

The Glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ
A Survey of the Book of Romans
Two of Paul's Passions
Romans 15

1. Preaching the Gospel to Jews and Gentiles

Romans 1:16-17; 15:7-13, 18-21

Goal: Gentiles would praise and worship God

2. Helping the Poor

Romans 15:22-29, 2 Cor. 8:1-5, 9; 1 Cor. 16:1-4

Caveat on Prayer and God's Will

→ God answers our prayers in unique ways.

Romans 15:28-33

→ Our Plans are not always God's Plans

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Digging Deeper into Romans 15

1. Paul was uniquely commissioned to preach to the gentiles. While we do not have his specific historic commission, we do have the general commission given by Jesus to make disciples of all nations (*read Matthew 28:18-20*). I would suggest that we are not very committed to it in actual practice. What are your thoughts on this? How much energy, time, and money do you give to the Great Commission.

2. Now let's discuss the poor and our obligation to them. Again, the historical situation that faced Paul with the famine in Jerusalem is not our situation (read Romans 15:25-29); but as Jesus said "the poor will always be with us" (Matthew 26:11). God is concerned about the poor and has called his people to minister to them. How are we doing as a church and how are you doing as a follower of Christ?

3. Let's talk about God's will and prayer. Read Romans 15:28-33. What does it mean to "strive together" in prayer (v:30). The Greek word means to 'fight,' "struggle," even "wrestle" (see 1 Tim. 6:12 & 2 Tim. 4:7). Paul uses this word to describe prayer in Col. 4:12. *How should this inform our prayer life?*

We learned that Paul did not have smooth trip Jerusalem and back to Rome. He was arrested when he got to Jerusalem and spent 2 years in prison. He did finally arrive in Rome after being shipwrecked at sea. Compare Paul's prayer request in Romans 15:29-33 to the description in Acts 28:11-16 when Paul finally gets to Rome.

→ *Discuss how God's will and ours are not always the same.*

→ *Discuss how God answers our prayers but not always the way we ask for.*