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 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1048.
 In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.
 Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com

REVIEW:

1. Your plans—even made with well-ordered priorities—will change.
2. Your personal preferences should be held lightly. (Our plans do not automatically equal God's will.)
3. Your 'delays' may lead to great blessings.
4. Your personal integrity must be guarded at all times.
5. God's purposes always prevail.
6. May we all humbly trust God and say, "Your will be done."

What is God's ambition for you?

Paul gives us a holy ambition to shoot for:

1. **Ambitious Servants Proclaim Christ.**
2. **Ambitious Servants Prioritize God's Calling.**
3. **Ambitious Servants Persist in Service to God.**
4. **Ambitious Servants Prevail in Heartfelt Prayer.**

A. Prayer Requested

Romans 15:30, HCSB -³⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers, through our Lord Jesus Christ and through the love of the Spirit, to join with me [Gk: συναγωνίζομαι (soon-agon-NEES-oh-my) from which we get our word "agony"; it pictures an athlete's strenuous discipline in his/her struggle to prevail] in fervent prayers to God on my behalf.

Romans 15:30, NKJV -³⁰ Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me....

B. Prayer Requests

Romans 15:31–32, NKJV -³¹ that [1] I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, and [2] that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, ³² that [3] I may come to you [there in Rome] with joy by the will of God, and may be refreshed together with you.

[1] – To be protected from unbelievers (vv. 30-31a)

[2] – To be accepted by believers (v. 31b)

[3] – To come to Rome in time (v. 32)

God answered their fervent prayers!

- Acts 21-23 records Paul was granted spectacular deliverance that could only be attributed to God.
- Acts 21:17-21 records Paul's offering and its joyous reception that resulted in the solidarity of all the churches.

C. Prayer Raised

Romans 15:33, HCSB -³³ The God [Note: God is the ONLY source or provider] Of peace [Gk: εἰρήνη (ea-RAIN-a); Heb: שָׁלוֹם (Sahlom), lit., "peace"; def., "The total well-being, prosperity, and security associated with God's presence among His people (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible)] be with all of you. Amen.

Keep Romans 15 in Context:

Paul's purpose was to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ –v. 16

Paul's parish was the Gentile world –v. 18

Paul's power was from God alone –v. 19

Paul's policy was to build on no man's foundation –v. 20

Paul's plan was to go to Rome –v. 22-23

For Paul, only one thing was left:

!

Life Application Section



All of us know we need to pray more than we do!

A. Prayer is a struggle—it involves agony.

B. Prayer should be specific—protection and power to do God's will.

C. Prayer steadies us—bringing peace.

Failing here, in the place of prayer, we fail everywhere!"

- Dr. Leonard Ravenhill, *Why Revival Tarries*