

## BY THE WILL OF GOD

--ROMANS 15:22-33--

### INTRODUCTION:

As we move into the final section of Romans 15 Paul gives us more information about his ministry, especially his future plans for reaching the unreached. Within this section there is one principle that stands out, it is not stated until the end of the chapter, but it is implied throughout, it is the principle that guided Paul in all that he did, it is the principle of living by the will of God. Living by the will of God Paul first writes concerning his future plan of ministry, then his present plan of ministry, and finally asks the church in Rome to pray for him and gives them three specific requests that he desired be answered according to God's will and purpose for his life.

#### I. PAUL'S FUTURE PLAN (Romans 15:22-24)

- a. Paul begins this new section by laying out for the church in Rome his \_\_\_\_\_ plans.
- b. Because Paul was faithful to this calling from the Lord to be the apostle to the Gentiles, he says this \_\_\_\_\_ from coming to the church in Rome.
- c. Paul had to finish what God had \_\_\_\_\_ him to do. (Acts 15:16:7)
- d. The Old Testament speaks of God's \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives. (Proverbs 16:9; 21:1)
- e. But now that Paul's ministry was finished in this place, he began to make plans for future ministry and that plan included a \_\_\_\_\_ to the church in Rome.
- f. Paul's plan included a stop in \_\_\_\_\_ on his way to Spain. (Romans 1:11-12)
- g. Paul made his plans to visit them and then to continue onto \_\_\_\_\_ and bring the Gospel to that unreached region.

#### II. PAUL'S PRESENT PLAN (Romans 15:25-29)

- a. Paul now begins to explain to the church in Rome his plan at the \_\_\_\_\_, that had to be fulfilled before he could come to them on his way to Spain.

- b. Paul was called to be the apostle to the Gentiles, this journey seems to go against his calling to \_\_\_\_\_ the Gospel where the name of Christ is not known.
- c. Paul said that these mainly \_\_\_\_\_ churches in Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to do this, to help out the mainly Jewish church in Jerusalem. (Ephesians 2:11-16)
- d. Paul writes that he must finish this, he must put his \_\_\_\_\_ on this fruit of theirs.
- e. Paul then says that when this ministry to the suffering saints in Jerusalem is \_\_\_\_\_, he plans to come to them on his way to Spain. (2 Corinthians 9:12-14)
- f. Paul finishes this section on his present plans by saying that he knows when he comes to them in Rome, he will come in the fulness of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ. (Romans 8:38-39)

#### III. PAUL'S PRAYER REQUESTS (Romans 15:30-33)

- a. Paul begins to wrap up this chapter by urging the saints in Rome to be in \_\_\_\_\_ for him.
- b. Paul urges them to \_\_\_\_\_ with him in prayer to God for himself. (Matthew 26:40-41)
- c. After urging them to agonize in prayer with him to God for him, Paul gives them \_\_\_\_\_ requests to bring before the Lord.
- d. First, that he may be \_\_\_\_\_ from those who are disobedient in Judea.
- e. Second, he requested that they pray that his service for Jerusalem would prove \_\_\_\_\_ to the saints.
- f. Paul's third request was that he might come to the saints in Rome in \_\_\_\_\_ by the will of God and find refreshing rest in their company.
- g. Notice that Paul finally voices what has been implied through this whole passage that these requests be fulfilled by the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.
- h. Paul ends this chapter with a short benediction. He writes in verse 33, "*Now the God of \_\_\_\_\_ be with you all. Amen.*" (Romans 15:33, NASB95)

## CONCLUSION:

Paul shows us what a man who lived by the will of God is like. Living by God's will did not stop him from planning for the future. The plans that Paul made were always held in an open hand before God, because more than anything Paul wanted to be obedient to the will of God.

Paul also never allowed his plans to get in the way or interfere with work that God had given him to do, he knew his plans came only after he completed the task before him.

Paul also prayed for his plans, that they might be realized if they fit into God's will, then he rested in God's peace to see what God would do and how God would use him.

It is this kind of life lived in the will of God that allowed Paul to say near the end of his life, "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.*" (2 Timothy 4:7–8, NASB95)