

Matthew 9:1–8

The God-Man's Glory in Our Greatest Need

Monday, June 3, 2024 • Read Romans 15:17–22

Questions from the Scripture text: What does the apostle have reason to do (v17)? In Whom? In what things? What won't he dare to do (v18)? Of what things won't he speak? Who has done the accomplishing? Whom has He used to do it? What has He used to do it? What has He done (cf. 1:5; 10:16; 16:19; 16:26; 2Th 1:8)? With what has Christ attended Paul's preaching (v19)? By what power? What has the apostle done, in this way, and where? What has he aimed to do (v20)? Avoiding what places? To avoid doing what work? What has he followed in this method (v21)? Who must be told the gospel (cf. Isa 52:15)? What has all of this work kept him from doing so far (v22)?

How is the apostle's boasting proper? Romans 15:17–22 prepares us for the sermon in the midweek prayer meeting. In these six verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **proper boasting rejoices over Christ, worships Him, and looks for more of His glorious grace.**

The propriety and necessity of proper boasting. As the apostle prepares to come to them (v22) to fulfill a debt to God and to them to preach the gospel to them (cf. 1:13–15), he is boasting of Christ's work through him (v15, NKJ "glory"). In fact, he puts it pretty strongly: "I have a boast in Christ Jesus." Indeed, he has this boast even "in the things which are toward God"! He is full-to-bursting with the goodness of what the Lord has done through him, and he wishes to share it with the church at Rome. He desires that they would be eager for his coming there, just as he is eager to go there. If the greatness of what Christ is doing grips their hearts, they will be eager for the apostle to come (v23) and even to participate in his further mission to Spain (v24).

The humility of proper boasting. Now, for those who desire to get others excited about what the Lord is doing through them, the apostle sets an example of exactly that wording. Note that he doesn't even say, "what I have accomplished through Christ" but "what Christ has accomplished" (v18). He gives Christ the credit for his words ("in word"). He gives Christ the credit for his actions ("in works," NKJ "deed"). And he gives Christ the credit for the outcome: "to make the Gentiles obedient."

In the book of Romans, this has been a way of describing a right response to the gospel. It does include the obedience that proceeds from faith, but it is especially that right response of believing, when we hear the gospel preached. So it includes everything from coming to faith in the first place all the way to being perfected in faith at the conclusion of our life in this world. cf. 1:5; 10:16; 16:19; 16:26; 2Th 1:8. It is Christ Who is using Paul in this work that Christ does, which is by faith from start to finish (cf. 1:17).

This is how we know that the work will be finished! If the boasting credited the instrument at all, then "past performance would not be indicative of future results." But because the boasting credits only and entirely Christ, that's exactly what the apostle is doing by this boasting: stirring them up to expect, desire, and pursue "future results" when the apostle visits Rome!

The worship of proper boasting, v19–22. Even having credited Christ already in v18, v19 takes it a step further: "in mighty signs and wonders." Some of these are recorded for us in Acts. The apostolic gifts of signs and wonders authenticated him as an apostle precisely because it was "God who testified" through them (cf. Heb 2:4). The same Spirit Whose mighty power is the only way that we come to abound in hope (cf. v13) is the One Who was attesting His own work in the apostle's ministry. What sure prospects they had of coming into more of that hope, when the apostle came and ministered!

But the great glory of this was that the apostolic ministry is actually the personal ministry of Christ Himself. The apostle's approach to his ministry plans (v20) were built off of Isaiah 52:15 (v21)—a text that was truly all about Christ. There, it is the One Who sprinkles many nations Who would do so by His preaching (cf. 10:14; Eph 2:17, 3:20–21; Heb 12:25)! Paul's "boasting" is worship, not bragging. The Servant, the God-Man of Isaiah 52:15, Who shed His blood for us, is the One Who is at work in the ministry!

What has Christ done in you? Whom else is Christ using for your good? How are you responding to Him?

Sample prayer: Lord Jesus, we glory in You. Thank You for what You have accomplished through us, and what You accomplish for us through others. Thank You for giving Your almighty Spirit to do the work of making us obedient to the faith and abounding with hope. As You continue Your work in the church, bring to Yourself the glory that is Yours for sprinkling many nations, we ask in Your own Name, Lord Jesus, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP117B "O, All You Nations of the Earth" or TPH424 "All Authority and Power"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 15 verses 17 through 22. These are God's words. Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus and the things which pertain to God. Throw will not dare to speak any of those things. Which Christ has not accomplished through me in word, indeed, to make the Gentiles obedient and mighty signs and wonders.

By the power of the spirit of God. So that from Jerusalem and around about to lyricum. I have fully preached, the gospel of Christ. And so I have made it my aim to breach the gospel not where Christ was named. Lest I should build on another man's Foundation. But as it is written.

To whom he was not announced. They shall see. And those who have not heard shall understand. For this reason, I also had been much hindered. From coming to you. Amen. Listen to the reading of Gods inspired. And Aaron tort

There is good reason. To Glory. There is good reason. To be. To bursting with jo. There's good reason. To boast as it were to be full diversity with joy and to glory. But the glorying must be in Christ. And about Christ notice not only does he say he has glory to Reason to glory in Christ Jesus.

But note how he says, in verse 18, not what I accomplished through Christ. But what Christ has accomplished through me. And so, as he telling them. The reasons that they should Rejoice for him to come to Rome and to preach the gospel among them and to fulfill the debt that he has to them.

He said at the beginning of the letter in chapter one, I am under obligation. I'm under debt to the Greeks and I want to come and At FIU and the two of us. be edified and blessed together by the ministry that I have there. So, he has so he is telling them why they should Rejoice.

