

## Romans: A Study on Reformation

### Lesson 48 “Participation in the Great Commission”

I. Introduction and Review - Paul wrote the letter to the church in Rome to reform it by resolving strife between the Jewish and Gentile home churches.

A. In **Romans 1-11**, Paul dealt with theological issues between the two groups. God elected to use the Jews to reach the Gentiles and was now using the gentiles to reach the Jews. He was always for both groups.

B. From **Romans 12-15:13** on he dealt with practical matters about how Christians should serve get along with each other. Practical expressions of theology.

C. For the rest of **Romans 15**, Paul shifts the focus of the letter from theology and how to get along, to the expansion of the gospel.

1. **Romans 15:20** Paul sought to take the gospel to places where Christ had not been named as he did not want to build on another man’s foundation. We saw he even wanted to take the gospel to Spain. Paul sought to take new territory.
2. Each of us are called to take new territory in Christ. This requires that we get over the spirit of fear and have laser focus on our assignment (avoid distractions).

D. Today, as we finish **Romans 15**, I want talk to you about how you can participate in the Great Commission. While not everyone is called to go and plant churches or hold evangelistic crusades like the Apostle Paul, Billy Graham, or myself, we are all called to participate in the Great Commission. I want to talk with you about multiple ways you can get involved, especially since we have vision to have multiple locations.

1. This requires us to get over the spirit of fear that says we aren’t qualified or God won’t come through when we step out by faith.
2. This requires we are all laser focused on our assignment and don’t get caught up in distractions (cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches, lusts other things).

II. Participation in the Great Commission

#### A. **Romans 15:22-33**

1. **Verse 22** The reason Paul was hindered in coming to Rome is the things we spoke about 2 weeks ago. He was so busy taking new territory for the kingdom of God, he hadn’t been able to make it to Rome.
  - a. We need discipleship because it’s unreasonable for one person to do all.
  - b. This is why need discipleship in our church. We are called to plant multiple locations. God is looking at some of y’all and saying “Step up.

Get involved. Let Brian, Ashley, Craig, Mandy, etc train some of yall so the gospel can spread.” **We must replicate to saturate.**

2. **Verse 23** Paul no longer had place in Achaia (Corinth) where he was writing from. It was time to move on and part of the reason he knew it was time to move on was the godly desire he had to visit Rome. **Psalm 37:4** *when we delight (are tender) ourselves in the Lord, He gives us the desires of our heart.* **Part of how you know where to get involved is through the desires God gives you as you are tender to Jesus. *Philippians 2:13.***

3. **Verses 24-26** The ministry Paul was planning to do in Jerusalem (which he was warned not to do) and take an offering. (This is what **2 Corinthians 8-9** is about). Paul wanted to take a financial offering to the church in Jerusalem.

a. This passage emphasizes the need for discipleship. Why was Paul going to Jerusalem? He wanted to see people saved their and he felt like it wasn't happening fast enough. He got out of his lane and out of the will of God trying to ensure the will of God was fulfilled.

b. Example of a non-preaching ministry is taking offerings (ministry of helps - ushers, greeters, security team). Don't make me do it all. Get involved. Even if you think we have enough help, we don't. **Our goal as leaders is to build such a pipeline of trained disciples that we can start additional services or plant additional locations.**

4. **Verses 27-28** A second way we can participate in the Great Commission is giving. Our responsibility is to share our material wealth with those who brought us spiritual wealth. **This is especially true, when we consider the idea of the expansion of the gospel and not just maintenance of the church we have.**

5. **Verse 29** God wants each and every one of us walking in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel.

a. **Galatians 3:13-14** This is your identity as a believer. We serve, we give, and pray from our identity in the fulness of the blessing.

b. It is everyone on earth's pre-identity before they are saved. This is why God wants us to make disciples (restoration of identity).

6. **Verses 30-32** Paul asks for prayer so we would be delivered from enemies in Jerusalem and come to this church and joy in peace.

a. While in one sense this prayer would have been unnecessary if Paul would have obeyed God and not gone to Jerusalem, it still highlights the need for prayer.

b. A third way to participate in the Great Commission is through prayer. John Wesley quote, *“God does nothing but in answer to prayer. Prayer is therefore not an option for mankind but a necessity. If we don't pray, heaven cannot interfere in earth's affairs.”* If this speaks to you, I'd encourage you to talk with Craig and join our prayer team.

7. **Verse 33** We do all of our serving from a place of peace (wholeness). Every time we serve it seems as if something will be missing or broken off from our life. The Hebrew word for peace (Shalom) means nothing missing/nothing broken.

III. Conclusion - When we take our part in the Great Commission and step out by faith we can be assured nothing will be missing or incomplete in our life. In fact, we will reap a harvest on things we sow whether in our serving, giving, or prayer life.

A. Transition to Craig