

Title: OUR AIM IN LIFE - PART I

Text: Romans 15: 14-21'

We are in Romans chapter 15. Please open your Bibles to the 15th chapter of the book of Romans. And we will begin with Vs 14.

As you look through this last section of Romans chapter 15, there is a word that is a word that I would have to call "KEY WORD." It is the word "MINISTER OR SERVE."

Notice Vs 16..."to be a minister"..Also, in the save verse "ministering." You could also add the word "offering" in the same verse.

Jump down to verse 25..."I am going to Jerusalem servng the saints." Vs 27..."They are indebted to minister to them also in material things." Vs 31..."my sevice for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints."

MINISTRY is the key word. Though there are several words in the Greek lanuage that <sup>are</sup> translated by this one word "MINISTER" in this text. For example, look back at Vs 16. Here he says "to be a minister." Our word LITURGY comes from it. It refers to the ministry of a priest. He is saying, I WANT TO BE A PRIEST OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE GENTILES.

Peter tells us in chapter 2 of his book "we are all priest."

When Paul says in Vs 16..."Ministering as a Priest the Gospel." He uses a word referring to "Temple Work." Just bring sacrifices...getting your hands bloody...taking care of the franchises...lighting the candles, and ect. He is saying..."My temple work," talking to Jewish people(and they would really identify with that) ....if you want to know what I am doing..I am doing the Gospel. I am not lighting the candles..I am not fixing the bread, I am not offering the sacrifice...I am not getting the blood on my hands... JESUS HAS COME. But, what I am doing in my Temple Work is the Gospel. That is what it is all about."

Then when I come down to verses 25 and 27 and 31 the ministry focus is not the Gospel, but it is rather the needs of believers.

So I would like to summarize this whole passage into two things. ASKING THE QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR AIM IN LIFE? WHAT IS YOUR GOAL? WHERE ARE YOU HEADED? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACHIEVE?

First of all, I believe God has a purpose as to why you are here. Some people lose that. Especially in difficult times. But, I believe God has left you here for a reason. Other wise it seems to me the best thing God could have done, if that were not so, would be that the moment you became a Christian He would take you immediately to heaven.

Now, that would be interesting. If you could stop and picture that for a moment. Here you are sharing the Gospel with someone. And all of a sudden they receive Christ and they immediately go to heaven.

Of course, the question is: WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?....(HA)

So, you see there is a real reason why God left you here, right? And if you summarize this whole section just into two things. I would put the first into verses 14 to 21: Here Paul is telling us in our relationship to non-believers, His whole aim in life is to preach the Gospel. Now, that is what I call putting it simply. And I still hold that that is the major responsibility of every Christian. WHY AM I LEFT HERE ON EARTH AFTER I HAVE RECEIVED CHRIST AS MY SAVIOUR AND LORD? And that one major task as it relates to the non-believers of the world.....WHAT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY..... My one great aim in life, my constant prayer, is that some how by my job, by my time, by resources, my abilities, I may have the glorious privilege of telling someone about Jesus Christ. THERE IS NOTHING MORE IMPORTANT IN ALL THE WORLD, PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL. THAT SHOULD BE OUR AIM TOWARD NON-BELIEVERS.

And then in the second section, verses 22 to the end of the chapter, Paul is talking about your aim towards believers. And Paul is saying that our aim towards believers is to help provide their needs. A person who has a heart for God's people, who understands his responsibilities in the body of Christ, cares about the needs of his brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Now, there is so much teaching here in these verses that I am going to divide this message into two weeks. Today, I just want to look at our AIM TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT CHRISTIANS...Verse 14 to 21. Let's look at it.

(Read Romans 15:14-21)

Prayer

Now, these verses may be summarized by the little phrase "PREACH THE Gosple." Our responsibility to non-believers.

And I would like you to see two things in this passage. (1     ) One, is that this aim of preaching the Gospel, that so captured the heart of Paul, is related to the teaching that we just had the last three Sundays. Now, that might surprise you. For three weeks, now, we have been talking from chapter 14:1 to chapter 15 verse 13 about how believers need to get along with one another. A<sup>B</sup>ut how Jews and Gentiles...both need to be in the same church...They have different cultural problems and backgrounds, but they are not to judge one another, they are not to cause believers to stumble by their actions or their liberty. And they were not to please themselves, but seek to build up one another---that we be like minded..with one mind, with one mouth we may glorify God. We are to accept one another as Christ has received us. And then he makes a major point in verses 9 to 13 that the Gentiles were to be part of the church even in O.T. prophecy. That the O.T. predicted that the Gentiles would rejoice with Jewish people in the future. And God would bring them salvation through a root of Jesse, V<sup>s</sup> 12 says, which, of course, refers to none other than Jesus, himself.

So, saying all of that he starts out in Vs 14 and shows us that preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles, which is what he is doing to the whole world, Jesus said, "Make disciples of all the Gentiles of the world." He is saying that that is a part of God's plan.

Now, the early church is primarily Jewish. So, they are questioning Paul all the time. "What are you doing going to the pagan Gentiles?" And Paul is saying that this is prophesied in the O.T. God wants both in the same church. So, preaching the gospel to a Gentile world is related to the teaching of preceding verses -- Chapter 14:1 through chapter 15:13.

And according to Vs 14 what we are to do is to admonish one another about this. He says, "I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able also to admonish one another" about this issue. WHAT ISSUE? to accept one another.

And then he goes on to express that this whole commitment to preach the gospel to the Gentiles is a part of that whole plan of God to bring Gentiles and Jews together. Gentiles are in God's plan. And Jews and Gentiles are to be like-minded in order that God may be glorified.

Let me put it to you another way. What this means is: that seeking the salvation of the Gentile world, which is the great interprise of this current age, seeking the salvation of the Gentile world brings glory to God. And is a part of our service to the Lord. And if that is not in your category of service there is some wrong in your life. It isn't an option just for a few believers. God wants all of us, everyone of us who have come to know Christ as saviour, to share the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. There is no other purpose as it relates to the non-believing world. That is our number one reason for being a church. We associate with non-believers...we fellowship with them for one purpose: that somehow and some way we will have the opportunity to tell them about salvation through Jesus Christ. There is nothing more important.

Don't you be a friend to a non-believer all your life and have good times with them and social occasions and all of that and never tell them about Jesus. THAT IS SAD...THAT IS SICK...THAT IS A TRADATY...A friend that you have associated with spending all eternity in Hell. And you have the opportunity to tell them about Jesus. In the name of common sense, in the name of commitment to Christ, and service to the Lord, I plead with you, I beg with you, as Paul does with all of us, that we make as our aim towards all non-believers, to proclaim the wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ. THERE IS NOTHING THAT WE DO IN THIS CHURCH AS IMPORTANT AS THAT...NOTHING...

So, you see, as we look at this it is related to the teaching of the preceding verses in which Paul was trying to tell them that the Gentiles were included in God's plan.

(2 ) Secondly, in verses 15 to 21 this great need to preach the gospel is reinforced by the testimony of Paul. And this is a beautiful section.