

Paul's Itinerary

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Romans 15:14-33 ¹⁴I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, brimming with knowledge, and able to instruct one another. ¹⁵However, I have written you a bold reminder on some points, because of the grace God has given me ¹⁶to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷Therefore I exult in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obedience by word and deed, ¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, and by the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. ²⁰In this way I have aspired to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. ²¹Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about Him will see, and those who have not heard will understand." ²²That is why I have often been hindered from coming to you. ²³But now that there are no further opportunities for me in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to visit you, ²⁴I hope to see you on my way to Spain. And after I have enjoyed your company for a while, you can equip me for my journey. ²⁵Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem to serve the saints there. ²⁶For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. ²⁷They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual blessings, they are obligated to minister to them with material blessings. ²⁸So after I have completed this service and have safely delivered this bounty to them, I will set off to Spain by way of you. ²⁹I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ. ³⁰Now I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. ³¹Pray that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, ³²so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. ³³The God of peace be with all of you. Amen. (BSB)

I. What are the details of this passage?

- A.** Paul has just finished writing some powerful words of **exhortation** to the Roman church. V. 14-15
- B.** He spoke to them out of the **authority** that God has given him as the Apostle to the Gentiles. V. 16-18
- C.** He also spoke about his **completed** mission in the areas that God had told him to minister to. V. 19-20

- D. He now believes that God is **moving** him to preach the Gospel in Spain. V. 21-24
- E. He will first go to Jerusalem to deliver the **offerings** that he has been collecting due to the famine there. V. 25-28
- F. He then asks for **prayers** for his upcoming journey. V. 29-30
- G. His heart is heavy with the possibility of **persecution** in Jerusalem. V. 31-32
- H. He blesses them with the **Shalom** of God. V. 33

II. What can we learn from this?

- A. We must be willing to speak **difficult truths** to one another. It is not loving to pretend that God's word is not important.
- B. We must submit to the spiritual **authorities** that God has put over us. We live in a rebellious generation.
- C. Sometimes God **moves** his ministers around. We must be aware of what season in our life we are in.
- D. We must reject the **lie** that everyone knows who Jesus is. So many around us have no clue!
- E. Just because something is **dangerous** does not mean that we shouldn't do it. It is important that you go to your trusted advisors to be sure that you are hearing God right.
- F. We must be **ministers** of the God of Shalom!