



# To Boldly Go Where No Church Has Gone Before

## Romans 15:14-33

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1. Thinking about the current presidential election, what do you think should be the main concern of Christians as they vote for a candidate? Why?
2. Thinking about Merced, what is the most difficult issue we face as a community? Why?

### **PURPOSE - verses 14-21**

1. How does Paul describe the church in Rome (verse 14)?
2. If we were to apply Paul's description of the Roman church (verse 14) to Creekside, how well do you think we are doing in each of these areas?
3. What is it that Paul wants to "remind" the Roman church concerning (verse 15)? Why?
4. What has God given Paul to be a minister of (verse 16)? How does Paul describe what this ministry meant to him?
5. How did Paul accomplish this ministry (verses 18,19)?
6. If Paul were writing to Creekside, what do you think he would remind us of? Why?

### **PRIORITY - verses 22-29**

1. What did Paul long for (verse 23)?
2. Where did Paul ultimately desire to go as he passed through Rome (verse 28)? Instead, what was God's itinerary for Paul?
3. Consider Acts 28:17-30. When Paul arrived in Rome by following God's itinerary, what was his attitude and purpose?
4. Itineraries can be our vision for our life, what we cling to as important, and/or our comfort zone. What is your usual response when God "changes" your itinerary through life?
5. What might it take for you to be more trusting of God's "itinerary" for your life? Put another way, what would it take for the priority of your life to be fixed more on God's priority for your life?

### **PARTNERSHIP - verses 30-33**

1. What are the characteristics of the partnership that Paul longs for/describes? What is the basis of that partnership? How might striving together in prayer be a means that God uses to develop that partnership?
2. How might God use striving together in prayer to develop partnership here at Creekside?
3. Partnership involves at least three qualities. Using a scale of 1 to 10 (10 meaning "It's good!"), how would you rate the expression of these qualities here at Creekside? What would it take to move each quality one point towards a 10?
  - Competence - using our abilities and gifts in ways that correspond and compliment each other.
  - Trust - being able to rely on the integrity and abilities of each other.
  - Vision - desiring and working together to achieve common goals.

### **EXTRA CREDIT**

1. In 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Paul gives the bottom line purpose for prayer. What is it (note especially verse 4)?
2. How does this purpose correspond to Paul's desire that the Roman church strive together with him in prayer?
3. How might this understanding and purpose change what you/we are praying for and why (especially in this election season and the ongoing spiritual decline of America)?
4. Paul's ambition was to preach the gospel where (verse 20)? Why?
5. For us, where has the gospel not been preached? How are we to preach the gospel there?