

I. Introduction and Review.

II. Imitate Paul's prayers. v. 8-11

A. Give thanks to God for the progress of the gospel. v. 8

1. Paul glorifies God for their famous faith. I Th. 1:8
2. Do you give thanks for what matters most?

B. Intercede extensively. v. 9-10a

1. Even though Paul hadn't planted the church in Rome, he is still devoted to praying for them. I Th. 5:17 2:13 Gal. 4:12 I Th. 3:10
2. How extensive is your intercession for the saints? Acts 2:42

C. Pray for the building up of Christ's church. v. 10b-11

1. Paul prays that he can get to Rome so they will be edified and encouraged.
2. Focus on interceding for spiritual needs..

**D. Pray in submission to God's will. v. 10c,13a 15:32 12:2 9:16 Mt. 6:10 Lu. 22:42
Js. 4:15 I Co. 4:19 16:7 I John 5:14 John 14:14**

1. Paul had previously sought to visit Rome, and God answered "no". v. 13a 15:22f
2. Disappointment does not stop him from persisting in prayer. Lu. 18:1
3. Paul does not know whether it is God's will for him to visit Rome. Deut. 29:29
4. When he does make it to Rome, it is not on the way to evangelize Spain (as he had hoped), but as a prisoner. Acts 28
5. Why are some prayers not answered as you wish?
 - a. Sin. Isa. 59:1-2 Ezek. 14:3 Pr. 21:13
 - b. Wrong motives. James 4:3
 - c. Unbelief. James. 1:6-7
 - d. Sometimes God has a different plan. 15:22f Pr. 16:9 James 4:15
6. Subject your plans and prayers to God's perfect will. He knows what is best.

III. Follow Paul's example by loving and serving the brethren. v. 11-15

A. Do you yearn for fellowship with the saints? v. 11a

1. Paul longs to see the saints in Rome. I Th. 2:7-9 II Co. 12:15
2. Do you love being with your fellow believers? Acts 2:42 Heb. 10:24-25

B. Are you using your spiritual gifts to edify the church? v. 11b, 13b

1. Paul desires to strengthen the Romans through his apostolic gifts. Eph. 4:15
2. He expects to enjoy fruitful ministry. v. 13b 6:22 Jo. 15:16 Ga. 5:22-23 He. 13:15
3. God has given you gifts by which you can strengthen the church. 12:6,8
I Pe. 4:10 I Co. 12:4,7f I Ti. 4:14
4. Serve the church (and Christ) with all of your heart. I Pe. 4:11
5. Expect God to use your gift. John 15:5,16

C. Do you enjoy the mutual encouragement of believers? v. 12

1. The apostle Paul also expects the Romans to bless him. 15:24 Gal. 6:6
2. God builds your faith through the fellowship of the brethren.
3. You should expect to receive spiritual benefits from us. Eph. 4:16

D. Are you eager to pay your debt of service? v. 14-15

1. Paul is obligated to preach the gospel to all people. v. 14 I Co. 9:16 1:17
2. Paul eagerly longs to fulfill his debt. v. 15 Acts 20:22f II Co. 10:6 II Ti. 4:6
3. Do you see yourself as a debtor?
 - a. God has put you under obligation to serve us.
 - b. We are also under obligation to proclaim the gospel to the whole world.
 - c. A person in debt has to rearrange his priorities.
4. Serve eagerly. II Co. 8:11-12,19 9:2

IV. Concluding Applications.

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. Why is Paul thankful for the Romans? v. 8
2. What do we learn from how Paul prayed for them? v. 9-11
 - A. For whom should you pray? How should we pray for them?
 - B. What can you do to improve your prayers for other believers?
4. Why are some prayers not answered as we desire? v. 10b,13a
How was Paul's prayer answered?
5. Why does Paul want to come to Rome? v. 11-12,13b
Why should you want to fellowship with other believers?
6. What gifts has God given you?
 - A. What fruit have you seen in your ministry?
 - B. How can you better serve Him?
7. In what sense was Paul a debtor to all kinds of people? v. 14-15
In what sense are you a debtor? What are you doing about it?
8. For next week read ahead: Romans 1:16-17.
What is the gospel? Why is Paul so proud of it?