

## ROMANS 1:1-17

1. Why did Rome need Romans?
  - a. It was doctrinal. It gave a “1 volume” explanation of the gospel and how Christians should live. Paul wanted to establish them further in the faith. It would likely be circulated to churches.
  - b. It was pastoral. To see Jew and Gentile Christians living in unity and being an example to the outside world. This was a huge issue to Paul (cf. Acts 10, Eph. 2 and Jn. 17:24).
  - c. It was foundational. Though the gospels are the foundation for the truth of the life and death of Christ, Romans laid an important foundation for the early Christian movement in the context of the Jewish and secular world then and now.
  
2. Why does NBC in 2019 need Romans?
  - a. Absolute truth to stand on rooted in history (Christ event).
  - b. Detailed explanation of the gospel and man’s need for it.
  - c. Need to see our salvation is rooted in doctrine not feelings.
  - d. Need to get excited about the gospel effect on us personally and for its effect on the world.
  - e. Need to show us where history is headed.
  - f. Need to show us “how now shall we live” until history ends and Jesus comes back.
  - g. Need for our faith to consistently be reminded and strengthened.
  
3. Romans is called the Flagship of the fleet of all NT letters. One of the most studied and written on books of the NT. It was instrumental in the time of the Reformation – which has had a profound effect on us today.
  - a. READ through the whole passage.
  
4. V. 7: To all those in Rome. Background context.
  - a. The center of the empire. Very strategic, very pagan. Interesting, through Roman Catholicism, it has become such a center of Christianity globally ever since about 4-500ad.
  - b. We do not know the origins of the church in Rome. Paul never got to go there. We do know that visitors from Rome were at the Resurrection/Pentecost, and they likely brought the gospel back to Rome. The church there was made up of both Jews and Gentiles (probably more Gentile given its paganism and emperor worship) and was considered to be vibrant. Date written 55-58ad.
  
5. V.16:
  - a. Not ashamed of the gospel: Divine wisdom – 1 Cor. 1: 18-25. It is not something he has just discovered or invented for himself (like a philosophy). It is different though in any culture, can be something any convert could become ashamed of.
  - b. It’s the power of God: Dunamos – dynamite. It has divine, life changing, regenerating power. It truly changes someone mind, heart and hand, not just has an effect on them. We need this “alien” power because we can’t change ourselves due to bondage of sin, Satan and the world (rest of Rom. 1).

## ROMANS 1:18-31:

The wrath of God is on who (v. 18)? Answer: all unrighteous people. Who are these “unrighteous people”? Answer: all people in history who are sinful by nature and unredeemed. This is true of all of us Christians before we were mercifully saved by God.

Focus in on these key phrases:

- a. “Suppress the truth” in v.18.
- b. “clearly perceived, without excuse” in v. 20.
- c. “Futile in their thinking and hearts” in v. 21.
- d. “Exchanged truth for a lie” 2x in v. 23, 25.
- e. “God gave them up” 3x in v. 24, 26, 28.
- f. “They did not see fit” in v. 28.

**Question 1: “Suppress the Truth”** - Think of holding a balloon under the water. What does the balloon want to do? This shows 2 cool things about the truth of the Bible/Gospel. (a.) it wants to keep popping up and showing us, “I’m here, I’m true, you can’t avoid it.” And (b.) it takes energy and focus to hold that balloon down successfully – non-believers have to do this

**Question 2: “Clearly perceived and without excuse”** - Wow, this text tells us God is visible through creation. And it goes as far to say “clearly perceived” – no doubts about it. The conclusion then is that mankind is without excuse before the face of God as to His existence. NOTE: (1.) This is called “general revelation”. But, it’s not enough to save someone. In order to be saved, one must experience “special revelation” – being born again by God through the gospel. (2.) after discussing all 6 of these questions, you will see how and why natural man does not see God in nature (2 Cor. 4:4).

**Question 3: “Futile in thinking and heart”** - Note the careful attention to detail that Paul states that both our minds and hearts are affected by our sin and mankind’s natural inclination to suppress the truth of God.

**Question 4: “Exchanged the truth for a lie”** – Think about that word “exchange”. How is Paul using it here? See further Gen. 3:1-7.

**Question 5: “God gave them up”** – Meditate on this word picture. What could it look like? It’s actually a judicial term – God handed them over (to their own sinfulness and Satan) by removing restraints and having to experience consequences for their desires and actions. Think about the character of God – was he probably patient for a long time (see further Rom. 2:4-5)

**Question 6: “They did not see fit”** – Again, mediate on this word picture. What does this phrase explain to us about sinful, selfish mankind? I think of the head engineer of the Titanic who said “even God could not sink this ship.”

### Discussion Questions:

- a. How does “suppress the truth” pertain to our society today or specific people you know (including how you once were maybe).

## Romans 2:1-11

**Romans 1:18-31 review:** *Suppress truth, Exchange truth, Futile minds/hearts, God gave them up, Did not see fit, No excuse.*

**Romans 2:1-11** – continues the argument (a very logical and indicting one) and makes it more personal now. He is arguing that no matter who you are (chosen Jew or outsider gentile) we are all actually in the same sinful and sinking boat – needing to see ourselves as drowning under God’s judgement and in need of a rescue coming from outside ourselves!

**READ the whole passage through.**

**Nomism:** Webster Dictionary “ethical or religious basing of conduct on the observance of moral law”....(with the hopeful result of blessings from and righteous standing with God(s).) All religions have this in common – the human thinking that observing certain religious laws will grant me rewards from God and some form of a good afterlife. We will see in the rest of Romans how Paul masterfully deals with nomism and the gospel.

### A. Who is “you, O man” in verse 1?

- a. Anyone who judges others.
- b. Zeroing in more on the Jews judging the Gentiles “outsiders”.
- c. Either way, again, they “have no excuse” (1:20, 2:1). God has a universal standard of righteousness upon which all will be judged.

### B. DON'T YOU KNOW? YOU SHOULD. v. 1-5.

- a. **Hypocrisy (v.1-2)** – one finger pointing forward three pointing back at you! “same things” in v. 1 = unrighteous, law-breaking actions. “such things” in v.2 = unrighteous actions and also self-righteous judging.
- b. **Inability (v.3)** – you yourself cannot keep the standard which you place on others.
- c. **Repentance (v. 4)** – “presume upon” just thinking God’s blessing is on us as Jews without seeing that his “kindness, forbearance and patience” was meant to lead them to humility and repentance of self-righteousness. This is true, in principle, for us gentiles as well.
- d. **Heart (v.5)**– a hard heart causes one to judge others and it causes them not to be able to practice themselves what they are judging in others. This is doubly – indicting! HEART – one of the central themes in Paul’s theology. Used over 130x in his letters. The heart is the CPU of a human. The New Covenant shows that a new heart is needed and through faith in Christ it is provided.

