

## ROMANS 15: 15-33 – FROM JERUSALEM TO ILLYRICUM; PLANS TO VISIT ROME

### OBSERVATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email - [philtwente@att.net](mailto:philtwente@att.net) For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column.

### INTERPRETATION

### APPLICATION

#### Likemindedness in Admonishing one

##### another:

15 Nevertheless, brethren, I have written more boldly to you on some points, as reminding you, because of the grace given to me by God,

Still, on some points, I have written to you more boldly and without reservation to remind you, because of the unmerited favor given to me by God.

16 that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In making me a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, I act in the priestly service of the Gospel in order that the sacrificial offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, consecrated and made holy by the Holy Spirit.

17 Therefore I have reason to glory in Christ Jesus in the things which pertain to God.

In Christ Jesus, then, I have legitimate reason to glory or exalt in my work for God

18 For 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—

For I will not presume to speak thus of any work except what Christ has actually done through me to win obedience from the Gentiles by word and deed.

Because of the office given to me by God, which came to me through His grace, I have written very boldly to you on a number of points. In spite of their spiritual strength, these Christians apparently needed to be reminded of truth they already know but could easily neglect or forget. Rom. 1:5, 12:3

Note the Trinity in this verse! Referring to himself with priestly overtones, Paul states that his priestly ministry is to present to God an offering of a multitude of Gentile converts. Isa. 66:18-20

Paul will glory only in what Christ has done through his ministry. He is sure that Christ has done great things though him to bring salvation to the Gentiles. He is glad he can draw attention to the great things the Lord has done, but he is not trying to take any personal credit. The Lord has been turning the world upside down through Paul! Isa. 42:8; Eph. 3:20; Heb. 2:17-18

Paul continues to say that he will not take credit for the work of God that is being done by others-especially among the Gentiles. Note the principle of not speaking of anything which Christ has not accomplished through me! Acts 15:12; 21:19; 2 Cor. 10:13-17

Because of the grace given to us as believers, we should be ready to exhort and encourage others in the things of the Word.

We too, like Paul, would like to be working toward presenting to God an offering of a multitude of those who have been exposed to the gospel though us.

We only want to glory in what the Lord has done. To Him be all the glory!!!

We need to be very careful in not taking credit for what the Lord does through us or through others. We need to be sure and not take any credit the work of others.

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**19 in 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.** Through mighty signs and wonders through the power of the Holy Spirit, that starting at Jerusalem and as far round as Illyricum I have fully preached the Gospel of The Messiah in its entirety.

**20 And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man's foundation.** Thus my ambition has been to preach the gospel in areas where Christ's name is unknown, unless I build on another's foundation.

**21 but as it is written: "To whom He was not announced, they shall see; And those who have not heard shall understand."**<sup>1</sup> But as it is written in Isa. 52:15, they shall see who have never been told of Him and they shall understand who have never head of Him.

**Likemindedness in Paul's possible visit:**  
**22 For this reason I also have been much hindered from coming to you.** This ambition is the reason why I have so frequently been hindered from coming to visit you.

### INTERPRETATION

Through the **power of the Holy Spirit**, Paul was enabled to work among the Gentiles mighty assigns and wonders so that they were fully convinced that both his doctrine and mission were of the Lord, therefore cheerfully receiving the Gospel message. This spread all the way from Jerusalem to Illyricum (today's Albania). It's only through the power of the Holy Spirit-that's the key, so why do we boast? **Zech. 4:6; Acts 19:11-12; 1 Cor. 2:1-5;**

Paul says that he considers it his honor to preach the Gospel where it was before unknown. Not watering what another apostle had planted, but cheerfully exposing himself to all kinds of dangers and hardships in order to plant new churches. **1 Cor. 3:8-11;**

Paul applies to his own conduct the words quoted from Isa. 52:15, as it applies to his going to those who have not seen and who have not heard in order that they might see and hear and understand. **Is. 52:15**

It was Paul great desire to do pioneer work in church planting that **much hindered him** from coming to the Romans, though he did desire to see them. **Rom. 1:13;**

### APPLICATION

"Not by might, nor by power, but by the Holy Spirit"... "You shall receive power when the Spirit comes upon you"... We need to notice that through the power of the Holy Spirit, the gospel was quickly spread all the way from Jerusalem to Illyricum! May our commitment be to fully preach the Gospel!

We need to remember the practice of Paul, not to build on another work, but to establish new works.

May we have a burning desire to get the gospel to those who have not heard and to pray for all the lost!

We need to keep "first things first" as Paul did!

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**23 But now no longer having a place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come to you,** But now since I have no further opportunity for work in this area and since I have longed for enough 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.** I hope to see you in Rome as I go on my intended trip to Spain, and to be aided on my journey there by you, after I have enjoyed your company for a little while.

