



## THINGS THAT MATTER AND THINGS THAT DON'T

# "Mission Ambition"

"What is your ambition?"

Romans 15:14-17

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • MAY 22, 2016  
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1048.  
In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.  
Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com

### REVIEW:

1. We are called to **Accept One Another, Build Up One Another, Remind One Another** and **Please (Serving) One Another** and **Welcoming (Tolerating) One Another**.
2. There are two sources of spiritual power—Christ's Blood and His Word (*That's enough!*)
3. All believers should be welcoming of one another, for Christ came to save both the Jews and the Gentiles.

## What is your ambition?

Paul gives us a holy ambition to shoot for:

### 1. Ambitious Servants Proclaim Christ.

#### A. The Characteristics of an Ambitious Servant of Christ

**Romans 15:14, HCSB** -<sup>14</sup> My brothers [meaning, *one's own siblings in Christ's family*], I myself am convinced [lit., *convicted*] about you that you also are full of goodness [lit. *holiness, meaning moral excellency*], filled with all knowledge [lit., *wisdom*], and able to instruct [meaning, *admonish, warn, tell the truth (in love)*; Gk: *vousθετεύ*, (*neo tha-TEE-o*) lit., *to pull to my side*] one another.

**Romans 15:14, TLB** -<sup>14</sup> I know that you are wise and good, my brothers, and that you know these things so well that you are able to teach others all about them.

#### B. The Conduct of an Ambitious Servant of Christ

**Romans 15:15–16, HCSB** -<sup>15</sup> *Nevertheless, I have written to remind you more boldly on some points because of the grace given me by God<sup>16</sup> to be a minister [lit, *busied with holy things*] of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, serving as a priest of God's good news. My purpose is that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

Ministers do! • Priests present!

**VERY IMPORTANT:** As we pass through this world, there will be no greater calling than that of being a soul winner for God.

**Romans 15:15–16, NLT** -<sup>15</sup> *Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing that all you need is this reminder. For by God's grace,<sup>16</sup> I am a special messenger from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the Good News so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit.*

**Romans 15:16, PME** – This makes it my priestly duty to tell them the gospel of God, and thus to present them as an offering which He can accept, because they are sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

#### C. The Compensation of an Ambitious Servant of Christ

**Romans 15:17, HCSB** -<sup>17</sup> *Therefore I have reason to boast [also translated "glory" (KJV) "be enthusiastic" (NLT), "be proud" (NCV), "satisfied" (TEV), "" (YLT); Gk: *ἔχω* (echo) means "to be held by" and modifies "pertains to God"] in Christ Jesus regarding what pertains to God. [When we "win souls," we are *held by* all the things of God—His peace, joy, blessing, contentment, and His power.]*

**Romans 15:17, Wuest** -<sup>17</sup> *I have therefore my glorifying in Christ Jesus for the things credited to my heart which pertain to God.*

**Romans 15:17, NKJV** -<sup>17</sup> *Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God.*



**As an ambitious servant of God, you ought to be driven by an even greater ambition of winning souls for Christ—it can change history and extend beyond the grave.**

**F**or I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- Romans 1:16, NASB95