### C. Here then is how God deals with people and the law v. 6-11.

- a. **Works/well-doing** – righteousness. How well someone has fulfilled the requirements of God’s holy and good law. *Works are rewarded by God but they have never been a means to salvation. That has always been by grace and faith (ex. Romans 4 - Abraham).*
- b. **Seek** – This is one who seeks God’s approval and the reward of eternal life through “enduring in well-doing (of the law)”.

## **Romans 2:12-29**

**Romans 2:1-11 Review:** O Man = any self-righteous person who casts judgement (Jew or Gentile – all of us). The law is holy, righteous and good. But, If you're going to live by the law (and tell others they should too), you're going to be judged by the law. [Result = God's righteousness judgement and wrath will fall on you. Why? Neither you nor anyone can do it (Matt. 5:20, Romans 2-3, James 2:10). Therefore, Paul is going to tell us "being in the right with God" has been gained by another means.]

### **Live by the Law – Judged by the Law**

Romans 2:12-29: Continues this argument.

V. 12-13: According to the standard of the law and how the law works.....if you live under it you will be justified by being a doer of it. But, if you live under it, you will also be judged by its standards. If you're honest with yourself, your answer should be....?

### **V. 14-16: The importance of the Conscience**

God designed the conscience to show us basic rights and wrongs and also our relationship with and dependence on God. Here Paul says gentiles, who do not have the law and covenant with God, can do, to some degree, what the law directs us to.....via conscience. Hint: if you're a Jew and you do have the law and covenant, then you should be sensing the true nature of the law in your conscience.

### **V. 17-24: More on 'internal' Law breakers**

A Jew says.....they rely on the law, know God's will, sure of being a guide, a light, an instructor to the blind and foolish (non-Jews). Paul says.....do you not see inside yourselves? Do you not see the actual standards of the Law? This is exactly what Jesus hits on in the Sermon on the Mount in Matt. 5-7.

V. 22: See further the example of adultery from Jesus specifically (5:27-28).

V. 24: The name of God is blasphemed among the gentiles because of you. OUCH! Is. 52:5. Israel is so misapplying the Law that it is making God look horrible to outsiders. They were called to represent God to the nations and they are actually misrepresenting and dishonoring him.

### **V. 25-29: Now you're going below the belt Paul – attacking circumcision (our special mark).**

Circumcision – setting yourself apart for God with a physical sign/marker. Think of a gang member getting a tattoo. This was huge to a Jew and Judaism. Remember, Paul was a Jew – a serious one.

V. 25: Dedicating yourself to God by marking yourself physically is of value IF you obey the laws/values/practices it represents. But, if you don't, then that mark becomes meaningless. You're a hypocrite. The mark does you no good.

V. 26: If an uncircumcised man obeys the laws/values/practices of God, then his "uncircumcision is like circumcision." What really counts is the living out of the mark, not just the mark itself.

## Romans 3:1-20

Romans 2:12-29 Review: Conscience condemns all of breaking the law. A circumcised heart is required to love and obey God – both for Jew and Gentile. How do we get this circumcised heart? Answer: “by the Spirit”(v.29). From a work and a source outside of yourself. You might even say from a miracle of God (Matt. 19:26)!\_Not by obeying laws by your own self-effort and outward show. One key passage = Romans 8:29-30: The Holy Spirit saves, seals, sanctifies and perseveres. It is all of grace – from beginning to end!

### Romans 3:1-8:

- a. V. 1-2 - Israel IS special – elected as a people God would bestow his grace on (for a purpose) and they were given the promises, law and prophets to guide them and the world.
- b. V. 3-4 - Does their unfaithfulness to the Covenant, to God and the law, mean God is at fault or that He was unfaithful too? Answer: by no means! God has graciously kept them and all of us too. (2 Tim. 2:13).
- c. V. 4 – “let God be truth” is indicative of his integrity. OT quote = Ps. 51:4. A lie will not get by God. And God himself will not lie.
- d. V. 5-6 – Part 1 of a short argument = It is perfectly fair for God, therefore, to inflict judgement on any/all unrighteousness. God must judge the whole world (Jew included) fairly because that is his nature. REMEMBER Chapter 1: A universal standard of righteousness.
- e. V.7-8: Part 2 of a short argument = rhetorical...if God somehow accepts the unrighteousness that gives an occasion to bestow his mercy, should he not welcome even more acts of unrighteousness? By no means! The ends do not justify the means. (See further Romans 6:1). “Slanderosly reported” = Paul was accused of teaching this.
- f. V. 7-8: “sinner” was an awful insult in Jewish circles. For Paul to call everyone sinners as he does in Romans 1-2 would have been shocking. Sinners was what those dogs, those outsider gentiles/pagans were.

### Romans 3:9-19:

- a. V. 9 - Israel is NOT special (in terms of salvation) – Both Jews and Greeks are both sinners. “Under sin” = under its rule not just susceptible to its influence. Paul will be commenting more on this in chapter 5.
- b. V.10-12: A use of Ps. 14:1-3 and 53:1-3.
- c. “None” “no one is righteous”, “no one does good” = the general condition of all men (including Jews) since the fall. Fallen man does not actively seek God. So what about Jews? Don’t they? 2 answers: (a) by nature, no, fallen man does not seek after God. (b) there were some Jews who honestly did, but overall, as a nation, they consistently failed. Example: the cycles of Judges.
- d. V.13-18: Paul adds to his argument by quoting Ps. 5:9, 140:3, 10:7, Prov. 1:16, Is. 59:7-8 and Ps. 36:1 (the absence of fear for God is practical atheism!)
- e. V. 19: Here we go again, the law is meant to convict. “Every mouth” and the “whole world” even though just the Jews were “under law”. But, according to God’s universal standard of righteousness, the whole world is accountable to God and convicted as so.

## ROMANS 3:21-31

**Romans 3:1-20 Review:** The law is meant to convict. The Conclusion: For by works of the law no human being (broad sense, in all history) will be justified (law court – declared innocent or righteous), since through the law comes the (condemning) knowledge of sin.

[What does it take for someone to admit that 3:20 is true? What happens inside a person when they get “knowledge of their sin”?]

### Romans 3:21-26:

READ Passage.

