

## Romans 15:21-33

but as it is written, "THEY WHO HAD NO NEWS OF HIM SHALL SEE, AND THEY WHO HAVE NOT HEARD SHALL UNDERSTAND." For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you; but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you whenever I go to Spain--for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while-- but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things. Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain. I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and find refreshing rest in your company. Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen. (NASB)

## Verse 21: Evangelism

- Paul quotes Isaiah 52:15 which is a prophecy of the result of the Messiah.
- Why had the Gentiles not been given a clear message of God?
- Should Christians go door to door to evangelize regularly?
- What is the reaction to accurate information about Christianity in the lives of non-believers around you?

## Verses 22-24: Paul's Purpose

Paul outlines his ministry's methodology:

- Reach the un-reached and don't lose time.
- Be as self sufficient as possible, but don't ignore the responsibility of the body to support the work of the leadership.
- Strive for continued fellowship & the edification that results from fellowship

## Verses 25-28: A Jaunt to Jerusalem

- Paul references his life of service. Paul is serving the saints. Where? Macedonia, Achaia and Jerusalem.
  - Philippians 4:15-19
- Contributing to the poor
  - Romans 12:13a
  - Acts 2:45
- The Gospel was borne from Jerusalem and so the saints sent a financial support gift back to the poor saints in Jerusalem
- Paul took personal responsibility for the delivery

### Verse 29: The Blessing of Christ

- Paul's entire ministry was lead by the direction of the Holy Spirit (ex. Acts 16:6)
- Paul's direction for all steps in his life was from the Holy Spirit. When he went to Rome en transit to Spain it would be with the full blessing of Christ.

### Verse 30-32: Striving in Prayer

- Paul requests their prayers to strive with him.
  - Strive: Gr. sunagōnizomai – to struggle in company with, to partner.
  - The striving in prayer is in Christ and through the love of the Holy Spirit
  - The striving was in prayer that recognized God's sovereignty and graciousness

## Striving Against the Disobedient

- The non-believers in Judea were disobedient to God (ignoring God's message of the Messiah, Jesus)
- Those non-believers hated Paul because he had been one of them but had turned to Christ
- It is probable that they wanted Paul dead or stopped at the very least
- They might attempt to hinder Paul's mission to edify the saints in Jerusalem with the gift money from Macedonia & Achaia

## Striving for Rest

Paul's prayer for the success of his journey to Jerusalem was going to benefit the church in Rome because it would offer them

- The opportunity to rejoice in God's answering their prayer
- Seeing joy & rest in Paul through their fellowship

### Verse 33: The God of Peace

- After giving them something to be concerned over in Paul's journey he reminds them of their peaceful Father.
- True peace is originated in God who gives peace its very definition.