

Epistle to the Romans, 15:22-16:2



A Short Course for Men

Three practical lessons from Romans 15

For local gatherings (1-13)

For Paul's mission to gentiles (14-21)

For Paul's soon visit to Rome (22-33)

Romans 15:22-29 (NRSVue)

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

²³ But now, with no further place for me in these regions, I desire, as I have for many years, to come to you ...

- **Reason:** 'fully proclaim the gospel' (19)
- **Place:** Pop. centers have churches.
- **Desire:** Why Rome?

²⁴ when I go to Spain.

For I do hope to see you on my journey and to be sent on by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a little while.

- **Spain:** Western "end of the earth."
- **Journey:** Fourth DMM journey.
- **Sent on:** Monetary support.
- **Once:** Lit., 'if', 2nd class cond.

Did Paul go to Spain?

- **Clement of Rome** (70s AD): "reached the farthest limits of the west."
- **Muratorian Canon** (c. AD 170): "when he journeyed to Spain."
- **Acts of Peter** (c. AD 180): "departed from the Roman harbor of Ostia."
- **Cyril of Jerusalem** (4th cent. AD): "carried the earnestness of his preaching as far as Spain."

²⁵ At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem in a ministry to the saints,

²⁶ for Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to share their resources with the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

- **Ministry:** 'Deaconing' = care for poor
- **Pleased:** 'Cheerful givers'.
- **Poor:** Shunned by major religions.
- **Saints:** Measure of divine favor.

²⁷ They were pleased to do this, and indeed they **owe** it to them, for if the gentiles have come to share in their **spiritual** blessings, [then] they **ought** also to be of service to them in **material** things.

- **Owe:** Noun 'owe' = verb 'ought'.
- **Spiritual:** Everlasting benefits.
- **Material:** Survival needs.

²⁸ So, when I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will set out by way of you to Spain, ²⁹ and I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

- **Complete:** Current plan accomplished.
- **I will:** Future plan initiated.
- **"Go":** Romans bless Paul!

Romans 15:30-33 (NRSVue)
³⁰ I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, ...

- **Lord:** God incarnate.
- **Spirit:** God indwelling.
- **God:** God superintending.
- **Prayer:** Make verifiable requests!

³¹ that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ...

- **Rescued:** Jews had issued a *fatwa*.
- **Unbelievers:** Roman pagans? Jews?
- **Acceptable:** 'Tainted' gentile money.
- **Saints:** Jewish Christians.

³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. ³³ The God of peace be with all of you. Amen.

- **Will:** God's will is contingent on...
- **Joy:** Success at Jerusalem.
- **Refresh:** Relax with others.
- **Peace:** Gk ← Heb *Šalōm* = prosperity

NEW TESTAMENT KINGDOM WORKERS	
BY GIFTING	BY OFFICE
APOSTLES — Multiply new churches	Elders — Mature, respected Christians
PROPHETS — Proclaim truth	<u>Two kinds</u>
EVANGELISTS — Share the gospel	Overseers — Lead by example
PASTORS — Provide care	Deacons — Meet urgent needs
TEACHERS — Make disciples Ephesians 4:11	Led by the Spirit, having no official authority Titus 1:5; Philippians 1:1

Romans 16: 1-2 (NRSVue)
¹ I commend to you our sister Phoebe a deacon of the church at Cenchreae, ² so that you may welcome her in the Lord, as is fitting for the saints, ...

- **Deacon:** Same form masc. and fem.
- **Church:** Care for poor and workers.
- **Welcome:** As the Lord's emissary.
- **Saints:** Fellow Christians.

Women ministers in the NT
 In the first century AD, men and women alike ministered in churches and in Christian mission. Women include:

- **Apostles:** Junia, Ro 16:7
- **Prophets:** Philip's daughters, Ac 21:9
- **Evangelists:** Euodia, Syntyche, Phil 4:2
- **Pastors:** Nympha, Col 4:15
- **Teachers:** Priscilla, Acts 18:26

and help her in whatever she may require from you, for she has been a benefactor of many and of myself as well.

- **Help:** "To put at one's disposal."
- **Require:** "Anything she needs."
- **Benefactor:** Noun form of verb 'to help'
- **Many:** Who = helpful in church?

To secure cooperation
 This three-step approach increases cooperation or compliance ten-fold!

- 1** Establish a mutually-agreed framework e.g., a desirable outcome.
- 2** Ask for a small favor, easy to initiate.
- 3** Ask for a big favor, hard to implement.