We have established 2 things so far: A status and work of “righteousness” is required to be in the right with God. None of us can work enough to get that status. Therefore, we are rightly under God’s judgement. Is there any way to escape it?

V. 21: “BUT now....” Very important words. Paul is now transitioning in his argument.

V. 21: What *the righteousness of God* looks like or how it’s attained.....has been manifest (clearly shown) to us “apart from the law” ....by another means. (Remember, the law was never meant to save. The Jewish leaders abused it by lording it over the people as part of the means of their salvation – along with their circumcision/election. This abuse is what Paul is correcting here.)

- a. “The Righteousness of God” = Rom. 1:17, It’s God’s character, His moral demands on mankind, His righteous position as judge and now his *righteous action toward mankind’s salvation and thus man’s now righteous standing before God.*

V.21: Law and prophets point to it. “What was in the Old concealed is in the New revealed.” Is. 53, etc.  
READ John 5:45-46.

V. 22: “Through faith in Jesus”

- a. Not faith in faith.
- b. Not the strength of my faith.
- c. Not faith in my works.
- d. Faith in a person.
- e. Faith in the work that person did on your behalf. (atonement and righteous works)  
2 Cor. 5:21.
- f. Faith has 3 parts: knowledge, assent, trust.
- g. Illustration: The Scale.

V. 22: “for all who have believed (trusted).” Granted to any and all people who believe the gospel around the globe and throughout history, not just Israel. See further Acts 10 and Rev. 7:9-10.

V. 23: (remember, we’ve established that....) ALL are sinners and fallen short of the glory of God. Does not mean we have all fallen short of becoming as glorious as God (self-deification), but that we have fallen short of His standards to be in the right with Him (Missing the mark – archery).

## **ROMANS 4:1-25**

Romans 3:21-31 Review: Simply re-read 3:21-24.

### **Romans 4:1-25: Abraham is our example that justification is by faith**

READ Gen. 15:6

READ all of chapter 4

#### **Wage vs. Gift (v.1-5)**

Wage = Jews believed they were saved if they maintained the Covenant (this is how faithfulness was defined).

Gift = Salvation is by God's grace through faith and granted as a gift of God.

#### **Post vs. Pre-Circumcision: when was Abraham "saved"? (v.9-12)**

The irrefutable evidence is that God declared him just by faith, not by covenant keeping (works). Wow!

"for the Jew Abraham serves as a prototype because his circumcision points back to his justification; for the Gentile, because he received justification apart from circumcision." RSB.

#### **Promise fulfilled by faith through grace (v.13-17)**

Abraham's salvation was granted according to God's action, not his.

As the "father of many nations" salvation is offered to all people by the same means.

Since the law came 430 years after the Abrahamic promise, the promises cannot be dependent on the law.

#### **It's for us too (v.20-25)**

"Us too" 57ad (date Romans was written) and 2019ad Covington, LA.....cool!

Glorifying God is the key demonstration of faith. Calvin said, "no greater honor can be given to God than by sealing His truth by our faith."

Notice his faith was trust in the words that came from God's mouth (rooted in God's character). Though emotional experience played a part, it was not what his faith was based on. This is true for us today too.

"Counted" stated 3x in this section. Similar to declared (a judicial term), "counted" is an accounting term. His faith was calculated to his favor.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

1. If Abraham came back and partnered with Paul in ministry, what sort of things would he say and do with Paul's audience? What state would his heart be toward his fellow Jews? How might this be an example to us toward non-believers or false-believers in our lives?

## ROMANS 5:1-11

**Romans 4:1-25 Review:** “for the Jew, Abraham serves as a prototype because his circumcision points back to his justification; for the Gentile, because he received justification apart from circumcision. “The words ‘it was counted to him’ were not written for his sake alone but for ours” (v.23).

### V. 1:

“Therefore” because of what was just said in 4:24-25.....

“Peace with God” a new term for Paul in Romans. No more barrier wall. With peace established, we now have access to God (1 Tim. 2:5, Curtain torn). It is permanent in nature and is not based on subjective feelings. It’s judicial.

### V. 3-5:

As Christ’s suffering had purpose and accomplished something, so does ours. It is not providing salvation for ourselves but it is forming character (Christlikeness), endurance (steadfast faith) and hope (assurance of God’s final victory).

### V. 6-11:

#### V. 6-8:

At the right time (Acts 2:23)....while we were still powerless (God did not wait for us to start helping ourselves)....Christ died for the ungodly. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He did not die for any degree of good people. He died for sinners, all are sinners (no one righteous, enemies of God, dead in trespasses and sins, alienated from God, suppressors and exchangers of truth, etc.)

According to verse 9 and 10, we can define a sinner as an enemy of God. What’s an enemy? Our sin makes us an enemy of God. So if sin makes us an enemy of God (a real bad thing), what is so bad about sin that it does this to us?

1. Sin is Rebellion against His authority. Since the beginning, God was always God. He created us not the other way around. Humanity was meant to live under the submission of God for the overall good of the world. The Bible says that sin is actually a full on rebellion against His good authority.
2. Sin is Violation of trust. Between Adam and Eve there was meant to be perfect relationship with one another. Sin violated any trust God has with Adam and Eve.
3. Sin is a disregard for his perfect goodness and character. This is a disregard for God just in and of himself, but also toward his goodness and character toward us.
4. Sin is a failure to meet God’s standard. It’s the missing of the mark of God’s standards for being in the right with him.

Sin deserves God’s righteous wrath. But.....

#### V. 9-11:



## ROMANS 5:12-21

**Romans 5:1-11 Review:** Therefore....We have *peace* and *reconciliation* with God through faith in Jesus.

**What causes all people throughout history to commit Romans 1:18-31? Answer: Romans 5:12-21.**

**What is the rescue from this condition? Answer: Romans 5:12-21.**

### Romans 5:12-14: Original Sin

The doctrine of original sin is described as: For Paul, Adam's sin was not just the sin of an individual, but is also our sin. Because we participate in the likeness of Adam we also now participate in his sin. Because we participate in Adam's nature, and Adam's nature became corrupted, we all, from beginning of life receive a corrupted nature that leads us to the sin we commit." (Erickson). Paul uses the simple aorist tense in saying "all sinned" meaning a single past action. We are all thus "under" the single past action of Adam. It was in some way, our sin too. Not only is sin universal now because of this but so is death, the consequence for sin. [Christ is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam: He lived obediently to God as Adam was supposed to and He died in our place for the consequences of our sin. Now his righteousness is passed down to us as believers judicially.]

