

HOW TO HAVE AN EFFECTIVE MINISTRY
Grace: God's Power to Change Your Life-Week 39
Romans 15:14-33

KEY WORDS:

• **Minister**

"God has given me the grace to become a minister of Christ Jesus."
(v. 16)

• **Service**

*"Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my **service** to God." (v. 17)*
*"I'm on my way to Jerusalem in the **service** of the saints." (v. 25)*
*"Pray that I may be rescued from unbelievers and that my **service** in Jerusalem may be acceptable." (v. 31)*

I. A SUMMARY OF PAUL'S TWOFOLD MINISTRY:

* **To Unbelievers: To proclaim the Good News.**

"Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit." (vs. 15-16)

"Then these twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions 'Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel.'" Matt 10:5-6

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

"When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his

garments and said to them, 'Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.'" Acts 18:5-6

* **To Believers: To meet their needs.** (vs. 23-33)

1. PAUL'S MESSAGE: the Gospel.

"to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God" (v. 16)

2. PAUL'S MOTIVE: to bring glory to God.

"Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God." (v.17)

3. PAUL'S MIRACLES: were by the Holy Spirit.

"By the powers and signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit." (v.19a)

4. PAUL'S MINISTRY AREA: the Mediterranean.

"...so from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the Gospel of Christ." (v.19b)

5. PAUL'S METHOD: starting new churches.

"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." (v. 20)

II. HOW CAN I HAVE AN EFFECTIVE MINISTRY?

"I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another." (v.14)

AN EFFECTIVE MINISTRY IS ...

1. based on God's grace.

"I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me to be a minister." (vs.15-16)

2. built on God's word.

“God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God.” (v. 16)

“Now I commit you to God and to the word of His grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have not coveted anyone’s silver or gold or clothing. You yourselves know that these hands of mine have supplied my own needs and the needs of my companions.” Acts 20:32-34

3. operated for God’s glory.

“Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done.” (vs. 17-18)

4. performed in God’s power.

“by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God.” (v. 19)

“I am the vine and you are the branches. If a man remains in Me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. Apart from Me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

“Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord.” Zachariah 4:6

5. planned according to God’s purpose.

“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. Rather, as it is written: ‘Those who were not told about Him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.’ This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.” (vs. 20-22)

“But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, I plan to do

so when I go to Spain.” (vs. 23-24)

6. backed by God’s people.

- **Financially**

“Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord’s people there. For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord’s people in Jerusalem. They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews’ spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.” (vs. 25-27)

“So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. I know that when I come to you, (AY) I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.” (vs. 28-29)

- **Prayerfully**

“I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord’s people there, so that I may come to you with joy, by God’s will, and in your company be refreshed. The God of peace be with you all. Amen.” (v. 30-33)