

THE CHRISTIAN'S GOAL LINE
THE WORK, CONCERNING THE PEOPLE
Romans 15:15-21

Introduction

- Imagine being handed a football and then running toward the wrong goal – describe how you might feel:
- Christian's certainly would not want to be going toward the wrong goal
 - 1) Many Christians without fully realizing it are going the w_____ way.
 - 2) Many Christians have failed to integrate all goals into the one goal that God has set.

The Statement of the Goal (15-18a)

- What is the *grace* that was given to Paul by God?
 1. It was not s_____ but the reason for which he was saved.
 2. It was to be a m_____ of Christ to the Gentiles
- The Greek word translated as *minister*
 1. Is NOT the usual word translated as minister. The usual word refers to one who serves tables (where we get our word d_____)
 2. It is made up of two words: “concerning the p_____” and “work”
 - a. Secular sense – referred to a p_____ servant
 - b. Religious sense – referred to a p_____ in his service to the religious people (see verse 16)
- Paul's work was to benefit the body of Christ in the sense of bringing Gentiles to Christ.
 1. Paul did not drag people to Christ, but the Holy Spirit s_____ the Gentiles (i.e. set them apart from the world by bringing them to Christ – v. 16)
 2. Paul did not b_____ about anything except what Christ accomplished through him (vv. 17,18)
- All Christians have been called to be ministers of Christ, in serving the b_____ of Christ.
 1. Many make “church life” or even the “Christian life” as just one of many parts of life (job, family, hobbies, etc) – this is called compartmentalizing (d_____ life into parts).
 2. God wants us to integrate all areas of life into our calling as servants to the body of Christ.
 - a. By serving the body with our t_____ - develop a servant's heart by taking opportunities to serve
 - 1) E.g. - cleaning, encouraging, helping, teaching
 - 2) See notebook on back table and determine which team you would like to be on)
 - b. By serving the body with our t_____ - think hard about doing this and do it!
 - c. By serving the body with our t_____ (Ps 24:1; Matt 6:19-21)
 - 1) Our society emphasizes l_____
 - 2) Christians that follow society find themselves giving Christ's body the leftovers.
 - 3) Serve the body with your t_____, not your leftovers.

The Result of the Goal (18b-21)

- In Paul's case, when he pursued the right goal
 1. Gentiles became o_____ to the word (salvation – 19a)
 2. M_____ occurred (19b)
 3. The gospel s_____ (19c)
 4. People heard about Christ that had never heard (20)
- Paul was not the only one involved in this ministry to the Gentiles

1. He had t_____ companions (e.g. Silas, Timothy)
 2. He had the s_____ of the church of Antioch and other churches
 3. God worked through the b_____
- In our case, if we all pursue serving the body of Christ wholeheartedly with our time, talents, and treasure, then:
1. There will be m_____ fellowship
 2. There will be spiritual g_____
 3. The unbelieving world will be impacted

Conclusion – You have the ball! Now, where will you run?