

Time Audit Chronicles: Paul's Missionary Ambitions *(Romans 15:14-33)*

Prologue: A Heart for the Unreached

The Presswood family gathered around the living room, their Bibles open to **Romans 15:14-33**, where the apostle **Paul** shared his ambitious plans to spread the gospel to regions where **Christ** had not yet been proclaimed. Ariel, with a notebook in hand, had been thinking about what it meant to go on a mission, while Alice imagined Paul walking across new lands, sharing the good news of Jesus.

“Daddy,” Ariel asked, “Why was Paul so determined to preach in places where no one had heard about Jesus yet? Why didn’t he just stay where he was and keep building the churches he had already started?”

Ryan leaned forward, smiling at her insightful question. “That’s a great question, Ariel. Paul’s heart was to see the **gospel** reach **every corner of the earth**. He understood that Jesus’ mission wasn’t just for a small group of people—it was for **everyone**. Paul felt called to take the gospel to places where Christ had not yet been preached, so that those who had never heard of Him could have the chance to believe.”

Ariel nodded slowly, understanding. “So, Paul wasn’t just focused on what was easy or familiar—he wanted to go to places where no one else had gone yet.”

“Exactly,” Ryan said. “Let’s use the **Time Audit Machine** to go back and see Paul’s heart for the unreached and how his mission shaped the early church’s efforts to spread the gospel.”

The Journey Begins: Paul's Letter to the Romans (Romans 15:14-16)

The **Time Audit Machine** powered up, and the family found themselves in the midst of a bustling Roman house church, where believers were gathered to hear Paul’s letter being read aloud. The leader of the assembly read Paul’s words, where he expressed his confidence in the faith and maturity of the Roman believers.

Ryan pointed to the gathering. “Paul starts by affirming the **faith** of the Roman church. He tells them that they are full of **goodness**, filled with **knowledge**, and able to **instruct one another**. But even though they were strong in their faith, Paul felt it was important to remind them of certain truths about the **gospel**.”

Ariel listened intently as the leader read Paul’s words: “**Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God.**” (Romans 15:15).

“Paul saw his role as a **minister of Christ** to the Gentiles,” Ryan explained. “He understood that it was by **God’s grace** that he was called to this mission, and he wanted the Romans to be encouraged by his efforts to reach others.”

Paul's Mission: Preaching Where Christ Is Not Known (*Romans 15:17-21*)

The leader continued reading as Paul shared his deep desire to preach the gospel in places where **Christ** had not yet been named. Paul wrote, “**Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation.**” (Romans 15:20).

Ryan gestured toward the words. “Paul's mission was unique. He didn't want to focus on building on the work of others—he felt called to **pioneer** new missions, to bring the gospel to people who had never heard it before. He believed that the gospel's **expansion** was a priority, and he was willing to go wherever God sent him.”

Ariel watched as the believers discussed Paul's ambitions. “So, Paul wanted to be a trailblazer for the gospel, taking it to places no one else had reached yet. That must have been really hard, going to new places where people might not even know about God.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “But Paul was motivated by a deep **passion for the lost**. He understood that there were so many people who had never heard the good news of Jesus, and he wanted to make sure they had the opportunity to hear and believe.”

The leader continued, reading Paul's reference to Isaiah: “**To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand.**” (Romans 15:21).

Ryan explained, “Paul was quoting **Isaiah 52:15**, a prophecy about the Messiah being revealed to the nations. Paul saw his mission as part of fulfilling this prophecy, bringing the message of Jesus to those who had never heard it before.”

Paul's Travel Plans: A Mission to Spain (*Romans 15:22-29*)

The family watched as the leader of the house church read Paul's plans to visit Rome on his way to **Spain**, a region that was considered the farthest edge of the known world. “**Whosoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company.**” (Romans 15:24).

Ariel's eyes lit up. “Paul wanted to go all the way to Spain? That's so far away! Why was Spain so important to him?”

“Great question,” Ryan said. “Spain was part of the **Roman Empire**, but it was largely unreached with the gospel. Paul saw it as a new frontier where he could proclaim Jesus to people who had never heard of Him. His vision wasn't limited to one city or region—he wanted to take the gospel as far as he possibly could.”

Ariel imagined Paul traveling by sea and land, facing dangers and challenges. “That must have been a hard journey. But Paul didn't seem afraid of the difficulty—he just wanted to go wherever God sent him.”

“That’s right,” Ryan said. “Paul was willing to endure **hardships** because he knew the importance of his mission. He believed that the **gospel** needed to reach every corner of the world, and he trusted God to guide him every step of the way.”

The Role of the Church in Mission (Romans 15:25-27)

Paul also explained that he was planning to stop in **Jerusalem** first to deliver a gift from the Gentile churches to the Jewish believers. He wrote, “**But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints. For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.**” (Romans 15:25-26).

Ryan explained, “Paul understood that the **church** had a responsibility to care for both the **spiritual** and **physical** needs of its members. The Gentile churches wanted to support the Jewish believers in Jerusalem, showing their **unity** and love in Christ.”

Ariel smiled. “So, the church was working together as one big family, helping each other even though they were in different parts of the world.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Paul wanted the Roman believers to see that they were part of a larger **mission**—one that connected believers across cultures and regions. The church’s **generosity** and **partnership** were essential for spreading the gospel.”

Paul’s Prayer and Dependence on God (Romans 15:30-33)

As the letter concluded, Paul asked the Roman believers to pray for him, saying, “**Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.**” (Romans 15:30).

Ryan pointed to the passage. “Even though Paul was bold and confident, he knew he couldn’t do it alone. He asked for the prayers of the believers, recognizing that the mission depended on God’s strength and guidance.”

Ariel nodded. “So, even Paul needed the support of the church. He wasn’t doing this mission by himself—he needed God’s help and the prayers of others.”

“Yes,” Ryan said. “Paul understood that **prayer** was the foundation of his mission. He trusted that God would open doors and protect him as he carried the gospel to new places.”

Takeaway: The Gospel’s Expansion is a Priority

In **Romans 15:14-33**, Paul shares his vision for taking the gospel to places where **Christ** has not yet been proclaimed. He emphasizes the importance of reaching the **unreached**, demonstrating a heart for the lost and a passion for the **global mission** of the church. Paul’s willingness to endure hardship and

his reliance on the prayers and support of the church show us that the expansion of the gospel requires both **boldness** and **unity**.

This passage challenges us to think about our own role in spreading the gospel. Just as Paul prioritized reaching those who had never heard about Jesus, we are called to be part of God's mission, whether through going, sending, or praying. The **gospel's expansion** is not just a task for a few—it's a calling for the entire **church**, and it remains a priority today as we seek to make Jesus known to every corner of the earth.