

# Studies In Romans

## (Romans 15:20-33)

### 1. What concern did Paul have about preaching where Christ was already named?

Building on the foundation of teaching of another person: *“Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation” (Romans 15:20).*

- Paul was striving [laboring] to preach the Gospel (**II Corinthians 5:9-11**).
- Building on what another person has been teaching (**I Corinthians 3:5-11**).
  - Even when truth is taught, you don't know what they have already taught to know where to begin or pick up. That matters (**Mark 4:33**).
  - You don't know why they have or have not taught on certain things. That matters (**I Corinthians 3:1-3** and **Hebrews 5:8-6:2**).
  - Be cautious, consistency matters (**I Corinthians 4:17**, **Colossians 4:17**, and **I Timothy 1:3-7**).

### 2. What hindered Paul from getting to Rome?

Teaching people who had never heard the Gospel: *“But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand. For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you” (Romans 15:21-22).*

- As it is written (**Isaiah 52:15**, **Isaiah 65:1**, and **Hosea 2:23**; cf. **Romans 9:24-25**).
- As earlier noted, the work Paul did kept him from getting to Rome (**Romans 1:13-15**).

### 3. Was Paul aiming to get to Rome at some point?

Yes: *“But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you; 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” (Romans 15:23-24).*

- How much can one man do? Paul had many “irons in the fire” that he was trying to tend to (**I Corinthians 16:5-9**, **I Thessalonians 3:10**, **II Timothy 1:4**, **Philemon 1:21-22**, etc.).
- For sure, Paul wanted to see brethren face to face (**I Thessalonians 2:17-19**).

### 4. What was Paul going to be doing in Jerusalem?

Ministering to the saints: *“But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints” (Romans 15:25).*

- The term translated “minister” here, does not signify the usage many apply to “preachers”. It can be used to mean many types of service to another (**Mark 10:45, John 12:2, Acts 6:1-2** [“serve”], **II Corinthians 3:3, Hebrews 6:10, and I Peter 4:11**).
  - The context will have to reveal what kind of service Paul is going to do.
5. Who did the Christians in Macedonia and Achaia make a contribution for?  
The poor saints in Jerusalem: *“For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem”* (**Romans 15:26**).
- Now, we see that the service Paul was going to do is in regard to financial aid for poor Christians in Jerusalem (**I Corinthians 16:1-4 and II Corinthians 8:1-9:14**; cf. **I John 3:16-18**).
6. What motivator was in place for the Gentiles to help the poor saints in Jerusalem?  
A mindset of indebtedness: *“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”* (**Romans 15:27**).
- The preaching of the Gospel started and came forth from Jerusalem (**Luke 24:47, Acts 2:1-5, Acts 6:7**, etc.).
  - It is Scripturally reasonable to conclude that those who have been helpful spiritually could be rewarded carnally (**I Corinthians 9:9-14 and Philemon 1:10-21**).
7. Was Paul involved in the delivery of the aid to the poor saints in Jerusalem?  
Yes: *“When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain”* (**Romans 15:28**).
- We’ve seen this before (**Acts 11:27-30**).
8. What did Paul say he would come in the fullness of when he did get to Rome?  
Blessing of the Gospel of Christ: *“And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ”* (**Romans 15:29**).
- This is the only time in the Scriptures this terminology is used. There could be multiple applications that would fit (i.e. **Romans 1:11, Ephesians 1:3, Galatians 3:14, Hebrews 6:7**, etc.).
9. What did Paul want the prayers of the brethren for?  
His safety from those in Judaea that would harm him: *“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; 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; That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed” (Romans 15:30-32).*

- Paul’s safety and ability to continue teaching was for the sake of Christ (**Ephesians 2:20-22** and **II Timothy 4:17-18**).
- Paul wanted their prayers so his work could continue (**II Thessalonians 3:1**).
- Remember, deliverance and direct guidance from trouble in the first century was tied to the age of miracles, through the Holy Spirit (**Acts 16:1-10**), that has now ended (**I Corinthians 13:8-13**).
- Going to a place, for Paul, was all based on God’s will (**Acts 18:21**).
- Being refreshed by the brethren (**I Corinthians 16:15-18**, **II Corinthians 7:13**, **II Timothy 1:16**, and **Philemon 1:7**).

10. Can it be said that God is the source of peace?

Yes, He is the God of peace: *“Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen”* (**Romans 15:33**).

- **Psalms 85:8, Isaiah 9:6, Acts 10:36, Romans 1:7, Romans 5:1, Romans 16:20, I Corinthians 1:3, I Corinthians 14:33, II Corinthians 1:2, Galatians 1:3, Ephesians 1:2, Philippians 1:2, Philippians 4:6-9, Colossians 1:2, Colossians 3:15, I Thessalonians 1:1-2, I Timothy 1:2, II Timothy 1:2, Hebrews 13:20**, etc.
- However, not for all people (**Isaiah 57:21**).