APOSTLE PAUL & THE CONGREGATION IN ROME

(Romans 1:1-17)

INTRODUCTION

In five opening statements Paul reveals his relationship, participation, and care for the brethren in Rome. In this congregation, let's copy that.

1. PAUL WAS POSITIVE

- (v8) "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all"
 - So, let's thank God for one another and tell one another we did that.
- (v8) "That your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world"

Our missionaries, and students we've supported, speak about us to others.

Members who have moved away and visitors to our assembly have encouraged others to worship with us when in the San Diego area.

Our web-sight is viewed by many across our nation and other countries.

2. PAUL PRAYED FOR THEM

(v9) "... without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers"

Bulletin's "Prayerfully Remember" section, the Directory, announcements.

3. PAUL SAW HIMSELF AS A PARTNER WITH THEM / FELLOW-LABORER

- (v11) "I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift ... be established"

 Use your gifts (talents, abilities, knack) to build up one another.
- (v12) "That I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me"

Our fellowship is reciprocal: I have something for you and you for me.

4. PAUL PLANNED

(v13) "Brethren, I often planned to come to you (but was hindered until now)"

Put spiritual items on your "To Do" list and in your "Weekly Planner."

5. PAUL'S PRIORITY

(v15) "So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you"

You have the ability to live a missionary-life: (John 13:34-35) "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, as I have loved you ... By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."