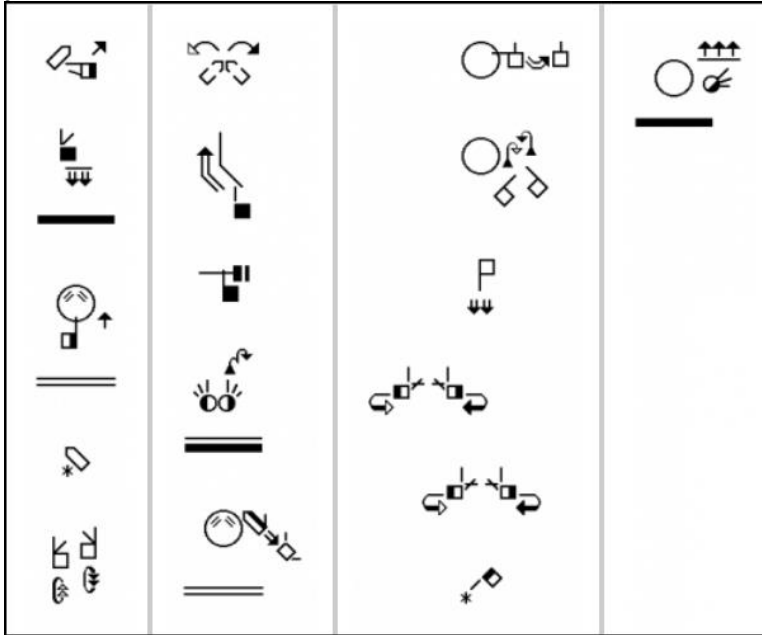


# ATTACHED FOREVER

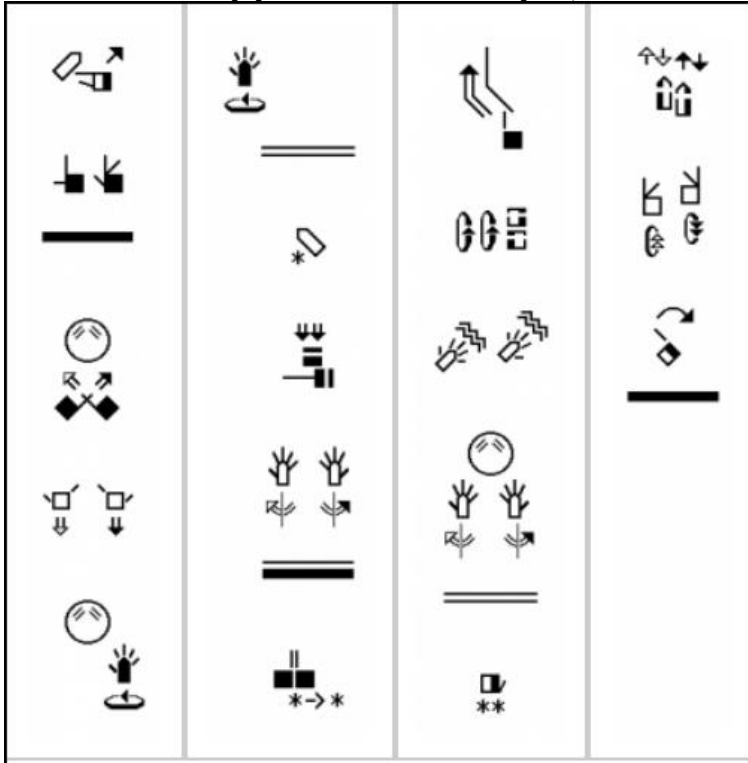
**Romans 15:22** For which cause also I have been much hindered from coming to you.



*22. Really my visit to you was long time delayed because of going this place and that place preaching.*

Paul wanted the "Family" to know the reason he had not been there sooner. We need to explain things to people and people need to believe other people's explanations. Satan uses suspicion to divide us.

