

LV. Characteristics of the One Ministering According to the Will of God

A. Understands God's Providence - vs 22

1. For this reason - Deals with his ministry to the Gentiles - vs 16,19,21
2. I also have been much hindered
 - a. *egkopto* - to cut into, impede, detain:--hinder, be tedious unto.
 - i. used of deep trenches dug across the road to impede the enemy
 - ii. Came to be used commonly for any hinderance
 - b. Imp tense, passive voice indicates a continual hinderance from the outside
 - c. whether b/c of the evil intent of man or Satan, God is always sovereign in what happens - Ge 45:5-8; Job 1:8-12; 2:3-6; 1Th 2:17-18
3. from coming to you. - Ro 1:13

B. Plans for Ministry - vs 23-24

1. Where Paul found himself
 - a. But now no longer having a place in these parts,
 - b. and having a great desire these many years to come to you, - Ac 19:21
2. Paul's Future Plans
 - a. whenever I journey to Spain,
 - i. on the far western side of the Continent
 - ii. Had become a major center of commerce and culture accessible by Roman roads
 - iii. Was not evangelized until the third century
 - b. I shall come to you.
 - i. For I hope to see you on my journey,
 - not for evangelization - vs 20
 - for mutual edification - vs 32
 - ii. and to be helped on my way there by you, - Phil 4:17
 - *propempe* - to send forward, escort or aid in travel, accompany, bring (forward) on journey (way), conduct forth.
 - used of the early church to provide an escort and supplies
 - iii. if first I may enjoy your company for a while. - Ro 1:10-13

C. Has Straight Priorities - vs 25-28

1. But now I am going to Jerusalem to minister to the saints. - Ac 19:21; 20:22; 24:17
 - a. asked to remember the poor at last visit - Ga 2:9-10
 - b. part of assuring the dividing wall between Jew and Gentile broken down in Christ was not built up again - Eph 2:14
 - c. mentions the collection for the saints in 1 Co 16:1, writes the largest NT passage on giving in 2 Co 8-9
2. For it pleased those from Macedonia and Achaia - 2 Co 8:2-4
 - a. to make a certain contribution for the poor among the saints who are in Jerusalem.
 - i. *koinonia* - partnership, participation, or communion, fellowship.
 - ii. Spiritual fellowship through the *koinonia* of material support
 - b. It pleased them indeed,
 - i. and they are their debtors
 - ii. For if the Gentiles have been partakers of their spiritual things,
 - their duty is also to minister to them in material things.

- *leitourgeo* - to be a public servant, to perform religious or charitable functions (worship, obey, relieve):--minister. - 1Co 9:11; Ga 6:6

- c. when I have performed this . . . sealed to them this fruit, I shall go by way of you to Spain.
 - i. as an Apostle and as a Jew
 - ii. by delivering this gift, he would have been confirming the love and gratitude of the Gentiles for the Jews

D. Understands His Abundance

- 1. But I know - reflecting absolute assurance
- 2. I shall come in the fullness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.
 - a. the joy of walking in full obedience
 - b. brings
 - i. hardship and suffering - 2 Ti 3:12
 - ii. the furtherance of the Gospel - Phil 1:12-14,18
 - iii. The peace of God - Phil 4:7,12,19

E. Has a Clear Purpose - vs 30

- 1. Now I beg you, brethren - introduction to the following exhortation
- 2. through the Lord Jesus Christ,
 - a. Through or by = on behalf of
 - b. Paul's purpose = to glorify the Lord - 1 Co 9:23; 10:31
- 3. and through the love of the Spirit,
 - a. only used here
 - b. 2 possible interpretations
 - i. the love of the Spirit toward the world - like the Father and the Son
 - ii. The love that Paul has for the Spirit
 - David - Ps 143:10
 - context would indicate this interpretation

F. Our Prayers - 30b-32

- 1. that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,
 - a. *sunagonizomai* - to struggle in company with, to be a partner, strive together with.
 - b. prayer is a often a battle - Col 2:1-4; 4:12
- 2. safety
 - a. that I may be delivered from those in Judea who do not believe, - 2Th 3:2
 - b. *apeitheo* - to disbelieve (willfully and perversely), disobedient, obey not, unbelieving.
- 3. success
 - a. that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,
 - b. referring back to vs 25
- 4. satisfaction
 - a. that I may come to you with joy . . . be refreshed together with you.
 - b. by the will of God
 - i. an Apostle - 1 Co 1:1; 2 Co 1:1; Eph 1:1; Col 1:1; 2 Ti 1:1
 - ii. Dedicated to doing and encouraged other to - Ro 12:1-2; Eph 5:17; 6:5-6

G Benediction - vs 33

- 1. Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.
 - a. He is the source of all peace - Jo 14:27; 16:33; Phil 4:9
 - b. it is the peace that passes understanding - Phil 4:7
- 2. already referred to God as
 - a. the God of patience and comfort - vs 5
 - b. the God of hope - vs 13