

Our Mission Together

Romans 15:22-32 -- 12/13/2015

NEW LIFE FELLOWSHIP
<http://NLFJI.org/teachings>

Romans 15:22-33 - ²²For this **REASON** (*what reason?*) I also have been much hindered from coming to you. ²³But, now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you, ²⁴**whenever I journey to Spain**, I shall come to you. For I hope to see you on my journey, and to be **HELPED ON MY WAY THERE** by you, if first I may enjoy your company for a while. ²⁵But, now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. ²⁶For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. ²⁷It pleased them indeed, and they are their debtors. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister to them in material things. ²⁸Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain. ²⁹But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ. ³⁰Now I **BEG** you, brethren, through the **LORD** Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you **STRIVE TOGETHER** with me in **PRAYERS** to God for me, ³¹that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³²that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you. ³³Now the God of **PEACE** be with you all. Amen. [NKJV]

Our Mission Together - partnership for the Great Commission and Gospel-based Compassion

1. Paul was hindered coming to the church in ROME for a Reason – WHAT Reason:

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We find the answer in the verses that preceded these verses (Romans 15:18-19):

¹⁸For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has **NOT** accomplished through me, in word and deed, to make the **Gentiles** obedient — ¹⁹in mighty signs and wonders, **by the power of the Spirit of God**, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the **Gospel of Christ**.

Paul was super busy with the Great Commission, **spreading the Gospel and new Planting churches** in new areas from Jerusalem to Illyricum ... he was very busy ... he was not hindered by Satan, but by God's Mission through him. That is a good thing... being so busy doing God's Mission of the Gospel we cannot do other things we might have a great desire for ... is there a lesson here?

With Paul ... it was all Gospel-centric desires, BTW ... that is part of the lesson ...

God's Timing is central! Do we have Gospel-centric insatiable desires? If not, why not?

It is an indicator of how deeply intimate our relationship with Christ really is.

Question: What is the most important Goal Christ has, right now, in His heart?

Answer: The Church Fulfilling the Great Commission ... and thus, it should be ours, individually and corporately. Everything in our lives needs to Conform to Our Mission of the Gospel.

→ Are our lives in conformity to God's Mission for us?

2. Paul included the church of Rome in on his New Mission: SPAIN and BEYOND for the Gospel: Partnership in the Great Commission – the book of Romans is a Missionary Support Letter.

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Paul encouraged them, started the conversation with them, about **partnering for the Gospel to the ends of the earth**. Each Church needs to be a **Going, Sending and Supporting Missional Church**

Each local church family must **cooperate, support, and partner** with Biblical Gospel Missionaries to Spread the Gospel to the End of the Earth. All Biblical, Jesus following church must do this.

We know that the churches in **Lystra and Derbe** area were able to send **Timothy** to GO along with Paul the Apostle on his missionary journeys. They were Going, Sending and Supporting churches (Acts 13-14) **Partnering and Supporting the Gospel** is what the book of Philippians is all about. That church in Macedonia supported Paul in whatever he needed so that Paul would be freed up to minister with the Gospel instead of having to work a full-time secular job all the time.

Supporting your Missionaries and Pastors is Commanded by Christ:

1 Corinthians 9:14: Even so the LORD has **COMMANDED** that those who preach the Gospel should live from the Gospel. (i.e.: getting their living from Gospel Ministry support)

Galatians 6:6-8: Let him who is **TAUGHT** the **WORD SHARE** in all good things with him who teaches. ⁷Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. ⁸For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

These are **Commands** of financial support for each local church family regarding the **support and partnership** for the Gospel and those who are called specially for the spread of the Gospel. All of us are called to spread the Gospel, but some are **SPECIALLY CALLED and SET APART** for this type of ministry such as the Apostles were, and such as modern-day Missionaries are.

Paul was encouraging the church in Rome to Partner with him for **Missionary Church Planting in Spain and Beyond**. He also wanted to hang out with them for a while and be a Gospel Encouragement to them. What a blessing that must've been for them to encourage each other, etc.

3. **Gospel-based Humanitarian Assistance to Victims of Disasters, etc. This, also, is a part of our Mission Together: Collaborations of Churches to help with Humanitarian Disasters, etc.**

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Paul is referring to a 'one-time' famine that hit the Roman Empire.

This was **predicted** by the prophet Agabus in Acts 11:27-30 – which occurred during Claudius' reign (41-54 A.D.) The **Famine in the Jerusalem area** lasted for about 1 to 2 years (46 – 47 A.D.)

[Winter, Bruce W. "Acts and Food Shortages," in *The Book of Acts in its Graeco-Roman Setting*, ed. David W. J. Gill and Conrad Gempf, 59-78. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1994.]

It was the Gentile churches duty to help Israel, since Israel gave them the Gospel (Gen. 12:3)

Supporting churches in the regions of **Macedonia and Achaia** →

Macedonia → Philippi (Philippians) → full support of Paul's Missionary work and this famine relief

Achaia → Corinth (Corinthians) → had to be begged to help out with this famine relief (reminded a lot) they never really helped or supported Paul in his Missionary work

Passages that refer to this **one-time** famine: Acts 11:27-30; 24:17; 1 Cor. 16:1-4; 2 Cor. chptrs 8 & 9; Romans 15:25-28;30-31; Galatians 2:10.

Doing Good and Acts of Kindness toward others can open up hearts to receive the Gospel:

Matthew 5:16: Let your light shine in such a way that people will see your good works and glorify God

Heb. 13:16: But do not forget to **do good** and to **share**, for with such sacrifices **God is well pleased**.

Galatians 6:9-10: And let us not grow weary while **doing good**, for in **due season** we shall **reap** if we do not lose heart. ¹⁰ Therefore, **as we have opportunity**, let us do **good** to **ALL**, **especially** to those who are of **the household of faith**. (what does he mean by "ESPECIALLY"?) ???

4. **Prayer is the Power for any type of Gospel Missionary Endeavor ...** Paul begs them to pray for him and his Missionary & Humanitarian Endeavors (Romans 15:30-33) → only through Prayer could he be successful. **Prayerful & Financial Support is Critical** to the fulfillment of the Great Commission (Eph. 6:18-20 & Colossians 4:2-4 – Paul asking other churches to pray for his Gospel Mission)