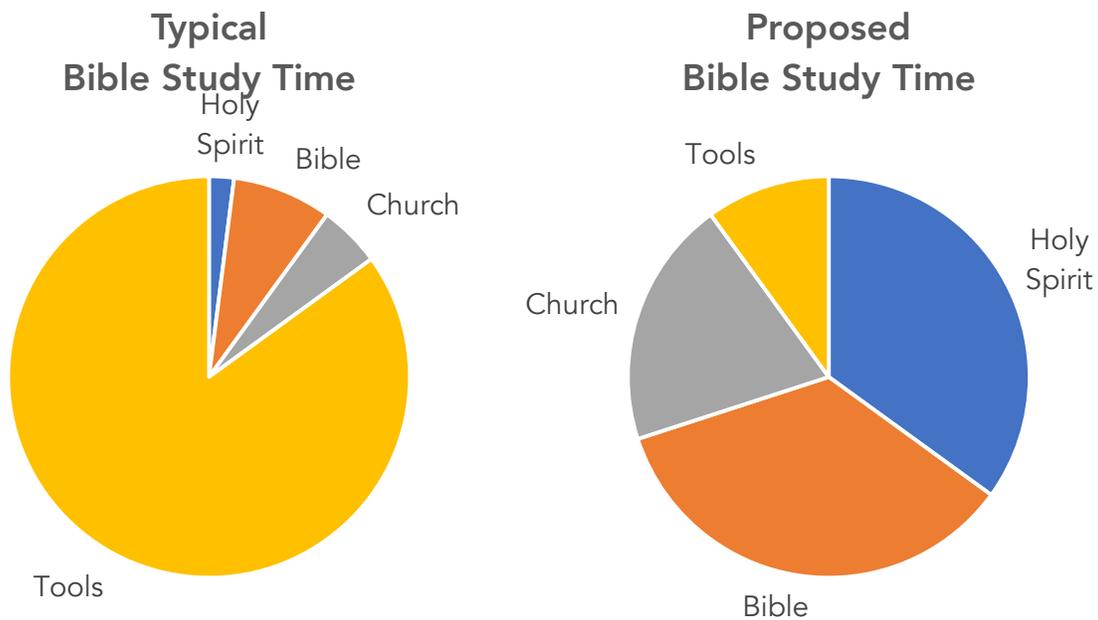


# Romans

Paul's Plan to Visit Rome ([Romans 15:22-33](#))

## Introduction

A gentle review: **Did we do this?** Spend more time with God and His Word than with anyone and anything else.



Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

Here's our outline of the book of [Romans](#) (summarized from the ESV's outline):

- ✓ Paul's Introduction & Righteousness Introduced ([1:1-17](#)) (three weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Wrath ([1:18-3:20](#)) (six weeks)
- ✓ Saving Righteousness ([3:21-4:25](#)) (three weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Freedom ([5:1-8:39](#)) (11 weeks)
- ✓ Righteousness → Jews ([9:1-11:36](#)) (eight weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Living ([12:1-15:13](#)) (nine weeks)
- 7. Paul's Closing ([15:14-16:23](#)) (November to early December) (five weeks)
- 8. Righteousness Summarized ([16:25-27](#)) (December & wrap up) (two weeks)

Today's text ([Romans 15:22-33](#)) is the second part of this major section. As we discussed last week, this section can be thought of as how the righteousness of the gospel is impacting Paul. You'll see him ask for things from the Romans in this text.

## Paul the Minister to the Gentiles

14 I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. 15 But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. 17 In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to be proud of my work for God. 18 For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, 19 by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ; 20 and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, 21 but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand."

### Read: Paul's Plan to Visit Rome (15:22-33)

22 This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. 23 But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, 24 I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. 25 At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. 26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. 27 For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. 28 When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. 29 I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

30 I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, 31 that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, 32 so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. 33 May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

### Explain: Paul's Plan to Visit Rome (15:22-33)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some questions.

## Are there any literary/structural observations?

It's easy to see this continuation of the personal touch from Paul again. His use of the word *I* is profoundly repetitive.

### What does Paul ask for from the Romans?

Kroll: Paul makes 4 requests in this passage:

- 1) That he may be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea.
- 2) That his service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints.
- 3) That he may come to the Romans in joy by the will of God.
- 4) That he may find refreshing rest in their company.

