

## Romans 15: 14-33

Intro: This passage begins the concluding part of the letter.

### I. Mature believers (14-16).

#### A. Characteristics.

1. Full of goodness (uprightness, kindness, beneficence).
2. Complete in knowledge (of the Christian faith).
3. Competent to instruct others.

#### B. Able to accept the boldness of Paul's letter.

1. He is Christ's minister to the Gentiles.
2. Duty of proclaiming the Gospel.
  - a. So the Gentiles would be acceptable:
    - i. As a sacrifice (cf. 12:1; Is.66:20).
    - ii. Sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
  - b. As a priest before God.

### II. Paul glories in Christ (17-22).

#### A. By his service to God.

#### B. Christ's accomplishments through Paul.

1. Signs,
2. Miracles.
3. Power of the Holy Spirit.

C. Extent of his ministry.

1. From Jerusalem (southeast limit).
2. To Illyricum (northwest limit).  
(eastern coast of Adriatic from Albania to Slovenia).
3. Completed his task in that region (establishing churches).
4. Going “where no one else has dared to go.”
  - a. Fulfillment of prophecy.
    - i. Is.52:15 – leading into Is. 53.
    - ii. World-wide ministry of the Messiah.
  - b. Reason why Paul has not yet visited Rome.

III. Plan to visit Rome (23-33).

A. Heading to Spain (23-24).

1. Rome.
  - a. Enjoy the companionship of the church.
  - b. Get their assistance on his way.
2. A straight shot by ship to Barcelona (Roman colony with a good harbor).

B. But first to Jerusalem (25-27).

1. To carry the gift from the European church.
  - a. Pleased to do it.
  - b. Part of the unity of the church.
  - c. Material in return for the spiritual.
2. Then to Spain.
  - a. Via Rome.
  - b. With full blessing of Christ.

IV. Request for prayer (30-33).

A. Paul often asks for the saints to pray for him.

1. By the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. By the love of the Holy Spirit,

B. Prayer unites Christians in their struggles.

C. Specific requests.

1. To be delivered from hostility in Judea.
  - a. Was not afraid to die for Christ.
  - b. Did not seek martyrdom.
2. That his service would be acceptable in Jerusalem.
3. That he would come to Rome with joy.
4. All in accordance with God's will.

D. Benediction (33).