



Big Idea

The church exists not as a destination but as a sending station — and every act of generous giving, every prayer of earnest striving, and every plan submitted to the will of God is part of how the gospel reaches the ends of the earth.

Sermon Recap

Hindered, But Sovereignly Prepared (Romans 15:22–23)

Paul has been repeatedly prevented from coming to Rome — the Greek is an imperfect passive verb, meaning something external kept stopping him again and again. But Paul does not frame this as divine abandonment. God's 'not yet' is sovereign preparation. When the frontier in the east was fully anchored, Paul was free to move west.

The Church as Sending Station (Romans 15:24)

Paul's plan to visit Rome is not a destination — it's a launch point for Spain. He uses the word *propemphth-enai*, a technical term for formally sending an emissary with escort, provisions, and support. He wants the Roman church to become his sending base. The model: healthy churches don't consume missionaries, they commission and resource them outward.

Generosity as Priestly Worship (Romans 15:25–28)

Paul is carrying a financial collection from the Gentile churches of Macedonia and Achaia to the poor Jewish believers in Jerusalem. The Gentiles gave with *eudok-esan* — genuine delight. The word Paul uses for their giving (*leitourg-esai*) is full priestly, liturgical language: the same word used for temple service in the Septuagint. Generosity is not a transaction. It is worship rendered in material form. The collection also 'seals' (*sphragisamenos*) the reality of Gentile faith to the Jerusalem church — a visible sign that the gospel has taken root.



Going Deeper

Romans 15:22-33



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