For Christ to send him to them. but he's doing it in humility. It's not about the greatness of himself. It's about Christ who is assigned the task just as he finished telling them that they were full of all goodness and all knowledge. Why? Because Jesus had appointed them to one another And so, for what the Lord Jesus was going to do in each other's lives, in Rome, they had exactly what they needed.

And now he is giving them. Reason to anticipate and desire and expect what the Lord Jesus will do. for them and in them. And When he brings Paul to Rome. And that's the kind of boasting that is being done. Here it is not at all about how great Paul is.

It's about how great Christ is Christ, who is doing all of this work Christ, who is the one who atoned for us and rose again from the dead. And sits at the right hand of God on the throne of glory on high interceding for us from which he has poured out his holy spirit.

So, he talks about Christ as the one, who accomplishes Christ who has a come. The one, who accomplishes in the preaching in word Christ, is the one who accomplishes in

the acting indeed, and the goal of Christ's accomplishing is not merely to impress, but to save, To make the Gentiles obedient in this language of obedience is especially obedience to the faith.

He is going to be. Telling them in chapter 16. About the

Over in chapter 16 verse 19, your obedience has become known to all Chapter 16 verse 26. According to the Commandment of the Everlasting, God for obedience to the faith, he talked about in chapter 10 obeying. The gospel. He talked about in chapter 1, Ministering to bring about The Obedience of Faith, which is to say it's Christ's message about himself and there is a right response to the gospel.

And that is to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. And so that's the point of Of what the Lord is doing through Paul. And so when he says in Mighty signs and wonders, And we have a list of those. We have many of those told to us in the book of Acts, different signs and wonders that were done by God, that attended the preaching Ministry of the Apostle, Paul, And that were used by God in the case of those who are believing As part of God's convincing them of Christ.

So in Mighty signs and wonders by the power of the spirit of God. Now, remember what he just finished saying in verse 13 that it's by the power of the Holy spirit that we are filled with all joy and all peace in believing, so that we may abound in Hope.

By the power of the Holy Spirit. And so it's by the power of the holy spirit that we are brought to Faith is by the power of the holy spirit that we're completed in faith. And this is the, the great reason behind what we call Christian boasting, not boasting what we do through Christ, but what Christ does through us.

So that we may Rejoice that he who intends to bring us to Faith and complete us in. Faith will surely do it? And therefore in our confidence in him, we will be glad to do whatever Ministry has assigned to us. And we will be glad to receive what a minute, whatever Ministry he has signed to others for us.

And so he says, so that from Jerusalem round to a Lyricum. So, From. Israel, what backwards for you guys from Israel? All the way up through the region of Syria and all the way up through the region. Of phenicia and Asia and Macedonia. And the lyricis way up in the in the Northwest corner.

And he's going to be going next to Rome, so he says, we've covered. I've covered from Jerusalem to your doorstep. the Lord has given me to do this. I have fully preached the gospel. Of Christ. He says, And so I have not made it, I made it my aim to preach the gospel not where Christ was named lest I should build on another man's Foundation.

But as it is written to whom he was not announced, they shall see and those who have not heard shall understand and it's a little bit of a paraphrase but it's at the end of Isaiah 52 which is in the section of the suffering servant. Where Jesus heals? By his wounds and he is the one who pays for our sins.

And the punishment for our sins falls upon him and he saves us. But in that context, one of the reasons that he's doing. So one of the outcomes of Christ is doing so is that Christ is going to preach To people who have not heard about him. Christ is going to preach himself and Christ is going to preach his salvation.

And this is Jesus's work through especially through his Apostles and through the Apostle to the Gentiles. That's what he's talking about in. Last week's portion, when talks about the grace given to him by God in verse 15, that he was the Apostle to the Gentile. He gets to be the mouth of Jesus.

In Syria and in Asia, and in Macedonia. And now going to be again in Rome, although they have heard but he wants to come and minister to them. but he explains to them. The reason he hasn't been there yet is that there's this prophesied Ministry of Jesus in Isaiah 52.

Verse 15, that has to be fulfilled. You can't just Skip and all the places in between he has to fully preach the gospel there and so he explains it's the best sorry I haven't made it there yet, excuse ever. For this reason, I also have been much hindered from coming to you.

Because I had to fully preach the gospel in all these places, so that they may know that it is Christ, who brings them to Faith and Christ who perfects them in faith, it's Christ who is using his Apostles. And yes, he used the Apostle in places where the gospel had never been preached.

But he also uses us in places where it has been preached in the congregation where we are in the family, in which we are in whatever role, he is assigned to us. Even if you're not a preacher, you still speak the truth. And love to one another. You still stir one another up to love and Good Deeds but still it's not you doing it through Christ Christ, doing it through you.

And have confidence and encourage one another. And give glory to the Lord Jesus and so be zealous and diligent in our ministry. To one another. So may God give us this sort of Christian boasting. This Christian glorian. That is really not blurring in ourselves at all or even in what we do through Christ at all.

But in Christ and what he does. And what he has done through us. And what he will have done, when he is finished with everyone for whom he died. Let's pray.

Our gracious. God how we thank you for giving the son. To be. Not only are great high priest, and our Everlasting and Sovereign King. But even Our great prophet. That. As our mediator, he has poured out his spirit. And selected for himself the servants. By whom and through, who through his Spirit.

He Preach his gospel and bring about obedience. The Obedience of faith and obedience to the faith. And so, we pray that you'd make us to Rejoice over Jesus. And give us Zeal and diligence in our callings, and gladness to receive the ministry of Whom he has appointed for us.

Make us glad to receive his ministry to us. We pray. Before we ask it in his name, Amen.