

# **Do You Have a Pioneering Heart?**

## **Romans 15:14-24**

### **TWO REASONS WHY PAUL FELT A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ROMAN CHURCH**

- 1. Paul felt a responsibility for the Roman church because God called Him to be the apostle to the Gentiles.**
- 2. Paul felt a responsibility for the Roman church because of his God-given geographical direction.**

### **THREE KEY QUESTIONS**

- 1. If they were already spiritually strong, why did Paul write to the Romans?**

Because he had a responsibility before God to make sure that the foundation had been laid there.

- 2. Why hadn't Paul visited the Roman church yet, even though he wanted to?**

Because he was moving geographically from east to west, and he kept finding places in which the foundation had not yet been laid.

- 3. If Paul was eager to come to Rome, why was he only going to stop briefly on his way to Spain?**

Because he was a foundation-layer, and if the foundation had already been laid there, his calling was to continue moving west, beyond Rome.

## HOW DID PAUL DECIDE WHEN THE FOUNDATION HAD BEEN LAID IN A PARTICULAR AREA?

1. **The gospel had been offered to the Jews (Romans 15:8; 1:16)**
2. **People had come to obey the gospel (Romans 15:18)**

Romans 1:5 *to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations*

Romans 10:16 *obeyed the gospel*

Romans 16:16 *to bring about the obedience of faith*

Acts 6:7 *they became obedient to the faith*

3. **People who did not know and worship Jesus had come to know and worship Him (Romans 15:20-21)**

4. **The believers were well-grounded in the truths of Romans 1:1-15:13 (Romans 15:15)**

5. **The believers were full of goodness and knowledge and able to instruct one another in their local church (Romans 15:14)**

## **6. Healthy churches had been planted in strategic cities (Romans 15:19)**

“As Acts reveals, Paul’s strategy was to concentrate his missionary activity on the great urban centers of his day.”<sup>1</sup>

“Paul did not need to reach every individual; he believed that once an indigenous church was founded, it could reach its own culture.”<sup>2</sup>

## **7. The believers in the churches that had been planted had the pioneering heart themselves (Romans 15:24; Romans 16)**

### **Conclusion**

Four horizons of a pioneering heart:

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<sup>1</sup> Mounce, R. H. (1995). *Romans* (Vol. 27, p. 267). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Keener, C. S. (2009). *Romans* (pp. 176–177). Eugene, OR: Cascade Books.