**Romans Series October 8, 2023**

**The Priority of the Gospel - Romans 15:14-33**

1. Christians Persist in **Sharing the Gospel** Romans 15:14-16

* “full of goodness”
  + Sincere interest in the welfare of others
  + It is one of the nine fruit of the Spirit   
    in Galatians 5:22-23
  + It is not just a character quality of being good for your own reputation, but rather so that it points people to Jesus Christ, who can save them
* “filled with knowledge”
  + Not just information that fills your mind, but the comprehension of the significance of it
  + 1 Corinthians 13:2   
    If I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.
* “admonish one another”
  + The ability to teach in a way that is more than sharing of information but helps the person to grow in their faith
  + It may require addressing sins or problems in a way that helps the person to change and be transformed into the image of Christ
* Have you developed a character of goodness in your life?
  + Do others say that you are filled with goodness?
  + If not, what do you need to do to build that?
  + Ask the Holy Spirit do more fully develop this fruit in your life

2. **Christians Intentionally Pursue** the Gospel Romans 15:17-21

* Paul was not full of selfish pride in what the Lord had done through him
  + Instead, he was humbled that God used him, in spite of who he is and what he had done
  + His goal was for more and more people to hear the Gospel and to be saved

3. **Christians Sacrifice for Others** to Present the Gospel   
Romans 15:22-27

* The churches in Macedonia and Achaia sacrificed financially so Paul could continue in his ministry
  + Relief funds were also set aside to help the destitute in Jerusalem and give them support

4. **Christians Plan to** Share the Gospel Romans 15:28-29

* Paul made detailed plans, often, yet was flexible in how God led, changing as the Lord led
  + God calls us to be ready, wherever He takes us, to speak the Gospel
  + Plans are necessary, yet maintaining a flexible mind in carrying out those plans is just as necessary

5. **Christians Pray for the Acceptance** of the Gospel   
Romans 15:30-33

* Paul asked for the prayers of the Roman Christians so that he would not be impeded in preaching the Gospel
  + “strive together with me in your prayers to God” (15:30)
* Prayers are needed:
  + For safety from non-Christians and their attempt to get believers off track in following Christ
  + For the Lord’s work to be profitable and accepted by those who we are trying to reach
  + For joy in carrying out the work God has given to us
  + For sweet fellowship in sharing together

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