**Romans 15:23** But now having no more place in these parts, and having a great desire these many years to come unto you;



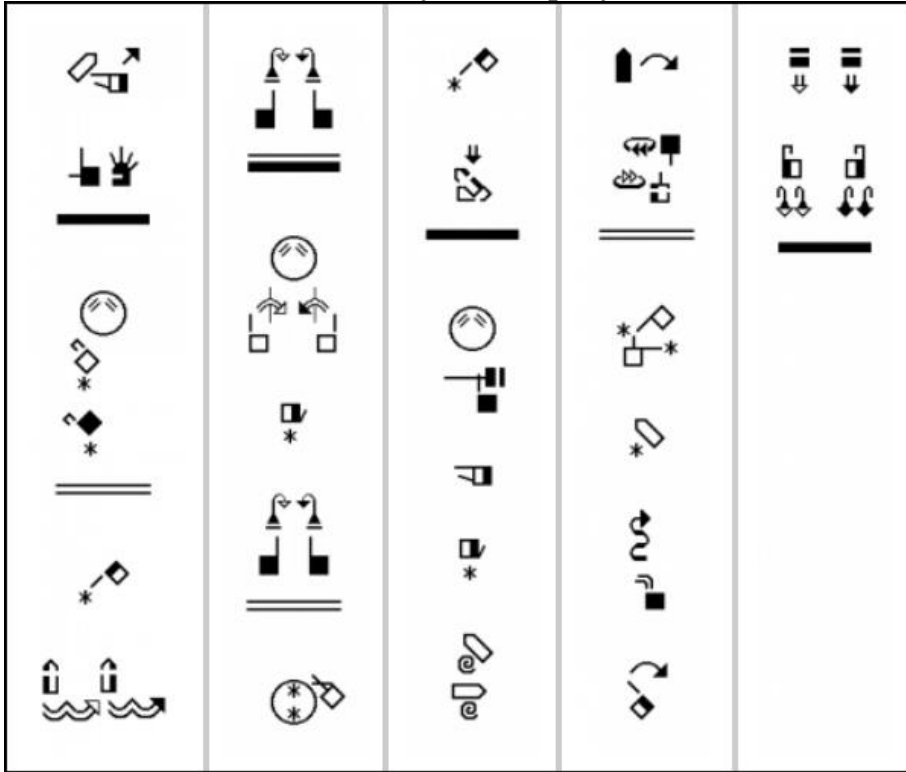
*23. But now here and there my work is finished. Also many years waiting is done. I am excited about visiting you.*

Paul loved his work and was very dedicated to it's completion, but he never forgot his previous relationships.

How like us. We cannot forget our past, our old friends, schools, jobs, and memories.

Christians can never be detached people. God made us to love each other.

**Romans 15:24** Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company.



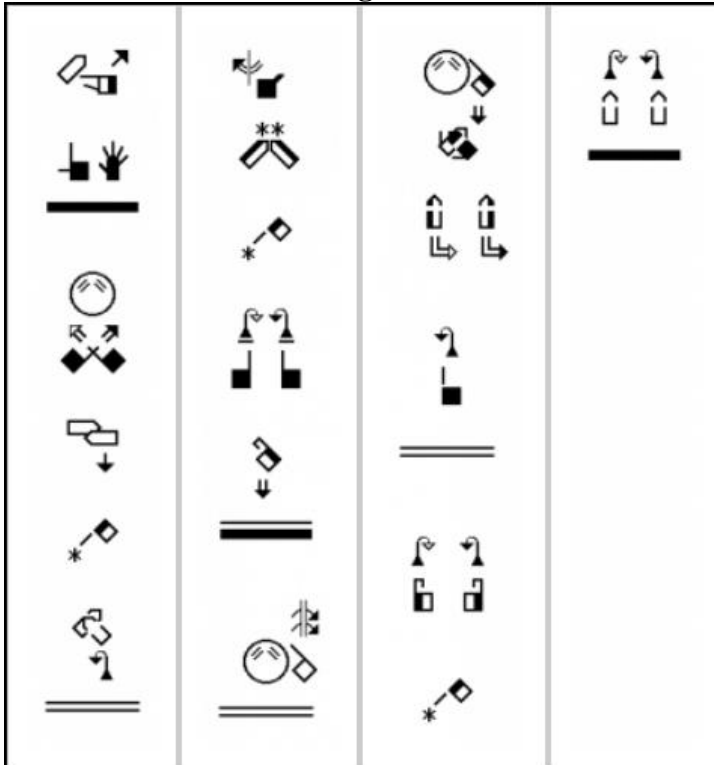
*24. Spain I plan to go. When I go, Rome I'll stop for time small enjoying your company, then my trip you can give support.*

Mutual dependence: mutual support. We support what we are part of.

We need the missionary as much as he needs us.

That missionary is like one of our soldiers in foreign territory.

