



WOC Worship Service
October 11, 2020
Pastor Chris Regas

Persevering to Bear Gospel Fruit

CREATIVE ACCESS: Persevering to Advance the Gospel in Hard Places

Lesson Two • Romans 15:17-24

Paul's Purpose in Writing Romans Is Missional.

Encourage churches to **PARTNER** with the Triune God in advancing the gospel in hard places during hard times.

Hard Places and Hard Times Call Us to...

PERSEVERE in bearing gospel fruit.

Bearing Gospel Fruit in Hard Places

1. Look Forward to **BOASTING** in God's Fruit.

"Therefore in Christ Jesus I have found reason for boasting in things pertaining to God." (15:17-19)

- Persevere until you **SEE** His fruit.

Perseverance Is Not...

1. **THINKING** God does it all, so we can slack off.
2. **BEING** jerks that needlessly drive people away.
3. **DOING** whatever works to appear successful.

- Boast in the Triune God who **GIVES** His fruit.

We Boast in the Triune God Because...

1. It's the Father's **FRUIT** not ours.
The results are not my responsibility!
2. It's the Son's **WORK** not ours.
The work is not my identity!
3. It's the Spirit's **POWER** not ours.
The power is not my ability!

Gospel Boasting ↔ Gospel Perseverance

2. Stay in Spite of **SUFFERING** in Hard Places.

"I aspired to preach the gospel where Christ had not been named..." (15:20-21)

- Bearing fruit in hard places **REQUIRES** "sticktoitiveness."

Persevering in **PLACES** where Christ is not worshipped and **PEOPLE GROUPS** have never heard.

Paul's "Sticktoitiveness" in Spite of Suffering

2 Corinthians 6:4-10; 11:23-39; Philippians 1:12-26; 2 Timothy 4:1-18.

Paul's "Sticktoitiveness" Was Due to Being a Suffering Servant Like Christ

"Thus He will sprinkle many nations, kings will shut their mouths on account of Him for what had not been told them they will see, and what they had not heard they will understand." Isaiah 52:15

- God is fulfilling His eternal **PURPOSE** in the Now-Not Yet.

Reaching **unreached people groups in hard places** by **opening hearts and doors with gospel power.**

Acts 16:14 (Philippi); 18:9-11 (Corinth); 1 Corinthians 16:7 (Ephesus); 2 Corinthians 2:12 (Troas/Macedonia); Colossians 4:2-5; Revelation 3:8

3. Partner to **PIONEER** Church Planting with Creative Access.

"...for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way..." (15:22-24)

Partner with God to Plant Churches in Hard Places

Support those who pioneer in hard places and send them forward in a manner worthy of God!

CREATIVITY to enter, to stay, to live, and to fulfill the mission.

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ACCESS to plant, establish, and multiply local churches.

Jesus is **the Suffering Servant** who persevered in the hardest of places during the hardest of times for all people groups! *Isaiah 53*

Jesus is **the Victorious King** who will see the fruit of His work in the end: People from every tribe, language, people, and nations will worship before His throne! *Revelation 5:8-14; 7:9-9-17; 15: 1-4; 21:24-27*

Let's Boast in Our Triune God as We Celebrate Pioneers Who Persevere in Bearing Gospel Fruit in Hard Places!

- Rejoice in our Triune God who is doing what only He can do among the nations.
- Refresh one another's hearts in the gospel so we persevere together.
- Renew our commitment to support and send forward pioneer church planters.