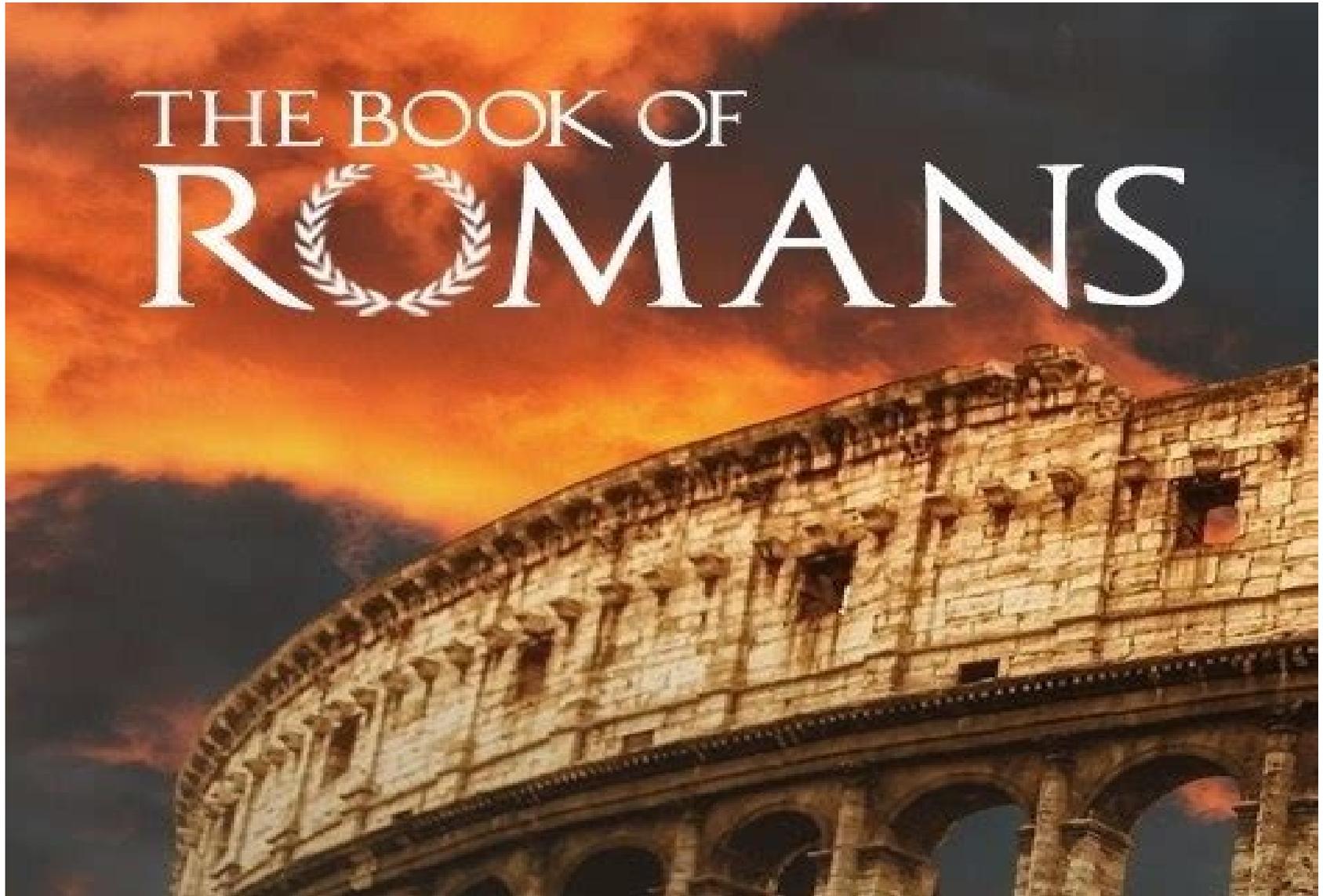


Rom 15:20-21 Preaching Where Christ Was Not Named



Outline of Rom 15:14 to 33 and Rom 16 *



- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Paul's Persuasions | 15:14 |
| 2. Paul's Ministry | 15:15-21 |
| 3. Paul's Desires | 15:22-29 |
| 4. Paul's Requests | 15:30-32 |
| 5. Paul's Benedictions | 15:33 & 16:25-27 |
| 6. Paul's Salutations | 16:1-24 |

* McCalley

for – lit: of course

Rom15:18-19



I [Paul] will not dare

to speak of anything

except what

Christ has accomplished

through
me

resulting in “the obedience” of the Gentiles

in power of signs and wonders

by word and work [deed]

by the power of the Spirit

so that

I have fully preached the gospel of Christ

from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum

18 For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed,



For I [Paul] will not presume [dare]

[not] dare - *tolmaō* – [not] to be bold or [not] to venture to speak of anything [take credit for what others have done]

Paul would not take credit for Peter's work with Cornelius McGee except what

Christ has accomplished – to bring about, to work out

- this is an event and it is factual as documented in the NT [1st] through me resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles

- lit : as an instrument in His [Christ] hands Amplified

- Christ has accomplished obedience [salvation] of the Gentiles through Paul

by word and deed [Christ's word and deed]

¹⁹ in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.



