**TO BE A MINISTER OF CHRIST JESUS**

Romans 15:14-33

Key Verse 15:15b-16

*“because of the grace God gave me to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”*

**\*Introduction[[1]](#footnote-1)**

1. What was Paul’s confidence about the Roman believers? (14) How could Paul be so confident? (1:8[[2]](#footnote-2)) Yet, why did he write them quite boldly on some points? (15a) Why do you also need to be reminded of the gospel from time to time?
2. What was the grace God gave Paul? (15b-16a) What does it mean ‘to be a *minister*[[3]](#footnote-3) of Christ Jesus’? In what sense are all believers ministers of Christ Jesus? (Ro 1:5[[4]](#footnote-4); 1Pe 2:9-10[[5]](#footnote-5)) Why is it God’s grace to us? (1Tim 1:12[[6]](#footnote-6)) What is the main duty of a minister of Christ Jesus? (16b)
3. What did Paul do in his service to God? (17) From Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum, Paul fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ (19b) and led countless gentiles to obey God by what he said and done. (18b) Yet, who does Paul credit for this great work of God? (18-19a)
4. What had always been Paul’s ambition? (20-22) But why did he now want to go to Rome and Spain respectively? (23-24, 29) Why was it so important for him to visit Jerusalem? (25-28) Why do you think Paul asked prayer support from the Roman believers? (30-33)
5. What does it mean to you to be a minister of Christ Jesus?

1. In this passage Paul begins to conclude his letter. He does so by sharing how by God’s grace, he became a ministers of Christ Jesus. As you study Paul’s testimony, think about the grace God also gave you to be a minister of Christ Jesus, just like Paul. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. **Rom 1:8** First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. **Minister**: The word here used is commonly employed to express the office of the priesthood, from which accordingly the figurative language of the rest of the verse is taken. St. Paul is a “minister of Jesus Christ;” i.e., his sacred office was given to him by Christ; it was Christ who appointed and ordained him to it; and his special duty as a priest of the gospel was to see that the Church of the Gentiles, whom it fell to him to present as a sacrifice to God, should be fit for such a sacrifice, made holy by the indwelling Spirit, and therefore acceptable to Him to whom it was offered. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. **Rom 1:5** Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. **1 Pe 2:9-10** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. **1 Tim 1:12** I thank Christ Jesus our Lord …..that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)