

# **THE BOOK OF ROMANS**

## **18. Paul's Plans and Prayer**



### **Introduction**

We have almost reached the end of the book of Romans! Although we call it a book it is really a letter that was written to the Christians in Rome from the Apostle Paul. He closes his letter in a similar way to how some of us would close a letter, by sharing his plans, prayer requests and greetings. In this study we will look at those plans and prayer requests.

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 15:22-29

### **1. Paul's desire to visit Rome**

- ☉ The Apostle Paul had never been to Rome. Why did he want to visit the believers there? Romans 15:23-24, 32, Romans 1:11-15.

*(He wanted to enjoy the fellowship of the believers in Rome, so they would be mutually refreshed and encouraged, and so that he could impart some spiritual gifts to them. He also wished to have a harvest among them.)*

- ☉ We have all discovered that it is good to have fellowship with other believers, in other churches and in other places. Share some examples of times when you have experienced this in your own life.

### **2. Paul's purpose in visiting Jerusalem**

- ☉ What was Paul doing at the time when he wrote this letter? Romans 15:25-26

*(He was on his way to Jerusalem to take an offering from the churches in Macedonia and Achaia to the needy Christians there.)*

- ☉ Why did Paul say the Gentile Christians should help the Jews with their material blessings and why does he call their giving 'fruit' in verses 27-28?

*(The reason was because they had received spiritual blessings through the Jews: the promises of God, the prophets, the Lord Jesus and the first evangelists. As they gave it was evidence or fruit that God was at work in their lives.)*

- ☉ What lessons can we learn about giving from these verses? Also see Galatians 6:6 and Malachi 3:10.

*(We too are to give to those who teach us God's Word and into the places where we receive spiritual food.)*

### **3. Paul's request for Prayer**

- ☉ What were the specific things that Paul asks prayer for? V31-33

*(He asked prayer that he would be rescued from the unbelievers who were persecuting him in Judea and that his service to the saints in Jerusalem would be acceptable. Also he asked them to pray that he would be able to visit them so they could all be refreshed.)*

- ☉ Look carefully at Paul's requests again. What lessons can we learn from him?

*(Here are some possibilities:*

*It is good to ask others to pray for us and we need to make our requests specific.*

*Our requests are not to be selfish, but rather that others will be blessed.)*

## **Conclusion**

In the verses we have studied we have had a glimpse into the heart of the Apostle Paul. His focus was not on himself, but on others and how he could be a blessing to them. And yet he was just like us! He longed for the fellowship of the believers in Rome so he could also be encouraged by them, and he needed others to pray for him. Whoever we are, whether we have followed Jesus for many years, or whether we are new believers, we need each other, so that we can encourage and pray for one another. Let's remember that!

