

ROMANS 15:14-21

# Giving Credit and Taking Ownership

## I. Paul is \_\_\_\_\_ in making disciples.

*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. But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God 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. vv. 14-16*

The passion behind godly striving comes from recognizing who is calling you to action.

Does your understanding of God's grace drive you to action?

\_\_\_\_\_ to be obedient to the one who loves you unconditionally.

## II. Paul is \_\_\_\_\_ of his work.

*In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. 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, by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God ... v. 17-19a*

The focus for godly boasting is all about what God has accomplished through you.

How do you see God's power working in your life?

\_\_\_\_\_ in how God has been and is working in your life.

## III. Paul is \_\_\_\_\_ to reach the lost.

*... so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; 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, but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand." vv. 19b-21*

The scale of godly ambition is driven by the scope of the mission God has given you.

What gifts, passions, resources, talents or relationships has God put in your life?

\_\_\_\_\_ and be on the lookout for what God wants you to build and invest in next.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

1. Read Romans 15:14-33. What are some of the features of Paul's work so far (vv. 17-21)? What kinds of power were evident in what he had been doing?
2. What attitudes toward himself and his mission does Paul express in this passage?
3. What do you see in Paul's ministry (attitudes as well as accomplishments) that you would like to imitate in your own work for God?

"Paul saw himself, in the scheme of things, as an instrument in the hands of Christ. He talked not of what he had done, but of what Christ had done with him. He never said of anything: 'I did it.' He always said: 'Christ used me to do it.' ... It is when we stop thinking of what we can do and begin to think of what God can do with us that things begin to happen."

WILLIAM BARCLAY

"To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand' seems to be Paul's life verse as a missionary. It is a quotation of Isaiah 52:15. Paul was thrilled to go and preach the gospel to those who were spiritually blind. After Paul had preached, some brother would say, 'I understand, brother Paul. I will accept Christ as my Savior.' My friend, there is no thrill equal to presenting Christ and having people turn to Him."

J. VERNON MCGEE

"Do not strive in your own strength; cast yourself at the feet of the Lord Jesus, and wait upon Him in the sure confidence that He is with you, and works in you. Strive in prayer; let faith fill your heart—so will you be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."

ANDREW MURRAY

4. What would you say is your greatest ambition? How does it compare with Paul's (v. 20)?

5. One theologian has said *Being proud of God's work is not a sin—it is worship*. What does that statement mean to you? Do you feel the same?

6. As you read verses 22-29, what about Paul's plans for travel jump out at you, knowing the plans the Lord ultimately had for him instead? How does that encourage your own walk?

7. In verse 24 Paul assumes that in Rome he will be "helped on my journey" (probably meaning housing, supplies and perhaps even companionship for the next leg of the trip). In what ways can you also help the work of Christ?

8. Why does Paul ask for prayer in verses 30-33? With whom can you strive in prayer for their ministry of the gospel?

*Be sure to go back over the questions in the boxes under each main point of the sermon notes. Prayerfully consider what God would have you do next in response.*

#### A WONDERFUL OFFER

Being a Christian isn't based on membership in a local church or keeping a set of rules. It involves a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and an understanding of who He is and what He has done to provide man with a way to experience God's love for us. Here's how to know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior:

1. Realize that you are sinful and separated from God. (Romans 3:23; Isaiah 53:6)
2. Recognize that the penalty for your sin is death—eternal separation from God and all that is good. (Romans 6:23; Hebrews 9:27)
3. Understand that Jesus Christ took the penalty for your sin by dying in your place and that He rose again. (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21)
4. Receive the free gift of salvation by trusting in Christ alone as your Savior. (Romans 4:4-5; Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 3:16 NASB) You can use this prayer to express your decision to God:

"Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for me and rose from the dead. I trust in Him alone as the only way to get right with You. Thank You for the forgiveness of sins and the eternal life I now have. Amen."

## COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit [www.ccbcfamily.org/events](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/events).



**LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD?** Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

**MAKE PLANS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE WITH CHRIST CHAPEL** This Christmas Eve, experience a night of peace and joy at Christ Chapel. Surrounded by candlelight, we'll gather, worship and celebrate Christmas, in light of Christ. Invite your friends, family and neighbors to join you in celebrating the true meaning of Christmas—Immanuel, God with us. We look forward to sharing this special evening with you! Join us by sending an RSVP today at [www.ccbcfamily.org/christmaseve](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/christmaseve).

**BE, MAKE AND REACH IN 2025 WITH END-OF-YEAR GIVING** There are multiple ways you give throughout a year, and we want to thank you for stepping into the places of need to show our neighboring communities and the world the love of Jesus. During December, we collect a special gift for End-of-Year Giving, and for 2025, we're focusing on making room for people in need. This includes giving to the next generation, missions and ministry and our church partners in El Salvador. Learn more at [www.ccbcfamily.org/give](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/give) and pick up an EOY envelope during the worship service.

**BAND OF BROTHERS: GETTING TO KNOW GOD** It's been said that the most important thing about us is what we think about God. This spring, get to know God more deeply alongside other men at Band of Brothers and study His various names found in the Old and New Testament. In this study, you'll sit around tables and discuss the profound truth of God's holiness, power, mercy, and love and how knowing what's true about God helps us understand what is true about ourselves. Sign up at [www.ccbcfamily.org/bob](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/bob).

**WOMEN IN THE WORD: WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL** Encouragement. It's one of the main themes throughout the New Testament letters, and this spring, Women in the Word will be studying Colossians, Philippians, Titus, and Philemon to grasp a greater knowledge of the encouragement that comes from Christ and being His disciple. In these letters, Paul gives the Church specific guidance and perspective on following Jesus, encouraging one another and working together to advance the news of the gospel — which is what we want to do in the new year, together! Sign up today at [www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw](http://www.ccbcfamily.org/wiw).



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