

XV

Strategy for Missions

ROMANS 15:14–21

I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. ¹⁵ But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. ¹⁸ For I will not venture to speak of anything

except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience — by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God — so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; ²⁰ and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, ²¹ but as it is written,

“Those who have never been told of him will see,
and those who have never heard will understand.”

READ | ROMANS 15:14–21

THINK ABOUT

Did you know that there are over 7.6 billion people in the world? Of that 7.6 billion, only 10% claim Jesus as Savior and another 22% are listed as nominal followers of Christ. That means that there is over 68% or almost 5.2 billion people in the world who do not know Jesus as their Savior. There are 2.2 billion who have never heard of Jesus Christ!

Paul said, “And thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named...” (15:20). Our missions mandate at Calvary Church is to reach the least-reached people in the world who have never heard of Jesus. We do that by sending missionaries to these unreached people groups, providing Bible translation, starting churches around the world, and sending GO Trips wherever the Gospel has never been heard.

In God’s grace, He placed you and me in a family and in a country where we heard the Gospel. That is not so for most people in the world. They need someone to go to them. Jesus, in the Great Commission, commanded the disciples, “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...” (Matthew 28:19). This Great Commission is our call today. Come join us in missions!

APPLY

In the Great Commission, notice that Jesus said, “Go”! Where does He say “stay”? Jesus’ purpose was “to seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10). That means we are to go!

When God calls, He usually asks us to leave our comfort zone. He asks us to trust Him, take a step of faith, and follow Him in obedience. When we follow, our intimacy with God grows. Want to grow closer to the Father? Be obedient to His call to go and make disciples.

ASK

Our missions purpose continues in Romans 15:21 when Paul says, “Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.” It will be almost impossible for those who have never been told and who have never heard to understand unless we go! What is keeping you from answering God’s call to missions service?

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In America, we have access to many different translations of the Scriptures. Did you know that over 1,500 languages do not have access to the Bible? What would it be like not to be able to read and understand God’s Word in your own language? There are 110 million people in that category. Perhaps God is calling you into Bible translation work. What would it take for you to answer God’s call into missions?

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PRAY

Thank You, Father, for those who came to share Jesus with me. I realize that if someone had not taken the time to tell me of Your great love expressed in Your Son, Jesus, I may never have come to know the joy of a relationship with Him. Your grace is amazing!

Now Father, give me the strength to answer Your call to go and make disciples. I realize there is a lost and dying world waiting on me.

MATTHEW 28:18–20

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

LUKE 19:1–10

He entered Jericho and was passing through. And behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax collector and was rich. And he was seeking to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was small in stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was about to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today.” So he hurried and came down and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all grumbled, “He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.” And Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, “Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor. And if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I restore it fourfold.” And Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”



SING

“Facing a Task Unfinished” — *Ed Cash, Fionan DeBarra, Keith Getty*

HYMN

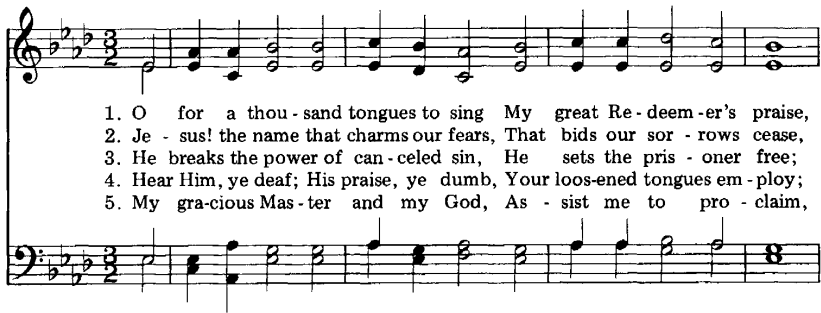
*“Shout for joy to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise!*

*Come and hear, all you who fear God,
and I will tell what he has done for my soul.*

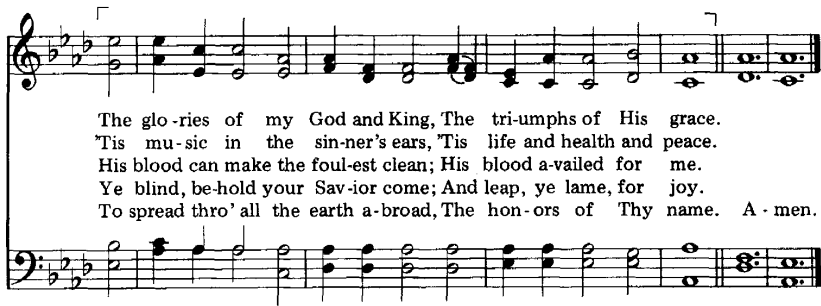
*I cried to him with my mouth,
and high praise was on my tongue.”*