**Romans 15:25** But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.

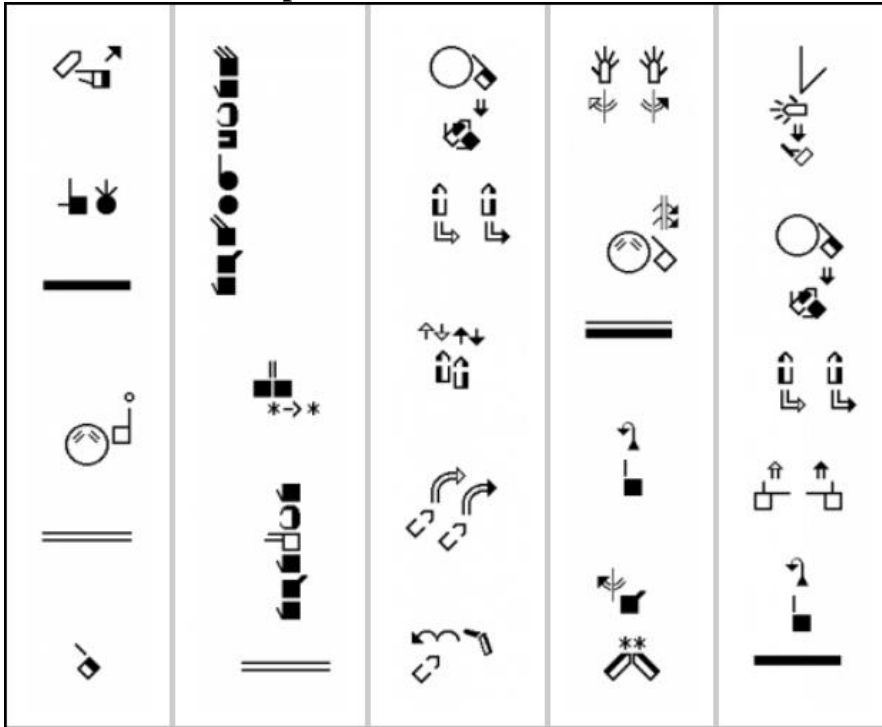


*25. But before I arrive, Jerusalem I go must. For the Believers there, gifts I will bring.*

Here we see the work of missionaries is to deliver a gift from the mission. We need to see more of that today. Also note that Paul does not here call them believers but he calls them saints, which would be better translated holy people.

We have a duty to bless those that have blessed us. Spiritual gifts cannot be separated from physical gifts, both are needed.

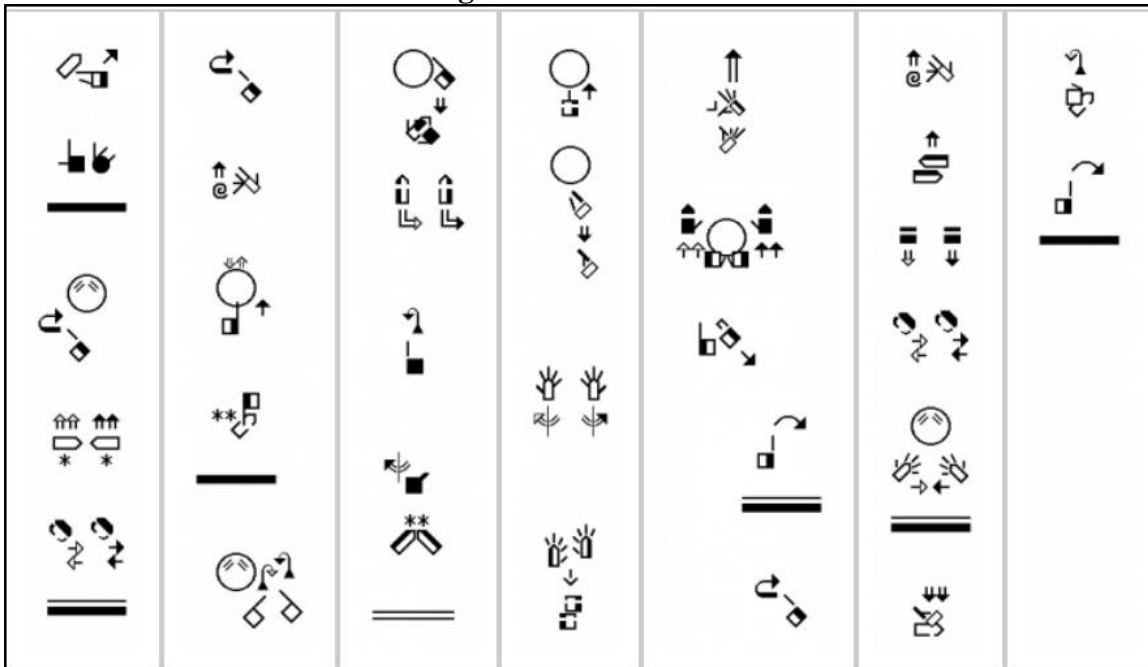
**Romans 15:26** For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem.



