

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

1

³⁰ Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,

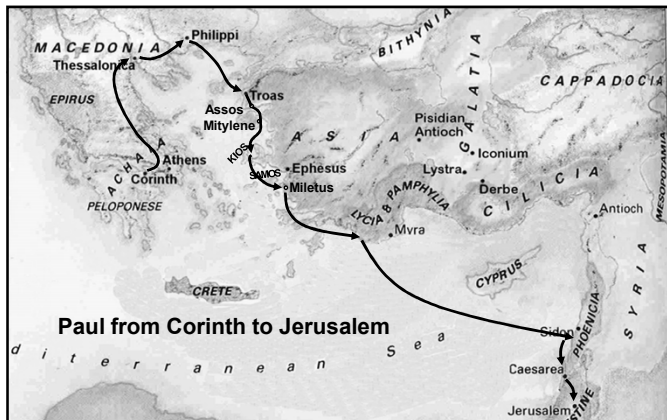
³¹ that I may be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea, and *that* my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints;

³² so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and find *refreshing* rest in your company.

³³ Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

(Romans 15:30-33)

2



3

Paul's Prayer Requests

➤ *"Strive together with me in prayers to God for me"*

1. Specific Requests

- that his life would be delivered from the unbelieving Jews in Judea – he was risking his life!

4

²² And now, behold, bound by the Spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, ²³ except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. ²⁴ But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.

(Acts 20:22-24)

¹³ Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but even to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

(Acts 21:13)

5

Paul's Prayer Requests

➤ *"Strive together with me in prayers to God for me"*

1. Specific Requests

- that his life would be delivered from the unbelieving Jews in Judea – he was risking his life!
- that his collection would be willingly received by the Jewish believers in Jerusalem

6

Paul's Prayer Requests

- *"Strive together with me in prayers to God for me"*
- 2. Desired Results
 - that he would be enabled to come to Rome in joy and for spiritual refreshment

7

Implications for Prayer

1. The Necessity and Effectiveness of Prayer
 - Paul urges believers to pray knowing that prayer is vital to the accomplishment of this ministry
 - God chooses to thwart, restrain and change people's wills in answer to prayer

8

Implications for Prayer

2. The Dependence of Prayer on the Will of God
 - we pray in recognition that the coming to pass of our requests is dependent on the will of God
 - God has appointed prayer as a real and effectual *means* of accomplishing His purposes
 - we pray knowing that God answers our right desires not always in ways we envision or ask

9

Implications for Prayer

- Q: *How did God "answer" these requests?*
- by "ordinary" means (providence)
 - in a manner unexpected and unusual

10