### What do the words mean?

This section (and the following sections) will be significantly slimmed down as the focus lessens from theological content to how Paul has been impacted by the righteousness that stems from gospel.

**22 This is the reason why I have so often been hindered** [imperfect (action continually or repeatedly happening in past time) middle indicative; cut into, impede, detain, hinder, be tedious unto] **from coming to you.** **23 But now, since I no longer have any room** [topos; spot, space, location, condition, opportunity; same word used in [Romans 9:26](#)] **for work in these regions** [*klima*; a slope, a "clime" or tract of a country, part region], **and since I have longed** [intense longing, great desire] **for many years to come to you,** **24 I hope** [expect, confide, hope, trust; same word used in [Romans 8:24, 25; 15:12](#)] **to see you in passing as I go** [present middle **subjunctive**] **to Spain, and to be helped** [send **forward**, escort, aid in travel, accompany, bring (forward) on journey (way, conduct forth)] **on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed** [to fill in (up), to satisfy, fill] **your company for a while.** **25 At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid** [*diakoneo*; to be an attendant, to **wait** upon, act as a Christian **deacon**, minister, serve] **to the saints.** **26 For Macedonia** [a region of Greece] **and Achaia** [Greece, a country of Europe] **have been pleased** [to think well of, approve, approbate, think good, please, be the good pleasure, be willing] **to make some contribution** [*koinonia*; **partnership**, participation, social intercourse, benefaction, to communicate, communion, contribution, distribution, fellowship] **for the poor** [beggar, pauper, distressed, poor] **among the saints at Jerusalem.** **27 For they were pleased** [same word in [Romans 15:26](#)] **to do it, and indeed they owe** [owers, persons indebted, delinquents, transgressors, debtors, sinners; same word used in [Romans 1:14; 8:12](#)] **it to them. For if the Gentiles** [*ethnos*] **have come to share** [*koinoneo*; present active participle; **share** with others, communicate, distribute, be partaker] **in their spiritual** [non-carnal,

ethereal, supernatural, spiritual; same word used in **Romans 1:11; 7:14**  **blessings, they ought** [to owe, to be under **obligation**, morally to fail in duty, behave, be bound, be debtor, be due, be guilty (indebted), need, ought, owe, should]  **also to be of service** [*leitourgeo*; be a public servant, to perform religious or charitable functions (worship, obey, relieve), minister]  **to them in material** [pertaining to the flesh, bodily, temporal, animal, unregenerate, carnal, fleshly; same word used in **Romans 7:14**  **blessings. 28**  **When therefore I have completed** [fulfilled further (or completely), executed, terminated, undergone, accomplished, done, finished, made perfect, performed]  **this and have delivered** [stamped (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation, to keep secret, to attest, seal up, stop]  **to them what has been collected** [literally, 'this fruit'],  **I will leave** [future active **indicative**; to go off, depart, aside, behind, follow, go, pass away]  **for Spain by way of you. 29 I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness** [which is put in to fill up, piece that filled up, fulfilling, full, fullness—**puzzle piece missing**; same word used in **Romans 11:12, 25**]  **of the blessing** [*eulogia*; fine speaking, elegance of language, commendation (**eulogy**), adoration, religiously, benediction, consecration, benefit or largess, blessing, bounty, fair speech]  **of Christ.**

**30 I appeal** [*parakaleo*; call near, invite, invoke, beseech, call for, comfort, desire, exhort, intreat, pray; same word used in **Romans 12:1, 8**  **to you, brothers, by [dia] our Lord Jesus Christ and by [dia] the love** [*agape* (a noun)]  **of the Spirit [pneuma], to strive together** [to struggle in company with, to be a **partner** (assistant), strive together with]  **with me in your prayers** [prayer, worship, oratory, pray earnestly; same word used in **Romans 1:9; 12:12**]  **to God on my behalf, 31 that I may be delivered** [aorist middle **subjunctive**; rescue, deliver (through the idea of a current); same word used in **Romans 7:24; 11:26**]  **from the unbelievers** [disbelieve (willfully and perversely), not believe, disobedient, obey not, unbelieving; same word used in **Romans 2:8; 10:21; 11:30, 31**]  **in Judea** [a region of Palestine],  **and that my service** [*diakonia*; ministering, ministration, ministry, office, relief, relief, service, servicing; same word used in **Romans 11:13; 12:7**]  **for Jerusalem may be acceptable** [well received, accepted, acceptable; same word used in **Romans 15:16**]  **to the saints, 32 so that by God's will** [determination, choice, purpose, decree, volition, inclination, desire, pleasure, will; same word used in **Romans 1:10; 2:18; 12:2**]  **I may come to you with joy** [cheerfulness, calm delight, gladness, greatly, exceedingly joy (-ful, -fully, -fulness, -ous); same word used in **Romans 14:17; 15:13**]  **and be refreshed** [to recruit oneself in company with, refresh with]  **in your company. 33 May the God of peace** [peace, prosperity, one, quietness, rest, to be set at one again; same word used in **Romans 1:7; 2:10; 3:17; 5:1; 8:6; 14:17, 19; 15:13**]  **be with you all. Amen** [firm, trustworthy, surely, amen, verily].

