

- I) V5-7 INTRO: Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia for I am
These first verses explain Paul's upcoming itinerary detailing his travel plans
- II) There are a few things that we can learn about this
AS WE BEGIN
- III) V5, 7 Notice that Paul writes **I will come to you... If the Lord** permits
Though he **prepared** his plans, he was sensitive to **the Lord's** leading
- IV) Planning and preparation is an important thing to learn to do
BASIC PLANNING
- V) It is important to know what we want to accomplish
It is also important to know if it's achievable and measurable
It is also something that has a budget as well as a deadline
- VI) In life, these are simple and basic things that we learn to do
ONE OTHER THING
- VII) As we make our plans we also take time to count the cost
This saves us from making emotional decisions
Lu 14:28-30 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first
and **count the cost**, whether he has enough to finish it— lest, after he has laid the
foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man
began to build and was not able to finish'?
WHEN IT COMES TO SPIRITUAL DECISIONS
- VIII) As Christians, we are to make our plans prayerfully, seeking the will of the Lord
Seeking the Lord is especially important
Pr 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, but **the LORD** directs his steps.
Ps 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way
- IX) Sadly, sometimes we fail to pray before we make our move and regret it
I have spoken with people who once attended our church
- X) They were able to get the new job but hadn't first sought out a church
Jas 4:13-15 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or
that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not
even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for
a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will
live and do this or that."

- I) This is why Paul says ***If the Lord permits*** (V7)
It's not that he can't make simple decisions on his own
He is making it clear to them that **his plans** are subject to God's leading
- II) Paul's desire was to see them and to minister to them
With this in mind he planned to see them when he passed through Macedonia
- III) Obviously his plans were ***subject to change*** should the Lord lead otherwise
He was making it clear that his plans were to be ***Spirit led***
Ro 8:14 those who are ***led by the Spirit*** of God are sons of God
- IV) Paul desire to remain with them for some time
This is because it takes time to form ***a disciple***
They are not developed quickly or carelessly
- V) Foundations take time to lay, and ***maturity*** in the Lord develops slowly
Over time you learn to listen closely and put into practice what you learn
- VI) This is the purpose of ***teaching***: equipping the saints for works of service
This is the commission Jesus gave the church
Mt 28:19-20 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey ***everything I have commanded you***. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
- VII) What is the purpose of teaching?
Col 1:28 (Jesus is the one) we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man ***perfect*** (fully mature) in Christ Jesus.
- VIII) This is why Paul wants to see them
He desires to impart to them teaching and encouragement to strengthen them
Ro 1:11 ***I long to visit*** you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord
- IX) V5 Now I will come to you when I pass through Macedonia
He lets them know that he plans on traveling south from Macedonia, to see them

- I) Paul was ministering in Macedonia and planned to come to minister to them
The churches in the north had collected an offering for Jerusalem
He planned on receiving the offering and then coming to Corinth
THIS IS HIS INITIAL PLAN
- II) V6 But **it may be** that I will remain or even spend the winter with you that you
Why did he write that he might remain with them until the end of winter?
- III) He wrote this because he was a faithful minister who finished what he began
He wasn't through ministering to them and they still needed his instructions
- IV) Paul was a **faithful minister** and wanted to pour into them
Mt 25:23 His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been
faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things.
NOTICE
- V) V6 That **you might send me** on my journey, wherever I go
I want you to be in support of me, wherever I go
I want you to send me on my journey, encouraging me as I go
- VI) V7 For I do not wish to see you **now on the** way but I hope to stay a while
It didn't work out the way he had thought that it would
He went to Macedonia, but took a different route and didn't come to Corinth
- VII) The fact is Paul didn't make it to Corinth as he had hoped to
He had said I hope to stay...if the Lord permits
When he didn't come, some of his opponents used this to undermine him
- VIII) We see this in 2nd Co
The false teachers that had infiltrated accused Paul of being indecisive
- IX) This is something he had to approach in his second letter
2 Co 1:15-17 In this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might
have a second benefit--to pass by way of you to Macedonia, to come again from
Macedonia to you, and be helped by you on my way to Judea. Therefore, when I was
planning this, **did I do it lightly**? Or the things I plan, do I plan **according to the flesh** that
with me there should be Yes, Yes and No, No?
- X) They had said he was a double minded man who couldn't be trusted

- I) V8-9 I do not wish to see you now on the way but I hope to stay a while with you
He wanted to remain where he was to continue ministering
This is because an **effective door** had been opened
- II) Paul was in the city of Ephesus when he was writing this letter (V8)
God had given him an open door, but it came with many adversaries
ACTS 19 GIVES US INSIGHT
- III) *First:* Idolatry was rampant: The Temple of Diana was there
Ritual prostitution was part of the religious system
Second: Demon possession was present in Ephesus
Ac 19:13-16 Sceva and his seven sons, Jewish exorcists
Third: Occultism was accepted and rampant
Ac 19:17-19 Magicians burned their books when they got saved
- IV) Paul encountered great persecution there
He gave more details in his second letter
2 Co 1:8-10 We would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life: but we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves, but in God which raises the dead: Who *delivered* us from so great a death and *does deliver*: in whom we trust that he *will yet deliver* us
- V) *The blessing:* In spite of this opposition God still was moving in a wonderful way
Ac 19:20 The word of the Lord was growing mightily and prevailing
- VI) God, by His Spirit opens up doors of opportunity for those who will enter in
As you submit your plans to the Lord, He begins to reveal your path to you
- VII) We do not fold in the face of opposition but actually expect to encounter it
We are engaged in spiritual warfare and know the enemy opposes our efforts
- VIII) He does not give up his captives without a fight
Mk 9 Like demonized boy being torn by demon
- IX) V10-11 Now if Timothy comes see that he may be with you *without fear* (2 Ti 1:7)
Paul refers to his friend Timothy: He possibly was carrying this letter to them

- I) Paul's command: Respect him, do not frustrate or intimidate him
He is a young man that is anointed and being used by the Lord
Phil 2:19-22 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.
- II) V12 Concerning our brother Apollos I strongly *urged him* to come with the brethren
Apollos was not willing to come: Possibly had an independent spirit
2 Co 1:24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.