

ROMANS 15:22-33  
DECEMBER 12, 2021



FBC SUMMIT STUDENTS

## INTRODUCTION

Name something you've asked for help doing this past week (i.e. homework, chores, etc.).

Has there been a time this past week when you needed help but didn't ask for it? Why is it hard sometimes to ask for help when we need it?

Do you tend to think about our call as Christians to go and tell people about Jesus as something you have to do on your own, or is it something you think about as a team effort? What are some ways we rely on each other to do that here at FBC Summit?

Romans was written because Paul wanted to go to Spain and needed some help. As incredible and gifted a man as Paul was, he needed support. The final verses of Romans 15 give us some insight into why he contacted this church full of people whom he had never met to ask for help. Paul gave his entire life to Christ and wanted to encourage the church to join him.

## DISCUSSION

### > **HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ ROMANS 15:22-33.**

If it was based on your daily schedule this past year, what would someone say is your ambition in life? How does that compare with Paul's?

Why did Paul say the Gentiles owed the Jews? In what sense do we "owe" other believers?

Is it strange to you that Paul wrote these words, considering he'd never met these Romans? How could he possibly love them?

How would the offering Paul was taking to the church in Jerusalem bring unity in the churches?

To make the eventual trip Paul described in these verses would require him to travel around three thousand miles on a ship. What would drive a person to go to such lengths for the sake of others?

Does this seem extreme to you? What are you willing (or unwilling) to give up for the gospel to advance?

What did Paul urge these Roman believers to do (vv. 30-33)? What did his prayer requests reveal about his priorities in life?

How should we pray for missionaries? Why should we?

### GOING DEEPER

Skim through Acts 27-28. How did Paul eventually make it to Rome? What can we learn about God's plans from Paul's example?

Read Hebrews 10:25. Based on today's lesson, why is it important for us to meet together regularly as FBC Summit Students?

### APPLICATION

When you read in the Bible that God wants you to give your whole life to sharing the gospel, does it make you excited, scared, or somewhere in between? Explain.

What if—when you're totally honest with yourself—that life doesn't appeal to you at all? How can you get to a place where it does excite you?

What is a situation where you need the prayers and encouragement of this group to share the gospel?

### PRAYER

Thank God for the privilege of partnering with other believers around the world for the advancement of His kingdom. Ask Him to help you pray, give, and go as a way of showing concern for the lost and love for others who are committed to sharing the gospel around the world.

**COMMENTARY****ROMANS 15:22-33**

15:22-24. God's work for Paul in the eastern half of the Roman Empire had kept him from going to Rome sooner, but now the work was completed and he planned to pass through Rome on a mission trip to the western part of the Roman Empire ( Spain). Scholars are divided on whether Paul ever made it to Spain. The Bible does not record a Spanish mission for Paul.

15:25-29. Paul was on his way to Jerusalem to bring a gift from the Gentile churches for the poor of the Jewish church in that city. He planned to come to Rome next. Little did he know he would be taken to Rome in custody (Ac 25:11-28:14,30-31).

15:30-33. Paul made three specific prayer requests: (1) for deliverance from hostile forces, (2) that the gift from Gentile Christians would be welcomed by Jewish Christians, and (3) that he might come to Rome. All three were answered; see Ac 23:10; 21:17-20a; 25:11-12 respectively.