LifeBridge BAPTIST CHURCH

WOC Worship Service
October 4, 2020
Pastor Chris Regas

Partnering to Advance the Gospel Message

CREATIVE ACCESS: Persevering to Advance the Gospel in Hard Places

Lesson One • Romans 15:14-16

Advancing the gospel in hard places during hard times requires **CREATIVE ACCESS**.

Why Will Romans 15–16 Prepare Our Hearts?

➤ **Romans Exalts the MAJESTY of God and His Gospel.**
Romans proclaims the gospel is God's power for salvation. Romans 1:16-17

➤ **Romans Encourages the MATURITY of the Church.**
Romans is the capstone of the first 6 letters Paul wrote to mature local churches.

➤ **Romans Engages the MISSION to the Unreached.**
Romans is a Missionary Letter to a Local Church - Romans 1:8-15; 15:14-16:27

3 Criteria to Evaluate Missionaries

The Missionary – "by word and deed" v. 18
The Ministry – "Apostle to the Gentiles" 1:13; 11:13; 15:16
The Mission Field – "Spain" vv. 24, 28

8 Practices of a WorldChanger

Learning & Loving, Giving & Praying, Welcoming & Mobilizing, Going & Sending!

Paul's Purpose in Romans Is Missional

*Encourage the church at Rome to **PARTNER** with him in advancing the gospel in hard places during hard times.*

Two Essentials for Advancing the Gospel Message in Hard Places

1. UNITING Around the Gospel Message.

"...I have written very boldly to you...so as to remind you again..." (15:14-15a)

Gospel Maturity Maintains Gospel Unity

➤ By **EXPLAINING** the Gospel.
"filled with all knowledge" of the gospel

➤ BY **EXPERIENCING** the Gospel.
"full of (moral) goodness" and the fruit of the Spirit

➤ By **EXHORTING** one another with the Gospel.
"able to admonish one another"

2. PARTNERING on the Gospel Mission.

"because the grace that was given me from God...the gospel of God" (15:15b-16)

Paul Uses OT Imagery to Picture the Partial Fulfillment of Isaiah 66:18-20

Partnering with the Trinity on His Gospel Mission

➤ We partner with God the **FATHER** by His grace.

➤ We partner with God the **SON** in His work

➤ We partner with God the **SPIRIT** in His power.

Unite Around the Gospel Message to Partner with God – *the Great Three-in-One* –on His Gospel Mission!

☐ Grow in unity around the gospel message.
- Learn to explain it: *Knowing!*
- Begin to experience it: *Being!*
- Commit to exhorting one another with it: *Doing!*

☐ Partner with the Holy Trinity, our Church, and our Global Partners to advance the gospel in hard places during hard times.