



Romans 15:20-33

Getting This Gospel Out | November 16th - 22nd, 2014

Warm-up: When we understand that our lives are to be lived as servants of God, we lay all of our plans at His feet and we will also make sacrifices to accomplish what He gives us to do. Is “sacrificing” so that the gospel can get out, a reality that you regularly embrace? Why or why not? What can hinder us in this?

- As a group, quickly summarize the first part of **Romans 15** and then read **Romans 15:20-33** aloud. Although Paul made plans visit Rome and take the good news of Christ to Spain, God had a different game plan in mind. **“We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.” - Proverbs 16:9**
 - How have you personally experienced the truth of **Prov. 16:9** recently?
 - What plan or plans might you be gripping too tightly at the moment?
- Our labor in the gospel is not simply about love, but also about a fight. In **15:30**, Paul invites the Roman church to join the “struggle.” To jump into the fight, which at times can be agonizing! In what ways were they invited to help Paul in this battle? (See **15:30-33**)
 - How is prayer akin to doing warfare? What has been your experience in this regard? (See **Ephesians 6:17-19**)
 - Are there those in your life - (friends, family, co-workers etc.)- to whom you feel a particular urgency to pray for in this season? As long as it doesn’t violate someone’s trust, share as you feel led.
- Besides prayer, in what other ways does our labor in God’s Kingdom remind us that we are in a battle?
 - In what aspect of your faith do you feel the battle strongest right now? What do you discern the Holy Spirit is telling you to do about this?
- On **The Shoreline App**. (Under the Sermon notes for this past Sunday), Pastor George provides a nice summary of the events of **Acts 20 - 28**. These chapters recount the ultimate answers to the prayer requests Paul asks of the Roman believers in **15:30-33**. Read through this 7 point summary.
 - What strikes you about God’s “answers” to Paul’s prayer requests?
 - How does this encourage, challenge, or teach you personally?

Wrap-up: Getting the gospel out in our daily lives will often be costly. Pray for the strength to endure, and to have the mindset to engage in the battle even when it’s hard.