

ROMANS 64 – 15:27-16:2

Prayers and Commendations

1. 15:27-28

- a. *“debtors they are”* – historically, spiritually, dispensationally
- b. When you benefit spiritual, there is a duty to recompense – 1 Cor 9:11, Gal 6:6
- c. Paul ministered to his own necessities and to others – Acts 20:33-35, 2 Thess 3:8-9
- d. Grace giving is based on motive, and aligns your purpose with God’s 2 Cor 12:15
- e. It can be a proof of love in you, or a sign of envy – 2 Cor 8:24, 9:5-8, 9:12-14
- f. 15:28 - Paul saw it as fruit abounding to their account before God – Phil 4:14-17
 - i. There is no more remnant of Israel today, this duty does not apply

2. 15:29-33

- a. *“fullness of the blessing of the gospel”* – the blessing is the gospel working in them
- b. Paul asking for prayer: for the Lord’s sake, and the love of the Spirit
- c. The Spirit was in them – Rom 15:13, and was working in Paul – 15:16, 19
- d. *“in your prayers to God”* – which is the will of God – 1 Thess 5:17
 - i. Deliverance from them that do not believe – he wasn’t – Acts 24:17-18
 - ii. His service would be accepted by the saints – Acts 21:18-33
 1. Many turned away from Paul in his ministry – 2 Tim 1:15
 - iii. He would come to them with joy – God promised hardship - Acts 21:4-13
- e. God is not our butler. We know not what we should pray for – Rom 8:26
 - i. We pray, and watch, but no matter the result we trust him – Eph 3:20
- f. *“God of peace”* – Is with us even when prayers are not answered – Phil 4:7
 - i. God of patience (5), mercy (9), hope (13), peace (33), glory (16:27)
- g. Sound doctrine keeps the peace, false doctrine, unbelievers, insecure, haters of God are the biggest breakers of peace – Rom 3:17

3. 16:1-2

- a. The end of Paul’s epistle – 26 people are named in Rome – at least 5 churches
- b. He names names, which he does elsewhere negatively, 1 Tim 1:20, 2 Tim 4:10, 14
- c. First, Phebe is commended, who likely delivered the epistle from Cenchrea
- d. People call Paul a misogynist = he-man woman hater, mistreating them
 - i. Why? He teaches headship in the family, order in the church – 1 Cor 11:3
 - ii. Paul commends, honors, works with them, and says... Gal 3:28, Eph 5:28
 - iii. Paul did not allow women to teach usurping authority – 1 Tim 2:12
- e. Ministry is not done exclusively by the head – Titus 2:4-5, Phil 4:3, Rom 16:2
- f. The controversy → was Phebe a deaconess? Why? The greek word is *diakonos*
 - i. This is a Bible believing issue = the word is servant, not deaconess.
 - ii. Translated minister (18x), servant (7x), deacon (3x) b/c of polysemy
- g. Did women perform ministry? Yes. Were they deacons? No – 1 Tim 3:12
- h. Did not being a deacon limit Phebe at all? No. Her service was remarkable.