

Romans Chapter 15 Second Continued

Romans 15:22 "For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you."

In the last lesson, we saw where Paul was sent to the Gentiles.

He went on 3 missionary journeys and established churches in the name of Jesus Christ.

These areas were not areas where Jesus had ministered while He was on the earth.

We know that Paul faced all sorts of dangers to make these journeys.

On the way to the Romans, he was even shipwrecked.

The Scripture above that says he was hindered is an understatement.

The hindrances were very great, but Paul's determination was greater.

1 Thessalonians 2:18 "Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us."

Every person trying to bring the message of God can say with Paul that Satan hindered them.

Romans 15:23-24 "But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you;" "Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your [company]."

We will see that Paul planned to go to Rome years before it became a reality.

Paul's father was a Roman, and it was Paul's desire to bring the gospel to them.

1 Corinthians 16:5-7 "Now I will come unto you, when I shall pass through Macedonia: for I do pass through Macedonia." "And it may be that I will abide, yea, and winter with you, that ye may bring me on my journey whithersoever I go." "For I will not see you now by the way; but I trust to tarry a while with you, if the Lord permit."

This last verse says it all.

Paul just like us must say "if the Lord permit".

Careful and sensible planning does not demonstrate a lack of trust in God's providence.

But plans must always be subject to the Lord's control and alteration, just as Paul's were.

The city in Spain being referred to here is Tarshish.

Paul hoped the church at Rome would supply him with an escort and supplies to make the journey to Spain.

Romans 15:25 "But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints."

Paul wanted to go to Jerusalem one more time on his way to Rome.

He will make one more futile effort to reach his brothers (Jews).

Paul will endanger his life in this effort.

He will be under arrest for the rest of his life.

When he finally arrives in Rome, much of his ministry will be from his home where he is under house arrest.

Romans 15:26: "For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem."

Paul ministered in Macedonia and Achaia during his first and second missionary journeys.

The Greek word for “contribution” carries the basic idea of sharing and is usually translated “fellowship” or “communion.”

The context indicates that here it is the sharing of a financial gift to help support the poor in Jerusalem.

Romans 15:27 "It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things."

We see here that they really do appreciate all of the hardships that these saints at Jerusalem have gone through to send them the word of God.

We know that many of these saints gave up everything they had to follow Jesus.

It is only fair that they should live of the gifts given to the ministry.

1 Corinthians 9:11 "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, [is it] a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?"

“Things”:

These were gospel truths first preached to the Gentile believers by the Jewish apostles, prophets, teachers and evangelists.

You can see that they brought the salvation message unselfishly to these people at cost of their livelihoods.

The spiritual gift is far greater than the carnal.

They are happy to send gifts in appreciation to them.

Romans 15:28 "When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain."

Paul is explaining to the Romans why he is going by Jerusalem before he comes to Rome.

We all know that this is just one of the reasons.

Paul wants to try to win his Jewish brothers to Christianity.

The financial gift or the "fruit":

This is the gift for the Jerusalem church; the fruit of their genuine love and gratitude.

Romans 15:29 "And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ."

Paul is saying that God will be with him as he brings the gospel message to Rome.

God wants Paul to take the message to Rome.

Ephesians 1:3 "Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ:"

This fullness of the Godhead includes Father, Word, and Holy Ghost.

It is as if Paul is saying they are all in the gospel message, and they truly are.

Romans 15:30 "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in [your] prayers to God for me;"

The phrase "love of the Spirit" appears only here in Scripture and refers to Paul's love for the Holy Spirit, not the Spirit's love for him.

We see a simple request from Paul here.

He just says pray for me.

It is such a shame that he would even have to ask.

Your pastor needs your prayers.

In our society today, it seems the pastor is ridiculed from all sides and few think to pray for him.

Paul explains here that their prayers for him should not be just because they love him, but for the sake of all Christianity.

If the enemy can stop the pastor of a church, he can usually destroy that church.

In the next Scripture, you can see why you need to pray for the preacher.

2 Corinthians 4:5: "For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake."

Romans 15:31 "That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judea; and that my service which [I have] for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;"

Paul wanted the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem to receive the financial gift from the Gentiles with loving gratitude, recognizing it as a gesture of brotherly love and kindness.

It seems that Paul knew there would be opposition in Jerusalem.

Paul knew that there were those who desired to see him destroyed, but he went anyway.

This is the desire of every preacher, then and now.

“Lord, deliver me from those who will not accept my message that you have sent me with, and Lord help those chosen ones you have sent me to believe”.

2 Thessalonians 3:2 "And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all [men] have not faith."

Many Jews in Judea rejected the gospel and were prepared to attack Paul when he returned.

Aware of the trouble that awaited him, he wanted the Roman Christians to pray for his deliverance only so he could complete the ministry the Lord had given him.

Their prayers were answered in that he met with success in Jerusalem and was delivered from death, but not imprisonment.

Romans 15:32 "That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed."

Paul was seeking a place where his message from God could be received in peace.

Paul, like many ministers in our day, is having a hard time finding that place of refreshing.

The true desire of every minister who has ever brought the word of God in truth is that their people they ministered to would remain strong in the faith.

1 Thessalonians 3:7-8 "Therefore, brethren, we were comforted over you in all our affliction and distress by your faith:" "For now we live, if ye stand fast in the Lord."

Paul eventually found the joy and rest he was looking for.

Romans 15:33 "Now the God of peace [be] with you all. Amen."

Who is this God of peace?

His name is Jesus Christ our Lord.

He is the King of Peace.

If He be with you, you have eternal life within you.

This Scripture in Matthew in Jesus' own Words promises all believers His presence.

Matthew 28:20 "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen."

Just as God is our hope; He is also the source of true peace.

Romans Chapter 15 Second Continued Questions

1. Who did God send Paul to minister to?
2. How many missionary journeys did Paul make?
3. What hazard did Paul face on his way to Rome?
4. In 1 Thessalonians 2:18, who hindered Paul's coming to minister?
5. Why did Paul desire to go to Rome to minister?
6. What wise statement did Paul make that we all must make also, in 1 Corinthians 16:7?
7. In Romans 15:25 Paul says, he is going to Jerusalem to minister to whom?
8. Who had the people of Macedonia sent a contribution to?

9. Much of Paul's ministry in Rome was done from where?
10. Let us not be weary in _____.
11. Let us do good to all men as we have _____.
12. In what city was the persecution of the believers the worst?
13. If they have received spiritual blessings, they should give of their _____ things.
14. When Paul comes to them, he will come in the _____ of the blessings of the gospel.
15. The fullness of the Godhead includes whom?
16. In Romans 15:30, Paul says for them to pray for him for whose sake?
17. Why should everyone pray for their preacher?
18. Who did Paul ask to be delivered from?
19. In 2 Thessalonians 3:2 deliver us from what 2 kinds of men?
20. Paul was seeking peace, where would he find it?
21. Who is the King of Peace?
22. If the King of Peace be with you, what do you possess?