

“Paul’s Plan vs God’s Plan to Visit Rome”
Romans 15:22-33

“Depth of ministry (striving for obedience and holiness) is always more significant than the breadth of ministry (the amount of people that are exposed). God always demands a growing depth of commitment to Him and His will, no matter your calling.” (Paul Washer)

- (v. 22-24): Paul has been “hindered” from coming to Rome because of his ambition to preach the gospel where it had not been proclaimed. But now that Paul has laid a foundation for the gospel in Corinth and the surrounding areas, (Acts 18:1-23) he is ready to come to Rome (Romans 1:10).
 - Paul is writing this letter from Corinth and is planning on going to Jerusalem and then to Spain. This would be a trip of about 3000 miles. Travel during this time would have been incredibly dangerous and slow (2 Corinthians 11:25-27).
 - Paul is expecting “to be helped on his journey” by the church at Rome. This help would look like financial aid, prayer, and people for the journey. Paul was also wanting “to enjoy their company for a while” (Romans 1:12 & 15:29 & 32). We see that workers (Colossians 4:7-14; Philemon 1:23-24), money (Romans 15:26; 1 Corinthians 9:7 & 11 & 13-14), preaching (Romans 10:14-17; 2 Timothy 4:1-2) and prayer (Colossians 4:3-4; Romans 15:30) make up the resources of ministry.
- (v. 25-27): Paul is an others’ oriented person (Philippians 2:3-4; Acts 20:35) and we all should be as Christians (Mark 10:43-45). Paul did not let his desires get in the way of doing what God had called him to do (Acts 11:27-30). Paul was going to make the 700 mile trip from Corinth to Jerusalem to fulfill his current mission.
 - The saints at Macedonia and Achaia gladly (2 Corinthians 9:6-8) gave to the relief of the saints at Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:1-4; 2 Corinthians 9:2). Paul’s love for people and God was infectious (Mark 12:30-31).
 - Salvation came from the Jews (John 4:22), through Christ (John 1:11-13). The Church began in Jerusalem (Acts 2:42-47) and sent out believers through persecution (Acts 8:1) and by the sending out of missionaries (Acts 13:3; Acts 15:22).
- (v. 28-33): Paul’s plan was to go to Rome on his way to Spain. Paul ended up going to Rome as a prisoner (Philippians 1:12-14). While he was in Rome Paul had an amazing impact, he wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. Paul never called himself a prisoner of Rome, he called himself a prisoner of Christ (Ephesians 3:1; Philemon 1:1; Philippians 1:13; Colossians 4:3).
 - Paul was able to come to them with “the fullness of the blessings of Christ” because Christ was with Paul and the blessings were spiritual (Philippians 4:11-13 & 19; 1 Timothy 6:6-8; Romans 15:4).
 - Paul did what he did for the glory of Christ and love for the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:16-18). His love for Christ being exalted (Philippians 2:9-10) and people being saved by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5-6) gave him the fuel to serve Christ in all circumstances (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).
 - Paul operated according to God’s will (Romans 15:32). God’s will for Paul was to be a minister of the gospel to the Gentiles and to present them holy before the Lord (Romans 15:16). It was also God’s will that Paul would suffer for the gospel (Acts 9:16 & 14:22; Romans 8:17).
 - Paul’s plans were always subject to change (Acts 16:6-10). We should plan as Christians, but we must acknowledge God’s sovereignty and will above all things (James 4:13-17).

“The heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.” (Proverbs 16:9)

“Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.” (Proverbs 19:21)

(continued →)

Worship: God is For Us (City Alight) Tis So Sweet (Various Artists)
Before the Throne of God Above (Sovereign Grace Music)

Closing Song: Leaning On the Everlasting Arms (Sovereign Grace Music)

Service Times: Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;
Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- Paul refers to God with three different titles in Romans 15: (v.5) “the God of endurance and encouragement”; (v.13) “the God of hope”; and (v.33) “the God of peace.” God provides endurance, encouragement, peace, and hope to help us persevere in ministry.
 - Paul set the pace for the Christian work ethic. He gave everything he had for Jesus!
 - “...I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.”
(1 Corinthians 15:10)
 - “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” (2 Timothy 4:7)
 - “But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.” (Acts 20:24)
 - “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20)
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Announcements:

- **FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We will be having a fellowship dinner NEXT Sunday, December 5th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!
- **COMMUNION:** We will be partaking of and celebrating communion together next Sunday during the worship service.
- **LADIES LUNCH:** Ladies, mark your calendars! Saturday, December 11th, at 1pm all of the ladies are invited and welcome to join us for a Ladies Lunch at Olive Garden in Heath! Please let Andrea know ASAP if you will be able to join us for this!
- **MEMBERS MEETING:** In *TWO WEEKS*, on Sunday, December 12th, we will be having a short business meeting immediately following the worship service, to officially vote on the 2022 Church Budget.