

WARM-UP

- Tell us about a goal you've been trying to reach for a long time.
- Have you ever been told something you didn't believe until you experienced it? Share the story.
- What is a personal experience that has completely changed the way you live?

WORD *¹⁸For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰and 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, ²¹but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."* **ROMANS 15:18-21**

Paul says here that he has *fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ*. For Paul, the fulfillment of the ministry of the gospel is to preach the gospel where it has never been preached before, to people who have never heard of Him before. Let's look at how God works through His people to bring the gospel to the world through missions.

1 | Missions is God's work.

For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed . . . **ROMANS 15:18**

Missions is first and foremost the work of Christ. The gospel is the story of Christ becoming man, dying on the cross to atone for our sins, and resurrecting from the dead so we can live with Him forever. That is the good news we share with the world—God's story that brings salvation to man. When and how did you first understand the gospel? Who preached the gospel to you?

2 | Missions is God's work through His people.

¹⁸For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ . . . **ROMANS 15:18,19**

Not only did Paul say he would *not venture to speak of anything except what Christ accomplished*—he also said what Christ accomplished *through me*. When we preach the gospel, it is Christ accomplishing His work through us. We have the evidence of a changed life to testify that we have personally experienced the gospel. Also, Christ, through His people, speaks, acts, and even does miracles. How has your experience of the gospel changed the way you live?

Missions is God's work through His people to bring the good news to the ends of the earth.

¹⁹. . . by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰and 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, ²¹but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

ROMANS 15:19-21

Before the gospel is a message to bring, it is an experience that transforms a person. God loves us so much that He not only changes us to be more and more like Him, but He allows us to participate in His great purpose: that the good news will spread to the ends of the earth to give every person an opportunity for salvation. What happened when you first preached the gospel?

APPLICATION

- Have you experienced the gospel in such a way that it changed your life? Would you like to believe in it today? Ask someone to pray with you for a life changed by the gospel.
- Is there something that is stopping you from preaching the gospel? What is one thing you can do differently after hearing today's topic?
- How can you preach the message of the gospel to your family and friends? Who is one person you can reach out to this week?

