

# Romans 15:15-18

**“I Will Not Venture to Speak... Except...”**



## ***Vs. 15 – “I have written you quite boldly”***

Paul has taken a stand in the letter to the Romans. He knew it was a risk, but a necessary one. He has defended the gentiles and the fact that they do not need to become practicing Jews to be saved. They only needed faith in the Savior, Jesus, and that was enough! In taking a stand, however, he went against all the cherished tradition of his own people! People generally hate to see cherished traditions fall, and despise those that topple them.



# What was Paul risking?

- Losing friends and supporters.
- Being unpopular with an entire group of people, even rejected by them - people he loved!

No one likes rejection. Some things never change.

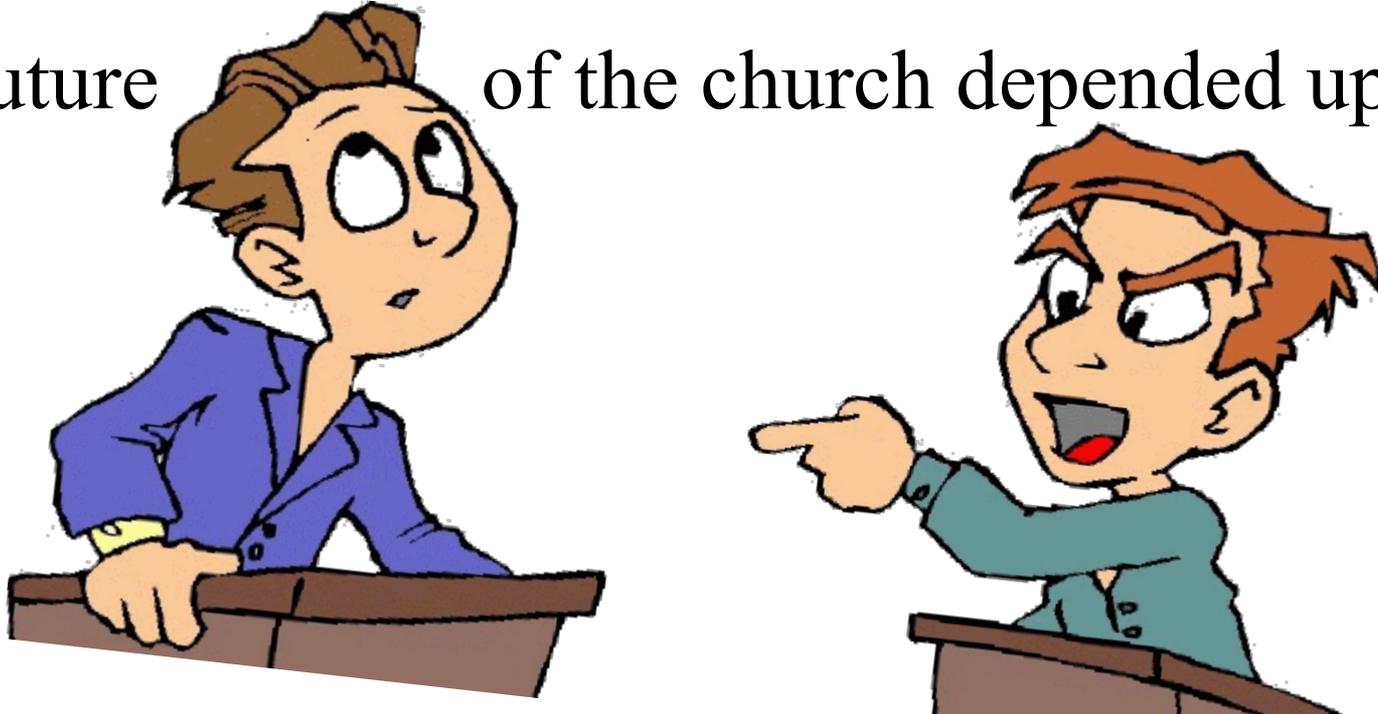


The social media has people running scared these days. A person's reputation can be ruined with the click of a button! But some things are worth the risk!

