

Romans 15:23–28
Christ's Fruit in His Church

Monday, June 17, 2024 ◻ Read Romans 15:23–28

Questions from the Scripture text: What doesn't Paul have left (v23)? What does he have? How long has he had it? What is he planning to do (v24)? What will he do then? What will he do there? What will they do for him? After what? Where is he headed, as he writes this letter (v25)? To do what? Who had been pleased (v26)? To do what? For whom? Why did it please them—of what had the Gentiles been partakers (v27)? Now what was their duty? How does Paul see the task of making sure the gift gets there (v28)? What will he do next?

Why does Paul want to come to Rome? Romans 15:23–28 is an important passage for our current cultural moment. In these six verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **Paul wants to go to Rome in order to bear spiritual fruit.**

Paul's love for Christ means that he wishes for Christ's labor to bear fruit in all for whom He died. This was the point of his ministry, bearing Christ's own fruit (cf. v21; cp. Is 52:15) as an apostle. So the Jewish Christians had borne spiritual fruit unto the nations through him (v27, cf. 11:11–36). And now the Macedonian and Achaian Christians had borne spiritual fruit in a material gift to their Jewish brethren (v26, 28a). And Paul hopes that the Roman Christians will bear spiritual fruit unto him, and unto Spain through him (v24, 28), just as he hopes to bear spiritual fruit among them (cf. v29). Those who truly love Christ love for Christians (both themselves and others) to bear fruit unto Christ's glory!

In what ways are you showing a love for bearing fruit unto Christ's glory, and for others to bear fruit unto His glory?

Sample prayer: Lord, thank You for giving us Christ. By His Spirit, grant that we would bear fruit unto His glory, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP72C "May Waving Grain on Hilltops Thrive" or TPH406 "Jesus, with Thy Church Abide"

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

Romans 15 verses 23-28. These are God's words. But now no longer having a place in these parts and having a great desire. These many years to come to you. Whenever I journey to Spain, I shall come to you. For, I hope to see you on my journey and to be helped on my way there by you.

At first, I may enjoy your company for a while. But now, I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the Saints. For it pleased. Those from Macedonia and Ikea to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem. It pleased them indeed and they are their debtors For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things.

Their duty is also to minister to them in material things. Therefore, when I have performed this and have sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain. So far, the reading of gods inspired. And in Aaron toward, Well, we heard all the way back in chapter one that Paul was hoping to come.

to Rome to be a benefit to the church there and indeed that they would be each of Mutual benefit one to the other even as he is hoping to come and be Some spiritual fruit among them. As you'll say, First verse of next week's portion. Lord willing.

Says, in verse 29, I know that when I come to you, I shall come. In the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel of Christ. Now, you remember I hope from verse 21. When he is, describing his approach to his own Ministry and Why he tries to go? Where Christ has not yet been named That this is because At the end of Isaiah 52 in that servant song that proceeds into chapter 53, that is probably the most famous or most well known of all the servant songs by his stripes.

We are healed. Etc. In that servant song in Isaiah 53. At the end of Isaiah 52. And said that, the Lord Jesus would announce. himself and be heard by those where he had not yet been heard that basically the Lord Jesus would be proclaimed and he himself, would Proclaim his gospel to the ends of the Earth.

And so there's this Dynamic in this part of The 15th chapter of Romans where we're seeing. The work that the Lord Jesus does through Those whom he saves. As the Lord Jesus. Producing fruit unto his own Glory. by doing good. in in and also through those whom he is saving and this is really the great theme Of verses 23-28 which are before us now for there's not only Paul Desiring to have fruit in Rome and Paul Desiring to have fruit in Spain.

There's also the fruit of the Jewish Believers that not only those who are in Judea now. But those who have been genuine Believers. unto whom the Lord has given his word. Now, by this time for thousands of years, Through whom he has. preserved his word for more than a thousand years among whom he had maintained hope in himself and his salvation.

