

Romans 15:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.

Analysis

But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints (νυνὶ δὲ πορεύομαι εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ διακονῶν τοῖς ἁγίοις, nyni de poreuomai eis Ierousalēm diakonōn tois hagiois)—Paul shifts from future plans (Spain, v. 24) to immediate plans: Jerusalem. Diakonōn (ministering, serving) describes his mission: delivering the collection for Jerusalem's poor (v. 26). Tois hagiois (unto the saints) uses standard Christian designation for believers—the Jerusalem church, despite poverty and Jewish ethnic particularity, are 'saints' (holy ones), equal members of Christ's body with Gentile believers.

This Jerusalem trip was critical for Paul personally and theologically. Personally, it demonstrated his loyalty to the mother church and Jewish roots despite being apostle to Gentiles. Theologically, the collection symbolized Gentile-Jewish unity in Christ: Gentile churches honoring their spiritual debt (v. 27) to Jewish believers. This visible expression of unity mattered profoundly in a church divided over Jew-Gentile relations.

Historical Context

Paul had been organizing this collection for years (1 Cor 16:1-4, 2 Cor 8-9, Acts 24:17). It was more than charity: a theological statement that Gentile and Jewish believers are one body. The trip was dangerous—Paul knew he risked arrest (v. 31, Acts 20:22-23)—but he deemed it essential. His arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21:27-36) would lead to imprisonment, appeals, and eventual martyrdom.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's commitment to delivering financial aid to Jerusalem despite known danger demonstrate his values and priorities?
2. What does the Jerusalem collection teach about economic sharing and mutual support across geographic and ethnic divides in the global church?
3. In what ways might tangible acts of service and generosity (like Paul's collection) promote unity across Christian divisions today?

Interlinear Text

νυνὶ	δὲ	πορεύομαι	εἰς	Ἱερουσαλὴμ	διακονῶν	τοῖς
now	But	I go	unto	Jerusalem	to minister	G3588
G3570	G1161	G4198	G1519	G2419	G1247	
ἀγίοις						
unto the saints						
G40						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 24:17 (Parallel theme): Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings.

Acts 19:21 (References Jerusalem): After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

Acts 20:22 (References Jerusalem): And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

Acts 20:16 (References Jerusalem): For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

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