

Romans 15:25-26

Poor Saints in Jerusalem

1. 15:25 – I Go to Jerusalem

- a. He is closer to Rome than Jerusalem, *“but now I go unto Jerusalem...”*
- b. *“to minister unto the saints”* – He was not sent to Jerusalem - Acts 1:4,8 vs. 22:17, 21:4,10+
- c. *“saints”* are believing Jews, under law, a remnant of the remnant from Acts 6:7,8:1, 21:20
- d. This ministry not as an apostle, foundational (15:16, 20), but financial - 1Cor 16:1-6

2. 15:26 – Contribution for the Poor Saints

- a. The first lesson in 105 about giving money in the book of Romans.
- b. *“Macedonia”* – Thessalonica, Phillipi, Berea, etc. *“Achaia”* – Athens, Corinth.
- c. How did Paul get this ministry? These saints intreated him (that’s grace!) - 2 Cor 8:1-8, 8:19
 - i. The idea from Corinth/Achaia, and the Macedonians followed through - 2 Cor 9:1-6
- d. *Why are they poor?* ← An economic and dispensational question.
 - i. Getting this question wrong has led to many economic errors and hardships.
 - ii. There is always poor - 1 Tim 6:7, Deu 15:7-11, John 12:8, Prov 19:17, 22:7, 29:7
 - iii. God’s instruction was to work like the ant → Prov 6:6-11; but then,..
 - iv. Jesus taught the “gospel to the poor” = kingdom come - Luke 4:18, 6:20, 12:22-33
 - v. Jesus taught the remnant to sell all they had - Luke 18:22, Matt 16:6-10, 19:21, 27
 - vi. Selling and forsaking all “for Jesus” was the instruction - Acts 2:44-46, 3:5-6
 - vii. There was a “sell-off” among the Jerusalem kingdom saints - Acts 4:34-37, 5:1-5
 - viii. Conclusion: None lacked! The kingdom was coming! Acts 4:34, 6:1-4, 7
- e. But then... *“a great dearth”* – Stephen speaks of “dearth” and was killed - Acts 7:11, 52, 58
 - i. Israel is fallen, the kingdom is not coming, but what of the remnant? Rom 11:11-12
 - ii. The Spirit prophesied a “great dearth”, Christians reacted in grace - Acts 11:26-30
 - iii. Israel rejected the kingdom, God dispensed grace, “remember the poor” - Gal 2:10