

“Spiritual Themes from Paul’s Travel Plans”

Romans 15:22-29

Oct. 23, 2022

**I. The Gospel to the Ends of the Earth**

- A. Paul desired to go to Spain (and very likely made it).
  - 1. Spain was the far western reach of the Roman empire.
  - 2. Spain was Tarshish (Is. 66:19).
- B. Let us be thankful for Christ’s sending Paul to the “ends of the earth”!

*Galatians 2:20* - “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me...”

**II. The Necessity and Blessing of Christian Support**

- A. Paul longed to be encouraged by fellowship with the Roman believers.

*Romans 1:11–12* - <sup>11</sup> For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; <sup>12</sup> that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other’s faith, both yours and mine.

- B. Let us remember how we need one another.
- C. Let us be thankful for the chance to partner financially in the ministry of others (as the Romans could do with Paul).

**III. Caring for the Christian Poor**

- A. Paul had been taking up a collection for poor Jewish believers in Jerusalem. (1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. 8-9).
- B. In 2 Cor. 8-9, Paul listed several reasons why the new Gentile believers should give to their poor Jewish brethren:
  - 1. Giving would reflect their own love for God.
  - 2. Giving when they had abundance would put them in a position to be helped when they had needs in the future.

3. God loves it when His people (cheerfully) give.
4. Giving could be done knowing God will provide for them when we give.
5. Giving would lead to others giving glory to God.

C. We are still called to help believers in need for all the same reasons.

#### **IV. Returning Material Blessings for Spiritual Blessings**

A. The heading above is a general Biblical principle:

*1 Corinthians 9:11 - If we sowed spiritual things in you, is it too much if we reap material things from you?*

*1 Corinthians 9:13–14 - <sup>13</sup> Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? <sup>14</sup> So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.*

B. In Romans 15, Paul applies this general principle to the collection taken up for the poor Jewish believers:

1. The Gentiles (we too!) have received untold spiritual blessings (including Christ!) from the Jews.
2. Thus, they owe them material blessings in response.