26. Understand that those in Macedonia and Achaia, believers were enthusiastic to give an offering already for those in Jerusalem poor believers living there.

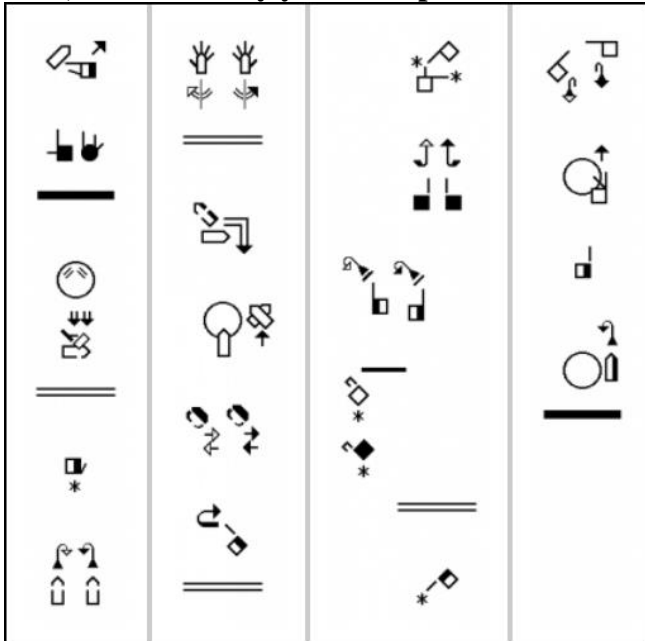
We too should consider the needs of those who have blessed us at great personal expense. Let us help those who have served God and now need our help.

**Romans 15:27** It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.



27. They were happy to do that. They felt truly indebted since the believes there in Jerusalem, the gentiles had received spiritual blessing from them. They felt the least can do is this, financially help them (Jews).

**Romans 15:28** When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

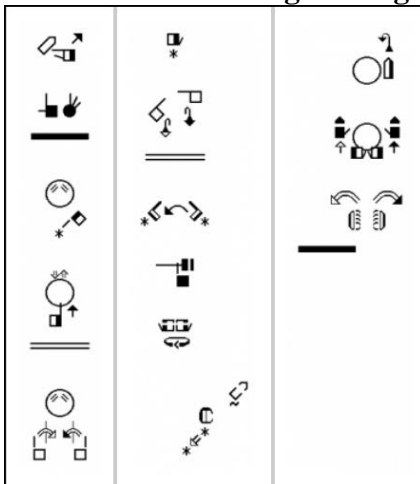


*28. Money I bring finished, completed good action to them, then while going Spain I come to see you will.*

Paul kept his commitments at great personal expense. A person that keeps their promises will be trusted by others. Others know he will do what he says unless God himself stops him. God gives His gifts and abilities in great abundance to those that are committed. **(Matthew 25:28)**

Paul was a working and planning man. We don't know if he ever reached Spain but he did not go there until his other work was finished.

**Romans 15:29** And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ.



*29. I am sure when I come our time together Christ will bless much.*

Finally.. this paragraph closes reminding the believers that their meeting shall be a wonderful blessing for everyone. Christ Himself will be there to bless them.

Friends there is not anything in the world to compare with the riches of knowing Jesus Christ; there is no greater fellowship than that of His family. Christianity was not meant to be for a select group of people but to become the norm for everyone.

**Often** Christians lose sight of the "big picture" God's purpose in us; we quibble about inconsequential matters. We spend our time only thinking about personal problems and not enjoying God or each other. God wants us to "zoom out" so that when we "zoom in" the *fellowship* will be guarded. **(1 John 1:7)** Just like anyone who loves his family would not purposely ruin a child's birthday party, the family Thanksgiving Day dinner, or Christmas morning, because those are suppose to be the happiest times of the year; times we put our differences, grudges, and hurts aside for the family. We must do the same for the *fellowship*.

Love for each other is the only evidence that can convince non-Christians we are disciples.