



Sermon Growth Guide

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TO REACH THE LOST | Romans 15:14-22

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Key Verse: Romans 15:20 - "It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation."

Big Idea: Paul's missionary footprint inspires us to embrace a pioneer heart to reach the lost.

Foundations

In Romans chapter 15, Paul focuses on Christian unity, urging believers to let the hope, peace, and joy of the Holy Spirit overflow so they can live as one body. Quoting Old Testament prophecies, he reminds them that God's plan has always included the Gentiles. The chapter concludes with the triumphs and hardships of Paul's missionary work.

Starting in verse 14, he praises the believers for their dedication and growth. Even so, he boldly reminds them of the important "priestly duty" to proclaim truth to the Gentiles. He gives all glory to Christ and the Holy Spirit who is miraculously working through him. Paul also explains his absence in Rome in light of his ambition "to preach the gospel where Christ was not known."

From the first chapter of this book to the conclusion, Paul is clear about this mandate! The ultimate goal is to see all nations come to the obedience of faith (see Rom 1:5, 16:26). God is glorified when our trust in Him produces an obedient life; His glory is displayed every time we obey, proclaiming the Good News to the lost.

As we discussed in Romans 10, Paul had an evangelistic strategy. See how he connects his core message of unity directly to his future vision as the letter comes to a close. This chapter prepares readers for the conclusion of the letter with final blessings, teaching, and expressions of community.

Understanding God's Word

Read Romans 15:20-21, Isaiah 52:13-15, and Acts 26:12-18.

In Romans 15:20, "someone else's foundation" explains Paul's commitment to frontier mission. He wants to prevent turf wars and redundancy. More importantly, he has been called by the Risen Lord to be a light to the Gentiles. How was his ambition fueled by the words of Isaiah? How does his address to King Agrippa further confirm Paul's clear missionary call?

Theologians point out how Paul's education as a Pharisee benefited his ministry. He often used Old Testament scriptures to show how Jesus was the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. Why is this important? Extra credit: Find the 15+ Isaiah passages in Romans.

Applying God's Word

Paul's missionary journeys shed light on the places where Christ is still not known today. I invite you to go to joshuaproject.net. Identify and pray for a frontier people group. How does awareness of frontier mission encourage themes seen in Romans (i.e. unity, hope)?

Witnessing God's Word

Billions of people across the globe will live their entire lives without ever speaking with a Christian. In the U.S., this includes refugees, immigrants, and those from non-Christian households. Do you know someone who may not know Jesus? How will you witness to them this week?