

PRAY FOR MINISTRY
PART 2
ROMANS 15:30-33
11/17/24

I. PAUL PRAYS FOR MINISTRY SUCCESS

Romans 15:31-33 – "...that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.³³ May the God of peace be with you all. Amen."

A. Deliverance from opposition

- He prays for paths of the Gospel to be smoothed

B. Acceptance from the Saints

- He prays for his ministry to be received and encourage the church

C. God's will accomplished

- He prays for God's will to be done in his ministry
- Our view of success may be different from God's view

II. WAS PAUL SUCCESSFUL?

Acts 21:17-22 - "When we had come to Jerusalem, the brothers received us gladly.¹⁸ On the following day Paul went in with us to James, and all the elders were present.¹⁹ After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.²⁰ And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, 'You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed. They are all zealous for the law,²¹ and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or walk according to our customs.²² What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come.'"

Acts 21:27-36 - "When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him,²⁸ crying out, 'Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.'²⁹ For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.³⁰ Then all the city was stirred up, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut.³¹ And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion.³² He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.³³ Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. He inquired who he was and what he had done.³⁴ Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some another. And as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.³⁵ And when he came to the steps, he was actually carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd,³⁶ for the mob of the people followed, crying out, 'Away with him!'"

A. Sometimes God answers our prayers...just not how we expected

B. Do we trust that God's will and purposes are good for us?

COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What did you think about the message this week? What stood out to you or challenged your thinking?
2. Share with the group a time where God answered a prayer differently than you expected. How did you process this?
3. What are some of the challenges you face doing Gospel ministry in your workplace, families, communities, etc?
4. What does praying for these things communicate about your view of God?
5. Paul prayed for Gospel ministry to reach unreached people in Spain. As a group, share the name of a person you are praying for to come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
6. Spend some time as a group praying for the ministries of our church.
7. What is one thing from the message or the group this week that you want to live out? How can the group be praying for you to accomplish that?

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

- Pray that God would build in the members of MCC a desire to do ministry
- Pray that God would raise up new ministries and new ministers to preach the Gospel
- Pray that God would give us success in pursuing Gospel ministry and conversations
- Pray that our ministry of the Gospel would be accepted