

December 9 Answers

- 1) The last part of Romans reveals Paul's perspective on evangelism and discipleship, and it has significant insights for a biblical theology of **missions**. First, this passage teaches us that all missionary efforts are dependent on **God**, and the results must be recognized as the work of His **grace** (Rom 15:17–18). This means that while planning, preparation and resources are needed to accomplish the work of missions, the most important factor is the powerful, supernatural **work** of the Spirit. Second, the task of missions is the **priestly** privilege of ministering Christ to the nations (Rom 15:16). Third, missions must maintain a balance between the ultimate goal of establishing mature **churches** and the urgent need to **evangelize** those who have never heard the gospel (Rom 15:19–20). Paul's approach to missions was to proclaim the gospel, establish a congregation of new converts, and then **disciple** those believers until they were **mature** enough to continue the cycle themselves. The ultimate goal of missions is to see maturing fellowships of believers who are themselves **reaching** out to make disciples. Finally, our churches must engage in **partnerships** of mutual benefit in order to advance the cause of Christ around the world. Paul stressed the need for partnership in missions, and as he looked to **Spain**, he knew he needed help from the church in Rome to accomplish his goal.