



Paul's Plan to Visit Rome

Romans 15:22-25 For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you; 23 but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you 24 whenever I go to Spain—for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while— 25 but now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints.

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Gentile Aid for Jerusalem Saints

Romans 15:26-27 For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. 27 Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things.

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Paul's Plan to Visit Rome

Romans 15:28-29 Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain. 29 I know that when I come to you, **I will come in the fullness of the blessing of Christ.**

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Paul Asks for Prayer

Romans 15:30-33 Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to **strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,** 31 that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; 32 so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and find refreshing rest in your company. 33 Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

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Applications

1. We should understand that the Bible prescribes us to bear one another's burdens, but it doesn't prescribe socialism.
2. We should understand that God providentially gets His people to the right place at the right time.
3. We should remember how important prayer is in our ministries.

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Claim: The Bible Teaches Socialism?

But to understand just how non-capitalistic Christianity is supposed to be we turn to the first chapter after the gospels, Acts, which describes the events of the early church. **Chapters 2 and 4 state** that all “the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need... No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had....” (Gregory Paul, Washington Post).

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Category Errors

Socialism: Government takes from “haves” and gives to “have nots.”
Bible: Believers (private citizens) gave to other believers of their own accord.
Socialism: It’s a virtue to be generous with other people’s money.
Bible: It’s a virtue to be generous with your own money.

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Descriptive or Prescriptive?

Acts 2:44-45 And all those who had believed were together **and had all things in common**; **45** and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, **as anyone might have need**.
Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the **apostles’ teaching** and to **fellowship**, to the **breaking of bread** and to **prayer**.

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God Providentially Moves His People

Romans 8:28 And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.

Romans 15:19, 22 in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ... 22 For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you...

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The Importance of Prayer

Acts 6:3-4 Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task. 4 "But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

1 Thessalonians 5:17, 25 Pray without ceasing...Brethren, pray for us.

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