1. **Romans 15:22-29**

* Reflect on this passage quietly, what does it say to you?
* **Isaiah 66:18-19, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Matthew 24:14, Mark 13:10, Luke 24:45-48**
* Consider the readings you just heard read aloud, **Romans 15:20-22** from the previous study, and view the **Map** attached to the lesson. Then share why it might have been important for Paul to travel so far West (to Spain) considering the work he had accomplished in the East already?
* Do you go out of your way to bring the Gospel to new places?
* According to your knowledge, did Paul ever make it as far West as Spain?
* **St. Clement I** (35 – 99 A.D.) *Letter to the Corinthians,* *Chapter 5*

“But not to dwell upon ancient examples, let us come to the most recent spiritual heroes. Let us take the noble examples furnished in our own generation. Through envy and jealousy, the greatest and most righteous pillars [of the church] have been persecuted and put to death. Let us set before our eyes the illustrious apostles. Peter, through unrighteous envy, endured not one or two, but numerous labors; and when he had at length suffered martyrdom, departed to the place of glory due to him. Owing to envy, Paul also obtained the reward of patient endurance, after being seven times thrown into captivity, compelled to flee, and stoned. After preaching both in the east and west, he gained the illustrious reputation due to his faith, having taught righteousness to the **whole world**, and come to the **extreme limit of the west**, and suffered martyrdom under the prefects. Thus was he removed from the world, and went into the holy place, having proved himself a striking example of patience.”

* Do you feel the words of **St. Clement I** might imply Paul made it to Spain, please explain why or why not?
* Consider **verses** **26 - 27** in **Romans** and share what you believe may have been the purpose for Paul emphasizing the actions of those in Macedonia and Achaia.
* **Origen** (185-254 A.D.) *Commentary on The Epistles To The Romans*

“Note how Paul subtly exhorts the Romans by praising the believers of Macedonia and Achaia. For if they could make some contribution, why could the Romans not do likewise? Most people think that Paul wanted the Romans to give to the same purpose as those of Macedonia and Achaia, but this interpretation seems to me to be too narrow. There were poor saints all over the place, and Paul wanted the Romans to develop a spirit of generosity toward them all.”

* Consider your own faith journey, do you have a “spirit of generosity” towards all?
* **Isaiah 60:1-9**
* Consider what has been said thus far and the reading from **Isaiah**, why might this “contribution for the poor among the holy ones in Jerusalem” be a big deal, in your opinion?
* In **Romans 15:29** what might “shall come in the fullness of Christ’s blessing” mean?

1. **Romans 15:30-33**

* Please choose a verse that stands out to you from the ending of this chapter and share what it brings to mind.
* **Catechism** **74, 77-79, 201**