[2nd] in the power of signs and wonders

- this is telling us how Christ accomplished the salvation of the Gentiles
- signs and wonders is the standard biblical phraseology for miracles,*
- they [[sign/wonders](#)] accredited the messenger of God and validated the message that he proclaimed *Constable
- Acts 5:12a At the hands of the apostles many [signs and wonders](#) were taking place among the people;

[2nd] in [by] the power of the Spirit

- so this power is from the Holy Spirit, not Paul!
- 1 Cor 15:10 But by the grace of God I am what I am - but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, [but the grace of God with me.](#)

¹⁹ in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.



so that – with a purpose that

from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum

- Paul's arena of ministry when he wrote this epistle stretched about 1,400 miles,*
- from Jerusalem to the Roman province of Illyricum, it lay on the east side of the Adriatic Sea opposite Italy*

I have fully preached - *plēroō* – the word signifies to preach "fully" to complete the ministry of the Gospel appointed

- Col 1:25 Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God.

* Constable

Today's Verses



²⁰ And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was *already* named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation;

²¹ but as it is written, "THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."

and thus

Rom 15:20



I [Paul] aspired

to preach the gospel

not where Christ was *already* named

so that

I would not build on another man's foundation

²⁰ And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was *already* named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation;

and thus – indeed

I aspired - *philotimeomai* - to strive to bring something to pass – present tense – continuous action

- lit: to make it one's aim = ambition! Vine
- 2 Cor 5:9 Therefore we also have as **our ambition**, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

to preach the gospel - *euangelizō* - is almost always used of "the good news" concerning the Son of God as proclaimed in the Gospel

- Rom 1:15 So, for my part, I am eager [ready/willing] **to preach the gospel** to you also who are in Rome.



²⁰ And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was *already* named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation;



not where Christ was *already* named

- not where Christ's name has already been known Amplified

so that – with a purpose that

I [Paul] would not build on another man's foundation;

foundation - *themelios* – is the ministry of the Gospel or doctrines of the faith Vine

- used of elementary doctrine and instruction of the faith, (1 Cor. 3:10; Eph. 2:20) Zodhiates
- He (Paul) had never sought to preach where Christianity was already established. A point of honor, but not of rivalry, is involved. Denney via Wuest



²⁰ And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was *already* named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation;



So what is to be the practice of the Church today?

1 Cor 3:6 I [Paul] planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth.

- So Apollos is building on what Paul has planted

⁷ So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth.

¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

- So our foundation must be on Jesus Christ, but it can be on another man's work in the Lord or in unevangelized territory

but

Rom 15:21



as it is written

- In Isaiah about the Suffering Servant

they who **had no news** of him

shall see

- they = Gentiles

- the idea that of discerning

they who **have not heard**

shall understand

- they = Gentiles

- to comprehend, perceive

21 but as it is written, "THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS
OF HIM SHALL SEE, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT
HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."



But - *alla* - not a contrast but more information on Christ
working through Paul

as it is written [in the prelude to Isa 53]

Isa 52:15 Thus He [Suffering Servant] will sprinkle
[His blood on] many nations, Kings will shut their mouths on
account of Him; **For what had not been told them they will
see, And what they had not heard they will understand.**

- the Apostle Paul applied this verse to the preaching of
the Gospel in virgin and largely Gentile territory McCalley

21 but as it is written, "THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."



They [Gentiles] who **had no news** of him shall see,
had no news [of Him]

news - *anangellō* - to declare, announce - is used
especially of heavenly messages Vine

- so the Gentiles have no heavenly message until Israel's rejection of Christ
- Paul was God's appointed apostle to the Gentiles
shall see [Him]

see - *horaō* - implying not the mere act of seeing, but gives
prominence to the discerning mind, Vine

- James 2:24 You **see** [*horaō*] that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.

21^b but as it is written, --- AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND.



and they [Gentiles] who **have not heard** shall understand
have not heard [Him]

heard - *akouō* - the usual word denoting "to hear," but in
this case it is to understand or to comprehend

1 Jn 1:1 What was from the beginning, what **we have heard**,
what we have seen with our eye [about the Word of Life]

- So the Gentiles did not understand or comprehend
about Jesus Christ [in a permanent state]

shall understand [Him]

understand - *syniēmi* - to comprehend, perceive

Matt 15:10 After Jesus called the crowd to Him, He said to
them, "Hear and **understand**." [what defiles the man]

- now the Gentile can understand about Jesus Christ

Final Thoughts*



- Verse 20, along with verses 18-19, explains why Paul had not yet been able to visit Rome.
- His desire to do pioneer missionary work grew out of his zeal to reach as many unsaved people as possible (cf. Rom 1:14).
- Notice that he went to unreached people with the Gospel (Matt. 28:19-20).
- He did not wait for them to come and enquire about it.
- In verse 21 Paul seems to have found encouragement to pursue this goal
- in this prophecy from Isaiah [Is 52:15], which describes the mission of the Servant of the Lord.

* Constable

