

## **“...that all peoples might treasure Him above all things.”**

March 4, 2018



**Open:** What different people groups have you personally come in contact with?

**Read & Discuss:** Romans 15:8-13

1. What do verses 8-9 reveal about the character and heart of God? Of all the attributes of God that Gentiles could glorify Him for, why might Paul single out “mercy” (v. 9)?
2. Paul cites four Old Testament verses to show that God has always had a heart for the nations—for all people groups. Why might the Jewish people have struggled to embrace this truth? What factors prevent you from sustaining a concern for the nations? What have you found helpful in sustaining a concern for the nations?

**Read & Discuss:** Romans 15:14-23

3. Based on all you see in this passage, how would you describe Paul’s life “ambition” (v. 20)? How would you complete this statement for yourself: “I make it my ambition to...”? How does your ambition connect with Paul’s ambition? (*How should it connect?*)
4. Look at verses 14-23, what principles shaped Paul’s approach to life and ministry? Since many of these principles can be applied to us wherever we’re serving, is there a particular principle you see in this passage that you personally need to work at applying? Explain.

**Read & Discuss:** Romans 15:24-33

5. Where do you see evidence of partnership among these early believers? What are some ways that we might partner with others in completing the task of taking the Gospel to all nations?
6. How would you describe the mindset of these believers as they partnered together (*esp. vv. 26-27*)? What might have produced such an attitude? How can we develop this same perspective?
7. Completing the goal of seeing believers from every people group glorifying God for His mercy involves both establishing the Gospel among unreached peoples (*pioneer missions*) and the spread of the Gospel within each people group (*local evangelism*). What are some *simple* ways you can contribute to each of these pursuits now? What are some more *challenging* ways?

**Pray:** Ask God to impassion Neighborhood Church with a greater zeal to see the Gospel go to all peoples. Ask God to give guidance to you and your group specifically.

### **Romans 15:8-13**

<sup>8</sup> For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, <sup>9</sup> and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles and sing to your name.”

<sup>10</sup> And again it is said,

“Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people.”

<sup>11</sup> And again,

“Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him.”

<sup>12</sup> And again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”

<sup>13</sup> May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

### **Romans 15:14-23**

<sup>14</sup> I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. <sup>15</sup> But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God <sup>16</sup> to 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. <sup>17</sup> In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God.

<sup>18</sup> For 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, <sup>19</sup> by 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; <sup>20</sup> and 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, <sup>21</sup> but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.”

<sup>22</sup> This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. <sup>23</sup> But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you,

### **Romans 15:24-33**

<sup>24</sup> I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. <sup>25</sup> At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. <sup>26</sup> For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. <sup>27</sup> For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. <sup>28</sup> When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. <sup>29</sup> I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

<sup>30</sup> I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, <sup>31</sup> that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, <sup>32</sup> so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. <sup>33</sup> May the God of peace be with you all. Amen. (ESV)