INTRODUCTION

In this text, Paul writes to the congregation in Rome, and he reveals his attitude toward them. In this congregation, like Paul, we see an attitude and action that should characterize us.

1. PAUL WAS POSITIVE

- (v8) "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all"
 Let's thank God for one another and tell one another that you did that.
- (v8) "that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world"
 Many of our missionaries and students we supported have spoken about us to others.
 Members who have moved away and visitors have told others to worship with us when they are in the San Diego area.
 Our web-sight is viewed by many across our nation and world.

2. PAUL PRAYED FOR THEM

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

Let's keep doing that, too. Use the "Prayerful Remember" section of the Bulletin.

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

- (v11) "I look to see you, that I may impart some spiritual gift ... be established" Use your gifts (talents, abilities, knack) to encourage and build up one another.
- (v12) "that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me" I establish you and you establish me; it's reciprocal.

4. PAUL PLANNED

(v13) "... that I often planned to come to you ... "

Look out for one another and have "missionary eyes," too.

5. PAUL'S PRIORITY

(v15-16) "So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ ... "

You say, "I'm not a public speaker or a stand-up Bible class teacher;" however, you preach a gospel message by your attendance and communion. (1 Cor. 11:26) (Matthew 5:13) "You are the salt of the earth" (v14) "You are the light of the world"

CLOSE - Many blessings may be given and received when we are together.