#### **Arminian understanding of original sin:**

- we receive a corrupted nature from Adam.
- all humans are thus unable, without divine help, to fulfill God's commands (righteousness).
- this inability is intellectual but not volitional (we still have ability but our minds have been corrupted by sin).
- though we have a corrupted nature, we are not guilty of it. Prevenient grace was distributed by God at the cross – a universal benefit of the atoning work of Christ that nullifies the judicial consequences of original sin.
- this in effect causes sin to be ultimately my choice (free will) and not truly rooted in a corrupted nature. It also now restores our ability (grace) to freely choose Christ.
- I firmly believe there is no biblical justification for the doctrine of prevenient grace!

#### **Calvinistic understanding of original sin:**

- we receive a corrupted nature from Adam.
- all humans are thus unable, without divine help, to fulfill God's commands (righteousness).
- this inability is intellectual and volitional (we've lost the ability to choose God's commands, as well as Christ).
- Prevenient grace did not happen at the cross.
- All mankind both received a sinful nature and are guilty before God based on that nature before any acts of sin are committed.
- "The Calvinist view is based on a very serious and literal reading of Romans 5:12-19."
- Sin is my choice but it is totally rooted in my corrupted nature. I cannot and will not freely choose Christ until God changes my heart, causes me to be born again, and then I come to choose Christ (can happen in a nano-second). Though I need to respond to the gospel, I cannot until this happens. I need more than some divine direction/help (arminianism) I need total divine intervention (calvinism).

## ROMANS - Part 2 (Chapter 6-11)

### 10 weeks

#### Why did Rome need Romans?

- a. It was doctrinal. It gave a “1 volume” explanation of the gospel and how Christians should live. Paul wanted to establish them further in the faith. It would likely be circulated to churches.
- b. It was pastoral. To see Jew and Gentile Christians living in unity and being an example to the outside world. This was a huge issue to Paul (cf. Acts 10, Eph. 2 and Jn. 17:24).
- c. It was foundational. Though the gospels are the foundation for the truth of the life and death of Christ, Romans laid an important foundation for the early Christian movement in the context of the Jewish and secular world then and now.

#### Why does NBC need Romans?

- d. Absolute truth to stand on rooted in history (Christ event).
- e. Detailed explanation of the gospel and man’s need for it.
- f. Need to see our salvation is rooted in doctrine not feelings.
- g. Need to show us where history is headed.
- h. Need to show us “how now shall we live” until history ends and Jesus comes back.

#### Romans 1-5 Review:

1:17:	Read (Righteousness)
1:18 and 25:	Read (Suppress, Exchange)
2:5 and 13 and 29:	Read (Nomism)
3:20-24:	Read (3 purposes of the law and 3 parts of Faith)
4:1-5:	Read (Abraham)
5:1 and 8 and 12:	Read (Peace and Original Sin)

#### Lesson 10:

Ferguson: “It was asked of Dr. Martin Lloyd Jones, when are you going to preach through the book of Romans? His answer was when I understand Romans 6.”

Cranfield: The Christian has already died and rose with Christ (position), but he is now enabled and obligated to live the death-and-resurrection life now (sanctification), but ultimately this life will happen in the future (new earth promise). Paul’s thought moves back and forth between these three realities.

**Romans 6:1-11: Dead to Sin, Alive to God** (argument is connected to Rom. 5:12-14)

#### Verses 1-4: **Dead to sin (old nature, reign and habit)**

V. 1: “in sin” = in our sin nature, “the state of sin”. The domination of our old nature like Romans 1.

## ROMANS 6:12-23

**Romans 6:1-11 Review:** We have been given a new nature (through faith in Christ who fulfills righteousness for us). We no longer have to be ruled by the old nature. Sins rule died in Christ when Christ died. Baptism is the symbol of this fact. Since we are now united to Christ, we are to v. 11 ourselves and live out of that.

Paul, Luther and Lloyd Jones wrestled with chapter 6. We are simultaneously just and sinner.

**Romans 6:12-23: Rhetorical, but true, argument of new vs. old nature continued**

**V. 12-14: Instruments of Righteousness (WHAT IS AN INSTRUMENT?) or weapons.**

“Let not sin reign” and “do not present yourselves as instruments of unrighteousness” –

Tricky issue - Though we have a new master, a new nature.....Paul here assumes sin can still have a power in our lives. He presents this as a choice – do not let, do not present. We are to resist sin. Cranfield – *stop allowing sin to reign unopposed in your mortal selves.* EXCELENT!

“present yourselves as instruments of righteousness” –

Instead, present yourselves to your new master. Let your new master rule your mind and body (from the heart).

We can do this since - You have been brought from death to life now. AND.....

“Since you are under grace not law” –

Grace – a new reigning power, a new age in humanity, a new ability to walk with God. The new age of Grace is not only a covering of your sin as a gift from God, but it is actually a new era of new power given to us through the new nature.

2 Cor.3:15-18.

**V. 15-23: Slaves of Righteousness (WHAT IS A SLAVE?)**

[possibly referring to the Greek idea of “Sacral Manumission” – that a slave could be set free by becoming the property of or devoted to a god.]

V. 15 – the rhetorical question

V. 16 – Obedient slaves – the underlying idea is letting it rule you, v. 1 “in the state of sin” and v. 6 “enslaved to sin” (not that we will never sin again). Lit. a “bondservant” – a voluntary slave.

V. 17-18 – Heart – the New Covenant promised a heart change. Only a heart change, a born again heart, will enable a person to live for God, for righteousness. See further 2:29. There is the idea of Obligation in these verses too.

Have become slaves of righteousness – How? Through our union to Christ through faith (v.1-11).

## Romans 7:1-25

### Romans 6 Review:

The reign of our old nature has died with Christ. We have now been given a new nature, and thus a new Master. Christians are to refuse to allow sin to usurp authority in their lives, and instead are to yield the whole life to God in assurance that since they are under grace, not law, as their means to salvation, sin is no longer their master. That the Christian is not under law but under grace might appear to provide license for moral carelessness. Paul denies this since the Christian has now become a slave of God. The freedom of grace (or the freedom that grace provides) is therefore freedom for obedience and service, not for license.

### Romans 7:1-14: Illustration from Marriage and How Sin Works (PAST TENSE)

V. 1-4: The illustration of being bound to the marriage covenant. Death of one spouse releases the other to be bound to a new spouse. Death of being bound to sin through Christ's death now releases us to be bound to another "spouse", the new nature.

