

Sermon Title: An Unfinished Task

Sermon Series: The Unfinished Task, BCEC Missions Conference 2008

Sermon Text: Romans 15:14-24

Sermon-Based Discussion

INTRODUCTION

BCEC devotes a few weeks a year to especially emphasize the importance of missions. Most theologians today understand missions as *sharing the gospel across cultural, linguistic, political, or geographic barriers*. Thus, the task of missions is evangelism that requires a special effort to share the gospel to a people group different from your own.

Our theme this year is "The Unfinished Task." Jesus commissioned His followers to preach the gospel to all the nations in Matthew 28:18-20. Thus, missions should be at the heart of what the church should be about. In this session we will see the importance of this by considering what's lost if the church doesn't keep this Great Commission front and center in our prayers and ministries.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Romans 15:14-16

1. Is there a difference between the call that the Paul has received and the call that each of us has in our own lives?
2. What is he getting at when he uses the language of "priestly duty" when talking about bringing gentiles to God and what are the implication for us as followers of Jesus?
3. Is receiving a call guarantee that God will bring it to pass?

Read Romans 15:17-19a

4. Clearly Paul's message was "Jesus". He says he says he led gentiles to obey God by what he said and done. By what you know and have heard of the apostle Paul, what do you think he would say about Jesus in his own life? What would your message be?
5. In our culture we want to lead people to Christ by helping them see the truth. Paul also brought truth but what is he getting at when he talks about the power of signs and miracles in the power of the Holy Spirit. How does this lead the nations to Jesus?

Read Romans 15:19b-24

6. Paul seems to imply that the Gospel has fully been proclaimed from Jerusalem to Illyricum. He says that there is no more place for him to work in verse 23. Why would Paul think his work was done?
7. What is the big deal about not wanting to build on someone else's foundation? In light of Paul's call and his ambition why would this be so important?
8. What did Paul want from the Church in Rome and how did he see that the unfinished task would be completed?
9. Does it bother you that Paul never made it to Spain?

GOING DEEPER

The difference between the missionary call in each of our lives and "the missionaries" life is that the missionary is called to plant churches amongst unreached peoples. Today there are 13,900 people groups and 6,400 are considered unreached and 1,864 people groups that are totally unengaged, meaning there is no mission work going on in those places. Does our church need to be more intentional with our mission resources?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Pick up a copy of the BCEC Missions Handbook to learn about the missionaries our church support. Realize that all of these missionaries and organizations are supported by our Missions Fund. Pray for God's leading as you consider how much to pledge to the BCEC Missions Fund.

Pray for God's leading—how genuinely open are you to being called to share the gospel with unreached peoples?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

For it has always been my ambition to preach the good news where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. (Romans 15:20)