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22004 Placerita Canyon Road, Newhall CA 91321
661-259-2913 | info@placiritachurch.com
Listen to sermon audio at www.placiritachurch.com

The Great Commission is Not an Option Romans 1:13-15

I. Paul Wanted to Come to Rome (v. 13)

- A. There was an _____ explanation to give (v. 13a)
[Rom. 11:25; 1 Cor. 10:1; 12:1; 2 Cor. 1:8; 1 Thes. 4:13]
- B. There was a need to _____ on God's timing (v. 13b)
[Rom. 15:17-20, 22-24, 26; 1 Thes. 2:18]
- C. There was a _____ that was in order (v. 13c)
1. The fruit of the _____ (Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Pet. 1:5-8)
 2. The fruit of our _____ (Phil. 1:22)
 3. The fruit of our _____ (Heb. 13:15)
 4. The fruit of _____ (Rom. 15:28; Phil. 4:17)
 5. The fruit of _____ (1 Cor. 16:5; Rom. 16:5)

II. Paul Was Obligated to Come to Rome (v. 14)

- A. Under a great _____ (v. 14a)
[1 Cor. 9:16; Acts 4:20; 9:6]

- B. Under obligation to _____ and to barbarians (v. 14b)
[Acts 14:11; 17:18, 30; 28:2]
- C. Under obligation to the _____ and to the foolish (v. 14c)
[1 Pet. 1:17; John 4:7-42]

III. Paul Was Eager to Preach the Gospel in Rome (v. 15)

- A. Why we preach the gospel to _____
1. We are _____ to (2 Tim. 4:2)
 2. God _____ through His Word (Isa. 55:11; Heb. 4:12)
 3. Faith comes from _____ the Word of Christ (Rom. 10:14-17)
- B. Why we preach the gospel to _____
1. It is the _____ of the Bible (Lk. 24:25-26)
 2. It _____ spiritual growth (Phil. 3:12-15)
 3. It fuels our _____ of Jesus (Lk. 24:32)

TAKE HOME:

- When it comes to reaping a _____ in your life, what does that look like?
- Are you a _____? If so, to whom? How does that play out in your life?
- Do you preach the _____ more to believers or unbelievers? How and why would you do this to each group?

STUDY QUESTIONS

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message to your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others. For more information about joining a small group that uses these questions as the basis for discussion, prayer, and accountability, please visit our website at placiritachurch.com.

1. Read Romans 1:13. What was Paul’s explanation of why he couldn’t come to Rome earlier? (Rom. 11:25; 1 Cor. 10:1; 12:1; 2 Cor. 1:8; 1 Thes. 4:13) How important is it to acknowledge God’s timing on this or on any event in your life? (Rom. 15:17-20, 22-24, 26; 1 Thes. 2:18)

2. What was the harvest that Paul wanted to reap in Rome? What are some other ways we understand the concept of bearing fruit from other passages? How does this encourage you today? (Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; Phil. 1:22; Heb. 13:15; Rom. 15:28; Phil. 4:17; 1 Cor. 16:5; Rom. 16:5)

3. Read Romans 1:14. In what way or ways was Paul under a great obligation? How can grace be a free gift and yet we are still indebted? Explain how this works. (1 Cor. 9:16; Acts 4:20; 9:6)

4. What group of people was Paul indebted to? What can we learn from this? Who are you indebted to? How do you discharge your debt? (Acts 14:11; 17:18, 30; 28:2; 1 Pet. 1:17; John 4:7-42)

5. Read Romans 1:15. Why do we preach the gospel to unbelievers? Which one of these three reasons encouraged you or challenged you the most? (2 Tim. 4:2; Isa. 55:11; Heb. 4:12; Rom. 10:14-17)

6. Read Romans 1:15 again. Why do we preach the gospel to believers? Which one of these three reasons encouraged you or challenged you the most? (Lk. 24:25-26; Phil. 3:12-15; Lk. 24:32)

7. Read the take home questions. Which one challenged you or encouraged you the most? Why? How will you live your life differently based on what you have learned from this passage?

“We must note that debt is to God, but the payment is to men. The great nineteenth-century missionary to China, Hudson Taylor, realized this as was seen when it was suggested by someone that he had given his life to the Orient because he loved the Chinese. To this he shook his head and answered thoughtfully, ‘No, not because I loved the Chinese, but because I love God.’”

- R. Kent Hughes, *Preaching the Word: Romans*