V. 5-6: Again, we are truly released from the captivity or slavery of our sin nature. This is past tense and a fact.

V. 7-14: How sin works: The law is good, it's not sin in and of itself. But the law does show us what sin is (defines it). But the ruling sinful nature in me takes advantage of the definition of sin and makes me go after it (like the serpent in the garden). Apart from the law, which shows us what sin is, sin has no power, no real definition to break. Now that sin is in the world, I'm a dead man. The law that shows us "the good life" now actually kills us (with guilt for breaking it). So the law is good, it does not bring death to me in and of itself. Sin in me is what brings death to me (via inability to fulfill the laws commands and the desire to rule myself, etc.).

### Romans 7:15-25: The Tension and the War (PRESENT TENSE)

**Common question:** Is this Paul reflecting on himself before he came to Christ or now as a believer? Is he describing non-Christians or Christians?

#### For I do not understand my own actions.....

- **15: I don't do what I want (live godly), I do the sin I hate.**
- **16: This tension shows I see that the law is good.**
- **17: So when I sin, it's not the new me doing it but the old me. The remaining power of sin.**
- **18: I know nothing good is in my flesh (which I still have even though I have a new nature). I DESIRE to do right, but not the ABILITY to do it. Some translations = "can will to do good". See further Eph. 2:1.**
- **19: Again, I do not do what I want, but keep doing what I don't want.**
- **20: So, if that is true it must be the "remaining sin" living in me making me do it and not my new nature.**
- **21: This is what I find about the law - there is still a law, a power, a principle that when I want to do good, evil (sin) lies close at hand. (interesting connection – Gen. 4:7.)**

## **Romans 8:1-17**

**\*we will take 2 weeks to go through 18-39 not 1 week.**

### **Romans 7 Review:**

As a person is able to be bonded to a new spouse when their spouse dies, so we are now bonded to our new spouse (the new nature) because our old nature has died. But, sin still likes to take advantage of the law. The very commandment that was supposed to bring life brought death to me. There is a war between two natures. Thank God that through Jesus I am delivered from this war. So, I myself serve the law of God in my mind, but in my flesh I serve the law of sin. There are three main views as to who the "I" is in this chapter.

### **Romans 8: John Piper calls it the greatest chapter in the Bible!**

**Genesis 1:26-28 must have been in Paul's mind in this chapter (as well as chapter 6 and 7).**

- a. The new covenant promise of the renewal of the image of God in man. Jer. 31.
- b. God's character is perfect. Therefore He cannot let anything go on imperfect forever.

### **Romans 8:1-11: Godly living found in the new life of the Spirit not the old life of the Law**

A contrast between life in the Spirit and life in the flesh. Can be understood pre-conversion, but likely describes the life of a Christian.

#### **V.1-4: Atonement and Imputation**

What is condemnation? Law – law, Spirit – sin, fee-death.

- A. Atonement – Christ sent in the flesh to die for our sin (failure to keep covenant).
- B. Imputation – Christ sent in the flesh and in his living fulfilled the requirements of the law (kept covenant for us.) Through faith, we get the righteousness of Christ credited to our account and we actually now become righteous, Christ in us.

See further 2 Cor. 5:21. "Imputation" is very important concept.

#### **V. 5-11: minds on/in the flesh or on/in the spirit translates into our lives lived**

Philosophers often divided humanity into two groups – enlightened and foolish. Paul uses this here.

Who are the "those"? Like option C in Romans 7, I think it is 2 different people (believer vs unbeliever) but the believer can still be subject to the power of sin.

"Live according to the flesh" – certainly describes an unbeliever. Here it also seems to address a believer who continue to live in or under the remaining power of sin. He does not fight it. "Flesh" often understood as self-centeredness. Not living in the new power of grace.

"Walk according to the flesh" vs. "being in the flesh" = Christians can walk according to the flesh, but they have been delivered from "being in the flesh" through their salvation/new nature.

## ROMANS 8:18-27

1. Romans 6-8 Supplement: Was it helpful?
2. Romans 8:1-17 Review: Simply re-read the text to flow into today's text.

### Romans 8:18-27: Wait a little longer and it will all be fixed

1. What did the OT saints have to do between the OT and the NT?
2. How does Revelation 22:20 end?

V.18: The scales – which weighs more? “the eternal weight of glory” (2 Cor. 4:17).

- The sufferings of Paul's world = Rodney Stark, Christian sociologist.....

a. Health epidemics – huge and ongoing. No soap, polluted water, sewers were open ditches. No antibiotics.

b. Death rates, including babies - Life expectancy was 30 maybe 40 years. 50% of babies died at birth or early childhood. Many men died early from sickness and war (thus the huge need to care for widows).

c. Crime and fires common.

- The glory revealed to us = The completion of our redemption, the restoration of the image of God in us and the rescue of the whole world – in saved humans. “The transforming, ennobling, joy-bringing, manifestation of God in one's personal being.” RSB (similar to 2 Pet. 1:4 – union with Christ).

V. 19: The creation = The created world apart from humans. Cosmic fatalism was rampant in the ancient world. Paul says we have hope of restoration in v.21-25!

Eager longing = Picture this. Literally, to watch with outstretched neck.

sons of God = Christians in their fully restored, new nature.

V. 20-22: Gen. 3 – creation itself was subject to the consequences of human sin!

Futility and Bondage to corruption = Unable to fix what is broken. In a current state of imperfection and decay. Stuck in it, enslaved to it.

Freedom of the glory of the sons of God = in the new earth, we will finally be free from the presence of sin. Our fully restored new nature, relationship with God and one another, will truly be glorious! See further Rev. 21:1-6.

Who is the “him” in verse 20? God, not Adam.

What are the pains of childbirth? Not that more pain is coming (like Matt. 24) but that the pain is meaningful and that release from the pain is coming.

V.23: We are groaning too! Greek is emphatic.

Wait eagerly = Like “eager longing” in v. 19, picture this “wait eagerly.”

## ROMANS 8:28-39

Romans 8:18-27 Review: Simply re-read the passage to get the feel of the argument.

READ Romans 8:28-39 together.

