

Every church and every person needs to have foundational beliefs that guide and direct life, decisions, direction, and processes. During ‘Foundations’ The Church at Martinsburg will examine the book of Romans and establish core doctrinal beliefs for life, relationships, and mission. This series more than any we’ve done before will set the pace and direction for the church.

In Romans 15, Paul speaks words of encouragement to the Church at Rome, reviews where he has ministered, and tells of his future plans in service to the Lord. His purpose was to faithfully proclaim the Good News about Christ. He said he had done so from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum. That would encompass from southern Palestine, through Syria, across Turkey, down through Greece, into Albania. Paul’s missionary work had a distinct pattern to it- Prayed (for direction) – Preached (the Gospel) – Planted (Churches) – Provided (Leadership and Guidance) – all directed by the Providence of God (his plans remained flexible).

Growth Questions for 10/09/11 – 10/16/11

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find most helpful, eye-opening, troubling?
2. Share with one another a holy “ambition” that God has given you. How does Paul’s passion encourage you to take your next step of obedience in this area?
3. Paul longed to go to Rome, but went to Jerusalem instead. Has God ever taken you on what seemed to be a divine detour? Share your story. Was the outcome what you expected? How did God use that detour to grow you or bring you closer to Himself?
4. For what reasons do you most “enjoy the company” of other believers? What are some practical ways that you (as a community group) can “refresh” others?
5. What attitudes compelled the churches at Macedonia and Achaia to send their contribution to the saints in Jerusalem? (see v.27) How can both “delight” and “duty” play a part in our generosity to others?

Living on Mission

Proclaim...Reach...Connect...Go

1. What challenges you most about Paul’s example in this passage? How are you most like Paul? How are you least like him? Ask God to embolden you with a holy ambition and to align your work with His will.
2. How deep is your compassion for the poor in the global church? What might God be leading you to do personally for those in need in the church, in your community, and for those far from God? Does the thought of meeting those needs bring you delight or dread that comes from a dutiful “have-to” attitude? If it’s dread, pray that God will change your heart to delight to do His will.

God provides through His people, for His work to be done, for His.

Important Dates

- 10/28-29/11 Men’s Gathering – more info at www.martinsburgchurch.org
- 11/13/11 Next Steps w/C@M
- 11/19/11 Operation Thanks!

COMMUNITY GROUPS DEFINED

A Community Group is a home fellowship made up of 10-15 people who meet every week to share, study and support one another. A leader leads each group. An average meeting lasts for an hour and a half, followed by light refreshments. They’re the place where the real ministry of the church should take place as we study

God's Word, while supporting and sharing our lives with one another. Community Groups meet on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights in homes throughout Martinsburg. Visit groups.martinsburgchurch.org for more information.