



THINGS THAT MATTER AND THINGS THAT DON'T

"Mission Ambition"

"What is your ambition?" Romans 15:18-21 (Pt 2)

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • MAY 29, 2016
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1048.
In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.
Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com

REVIEW:

1. As ambitious servants of Christ, we are to proclaim the *Good News* of Christ.
2. As we pass through this world, there will be no greater calling than that of being a soul winner for God.
3. We are all ministers (who do something for God) and priests (who present something from God—His "Good News!")
4. Our ambition, if spiritual in nature, can change history and will extend beyond the grave.

What is God's ambition for you?

Paul gives us a holy ambition to shoot for:

1. **Ambitious Servants Proclaim Christ.**
2. **Ambitious Servants Prioritize God's Calling.**

A. Whatever God calls you to, **be fruitful.** (Confirmation)

Romans 15:17–19, HCSB -¹⁷ Therefore I have reason to boast in Christ Jesus regarding what pertains to God. ¹⁸ For I would not dare say anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to make the Gentiles obedient by word and deed [this is how Paul shared the Good News], ¹⁹ by the power of miraculous signs and wonders [Miracles were given to authenticate the messenger and the message], and by the power of God's Spirit...

Romans 15:18–19, NLT -¹⁸ Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. ¹⁹ They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit.

B. Whatever God calls you to, **be faithful.** (Commitment)

Romans 15:19, HCSB -¹⁹ by the power of miraculous signs and wonders, and by the power of God's Spirit. As a result, I have fully proclaimed the good news about the Messiah from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum [modern day Yugoslavia; Paul has now traveled over 1,500 miles].

Romans 15:19, TLB -¹⁹ I have won them by my message and by the good way I have lived before them and by the miracles done through me as signs from God—all by the Holy Spirit's power. In this way I have preached the full Gospel of Christ all the way from Jerusalem clear over into Illyricum.

C. Whatever God calls you to, **be focused.** (Concentration)

Romans 15:20–21, HCSB -²⁰ My aim [Gk: φιλοτιμέομαι, (phil-low-ta-MAY-oh-my), is typically translated "ambition"; used here in the emphatic/imperative mood, is understood as a *driving focus*] is to evangelize where Christ has not been named, so that I will not build on someone else's foundation,²¹ but, as it is written: **Those who were not told about Him will see, and those who have not heard will understand.** [Bold faced font indicates an OT quote; cf., Isaiah 52:15]

Romans 15:20–21, NLT -²⁰ My ambition has always been to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else.²¹ I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, "Those who have never been told about him will see, and those who have never heard of him will understand."



The ambitious servant of God is driven to fulfill God's Calling in his/her life by being fruitful, faithful and focused.

Life Application Section

Here are two significant principles that stem from Romans 15:14-21:

1. Ministry is a gracious privilege _____.
2. The gospel is a precious responsibility _____.

It's just this: Every Muslim regards himself as a missionary; the majority of Christians think it is another man's work."

- William MacGregor, missionary to Africa when once asked "Why is Islam spreading far more rapidly than Christianity in [that part of the world]."