - 3. Competent to **instruct** - 2 Tim 3:16-17; Col 3:16-17
- B. He wrote them boldly:
 - 1. To **remind** them - 2 Pet 1:12-13; 3:1
 - 2. To minister to them - 1 Pet 2:5
 - 3. To **proclaim** the gospel of God - Rom 1:1-2; Acts 20:24
 - 4. To win the Gentiles so that they might be:
 - a. An offering acceptable to God - Rom 1:5; 1 Pet 2:5
 - b. Sanctified by the Holy Spirit - Acts 15:8-9

II Paul's Self-Assessment

- A. He **gloried** in his service to God - 1 Cor 9:16-17; Jer 9:23-24
- B. He refused to speak beyond what he had accomplished:
 - 1. By leading the Gentiles to **obey** God - Rom 1:4-5
 - 2. By the power of signs & miracles - Heb 2:3-4; Acts 14:3
 - 3. By the **power** of the Holy Spirit - 1 Thess 1:5; 1 Cor 2:4-5
- C. He made it his ambition to preach the gospel
 - 1. He **fully** proclaimed the gospel of Christ - Acts 20:20-21
 - 2. He preached where Christ was not known - 2 Cor 10:15ff
 - 3. He preached where there was no **foundation** - 1 Cor 3:10

III Paul's Future Plans for Ministry

- A. He expressed his desire to **visit** the church at Rome
 - 1. He had delayed to reach the lost - Prov 19:21
 - 2. He planned to visit Rome when he visited Spain
 - a. He invited them to support him financially - 1 Cor 9:11
 - 3. He planned first to go to Jerusalem - Acts 19:21
 - a. To **serve** the saints there - 2 Cor 4:5-6
 - b. To deliver a financial gift - Acts 24:17
- B. He emphasized the **debt** of the Gentiles - Rom 13:8-9

- 1. The Gentiles shared in the Jew's spiritual blessings
- 2. The Gentiles owed the Jews a material blessing
- C. He expressed his **confidence** in the blessing of Christ

IV Paul's Request for Prayer

- A. He urged them to **struggle** with him in prayer - Col 4:12
- B. He asked them to pray that:
 - 1. He might be **rescued** from unbelievers - Acts 21:27-23:29
 - 2. He might be accepted by the saints - Acts 21:17-20
 - 3. He might be mutually **refreshed** in Rome - Acts 27:15

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following questions:

1. Who has provided you with the greatest personal and spiritual encouragement in life? What did they do that was so uplifting?
2. In Romans 15:14, Paul affirms the believers in Rome by pointing out three specific virtues they have demonstrated. What were they? Do these characteristics describe your life?
3. Illyricum is in present-day Yugoslavia: 1,400 miles from Jerusalem. Paul preached the gospel every step of the way. What insight does this give you into Paul? His commitments? His priorities? What impact does his example have on you?
4. Looking over your schedule and priorities this past month, what would you say is your ambition in life? Is it what you want it to be? How do your ambitions compare with Paul's in terms of clarity? Value? Concern for God's kingdom?
5. What did Paul request prayer for? What didn't he ask for? What does this reveal about his priorities? Do Paul's priorities challenge you? How will you act on what you discovered?
6. Take a moment to write down the names of three people that need your encouragement. Ask God for the opportunity this week to use your words and actions to strengthen them.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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