

*"Paul's Ministry & Plans"*  
Romans 15:14-33

**Paul's Confidence In The Roman Christians Maturity. Rom 15:14**

1. You are full of goodness. Ethical moral Christlikeness. Gal 5:22-23; Eph 2:10; Rom 3:10-18
2. You are complete in knowledge. Biblical truth, doctrine. II Tim 1:13; 2:15. Rom 12:1,2
3. You are competent to instruct others. Ministry, building up. II Tim 2:2, 4:2
4. These are the qualities of a *strong* church.

**Paul's Purpose In Writing the Roman Christians. Rom 15:15-16**

1. To remind, to teach again. Much of ministry is re-teaching **doctrine!** Rom 6:17; I Cor 15:1; Phil 3:1,2; I Tim 6:20; II Tim 1:13; 3:14-15; Heb 2:1,2; II Pet 1:12-13; 3:1-2; I Jn 2:21-24.
2. The reason: Paul isn't rebuking these strong Roman Christians,  
He reminds them because he's been called to minister to Gentiles. Act 9:15-16; I Cor 15:8,9

**The Nature of Paul's Ministry. Rom 15:16-22**

1. A **Gospel-centered** ministry. Vs 16,19,20.
2. A priestly ministry. Vs 16
  - ♦ The believing-Gentiles would become an offering to God. Isa 66:20
  - ♦ They are set-apart for God through justification. Saints! Rom 1:7.
  - ♦ They are set apart for God as a people who live holy lives. Rom 12:1
3. A God-focused ministry. Vs 17-18a.
  - ♦ Paul boasted in God & His power to save. Rom 1:16,17; II im 1:8-12.
  - ♦ Paul boasted in the fact that God would work through him to save others.
4. A life-changing ministry. Vs 18b.
  - ♦ Obedience of word -- confession of faith
  - ♦ Obedience of deed -- a changed life
5. An Apostolic ministry. Vs 19a. Cf. Heb 2:3,4; II Cor 12:12; Act 2:22.
  - ♦ Miraculous Signs -- point beyond themselves to deeper truths about God
  - ♦ Miraculous Wonders -- the awe that miracles evoke in observers.
6. A pioneer ministry. Vs 19-22.
  - ♦ From Jerusalem to Illyricum. (from Judea to Yugoslavia!)
  - ♦ Isa 52:15: His ministry is an extending of the very work of Christ.
  - ♦ His ministry was primarily to those who have never heard

**The Travel-plans of Paul's Ministry. Rom 15:23-29**

1. His plan to visit Rome. Vs 23-24
  - ♦ He is coming because his work in the East is done & he longs to see the Romans.
  - ♦ He is coming for a visit on his way to Spain! (NB Paul is @60 yrs old)
2. His plan to visit Jerusalem. Vs 25-27
  - ♦ He is first going to Jerusalem to *serve* (δρακονια diakonia) the saints -- **financial giving**
  - ♦ The Gentiles (Macedonia & Achaia) were pleased to help in this way. Cf. II Cor 8: 16-18
  - ♦ The Gentiles *owed* materially cuz' they shared Israel's spiritual blessing: The Messiah
3. His plan to visit Spain. Vs 24,28-29.  
Once the gift is officially delivered (sealed), he desires to come to Rome as a blessing.

**The Prayer Behind Paul's Ministry. Rom 15:30-33**

1. Strive (sunagonizomai: sun (with) + agonize) in **prayer** for me!
2. The request:
  - ♦ That he'll be rescued from unbelievers. Yes, but delivered thru severe trials. Act 21-27
  - ♦ That the Jews will receive the gift. Yes, they apparently did receive the gift. Acts 21:17f
  - ♦ That he would come to Rome with joy. Yes, but he came in chains. Acts 28
3. The benediction