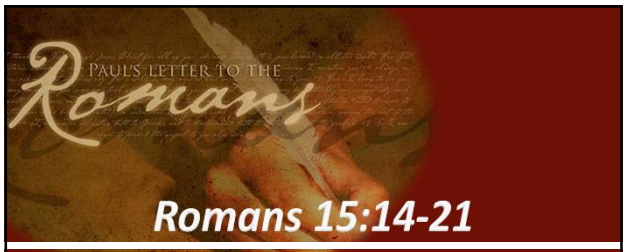

Paul Recounts His Apostolic Ministry

by Eric Douma
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Paul's Commends Believers in Rome

Romans 15:14 And concerning you, my brethren, I myself also am convinced that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.

Romans 3:10-12 "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."

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Paul Reminds Believers in Rome

Romans 15:15-16 But I have written very boldly to you on some points so as to remind you again, because of the grace that was given me from God, 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

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Paul Is Empowered to Preach

Romans 15:17-19 Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God. 18 For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, 19 in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

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Paul Preached to the Unreached

Romans 15:20-21 And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, so that I would not build on another man's foundation; 21 but as it is written, "THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND."

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Applications

1. We should not underestimate the importance of being "reminded" of the gospel through the means of grace.
2. We must understand the uniqueness of the ministry of Christ's apostles.
3. We should know that our ministries stand upon the apostolic word.

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The Importance of Remembering

Deuteronomy 6:12 then watch yourself, that you do not forget the LORD who brought you from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

Deuteronomy 15:15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today.

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The Importance of Remembering

1. Baptism: We remember our union with Christ.
2. The Lord's Supper: We remember what Christ has done until He comes.
3. The Word: Stirs up remembrance.

2 Peter 3:1 This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder…

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The Uniqueness of the Apostles

1 Samuel 25:5 So David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, visit Nabal and greet him in my name…

Jeremiah 25:4 And the LORD has sent to you all His servants the prophets again and again, but you have not listened nor inclined your ear to hear…

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The Uniqueness of the Apostles

Matthew 10:40 He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

1. Called (Rom. 1:1)
2. Eyewitness of resurrection (1 Cor. 9:1)
3. Did miracles (Heb. 2:4)
4. Personally instructed by Christ (Acts 1:21-22; Gal. 1:12, 17-18)

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We Stand on the Apostolic Word

John 17:20-21 I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; 21 that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

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