### V. 28-39: One of the greatest passages in Romans. Focus in on key words.

- a. **Know:** Confidence based on past facts. Our union with Christ and the work of the Holy Spirit.
- b. **All things:** First, notice, the “all things” is addressing those who “love God”. This is believers. Second, Good things and bad things, big things and small things, all work toward the process and the goal of the believer being *conformed to the image of Christ* (the true man – the man Adam was originally created to be. See further Romans 5:18).
- c. **Good:** Being conformed to the image of Christ is the “good” God cares about most. This is the best thing for us until we get to see Him face to face in perfected glory.
- d. **Called:** See footnote #2.
- e. **Purpose:** God’s sovereign will personally and universally. Mainly, Christlikeness.
- d. **Foreknew:** Knew ahead of time. Also, pre-placed his love on before we were born.
- e. **Predestined:** pre-chosen before the foundation of the world. Eph. 1:4-5 (see footnote 2). To set a boundary beforehand, to set apart, mark out in advance.
- f. **Conformed:** This is key to Paul’s argument. Yes, we are chosen for salvation in the Bible. But, this passage states that the other reason we are chosen before the foundation of the world is SO THAT we would be conformed to the image of the son.
- g. **Firstborn:** All of this is so that Christ gets all the glory. He is our supremacy and supreme leader. We get all of his benefits as the firstborn of God.

**v. 30: the Divine Chain: predestined<sup>1</sup> – called<sup>2</sup> – justified<sup>3</sup> – glorified<sup>4</sup>. Who does the text say does all of this? Answer: He, God.**

v. 31: If verses 28-30 is true, then this verse is the wonderful conclusion. AMEN! It is of Christ and Grace from beginning to last!

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<sup>1</sup> “foresaw”(peering down the corridor of time and seeing who would believe and then calling them elect) is not how the word “predestined” is understood in Greek. Nor is it how the word is understood in the Old Testament (Hebrew). This is a highly significant point! In the OT and NT “predestined” is simply defined as “God’s choice or selection from the beginning”. It has in it the idea that God’s choice is the causal starting point of our salvation and our holy living. Also, it has the idea in it the rejection of some and the acceptance of others and that God has reason behind his decision (source: *The New Linguistic and Exegetical Key to the Greek New Testament by Rogers and Rogers, 1998*). Example: God elected Israel to be His special people (OT). God elected Paul to be his Apostle (NT). Election is not something that he chooses to do *in response* to what we choose to do first. God does have foresight via His omniscience, but that is not what is being referred to here.

<sup>2</sup> General call of the gospel: All are invited to receive the gift through gospel proclamation. Effectual call of the gospel: Those who are elect will, at some point, feel the internal working of the Holy Spirit drawing them to Christ and He will enable them to respond to the gospel. Ex. – John 3:1-8.

<sup>3</sup> To declare legally right with God through faith in Christ based on the work of Christ alone.

<sup>4</sup> The believer is now adopted and secure in their salvation. God will carry them all the way to the point of their glorification; their eternal, perfect union with him through their union with Christ.

## ROMANS 9: 1-33

*“The ninth chapter of the book of Romans was the clincher for me. I simply could find no way to avoid the apostles teaching in that chapter. Reluctantly, I sighed and surrendered with my head but not my heart yet. (as to his heart)...I soon came to see the graciousness of grace and the comfort of God’s sovereignty.”* (R.C. Sproul’s testimony of how he came to believe in election in *Chosen by God*, p. 4).

9:1-13: God has not forgotten His promises to Israel, even though most are hardened to Christ right now.<sup>1</sup>

1. V.1-5: Paul’s heart for the Jews and their privilege
2. V.6-13: God’s surprising plan
  - a. God’s Word has not failed but I understanding it more fully now. Not all who are descended (physically) from Israel belong to Israel.....proof is **Abraham** and his family (Gen. 12, 15).
    - a. God chose that through Isaac shall come “God’s people”
    - b. The “children of promise” are God’s people not “children of the flesh” (an ethnic, biological thing).
    - c. Who the promise goes to, got decided before anyone did anything right or wrong or had Jewish blood in them.
    - d. This is so that God’s *purpose of election* might come to fruition apart from any action of man. Not by foreseen faith or good works.
    - e. We see this when God declared, Jacob I have loved (given the promise to) but Esau I have hated (passed by). **As to election - Jacob is both an individual and a representative of Israel. This is an important point.**
  - b. Well, if this is true, I have a question for you God.....

9:14-24: God has reasons behind election we just need to accept by humble submission.<sup>2</sup>

1. V. 14-18: **Is God unfair?** (**Moses** - Exod. 33:18-19)
2. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Questions are not always wrong. *Motive, attitude and self-authority is.*
4. Notice: God is the one who is acting here.
5. V. 19-21: **Why am I held responsible?** (Both Pharaoh and us) Potter/clay - Is. 29:16, 45:9
6. Answer: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Questions are not always wrong. *Motive, attitude and self-authority is.*

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<sup>1</sup> “Paul must prove that God has done nothing in the gospel that is inconsistent with his word of promise to Israel, that the gospel he preaches is not the negation but the affirmation of God’s plan revealed in the OT” (Moo, NICNT). In 9-11, Paul will humble both sides – pride of Jews in their blood rights and pride in gentiles of their reception of the gospel over the Jews.

<sup>2</sup> **The doctrine of God’s Decree** = God, from all eternity does, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass, yet so as thereby neither is God the author of sin, nor is the liberty of second causes (human will) taken away. Matt. 10:29, Acts 15:18, Eph. 3:11, Heb. 6:17, Acts 2:23 for example.



## ROMANS 10:1-21

Romans 9 Review:

9:1-13: God has not forgotten His promises to Israel, even though most are hardened to Christ right now. Not all Israel received the promise – example is Abraham and his family. The promise is received by faith, and God’s electing mercy, not blood.

9:14-21: God has reasons behind election we just need to accept by humble submission. His ways are fair and people are still responsible.

9:22-24: What if God prepared things beforehand so that God’s purpose in election is shown to display His glory in both those who he has mercy on and those who will be judged for their sins.

9:25-33: Righteousness is accomplished by faith, for the Jew and the Gentile.

### Romans 10:1-13: The message of salvation is available to all – Jew and Gentile

Zeal vs. (true) Knowledge: They had a zeal and lots of knowledge, but their zeal means nothing if it is not rooted in true and right knowledge. True knowledge for salvation is rooted in the way we understand righteousness – by law or by faith. Why is Christ the end of the law for everyone who believes (v.4)?

Who is everyone? (v.4). Answer: (1) both Jews and Gentiles (v.12). This is both an ethnic thing and also God extending “the promise” out to beyond Israel (which was offered in the OT btw) (2) all levels of sinners. He says this again to show emphasis in v. 12-13.

God’s righteousness (v.3-4) is: Romans 1:17, Romans 3:20-24. It is an “alien” righteousness – from outside ourselves and is supernatural. God is active in accomplishing/giving it and we are passive in accomplishing it and simply receive it. The Jews did not submit to this knowledge.