— PSALM 66:1-2, 16-17

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

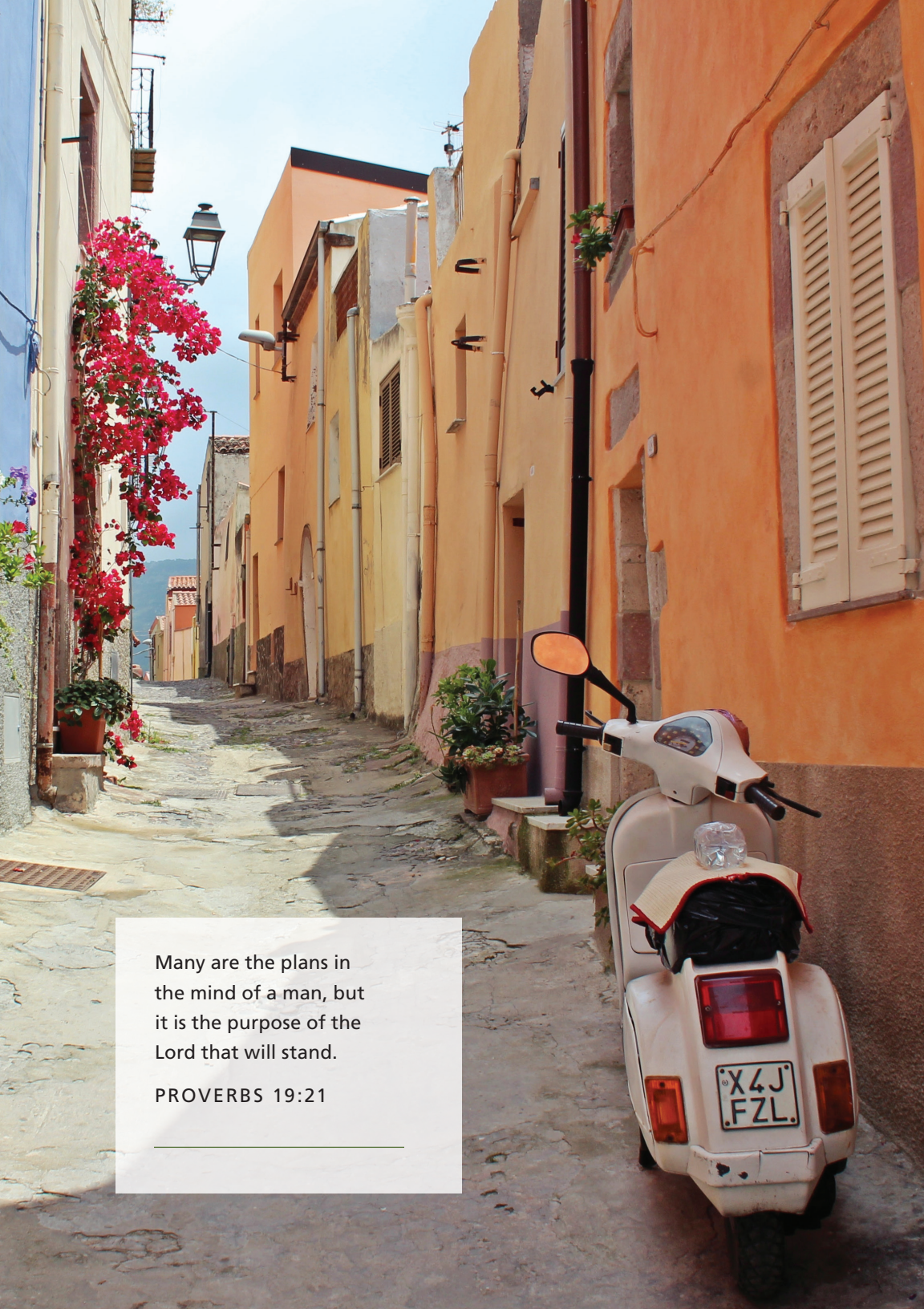


1. O for a thou - sand tongues to sing My great Re - deem - er's praise,
2. Je - sus! the name that charms our fears, That bids our sor - rows cease,
3. He breaks the power of can - celed sin, He sets the pris - on - er free;
4. Hear Him, ye deaf; His praise, ye dumb, Your loos - ened tongues em - ploy;
5. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, As - sist me to pro - claim,



The glo - ries of my God and King, The tri - umphs of His grace.
’Tis mu - sic in the sin - ner’s ears, ’Tis life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul - est clean; His blood a - vailed for me.
Ye blind, be - hold your Sav - ior come; And leap, ye lame, for joy.
To spread thro’ all the earth a - broad, The hon - ors of Thy name. A - men.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739 🌿 Tune: Carl G. Glazer, 1828; arr. by Lowell Mason, 1839



Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.

PROVERBS 19:21
