



DISCUSSION GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

Paul begins to wrap up his letter to the Roman church by recounting all that Christ has already accomplished through him, and by laying out his plans for future ministry. His passion to preach in areas that have not heard of it and to avoid building on another's foundation explain why he has not yet visited the Roman church, and why his visit to them- while joyful- will be brief.

MAIN POINT

God is not looking for talented men and women to advance the gospel. He is looking for faithful ones who trust him to accomplish his purposes through them.

READ

Romans 15:14-21

REFLECT

In verse 19, Paul declares that he has “fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ” in the region east of Rome, where his three missionary journeys took place. Paul's next step though wasn't to retire but to bring the gospel to a new area that hadn't heard it. Why do you think Paul had such energy and zeal to never stop? How does his energy and zeal compare to your own? How can we be encouraged by his example?

Paul was not eloquent (1 Cor. 2:3-5) nor did he have a commanding presence (2 Cor. 10:10), yet God accomplished much through him. So too today, God accomplishes great things for his kingdom through faithful men and women who make themselves available to him. What inadequacies and fears tend to threaten your availability? How can you factor God into those moments?

What are the spheres of influence in your life (family, friends, neighbors, co-workers)? Spend time praying those in these spheres that don't yet know Christ. Pray also for boldness to share the gospel with them, and for the Holy Spirit to help you take God into account as you share.

MEMORIZE

Romans 15:20 – “thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation...”

