

Romans 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

Analysis

So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

Paul concludes his introductory remarks with personal readiness: *houtō to kat' eme prothymon kai humin tois en Rhōmē euangelisasthai* (οὕτω τὸ κατ' ἐμὲ πρόθυμον καὶ ὑμῖν τοῖς ἐν Ῥώμῃ εὐαγγελίσασθαι, 'thus, as much as is in me, I am eager also to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome'). *To kat' eme prothymon* (as far as it depends on me, I am eager) shows Paul's willing heart, though ultimate fulfillment rests with God's providence (v. 10).

Euangelisasthai (εὐαγγελίσασθαι, to preach the gospel) is Paul's great task. Even in Rome, where a church already existed, Paul desired to proclaim the gospel. This suggests gospel preaching is not merely for evangelizing the lost but for building up believers—expounding the riches of Christ, justification, sanctification, and glorification (themes Paul develops in Romans). The gospel is inexhaustible; believers need continual gospel saturation. Paul's eagerness to preach in Rome, the empire's heart, also had strategic significance—if the gospel transformed Rome, it could transform the world.

Historical Context

Rome in 57 AD was a cosmopolitan city of over one million people—senators, soldiers, slaves, merchants from across the empire. Jewish communities existed

despite periodic expulsions. Pagan temples dotted the cityscape, and emperor worship was increasingly mandated. Preaching Christ as Lord in Rome was both dangerous and strategic. Paul's arrival (though as a prisoner) and subsequent ministry, along with Peter's presence, established Rome as a major center of early Christianity, culminating in Peter and Paul's martyrdoms under Nero.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What does it mean to be 'eager' (πρόθυμος) to preach the gospel, and does this characterize your witness?
2. How do you continue to proclaim and apply the gospel to yourself as a believer, not just to unbelievers?
3. If you were called to bring the gospel to the most powerful, pluralistic, or pagan place in your culture, would you go eagerly or reluctantly?

Interlinear Text

οὕτως	τὸ	κατ'	ἐμὲ	πρόθυμον	καὶ	ὑμῖν	τοῖς
So	G3588	as much as	in me is	I am ready	also	to you	G3588
G3779		G2596	G1691	G4289	G2532	G5213	
ἐν	Ῥώμῃ	εὐαγγελίσασθαι					
that are at	Rome	to preach the gospel					
G1722	G4516	G2097					

Additional Cross-References

Romans 15:20 (Parallel theme): Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

1 Corinthians 9:17 (Parallel theme): For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

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