

# sermon notes

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May 23, 2021 | Pastor Tony Caffey, Harvest Decatur  
Wholly Transformed | "Dealing with Detours" | Romans 15:22-33

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## **Two commitments when dealing with detours:**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ with the Saints  
(15:22-29)
  
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ with the Saints  
(15:30-33)

## **Questions for further application of God's Word:**

### **GO DEEPER**

No matter what Paul went through in life, he never gave up on the church and he never stopped praying. In Romans 15:22-33, how do we see Paul's love and commitment to the church demonstrated? How did Paul pray for the Roman church (see 15:5-6, 13, 33; see also 1:8-10)? How did Paul ask for prayer from the Roman church (see 15:30-32)? Were those prayers answered?

### **GET PERSONAL**

Paul was repeatedly "hindered" from coming to Rome. And then when he finally did get to Rome (after shipwrecking in Malta), he was in chains (Acts 27:1-28:31). Give an example of a time in your life when you felt called to do something, but repeatedly encountered roadblocks and detours. Did you trust God and continue praying through that experience? Did you ask others to pray for you the way the Paul asked the Romans to pray for him?

Paul made plans to visit Spain after going to Jerusalem, but it's debatable whether he ever got there. Is it wise to make plans in this life even if those plans aren't realized? Paul had a dream to visit Spain and be the first to preach the gospel there. Is it okay to have dreams in this life? Why or why not?

### **PUT IT INTO PRACTICE**

Paul told the Romans that he planned to visit them to be helped by them on his way to Spain (15:24). By "helped" Paul clearly means that he desires their financial support for his missionary work. What are some ways that God has used you to help others with their missionary work? What are some ways that you could give financially to the work of missions?

Paul was also concerned about benevolence for Christians in need in Jerusalem (15:25-27). What are some ways that you have financially helped hurting Christians in the past? What are some ways that you could do that right now? Would it be advantageous for you to put together a "benevolence" fund and budget accordingly so that you can be ready to help others quickly in the future?

### **ADVANCED QUESTION**

Define the English word "fellowship." What does that word mean in the context of the church? Link your understanding of "fellowship" to the Greek word κοινωνία (*koinōnia*) found in the NT. To help you with this, do a search for "fellowship" and/or "koinonia" at the following website:

[www.openbible.info/topics/](http://www.openbible.info/topics/)

Also access the following short article by Douglas Magnum:

[www.biblestudymagazine.com/bible-study-magazine-blog/2017/3/13/koinonia](http://www.biblestudymagazine.com/bible-study-magazine-blog/2017/3/13/koinonia)