

Series: Community and Diversity; *Sermon:* **A Bold Reminder of the Gospel of God for the Sake of All Nations**

Delivered by: **Dr. Josh Moody**, senior pastor; *Date:* **January 15, 2017**

Bible text explored: Romans 15:14-21

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.” [ESV]

Review and application:

Paul's epistle to the Romans is Scripture's most thorough single treatment of the Good News: the way God gives sinners a right relationship with him through faith only in Jesus, and how that should be lived out. We move here to the conclusion of his letter, written from a more personal perspective.

1. Why is Paul being careful (v. 14) to indicate that he didn't write this epistle because he considered the church in Rome's grasp of the gospel to be inadequate?
2. What “bold” reminder included in this epistle (v. 15) may have gone beyond summarizing the gospel to bringing unity to a church with Gentile and Jewish contingents?
3. What (v. 16) was Paul's God-given assignment? (See Acts 9:15-16; 26:17-18.)
Why was the unity of the church at Rome an essential demonstration of this highly focused task?
How was the Roman church needed to make this “priestly” offering to God complete?
4. How does the original sense of the word *evangelical* underscore that our reasons for coming to church go beyond affirming doctrine and experiencing healing?
Why is going beyond being ingrown to being outgoing also fall short of the central task God has for us?
What evangelical conviction about the gospel (*Romans 1:16-17*) had Paul introduced in his opening statement of this epistle's theme?
5. Why (vv. 17-19a) was Paul's enthusiasm about what God was doing through him not inappropriate?
6. In what sense (v. 19b) had Paul already fulfilled his trailblazing assignment?
7. What ambition for the future (vv. 20-21) was doubtless part of Paul's purpose in writing to the church at Rome?
8. Read and meditate on the following hymn text. It was written in the 1920s by Frank Houghton of the China Inland Mission to support its campaign to field 200 new missionaries to China. The refrain was added in 2015 by Keith Getty.

Facing a Task Unfinished

1. Facing a task unfinished, that drives us to our knees,
a need that, undiminished, rebukes our slothful ease;
we, who rejoice to know Thee, renew before Thy throne
the solemn pledge we owe Thee, to go and make Thee known.
2. Where other lords beside Thee hold their unhindered sway;
where forces that defied Thee, defy Thee still today
with none to heed their crying for life and love and light,
unnumbered souls are dying and pass into the night
3. We bear the torch that, flaming, fell from the hands of those
who gave their lives proclaiming that Jesus died and rose.
Ours is the same commission, the same glad message ours,
fired by the same ambition, to Thee we yield our pow'rs.
4. O Father who sustained them, O Spirit who inspired,
Savior, whose love constrained them to toil with zeal untired,
from cowardice defend us, from lethargy awake!
Forth on Thine errands send us, to labor for Thy sake.

Refrain:

We go to all the world
with kingdom hope unfurled.
No other name has power to save
but Jesus Christ the Lord.