And the maintaining of all of the sacrifices that showed forth Christ and were means by which the Lord had been bringing for for more than a thousand years had been bringing people to Faith in the Christ who has promised in the word and portrayed. In the sacrifices.

these are the quote unquote, their spiritual things. In chapter 27. These are the their spiritual things in chapter 27. Of which the nations are now beginning to partake. So there's a spiritual fruit that Paul has had From Jerusalem to alyricum. There's a spiritual fruit that Paul hopes to come have now in Rome, there's a spiritual fruit that Paul has to Hopes to have all the way to Spain or Gaul.

Although it's span Espana or it's the, the Greek word as a transliteration of the word. Even our word for Spain here. The Romans. called it Gaul in Latin. There's a spiritual fruit that. More than a thousand years of Israelites. have had and are now Bearing out onto places like Ikea and Macedonia.

And then there's also the spiritual fruit in The Believers in Macedonia and Decay, it's not just material fruit. The gift to the poor. Uh,

The gift to the poor Saints in Jerusalem in verse 26. Which itself is considered. A spiritual sacrifice or offering? Hebrews. It says, do not forget to do good and to share. because with such sacrifices, the Lord is pleased. but it's also the spiritual fruit within them themselves.

Look at the beginning of verse 26, for it pleased, those for Macedonia indica to make a certain contribution so that pleasure and generosity that is in their hearts is a spiritual fruit and And when Paul was writing to the achaeans of which Corinth was the main city. about the The needs of the Saints in Jerusalem and how the macedonians had already given unto that need Etc.

He said God loves a cheerful Giver, a giver. Who is pleased? To give and he connects God's Indescribable gift having given us Christ and Christ's Indescribable gift. he who is Rich being made poor for our sake, so that we might be made rich. And in as the basis upon which The spiritual work would be done in the Corinthians hearts.

That they would be pleased to be generous, not just with a pleasure that they would feel good about themselves for being generous. Which itself is a genuine pleasure and even The unregenerate man can be pleased about himself. but to be pleased for Christ's sake. to be pleased.

By what is good because it is good. and so there's, there's spiritual fruit, among the macedonians and the acaians. And then, there's the hint here that he wants the Romans to have a similar spiritual fruit. Not now sending financial aid to Spanish Believers, there are no Spanish Believers yet that they know of But, because Needs.

Don't arise merely. due to famine or economic circumstances. That may come upon Believers needs also arise among those who In order to minister to others. Have to travel there. who may not have an occupation? There, who would Like, to be able to give themselves entirely. to the ministry.

what we would call supporting missions. Although it would be well if missionaries and church Planters. would remember That the reason that others are supporting them is so that they can pour themselves entirely into. the mission work there and because the Believers there have not, yet been built up to where they can support them.

and so the Apostle is hoping now not only that he will have spiritual fruit in Spain, but that this will be the opportunity for the an opportunity, for the Roman Church to have spiritual fruit. So, just as verse 28, Describes his delivering. Of the gift to Jerusalem and the Saints in Jerusalem as sealing unto the macedonians and acayans.

Spiritual fruit of their gift. So also by implication, he's saying that when he comes to Spain and the Lord blesses, his ministry there, And, And saves people and plants the That, that would seal unto the Roman Church. the fruit of their support. their participation. And what the Apostle does in Spain, but notice all of this is fruit because it all comes from Christ.

And it. It is unto the glory of Christ. That all of this is done. And so, when you think about your own life and what you are doing,

And so, when you think about your own life and what you do, you have both the instruction to depend upon Christ to look to him. To produce in you, the grace not just to be able to do the thing, you do to accomplish it but to have pleasure in him.

To be pleased to do that, which is good because it comes from him because it brings glory to him and then Also than the incentive. not just the dependence upon him in. But in your motivation, for what you do, Desiring that he would be glorified by producing fruit in your life.

So, there's lesson here, especially Our dependence upon Christ and the desires that should drive our service. Our generosity. Etc, in our lives. So, let's pray.

Lord, we thank you for giving us. Yourself in your son. And we pray that you.

Christ's life in. To produce fruit. And that you would make it effective for the building up of your church and the comforting of your Saints. Unto the glory of your son. In his name. We ask it. Amen.