



**Bible Study – March 06, 2024**

**Series: A Study About Sharing Your Faith**

**Lesson 10: Being Driven by The Gospel | Romans 15:17-22 (NIV)**

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## Introduction

When it comes to the gospel of Jesus Christ, what drives you for Him? What gives you the courage to go and share the gospel? What makes you ready to share it daily? Reflect on these questions because, in this lesson, we will observe how the gospel was the driving force in the Apostle Paul's life. Hopefully, when we finish studying, our learning will compel us to a new inspiration in witnessing. Let us get right into the lesson.

## Committed to Proclaim

**Romans 15:17-19**

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—by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So, from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.

Paul is rejoicing and praising GOD for making him a minister of the gospel to the Gentile people. He is grateful for the favorable outcome among them. He knows that it is by GOD'S grace that he can minister to them. But he expresses humility in his service to GOD, coming solely through Jesus Christ. Once more, Paul is letting the church at Rome know that it is not his efforts or strength that allows him to go and preach the gospel. He is motivated because of his commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord.

As Paul continues, he tells the church that he is restrained and probably afraid to speak anything except what Jesus Christ has accomplished through him. In other words, Paul did not allow himself to exaggerate his accomplishments or claim what others had achieved with the gospel. He stayed central to the truth of what he did and nothing else. When preaching to the Gentiles, he was determined to reach them in obedience to GOD through the gospel. Was Paul aware of the gospel message Jesus preached when He began His ministry? Let's review it for a moment in the following verse: *From that time on, Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."* [Matthew 4:17 NIV]

The kingdom of GOD is foremost in getting a person to change direction in their life. The work of GOD by Jesus was rapidly moving towards the glorious kingdom of GOD beginning here on earth. If a person wanted to be a part of the kingdom, they had to repent. This repentance was mandatory then and now if fellowship with GOD was to be enjoyed. I think that Paul knew the



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significance of repentance, which is the key to the change in his life. This is the basis of new life in Jesus Christ. Paul told the church that preaching and the working of miracles were how people came to Christ through his public ministry to the Gentile people.

Paul emphasized using signs and wonders as part of his gifting by the Holy Spirit's power. He was not claiming the use of these gifts as something that he did in his strength. Anything praiseworthy he achieved had GOD'S grace as its source, Jesus Christ as its motivation, and the Holy Spirit as its power. This is why he went daily throughout Asia Minor and the Grecian Peninsular preaching abroad. What about the believers today when sharing stories and the gospel message? We should be committed to reaching unsaved people every day. People oppressed by sinful living want to know that there is hope and a better way to live.

**Q. Examine your personal story to see if repentance is the key to the change in your life. Tell why this part of your story will draw unsaved people into the kingdom of GOD.**

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**Ambitious to Proclaim**

**Romans 15:20-22**

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.

Paul was on a mission to save the people of this world. As he said, his ambition or enthusiastic desire was always to preach the gospel in places where Jesus Christ was unknown. It was the center point of his struggle to extend the gospel as far as possible. Paul was a "church planter" and desired to start churches in the places where he preached the gospel. He was ready for this kind of task and welcomed doing it.

Paul quoted Isaiah the prophet's words in the following: *For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand. [Isaiah 52:15(b)]* This was the guiding principle for Paul's goal and preaching. In conclusion, he let the church know that his mission to preach prevented him from visiting them. It was the demands of his time of constantly going to many places that he could not visit them. How vast was this mission? Paul desired to go to the church in Rome but could not leave the region where he preached the gospel to those who never



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heard of Jesus Christ. Paul had a good problem driving him daily. Today, a delight for Jesus Christ and the gospel message should drive each of us. But there has to be a genuine delight in Him for this to stir up within us.

**Q. Paul said, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ” (1 Corinthians 11:1NIV). Looking at Paul’s commitment to and ambition for the gospel, how much are you willing to follow his example?** \_\_\_\_\_

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#### Endnotes

1. Drs. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary New Testament* (Colorado Springs: Chariot Victor Publishing, 1983) 497.
2. Unless otherwise stated, all Scripture is taken from *The Holy Bible, New International Version®*, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.