

Giving to God's People and Preachers (Romans 15:22-33)

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I. Paul had been hindered in coming to Rome, but hoped to come soon

Rom 15:22 For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.

Rom 15:23 But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you;

A. Paul's longstanding yearning to come to Rome

Rom 1:10 Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

Rom 1:11 For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

Rom 1:12 That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Rom 1:13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

Rom 1:14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

Rom 1:15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

B. Sometimes Satan can hinder

1Th 2:18 Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered us.

C. Sometimes the Holy Spirit can hinder

Act 16:6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

Act 16:7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

D. God eventually brought Paul to Rome, but not as Paul had planned

Act 9:15 ...he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

Act 25:11 ...I appeal unto Caesar.

Act 25:12 Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, Hast thou appealed unto Caesar? unto Caesar shalt thou go.

Act 26:32 Then said Agrippa unto Festus, This man might have been set at liberty, if he had not appealed unto Caesar.

Act 27:23 For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve,

Act 27:24 Saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar...

Php 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

Php 1:13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace...

II. From Europe with help for Jerusalem—then to Rome—for help to go on to Spain

Rom 15:24 Whosoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your *company*.

Rom 15:25 But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.

Rom 15:26 For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.

Rom 15:27 It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

Rom 15:28 When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

Rom 15:29 And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

A. Historical background to this situation

1. At first, the saints in the church at Jerusalem had no need of help

Act 4:34 Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold,

Act 4:35 And laid *them* down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

2. Perhaps two things had brought the saints at Jerusalem to need much help

Heb 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully **the spoiling of your goods**, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

Act 11:28 And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be **great dearth** throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.

Act 11:29 Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, **determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:**

3. Paul had previously used the church at Macedonia as an example to Achaia

2Co 8:1 Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;

2Co 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

2Co 8:3 For to *their* power, I bear record, yea, and beyond *their* power *they were* willing of themselves;

2Co 8:4 Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and *take upon us* the fellowship of the ministering to the saints.

2Co 8:5 And *this they did*, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.

2Co 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2Co 8:12 For if there be first a willing mind, *it is* accepted according to that a man hath, *and* not according to that he hath not.

2Co 8:13 For *I mean* not that other men be eased, and ye burdened:

2Co 8:14 But by an equality, *that* now at this time your abundance *may be a supply* for their want, that their abundance also may be *a supply* for your want: that there may be equality:

B. Paul wanted all to give—but made sure none could accuse

2Co 8:18 And we have sent with him (Titus) the brother, whose praise *is* in the gospel throughout all the churches;

2Co 8:19 And not *that* only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and *declaration of* your ready mind:

2Co 8:20 Avoiding this, that no man should blame us in this abundance which is administered by us:

2Co 8:21 Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

2Co 8:22 And we have sent with them our brother, whom we have oftentimes proved diligent in many things, but now much more diligent, upon the great confidence which *I have* in you.

2Co 8:23 Whether *any do enquire* of Titus, *he is* my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren *be enquired of*, *they are* the messengers of the churches, *and* the glory of Christ.

C. Paul needed help to get to Spain—It was right for him to ask and for them to give

Rom 15:24 Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your *company*...

Rom 15:28 ...I will come by you into Spain.

Rom 15:29 And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.

1. The church's part in supporting the preacher

1Co 9:6 Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?

1Co 9:7 Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

1Co 9:8 Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

1Co 9:9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

1Co 9:10 Or saith he *it* altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, *this* is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

1Co 9:11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, *is it* a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

1Co 9:12 If others be partakers of *this* power over you, *are* not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

1Co 9:13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live *of the things* of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

1Co 9:14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

2. The preacher's part in preaching without charge

1Co 9:16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

1Co 9:17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation *of the gospel* is committed unto me.

1Co 9:18 What is my reward then? *Verily* that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

3. God blesses willing givers

2Co 9:6 But this *I say*, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

2Co 9:7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

2Co 9:8 And God *is* able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

4. Willing giving has a seven-fold benefit

a. God gives the giver more to give

2Co 9:11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness...

b. The giver thanks God for what God gave him

2Co 9:11 ...which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

c. The poor children of God have their wants supplied

2Co 9:12 For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints

d. The poor children of God give many thanksgivings to God

2Co 9:12 ...but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God;

e. The poor glorify God for what they have experienced

2Co 9:13 Whiles by the experiment of this ministration they glorify God...

f. The gospel of Christ is magnified in how it has made men to be givers

2Co 9:13 ...they glorify God for your professed subjection unto the gospel of Christ, and for *your* liberal distribution unto them, and unto all *men*;

g. The receivers pray for the givers and yearn to be with them

2Co 9:14 And by their prayer for you, which long after you for the exceeding grace of God in you.

5. The indescribable gift of God that turns selfish men into willful givers

2Co 9:15 Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

III. Paul asked for their money—but begged for their prayers

Rom 15:30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me;

Eph 6:19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,

Rom 15:31 That I may be delivered from them that do not believe in Judaea; and that my service which *I have* for Jerusalem may be accepted of the saints;

Act 21:31 And as they went about to kill him, tidings came unto the chief captain...

Act 22:24 The chief captain...bade that he should be examined by scourging..

Act 21:17 And when we were come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly.

Rom 15:32 That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

Act 28:30 And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him,

Act 28:31 Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Rom 15:33 Now the God of peace *be* with you all. Amen.