

# PRESSING ON IN 2025

## A MINISTRY REVIEW

*“ Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.”*

~ Acts 19:21

### 1. Paul's Plan to Go to Rome

- a. Acts records the move of salvation from Jerusalem (Jews) to Rome (Gentiles)
- b. This was purposed by Paul years before – Acts 19:21
- c. *"If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail"* - ~~Taylor Swift~~ Benjamin Franklin
- d. Christ gave Paul a ministry to send grace to Gentiles - Rom 15:15-16
- e. While Christ to circumcision (MMLJ) is popular, we glory in God's grace - Rom 15:8, 17
- f. You can see Paul evaluating his work so far – Rom 15:19-22
- g. Paul has been planning his "great desire these many years" - Rom 15:23

### 2. 20 Years Later

- a. 20 years ago, what you see here was purposed (it takes work from scratch).
- b. The church as a center for edification:
  - i. Revisiting Church (11x), workshops, 4k+ books, 26 books vbv
- c. Reproduction of faithful men who shall be able to teach others also - 2 Tim 2:2
  - i. Travel meetings, charts, teachers, faithful groups.
  - ii. Better to have a few faithful men, than 1,000 that never start.
- d. Paul purposed to go to Spain through Rome – Rom 15:24
- e. Paul would get to Rome, though not the way every detail was planned.

### 3. Our Responsibility

- a. "But now..." – Paul must first perform his duty - Rom 15:25-28
  - i. Much work done behind the scenes, workdays, publishing, meetings, meals.
- b. We have a responsibility to make all men see the mystery of Christ - Eph 3:9
  - i. 15 days of fair work, thousands of tracts, 22 weeks of guests, souls saved.
  - ii. *Correcting Scofield (13 weeks), Responding to Church History*
- c. We have a duty as the church to be the pillar and ground of the truth - 1 Tim 3:15
- d. Growing churches are tested by their ability to respond to error - Ti 1:9-11, 1Cor 11:19
  - i. Heresies can destroy Bible believing mid-Acts Pauline right division.
  - ii. This has happened before; we must hold fast sound words - 2 Tim 1:13
  - iii. *12 Proofs Bible Word of God, Proof all are sinners, Why Jesus the Only Saviour*
- e. Why does there seem to be an increase in heresies bouncing around "right dividers"?
  - i. Heresies about God, Christ, Bible, salvation, grace/works are most significant.
  - ii. 1 - People think "grace" or "mystery" guarantees doctrinal integrity (nope)
  - iii. 2 - We are online a lot more. (This is where the wild things are.)
  - iv. 3 - We are succeeding in getting noticed (Heretics attach to moving things)

#### **4. The Next 20 Years**

- a. Paul cannot predict the future, but he is sure of this – Rom 15:29-33
  - i. The need is great. The hour is late. We are in position to see God's will work.
  - ii. We must do his will: pray, praise, rejoice, partake of afflictions, do the work.
- b. If the Lord permits, we will continue in His service for the next 20 years. 2 Tim 3:14
  - i. Goals ought to be set (Setting Spiritual Goals, too) - Teach Me to Pray (7x)
  - ii. The next 20 years will be most productive, but also a changing of the guards.
- c. 20 years is a long time. God does not require something new. He requires faithfulness.