## Are there any repeated words?

I (again with the personalization—15 times), you (9x), Jerusalem, saint(s), God, company, service, Spain, deliver, go, pleased, blessing, Christ

## Are there any repeated topics?

## What are some observations of the text?

**22 This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. 23 But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, 24 I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain** [Dreaming, hoping, and planning to do good things for God is a good thing. Whether or not you're able to accomplish it for God does not impact the goodness of the dream and/or hope. **Hughes: God is not so much interested in whether we reach our destination as in how we try to get there. To us arrival is everything, but to God the journey is most important, for it is in the journey that we are perfected and it is in hardships that He is glorified as we trust Him.**], **and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while. 25 At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints. 26 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem** [This text is a direct affront to the prosperity gospel]. **27 For they were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings. 28 When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, I will leave for Spain by way of you. 29 I know that when I come to you I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.**

**30 I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf** [**Mounce: Awareness of a fellow believer's difficult situation will move the authentic Christian to join that person in prayer.** Also, notice the personhood of the Trinity in this verse: Jesus walked among them, the Spirit has love (and only persons love) and the Father listens (and only persons listen)], **31 that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, 32 so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. 33 May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.**

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. Material needs amongst Christians are **real**
2. Material blessings should **follow** spiritual blessings
3. Plans **change**

## Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. **Give** to those in need
2. **Support** those who labor for the gospel (shelter, money, encouragement, etc.)—this is why we pay our full-time pastors
3. Plan, but **submit** to God's sovereignty (we don't get to see how Paul reacted to (possibly) not being able to go to Spain, but we can ask him one day)

## Next week: Personal Greetings (16:1-16) (1/2)

**1** I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, **2** that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

**3** Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, **4** who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. **5** Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia. **6** Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. **7** Greet Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me. **8** Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. **9** Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys. **10** Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. **11** Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. **12** Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. **13** Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. **14** Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers who are with them. **15** Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. **16** Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

## Homework

Resources (our helps—order matters)

- Holy Spirit
- Bible: [Romans](#) (ESV)
- Church: [bit.ly/FlemingSS](http://bit.ly/FlemingSS)
- Tools: [bit.ly/romans2017](http://bit.ly/romans2017)

Our process

- Ask (the Holy Spirit for help)
- Read ([Romans](#))
- Talk (about [Romans](#)—[bit.ly/romans2017group](http://bit.ly/romans2017group))
- Send (feedback to [jim314@yahoo.com](mailto:jim314@yahoo.com) by Wed)

## Quotes & Observations

Amy Valovcin (Hughes)

God is not so much interested in whether we reach our destination as in how we try to get there. To us arrival is everything, but to God the journey is most important, for it is in the journey that we are perfected and it is in hardships that He is glorified as we trust Him.

I have mixed feelings about this statement, mainly because it is a little hard to swallow. While Paul did not make it Rome in the manner that he had planned, he still arrived with joy. His journey glorified God. May we be able to glorify God in our journey.

Darla Skinner (Mounce)

Awareness of a fellow believer's difficult situation will move the authentic Christian to join that person in prayer.

It seems we have more and more opportunity for this these days. #NYC. #TEXAS

Jessica Norris (Kroll)

Paul makes 4 requests in this passage:

- 1) That he may be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea.
- 2) That his service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints.
- 3) That he may come to the Romans in joy by the will of God.
- 4) That he may find refreshing rest in their company.