THE PRIESTLY DUTY

Romans 15:14–33

Key Verse: 15:16

1. How did Paul view the believers in Rome? (14; 1:8) What can we learn here about a healthy Christian community?
2. Review the points Paul had written about “quite boldly;” why did the believers in Rome need to hear them? (2:1–5; 3:22–24,27–29; 4:13–14,16–17; 6:1–4,11–18; 7:1,4; 8:5–9,12–13; 9:19–21; 10:20–21; 11:7–10,17–21; 12:1–3; 13:3–4,11–14; 14:4,10–13).
3. What was “the grace” Paul had been given? (15b–16a; cf. 1:5; Ac9:1–6,15–16; 1Co15:9–10; Gal2:8–9; 1Ti1:12–16; 2:7) What does “minister” mean?
4. Review who the Gentiles were and what they were like (Skim 1:21–32; see also Eph2:11–13; 4:17–19). Why was ministry to them so controversial? (Ac10:45; 11:1–3; 21:21; 22:21–22) Why do you think God chose a man like Paul for this task? Why did Paul want the Romans to share in this ministry? Who do Gentiles represent today?
5. What are the main duties of a priest? What was Paul’s “priestly duty”? (16b; 1Co9:16) What does it mean to “proclaim the gospel of God”? (Ac2:38; 13:38) How does it transform people? (16c; 1:16) What hope can we find here for ourselves? In ministry, why should we depend only on the gospel? (1Co1:17–18,24; 2:1–5)
6. What did Paul say about his ministry, and what can we learn from this? (17–19) What was his “ambition”? (20–22) What were his plans? (23–24) What did he need to do first, and why? (25–29) What were his prayer requests? (30–32) His final blessing? (33)