

20230813 Truth indebted in love
(Understanding the Gospel Part 17)
Romans 15:24-33

²⁴ I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

²⁵ Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there.

²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem.

²⁷ They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. **For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.**

²⁸ So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way.

²⁹ I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.

³⁰ I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me.

³¹ Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord's people there,

³² so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed.

³³ The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

1. THE BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Matthew 12:38-40

³⁸ Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."

³⁹ He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

⁴⁰ For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

2. THE RECAP OF THE CHAPTERS IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

(1) The universal problem in humanity: SIN (chapters 1–3)

Romans 3:23

²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Matthew 19:24

²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.

(2) God's power is available to everyone as a free gift.

Romans 4:4-8

⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation.

⁵ However, to **the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly**, their faith is credited as righteousness.

⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of **the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:**

⁷ "Blessed are those

whose transgressions are forgiven,

whose sins are covered.

⁸ Blessed is the one

whose sin the Lord will never count against them."