V.5-8: The giving of the law has past. God has now consummated His saving acts in Christ.

V. 9-13: How one “get’s saved”. Paul is basing this on Deut. 30:14.

Confess with mouth Jesus as Lord: Let’s talk about the words “confess” and “Lord”.

Believe in your heart He was raised from the dead: Let’s talk about the words “believe”, “heart” and “raised from the dead” (1 Cor. 15:14).

You will be saved: Let’s talk about the words “will be”.

Summary of his argument in v. 1-11 is v.12-13. Trying to show clarity through repetition. *We are not able to establish our own righteousness through self effort.*

**Well, if this is true, then how will people hear/know this knowledge?**

### Romans 10:14-17: Preaching and Missions gets the message out and is scripture focused

1. How will anyone (Jew particularly) confess Him if they have not yet believed?
2. How are they to believe (based on true knowledge) if they have not heard it taught?
3. How are they to hear it taught if no one goes to them? Lit. “apostled”.
4. How will it be taught to them if no one is sent to them?
5. Faith (in the object of Christ) which will result in attaining righteousness. God has ordained this comes through a process - Sent, heard, believed.....via the Word of Christ.

## Romans 11:1-36

### Romans 9-10 Review:

“Paul must prove that God has done nothing in the gospel that is inconsistent with his word of promise to Israel, that the gospel he preaches is not the negation but the affirmation of God’s plan revealed in the OT” (Moo, NICNT). In 9-11, Paul will humble both sides – pride of Jews in their blood rights and pride in gentiles of their reception of the gospel over the Jews.

He is showing that it’s the “children of promise” who will receive salvation/righteousness and by grace not self-righteous works. Abraham’s family is the model here. And we have seen that Gentiles are included!

### Romans 11:1-10: There is a remnant from Israel

V. 1-5: Paul is going back to chapter 9:1-5 again. God’s promise to Israel will be fulfilled, His Word will not fail. How and Who? A: in a remnant chosen “by grace”.

**Remnant:** a small group continuing the string from the OT “children of promise”. God has and will faithfully preserve some Jews for His purposes and glory and because of His promise/character.

**Grace:** unmerited favor coming from the loving hand of God on undeserving sinners and all according to His will of decree.

V. 7-10: both “remnant” and “grace” are connected to the “elect” in verse 7. Elect here is referring to the foreknown (fore-loved) remnant who would receive salvation by grace AND those who have been hardened. Paul quotes the OT as proof.

In chap. 9: God’s purpose in election (v.11) is... to display His glory in both those who he has mercy on and those who will be judged for their sins.<sup>1</sup>

### Romans 11:11-36: Gentiles have been “grafted in” (speaking to the Gentiles here)

#### See further Acts 10.

For a time, God has sovereignly hardened the hearts of Jews to the gospel. (they have also hardened their own hearts like Pharaoh). This “unbelief” has opened a door to the Gentiles receiving it by faith (Acts 28:28). Ironically, God is doing what Israel was supposed to be doing – missions to the Gentiles!

v. 11 and 14: So as to make the Jews jealous. Why? More on this in 30-32.

Answer: There is divine intention behind this. It will open them up to desiring what they have (new covenant blessings) and to repenting of their unbelief.

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<sup>1</sup> “The question is not: why are some saved and some condemned? Everyone deserves condemnation. It is only by God’s grace that anyone is saved.” (*Nelson Study Bible*). We must remember: God owes mercy to no one, so there is no injustice on God’s part when mercy is not shown on some. Actually, it is unrighteous that God has mercy and saves anyone. This is why the doctrine of election is a “pastoral doctrine”, one that brings amazing comfort and praise.

## Romans Lesson 19

**Review of Romans chapters 1-11:** How is a sinner (Jew or Gentile) is made right with God and gets a restored relationship with him now and forever? How is God restoring the original image of God in man broken by sin?

**Answer:** Faith in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Chapter 1    | living by faith is what pleases God. People choose to live for self and will not/cannot please God.   |
| Chapter 2-3  | No one can fulfill the law in order to please God. It is only through faith in Christ (READ 3:21-24).   |
| Chapter 4    | Abraham lived by faith not the law.   |
| Chapter 5    | Death came through Adam (unfaith/sin) and Life comes through Christ (received by faith).  |
| Chapter 6    | In Christ, you are now right with God and have restored relationship with him.  |
| Chapter 7    | We now have internal wrestle between the flesh and the Spirit.  |
| Chapter 8    | The Spirit will complete the good work within you and glory is coming.  |
| Chapter 9-11 | Gentiles are believing our gospel and Jews are rejecting it. God is in this through election. The inclusion of Israel will be recovered/restored through Christ, thus seeing promises completed. Now the tree (kingdom) will be full with both Jew and Gentile. |

**Romans 12-16:** Since the gospel has accomplished this, how now shall we (Jew and Gentile Christians – the new humanity) live until we see Him in glory? (new humanity = Eph. 2:15)

**Answer:** Live a renewed-mind life through the power of the Holy Spirit.....that is one of love, submission to authorities, non-self-righteousness, thinking of others and unity in the body of Christ. Christ modelled all of this for us. **READ 2 Cor. 5:15, 1 Cor. 6:20.**

**Romans 12:1-8 (READ IT):**

**Verses 1-2: THE HINGE.**

“Therefore” = what is it there for? Paul is saying, ok, take all that I have argued for in chapters 1-11 and now this is how we should live because of it. Be not just knowers of the word but doers.

## Romans 12:9-21

### Outline

Genuine Love Directs the Transformed Mind and Presented Body-Life (12:9-21)

#### **Let love be without hypocrisy**

- I. Genuine Love Directed Within the Church Towards Itself (12:9-13)
  - A. The Transformed Mind in Love Includes Opposing Affinities (12:9b)  
**Abhor the evil thing**  
**Cling to the good thing**
  - B. The Presented Body Life Includes Tender Affections (12:10)  
**Have heartfelt devotion in brother love towards one another**  
**Lead one another in honor**
  - C. The Transformed Mind in Love Excludes Inward Hesitation (12:11a)  
**Never Be Hesitant in Earnestness**  
**Be fervent in the Spirit**
  - D. The Presented Body Life In Love Includes Outward Submission (12:11b)  
**Serve the Lord**
  - E. The Transformed Mind in Love Includes a Heavenly Goal (12:12a)  
**Rejoice in hope**
  - F. The Presented Body Life in Love Includes Earthly Endurance (12:12b)  
**Be Patient In Tribulation**  
**Be Constant in Prayer**
  - G. The Transformed Mind in Love Includes Responsibility In Brotherly Needs (12:13a)  
**Have a Share in the needs of the saints**
  - H. The Presented Body Life in Love Includes Responsibility in Foreigner's Wellbeing (12:13b)  
**Seek to show hospitality**
- II. Genuine Love Directed From the Church Towards Its Enemies (12:14-20)
  - A. The Transformed Mind in Love Reverses Opposing Affinities For Aggressors (12:14)  
**Bless those who are persecuting you**  
**Bless and never curse**
  - B. The Presented Body Life in Love Expands Tender Affection With Aggressors (12:15)  
**Rejoice with those rejoicing**

