

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

3. Paul's request for Prayer

- ☉ What were the specific things that Paul asks prayer for? V31-33
- ☉ Look carefully at Paul's requests again. What lessons can we learn from him?

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!