

Giving to Christ's Mission

Romans 15:17–33

(black Bibles page 950; Children's Bibles page 1417)

Introduction: A look at a map of the Mediterranean Sea will help make sense of Paul's words in this passage:

He was writing to Rome (Italy) from Corinth (Greece), anticipating a long-delayed visit to the church before moving further west to Spain. (1:13; 15:22–24)

First he needed to take an offering from the Greek churches (Macedonia and Achaia) to the church in Jerusalem. (15:25–27)—
Gentile believers blessing Jewish believers

From Jerusalem, Paul expected to spend time with the church in Rome, which would then become his new base of ministry. (15:28–29)

Paul got to Jerusalem and finally to Rome (and possibly Spain), but not in the way he planned. (15:30–33)

- I. Giving to support missions and missionaries goes back to the earliest days of the church.
15:24, "to be **helped** on my journey"; Philippians, "partnership in the gospel"

The Church of Rome was being asked to help with material blessings (v. 27)

Don't think of missionaries asking for support as a modern development

- II. Giving to support missions and missionaries is very definitely one mark of a healthy and growing church.
"the fullness of the blessing of Christ" (v. 29)

Do we envision a church that is outward-focused and moving in that direction? or settling down as a "status quo" church?

My own experience and observation

Look at New Life's budget

There is a key link between giving and prayer (v. 30)

- III. Giving to support missions and missionaries is an important aspect of a healthy and growing Christian
"If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches?" (Luke 16:11)

Be personally involved in "helping" the cause of Christ's mission by reviewing your giving to New Life

Become personally involved in supporting a mission or missionary directly