

ROMANS



Romans 15:22-33

Paul's Missional Agenda



Our 3 Questions

1. What does the text say?

- Authorial intent to the intended audience.

2. What does the text mean?

- The timeless theological truth.

3. How does this apply today?

- What we ought to do with/because of this truth.

Romans 15:22-33

²² This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you.

²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you,

Romans 15:22-33

once I have enjoyed your company for a while. ²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them.

Romans 15:22-33

²² This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. ²⁸ When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you.

Romans 15:22-33

²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,

Romans 15:22-33

³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Preview

- **22-24, 28b-29**
 - **Paul's plans for Spain, through Rome**
 - **Paul's request for support**
- **25-28a**
 - **Paul's immediate plans & strategy**
- **30-33**
 - **Paul's request for prayer**
 - **Paul's prayer and blessing**
- **Applications for missional living & giving**

Romans 15:22-24

²² This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. ²³ But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, ²⁴ I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

Romans 15:22-24

Paul's reason for not coming to Rome yet, is that his work of church planting kept him.

Paul knows when it is okay to be done.

Paul's plan is to come see them, enjoy their company, and ask for their support to get to Spain for more church planting.

Romans 15:25-28a

²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints.

²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. ²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them.

Romans 15:25-28a

For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. ²⁸ When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, ...

Romans 15:25-28a

Acts 11:27-29 – Famine prophesied

Paul starts a collection for the “poor among the saints at Jerusalem” from Gentile Churches.

They gave from both desire and duty.

1 Corinthians 9:3-14, 2 Corinthians 9

Romans 15:28b-29

... I will leave for Spain by way of you.

²⁹ I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

Paul doesn't always receive a warm reception, given his ministry, but he gives a statement of confidence about the Church in Rome and his reception there.

Romans 15:28b-29

**³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,
³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,**

Romans 15:28b-29

³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.

**³³ May the God of peace be with you all.
Amen.**

Romans 15:30a

³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit

Paul requests for prayer.

- **As brothers or fellow Christians**
- **By the name of the Lord**
 - **John 15:16, 16:23-27**
- **By the love of the Spirit (Romans 5:5)**

Romans 15:30b

... to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf

Paul requests for prayer.

- **To strive or wrestle**
 - **Emotional & Desperate component**
- **With me – corporately**

Romans 15:28b-29

³¹ that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.

Safety Uncertain

A little while after this letter, Paul arrives in Jerusalem.

Acts 21:27-31 – seized and beaten

Acts 21:32-36 – Paul rescued by soldiers

Acts 22:1-20 – Paul gives his testimony

Acts 22:21-23 – Paul gets to the inclusion of Gentiles ... they stop listening and call for his head.

Reception Needed

Acts 21:17-21

¹⁷ When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly. ¹⁸ On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present. ¹⁹ After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. ²⁰ And when they heard it, they glorified God.

Reception Needed

Acts 21:17-21

And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law,²¹ and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.

Romans 15:30b

³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.

Paul prays for safety and success so that ...

He will arrive in Rome with joy

Be refreshed

Minister and be ministered to (1:11-12)

Be assisted in the mission to Spain (15:24)

Romans 15:30b

**³³ May the God of peace be with you all.
Amen.**

Paul requests for prayer and prays for them.

The God of ...

Endurance and Encouragement (15:5)

Hope (15:13)

Peace (15:33)

Applications

Everyone is both a missionary and a partner in mission with the rest of the Church.

Applications

Let God's call set the agenda.

Applications

Evaluate the mission prior to giving support.

Applications

Be strategic in missionary work.

Applications

Wrestle in prayer together.

Questions

- **Is it easy or difficult to imagine yourself as a missionary? You may find that the answer to that question is determined by how close you live to where you grew up.**
- **Have you ever had to decide between what you wanted to do and what you knew God was asking you to do? How did that go?**
- **When you think of a “Mission trip”, what do you think of? Does it center around the proclamation of the Gospel or something else?**
- **Does being strategic in ministry make it feel less genuine to you?**
- **What do you believe about the effectiveness of prayer? Does praying actually change outcomes?**
- **Do you know anyone personally that is doing ministry in particularly hostile places? How can the Church wrestle in prayer on their behalf?**
- **Can you think of a person that you want to know Christ? How can we pray for your engagement with them?**