



Full Steam Ahead

PASTOR MIKE YODER • ROMANS 15:22-33



This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

Romans 15:22

*But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions,
and since I have been longing for many years to visit you,*

Romans 15:23

I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there.

Romans 15:25

For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem.

Romans 15:26

They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.

So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way.

Romans 15:28



I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.

Romans 15:29

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

Romans 15:30

Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord's people there,

Romans 15:31

so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed.

Romans 15:32



The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Romans 15:33



Paul's Desire to Visit Rome (15:22–24)

Jesus said: “Whoever loses his life for My sake and the Gospel’s will save it.” In other words, it is better to lose your life than to waste it. If you live gladly to make others glad in God, your life will be hard, your risks will be high, and your joy will be full. [It’s] not about how to avoid a *wounded* life, but how to avoid a *wasted* life.

John Piper

The wasted life is the life without a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples.

John Piper

It is better to dream great dreams for God, even if they are not fully realized, than to dream no dreams at all. Unless we see visions, dream dreams, and make plans, there will be no great steps forward in the work of the Gospel.

James Montgomery Boice



Paul's Need to Visit Jerusalem (15:25–27)

Paul assumes that financial aid for needy Christians is a normal part of the Christian life.

The offering from the Gentiles was an expression of love, a practical relief in the midst of poverty, and a sign of solidarity.

Warren Wiersbe

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

2 Corinthians 9:12

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the Gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

2 Corinthians 9:13



Paul's Plan to Visit Spain (15:28,29)

Paul believes that his work as a pioneer missionary has been completed since representative churches have been established in the region. By traveling to Spain Paul would continue his pattern of preaching the Gospel and planting churches where Christ was not previously named.

Thomas Schreiner

Paul's strategy was to evangelize the populous and influential cities, and plant churches there, and then leave to others the radiation of the Gospel into the surrounding villages.

God calls His servants to the missionary task, but He also places a duty to support them on those who remain at home. That is your duty if you have a regular income and are not yourself serving on a foreign or other missionary field.

James Montgomery Boice



Paul's Plea to Visit God (15:30–33)

The purpose of prayer is emphatically not to bend God's will to ours, but rather to align our will to His. Consequently, every prayer we pray should be a variation on the theme, "Your will be done."

The struggle involved in prayer lies in the process of coming to discern God's will and to desire it above everything else.

John Stott

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the Gospel.

Philippians 1:12

As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

Philippians 1:13

And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the Gospel without fear.

Philippians 1:14



Only one life, 'twill soon be past;
Only what's done for Christ will last.

**Believers pursue an intentional
life for Christ while being
divinely steered by the Spirit.**