**25 But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints.** For the present, however, I am going to Jerusalem to bring aid for the believing saints there.

**26 For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.** For it has been the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make some contribution for the poor among the saints of Jerusalem.

**27 It 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.** They were pleased to do it; and surely they are in debt to them, for if these Gentiles have come to share in the Jews' spiritual blessings, then they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.

### INTERPRETATION

Was Paul saying that all in the area had been evangelized? “I have covered all the area”? Whatever he meant by that, he reiterates the fact that he has longed for many years to come to Rome. **Acts 19:21; 23:11**

Paul states emphatically that he plans to journey **to Spain** and at that time shall come to Rome. He is wanting to go as far as he can to preach the gospel to a place where the Gospel has not been preached. He is looking forward to fellowshiping with them and enjoying a stay with them for a while. He has a burning desire to reach the lost! Did he ever go to Spain? **2 Tim. 4:7**

Paul would stop in Corinth on his way to Jerusalem, bringing with him a collection for Christians in Macedonia and Achaia. Here he shows his desire to minister to the saints.

He is speaking here of going to Jerusalem, taking the certain contribution for the poor and fellowshiping with the saints there. The poorer, by comparison to Corinth, believers in Macedonia and Achaia had made a wonderful contribution. **Acts 24:17; 1 Cor. 16:1; 2 Cor. 8:1-5**

He makes it very clear that it was a freewill offering and enforces the fact that they had a moral obligation, **a duty**, and debt to pay. Gentiles has received the gospel from Israel. Therefore those in Macedonia and Achaia were now paying that debt via their offering. **Psa. 116:12-14; Luke 12:48;**

### APPLICATION

We want to continue on as the Lord leads, even when we can no longer see a specific objective.

We are to encourage and exhort and engage in fellowship with other believers as well as presenting the gospel to all unbelievers. Do you have a heart to reach people?

Lord, help me to minister to the saints!

We want to give willingly demonstrating a real heart for those in need.

We too are certainly debtors. May we be continually offering the praises of thanksgiving with our lips and with our hearts. We need to support the work of the Gospel around the world.

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### OBSERVATION

**28 Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.** When therefore I have completed this mission and have delivered to them at Jerusalem what has been raised, I shall go on by way of you to Spain.

**29 But I know that when I come to you, I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel<sup>l</sup> of Christ.** And I know that when I do come to you, I shall come in the abundant blessing of the Gospel of Christ.

### **Likeminded in Prayer:**

**30 Now 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,** I appeal to you brethren, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love given by the Spirit, to unite with me in earnest wrestling in prayer to God in my behalf.

**31 that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,** Pray that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea and that my mission of relief to Jerusalem may be acceptable and graciously received by the saints there,

**32 that I may come to you with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you.** So that by God's will I may subsequently come to you with joy of heart and be refreshed in your company.

**33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.** May our peace-giving God be with you all! Amen!

### INTERPRETATION

When, therefore I have performed this service and have faithfully delivered up, sealed, to them this fruit, of the success of my ministry and of your conversion to God, I will come by you into Spain. This was his strong desire. **Phil. 4:17-19**

He hopes to come to them not only with the blessing of the Gospel, but also with the gifts and graces of the Lord Jesus Himself, which he was now a constant instrument in the hand of God. He will come with the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel! **Rom. 1:9-12**

Sensing that danger awaited him in Jerusalem-having been warned several times-Paul knew that he needed the prayer of God's people to see him through the difficulty promised him. Be likeminded in your prayers for me, agonize in prayer for me, Paul said! Notice again the Trinity mentioned here. **Phil. 2:1-2; 2 Cor. 1:11**

Paul knew that his fellow Jews in Jerusalem, who had not received the Gospel lay in wait for his life; and, no doubt, they thought they should do God a favor by destroying him, as one who was trying to subvert and entirely destroy the Jewish religion. He is praying for personal deliverance and the emotional acceptance of the gift.

Hoping that his journey to Jerusalem would be prosperous and his service accepted, he hoped to see them at Rome with great joy-with spiritual refreshment! **2 Tim. 4:6-8**

Paul's whole object of the epistle is to establish peace between the believing Jews and Gentiles! **We need peace!** **1 Cor. 14:33**

### APPLICATION

We need to keep open to what the Lord has in store for us at all times.

We want to always be a sweet aroma of Christ wherever we go.

May we be faithful in prayer, praying for others as well as requesting prayer to assist us in our ministry.

It is good to pray and to ask for prayer for deliverance from those who would come against the Lord and against His ministry.

Koinonia with the brethren—a wonderful objective.

May we be peacemakers always!