

Home Group Questions

the week of 4/15/2018

Romans 15:8-21

MISSION TO THE WORLD

GETTING STARTED...

This past Sunday, Pastor Mel continued his series on the book of Romans. This week's sermon dealt with Romans 15:8-21 which highlights Paul's passion for taking the message of Christ to every nation in the world.

LOOKING IN THE WORD...

1. Read Romans 15:8-21. Why was it so important for Paul to spend so much time defending God's plan for the inclusion of Gentiles in the church? What attitudes may have existed among early Jewish Christians toward those who came to faith in Christ as Gentiles in the early church? What are some modern day parallels to the church today in it's attitude toward others? How can we as a modern day church break down some of the secular and sinful walls that exist between people groups today?

2. Read this quote about the church in Rome:

"Jewish Christians brought the faith of Christ to Rome in the early decades of the church. After generating both interest and controversy within the synagogues, Christianity grew in Rome as Gentiles began to convert to faith in Christ. This eventually resulted in Gentile-dominated church with a strong Jewish cohort. The church in Rome received Paul's letter in the late 50's, met in small groups around the city of Rome but maintained communication, and held onto a common identity and mission"

How does the quote above help in understanding why Paul spends so much time discussing his calling as an apostle to the Gentiles? What tensions do you think may have existed in this

early church between the Gentiles (Romans) and the Jewish Christian community?

- What are some other truths that stand out in this passage about Paul's heart for the lost and his heart for Gentiles. As a Jew, what would have been some of the negative attitudes that Paul might have face from other Jews in his efforts to evangelize the Gentiles?

- **How does the gospel break down the dividing walls between various people groups in this world...what attitudes and/or beliefs has God placed within you that allows you to welcome people into the body of Christ that are different from you?**

3. Williams Carey is often called the father of modern missions. The number of his accomplishments in India was almost equaled by the number of obstacles he overcame to get there. He was told by a group of negatively-minded English ministers before leaving for India, "If God wants to save the heathen, young man, He will do it without your help or ours." That type of attitude may have existed within the Jewish community toward Gentile evangelism. Are there any parallels you see today when it comes to reaching out to people around you or in our community?

3. Read Acts 17:24-31. Paul, speaking at the Areopagus in Athens describes a God who is very involved in the affairs of this world. What reassurances does this description of God give you when it comes to your understanding of this world and your understanding of evangelism? How does an "involved" God work in the process of evangelism as we seek to use our gifts for Him?

MOVING FORWARD... Pray that you would have a heart to reach the world for Jesus Christ like Paul did, and that you would see all individuals as people that are created in God's image, and because of that, are people that Jesus died for on the cross