For you, what is worth the risk of being disliked, shamed, put down, rejected? **[Jn. 15:18]**

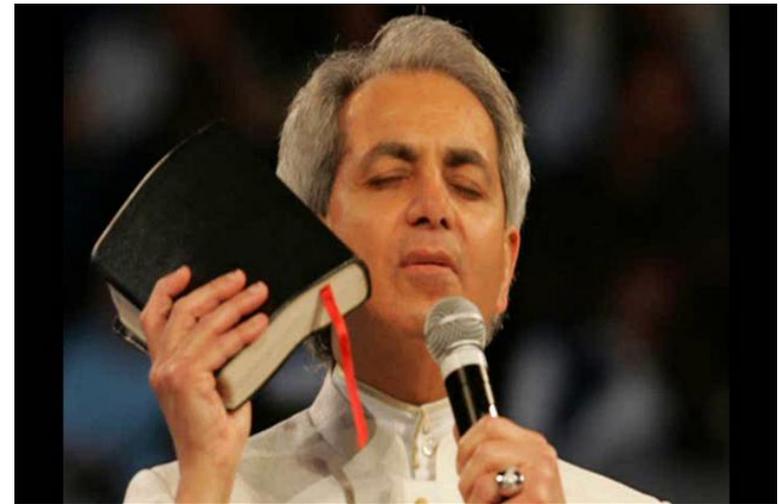
Paul took that stand because he needed to defend the truth. He could not just stand by and hear people spout off and condemn other people's belief, faith, and practice! They were boldly outspoken on matters that they did not understand, and about which they were in fact, totally wrong! He had to speak a bold rebuttal in his letter to the Romans!

the future of the church depended upon it!



Finally, we believe Paul spoke boldly because he was possessed and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Boldness, by the way, is not a mark of the Holy Spirit. Plenty of Christian speakers on Christian radio and TV, and in flamboyant mega-churches are bold and brazen. But they can still be horribly wrong, often even an embarrassment! But truth with boldness is obvious.



**Vs. 16** – “... *a minister of Christ...with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God...*(with the goal of ) making unlikely people (gentiles) an “*offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit*”.



He is a commissioned man carrying out his God-given mission. But he is no more commissioned than you or I! His goals were impressed upon him by Christ and compelled by the Spirit of God!

What compels you in your faith in Christ? If you have real faith, you ***ARE*** called and compelled by God to be a **disciple that makes disciples** of unlikely people such as yourself.

**Vs 17 – “... *I glory in Christ Jesus, in my service...*”**

No one could deny Paul’s tenacity in promoting and propagating the gospel throughout the Roman empire. He was proud of one thing in his life. It was the only thing worth being proud of. It was his service to Christ among the gentiles! He wore it on his shirtsleeve, and no one could argue that he was not an effective gospelor! He had earned the right to be listened to by all – even the other apostles!



What are you proud of in your life? What in your life is ***worth*** being proud of?



**PLATE VIII**  
**PAUL'S MISSIONARY JOURNEYS**

First → Second → Third → To Rome →

**The Seven Churches of Asia**

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**Vs. 18 – “*I will not venture to speak of anything except...*”**

25, 50, 100 years from now, no one will remember you were a beauty queen, a football star, a senator, filthy rich, have papered your walls with degrees, or ate 25 hot dogs in 10 minutes and got your name in Ripley’s Believe It or Not! But if you persist in serving Jesus faithfully, effectively, powered by the Spirit of God you will be remembered by God!



**Vs. 18** cont... “...*by what I’ve said and done...*”

“Said” and “done” have a symbiotic relationship. They are connected/ conjoined inseparably! **Doing without saying** is a formula for ineffectiveness. Good works are good, but the gospel is essentially cerebral. It must be articulated to be spread. On the other hand, **saying without doing** is a formula for being disregarded and despised by man and by God. Saying without doing is actually the antithesis of the gospel! Nothing will keep another person *away from* Christ more effectively than a hypocrite!

