

# The Book of Romans

## The Gospel of God

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## Letter Conclusion (15:14-16:27)

- 1) Why he wrote the letter
- 2) Why he has been hindered in visiting Rome
- 3) His future plans, which include these believers

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<sup>25</sup> but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints.

<sup>26</sup> For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.

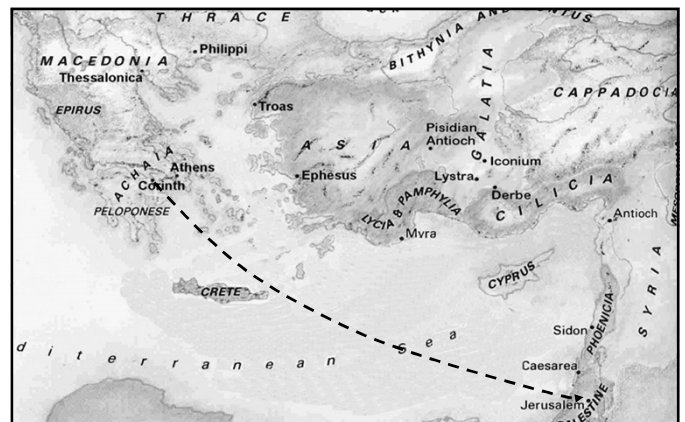
<sup>27</sup> Yes, they were pleased *to do so*, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.

<sup>28</sup> Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain.

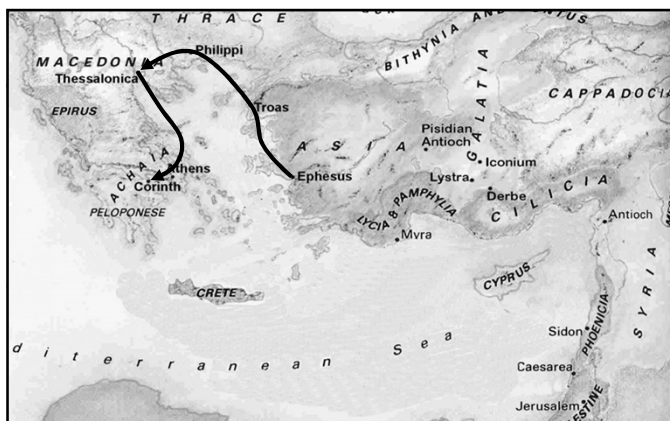
<sup>29</sup> I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.

(Romans 15:25-29)

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## Necessary Generosity

➤ *Generosity is the necessary fruit of the gospel*

1. The overflow of grace
  - financial generosity is not a begrudging duty but a joyful freedom
  - this generosity is not motivated by commandment or coercion but by the lavish grace of God

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Now, brethren, we *wish to* make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup> that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. <sup>3</sup> For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, *they gave* of their own accord, <sup>4</sup> begging us with much urging for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,

(2 Corinthians 8:1-4)

Let each one do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

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### 2. The expression of fellowship

- the love and unity of the church is expressed by sharing our material goods with those in need (e.g. Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-35)
- this sharing is focused especially on impoverished Christians both locally and globally

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<sup>35</sup> For I was hungry, and you gave Me *something* to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me *something* to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; <sup>36</sup> naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer Him, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You *something* to drink?' <sup>38</sup> And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? <sup>39</sup> When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?' <sup>40</sup> The King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, *even the least of them*, you did it to Me.'

(Matthew 25:35-40)

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### 3. The Obligation of Spiritual Debt

- receiving spiritual things necessitates a sharing of material things (cf. 1 Cor. 9:11-14)

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