

# Romans 15:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

## Analysis

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**When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit** (τοῦτο οὖν ἐπιτελέσας, καὶ σφραγισάμενος αὐτοῖς τὸν καρπὸν τοῦτον, touto oun epitelesas, kai sphragisamenos autois ton karpon touton)—Epitelesas (having completed, accomplished) indicates thorough fulfillment of his commission to deliver the collection. Sphragisamenos (having sealed) uses commercial language: securing/authenticating a transaction by seal. Paul will officially deliver and authenticate the Gentile churches' karpon (fruit)—both the monetary gift and the spiritual fruit of Gentile love and unity it represents. The collection is tangible proof of gospel transformation: former pagans now sacrificing to support Jewish believers in Jerusalem.

**I will come by you into Spain** (ἀπελεύσομαι δι' ὑμῶν εἰς Σπανίαν, apeleusomai di' hymōn eis Spanian)—Di' hymōn (through you, by way of you) reiterates v. 24: Rome is strategically positioned for Spanish mission. Paul envisions sequential progress: complete eastern mission → deliver Jerusalem collection → visit Rome → launch Spanish mission. This demonstrates apostolic planning, strategic thinking, and phased mission execution.

## Historical Context

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The 'seal' metaphor may also suggest Paul's authoritative endorsement of the gift, protecting Jerusalem leaders from accusations the money was improperly collected or delivered. Given tensions between Paul and some Jerusalem Christians (Acts

21:20-21), his personal delivery and 'sealing' of the offering was diplomatically wise. It showed respect and transparency.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does Paul's careful 'sealing' and authentication of the financial gift model accountability and integrity in handling church finances?
2. What 'fruit' is your life and ministry producing that will be 'sealed' as authentic evidence of gospel transformation?
3. In what ways does completing present responsibilities (Jerusalem) before pursuing future opportunities (Spain) apply to your current season?

## Interlinear Text

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τοῦτο	οὖν	ἐπιτελέσας	καὶ	σφραγισάμενος	αὐτοῖς
<b>this</b>	<b>When therefore</b>	<b>I have performed</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>have sealed</b>	<b>to them</b>
G5124	G3767	G2005	G2532	G4972	G846

τὸν	καρπὸν	τοῦτον	ἀπελεύσομαι	δι'	ὑμῶν	εἰς	τὴν
<b>fruit</b>	<b>this</b>	<b>I will come</b>	<b>by</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>into</b>		
G3588	G2590	G5126	G565	G1223	G5216	G1519	G3588

Σπανίαν·

**Spain**  
G4681

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 15:24** (Parallel theme): Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company.

**Philippians 4:17** (Parallel theme): Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

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