

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

“Grace & Peace to You”

HomeChurch Bible Class Instructor: Geof W. Jackson

geofj@homechurchok.com

ROM-97 03/04/2025 “PAUL’S PLANS”

ROM 15:22-24 *“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.*

In our previous Session, I finished with **VERSE 20**. Paul closes that former section of his Letter with an OLD TESTAMENT quotation from the **Prophet ISAIAH**:

ROM 15:20 ...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.”

Taken from ISA 52:15 (LXX), this is actually the 1st part of “The Suffering Servant’s Song” that we know as ISAIAH 53. The HEBREW of the text refers specifically to the surprise of Nations and their Kings when they see the Exaltation of The Suffering Servant whom formerly, they had despised.

This message lends itself well to Paul’s statement of his passionate interest in preaching the Gospel. As the events actually occur, Paul finds himself preaching directly to the PRIESTS and PHARISEES in Jerusalem, to the PROCONSUL OF ROME, to the “KING” OF THE JEWS, and to the ROMAN EMPEROR, NERO. When OUR plans are submitted to GOD’S plans it is truly amazing what HE will do through US.

ROM 15:22–24 *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.*

- *This is the reason...* Paul identifies the “reason” for his delay... He was following God’s plan (not his own), even as he thought he would be going to go somewhere else
- Hindered from coming... - “to cut the road” – Jesus Opens and Closes as HE chooses... Paul was obedient to follow ...

1 THESS 2:17-18 *But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, 18 because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us.*

- When God Opens a Door... – It is HIS will for us to go...
 - It is God’s purpose even though there may be opposition...
1 COR 16:8 *But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*

- We can even **ASK** that a Door be opened...

COL 4:3 *At the same time, pray also for us, **that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ**, on account of which I am in prison—*

- When God **Closes** a Door... –

ACTS 16:6-8 *And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, **having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia**.⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, **they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them**.⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.*

- When we are “Hindered” – **“to cut the path / road” - to interrupt the plans** you have made, or that have been given to you...

- **When God hinders** - This an “interruption” to the plan we were originally following as God has determined another purpose, place, or time that he wants us to be...

- Jesus with The Woman as He was on His way to Jairus’ house...
- God sending Paul to Jerusalem after it had been revealed to him that he was to journey to Rome on the way to Spain...
- Satan may hinder what God has ordained... BUT he can’t **“close the Door”**

- **When Satan hinders** God gives us another way to **“circumvent”** his plans...

- **Obviously**, it MUST be God’s plans for us... *OR Satan would not be hindering*
- Paul could not get to Thessalonica in person (*although Timothy was able to enter the City 3x’s with messages from Paul*)
- **BUT** God gave him another way to accomplish same goal... **with greater results than Paul could even imagine**
- **SO...** **Paul Wrote Letters** to present the same truth that he would have given IF he was there... **AND those Letters are still accomplishing the purpose for which they were written!**
- This then became a common practice of Paul... He wrote Letters when He couldn’t be there... **Either by God’s purpose, or by Satan’s interference**

- **Hope to see you in passing...** - This WAS the plan AS God had given to him... YET this was the part Paul had no control over... He ONLY wanted to be there by the **“Will of God”**

ROM 1:10 “... **always** in my prayers, **asking** that somehow **by God’s will**, I **may now at last succeed** in coming to you.

- **Helped on my journey...** - He looking forward to their assistance – Ministries do NOT depend upon the help of other’s, but their **“participation”** allows for them to receive reward from the fruit of the missions they support.

ROM 15:25-29 *At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem bringing aid to the saints.²⁶ For **MACEDONIA [PHILIPPI / BEREIA / THESSALONICA]** and **ACHAIA [CORINTH]** have been pleased to **make some contribution** for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.*

2 COR 8-9 Paul’s instructions to the CORINTHIAN Church was to have the **“gifts”** they had pledged when Paul began his journey to **receive offerings** from the Greek & Asian Churches.

2 COR 8:5-6 "...and [the Macedonian Churches gave], not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.⁶ Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this Act Of Grace. [Collecting the offerings, you had pledged]

2 COR 9:10-15 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.¹¹ You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. [Carrying this offering]

¹² For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. ¹³ By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the GOSPEL OF CHRIST, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, ¹⁴ while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. ¹⁵ Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

They Prayed... You Gave... They Received... They Praised... God was Glorified... You Receive...

PHIL 4:14-20 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no [other] Church entered into partnership [Koinonia – fellowship / participation] with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

²⁷ For they were pleased to do it, [carry this offering] and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles [you are included] have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.²⁸

- They owe it to them... – “to be indebted” – Not in a legalistic way, but this was to be acceptable in the sense that the original support for Paul’s ministry came from the Christians in Israel and Syria
- Ought to be of service... – “Leitourgeo” – To offer a priestly service to others as a service to God – Paul uses it here with the sense of something necessary – it is the “right response” to their need
- In material blessings... - – This is a common phrase for Paul when he is referring to financial support from the Churches that had given so that the Apostles were free to preach to unbelievers “without charge”

1 COR 9:15-18 But I have made no use of any of these rights, nor am I writing these things to secure any such provision. For I would rather die than have anyone deprive me of my ground for boasting.

¹⁶ For if I preach the GOSPEL, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the GOSPEL!

¹⁷ For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward, but if not of my own will, I am still entrusted with a stewardship. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? That in my preaching I may present the GOSPEL free of charge, so as not to make full use of my right in the GOSPEL.

Paul expected the Churches to support the work of the ministry, but NOT unbelievers...

[1 COR 9:1-12]

1 THESS 2:9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you... while we proclaimed to you the GOSPEL OF GOD.

Paul was not adverse to making use of “sarcasm” if it served his purpose in showing people their error, and bringing them to repentance for their actions or attitudes

2 COR 11:7-9 Or did I commit a sin in humbling myself so that you might be exalted, because I preached God's GOSPEL to you free of charge? ⁸ I robbed other CHURCHES by accepting support from them in order to serve you. ⁹ And when I was with you and was in need, I did not burden anyone, for the brothers who came from MACEDONIA supplied my need.

2 COR 12:13-14 For in what were you less favored than the rest of the CHURCHES, except that I myself did not burden you? Forgive me this wrong!

¹⁴ Here for the 3rd time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. ...

¹⁵ I will most gladly spend and be spent for your souls. If I love you more, am I to be loved less?

Vs28] 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.

➤ *I will leave for Spain...* – the farthest Eastern extent of the Empire [of course], settled by many Jews during the former Century ... This had been his desire for many years...

➤ *I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ...* - Paul obviously had received commission from The Lord Jesus Christ to take the Gospel to Spain... –

YET: As in many other experiences, Paul would only know that it was “in the fulness of blessing of Christ” WHEN he actually got there...

ACTS 16:8- And having skirted Mysia they came down to Troas.

⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” ¹⁰ And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding [“Sumbibazo” - to put things together to arrive at a place of decision] that God had called us to preach the GOSPEL to them.

¹¹ So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi... **They GOT THERE!**

In this way... Paul “planned” to come to Rome... He would be “hindered” (again) by his arrest and imprisonment in Jerusalem and Caesarea, and by the perilous journey to get there by ship.

BUT... God would give him another way, and he would, again, accomplish MORE than he had ever expected.