
SERMON OUTLINE

When God has Different Plans

- I. Our direction may not be God's plan (Romans 1:8-15)
 - A. *Prayed about it* – Paul prayed he could come to Rome “now at last” (Romans 1:9-10).
 - B. *Had good motives* – Paul wanted to strengthen, encourage, evangelize and teach (Romans 1:11-14).
 - C. *Already had it planned* – Paul planned to come but was prevented many times (Romans 1:13).
 - D. *Emotionally had his heart set on it* – Paul was eager to come teach Christians about the gospel (1:15).
- II. God's best purposes are better than our good plans (Romans 15:18-32).
 - A. *God's Purpose in Past Disappointments* – Paul was hindered for years from going to Rome (15:18-22).
 - The delay enabled Paul to achieve unique ministry.
 - The “hindrances” motivated him to write *Romans!*
 - B. *Looming Disappointments* – Paul planned to go to Rome in joy (15:23-24, 29), then to Spain (15:22,28).
 - He went to Rome in chains, maybe never to Spain.
 - C. *Unanswered Prayers* – Praying for rescue, approval in Jerusalem, joy, refreshment in Rome (15:30-32)
- III. Submitting to God's plans has a greater cost, but also a greater outcome (Philippians 1:13-14).
 - A. God sent Paul to Rome as a prisoner to serve Him.
 - He shared the gospel with guards (Philippians 1:13).
 - His example gave courage to other believers (1: 14).
 - He led Onesimus to faith in Christ (Philemon 1:10).
 - B. God sent Paul to Rome as a prisoner to write *Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon!*