## Romans Lesson 21

### Romans 13:1-7

#### Review:

1. Because God has saved us by faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone and we are in union with Him now, WHAT DOES A RENEWED-MIND LIFE LOOK LIKE (Rom. 12:1-2)?
2. First: Humility in response to the varied gifts God gives in the church.
3. Second: Love toward one another and our enemies.

This leads us to the next group of people in society Paul wants the Christians to relate to under the influence of the Gospel.....

#### **THIRD: Submission to Governing Authorities (understood as non-resistance and non-violence)**

An underlying theme: God's Kingdom is to be one of peace and order (slow restoration of the image of God in man/society in Genesis 1-2).

#### Historical Context:

- a. Romans written around 57 AD.
- b. Written to the Christians in Rome (both Jews and Gentiles).
- c. In Rome, there was the worship of multiple gods, the one true God and emperor worship at the time.
- d. Roman governing authority = Huge at the time. The Caesar was Nero.
  - a. No strong persecution yet, but in pockets. Jews particularly had to be cautious. Large scale persecutions on Christians by citizens and government coming in the next 1-200 years. This included everything from social to judicial consequences.
  - b. Examples: (1) 64AD was the great fire in Rome. Nero blamed Christians and large scale persecutions of various sorts broke out on them, including government punishments. (2) Bishops and other Christian leaders became targets and often executed. (3) Christianity's "exclusivist" stance may have been the greatest cause of persecution.

In light of these few facts, Paul tells the Christians there (AND US TODAY!) that.....

#### **SHOW WEDNESDAY WORD VIDEO (July 15<sup>th</sup>).**

#### Key Points:

1. God establishes governing authorities: v. 1, 2. (OT example is Dan. 4:17)
2. Government is God's servant for good: v. 4, 6.
3. For God's name sake and our conscience, we should do what's right: v. 5, 7.

## Romans 13:8-14

### Outline

#### **The Transformed Mind is Renewed When It Accepts that Divine Law is fulfilled through Love-Debt (13:8-10)**

- I. Love is commanded as the Only Debt Permitted to be ongoing in the Church (13:8a)
- II. The practice of consistent love has completed the intention of law (13:8b)
- III. Love of neighbor is the summation of any and all law (13:9)
- IV. Love utilizes no evil for the neighbor's advantage (13:10a)
- V. Therefore, Love is the act of fulfilling the specifications of law (13:10b)

#### **A Presented Body is a Holy and Acceptable Worship Offering When it Proves the Will of God in Salvation (13:11-14)**

- I. A Worshipful Offering Proves the Will of God in Obedience Now in light of the Holy End of Salvation Then (13:11-12)
  - A. The Time of Revealed Holy Obedience is Now (13:11a)
  - B. The Time of Completed Transformation in Salvation Draws Near (13:11b)
  - C. The Period of Flesh's Destructive Dominance Has Permanently Passed (13:12a)
  - D. The Period of Deity's Full Deliverance is Dawning (13:12b)
  - E. The Pledge as Witness is Seen in Permanent Removal of Deeds Fit for the Passed Period (13:12c)
  - F. The Purpose as Warrior is Seen in Readiness of Revealed Righteousness (13:12d)
- II. A Worshipful Offering Proves the Will of God by exchanging practices for the Holy End of Salvation Then (13:13-14)
  - A. The Walk of Obedience includes practices that are fit for the future holy time (13:13a)
  - B. The Walk of Obedience excludes practices that are fit for the passed evil time (13:13b)
  - C. The Wearing of Holiness includes practices that are fit for the coming holy person (13:14a)

## Romans Lesson 23

### Romans 14:1-12

#### Review:

1. Because God has saved us by faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone and we are in union with Him now, WHAT DOES A RENEWED-MIND LIFE LOOK LIKE (Rom. 12:1-2)?
2. First: Humility in response to the varied gifts God gives in the church.
3. Second: Love toward one another and our enemies.
4. Third: Submission to governing authorities.
5. Fourth: The law is fulfilled and our salvation is proved by our love.

**Remember, the underlying theme:** *God's Kingdom is to be one of peace and order through the restorative work of the gospel – particularly in the ethnically/culturally diverse Roman church. This is the slow restoration of the image of God in man/society in Genesis 1-2.*

**Fifth: That we do not pass judgement on one another in the body of Christ.**

#### How are we guilty of passing judgement on one another in the body of Christ [examples]?

1. Eating (v.1-3, 6).
  - a. Background: Jews expected Gentile converts to follow the Jewish food laws in the OT (Lev. 11:44-45). Paul's gospel now breaks this down in the New Covenant. Thus, this a Jewish convert pastoral problem. Also, Gentiles also found Jewish food laws to be strange/legalistic. Paul's gospel now calls for love toward those who have different convictions. Thus, this is a Gentile convert pastoral problem. "One of the subjects often discussed at Roman dinner parties was 'why don't Jews eat pork?'" Paul says each group should welcome one another together in fellowship but not for the purpose of quarreling over differences<sup>1</sup>. See further – Acts 2:46, chapter 10.

"weak in faith" (v. 1) – faith falters caused by some threat to it. May be young in belief. Remember, how the gospel really blew the minds of both Jews and Gentiles. This took some time to adapt.

2. Special days (v. 5-6).
  - a. Background: The precise time and observation of Jewish festivals was very important to Jews. They were consecrated as devotion to God. Gentiles, also

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<sup>1</sup> NT Wright translates v.13 (which we are not covering today) as: If you want to exercise your judgement, do so on this question: how to avoid placing obstacles and stumbling blocks in front of a fellow family member? Cool!

## **Romans 14 Theme**

**Unity in Christ for Building Up in Love does not demand Uniformity of Conscience and Practice in the Providential Graces of the Lord:**

### **Romans 14:13-23**

**Instruction to Those Who Want to Partake Freely in Providences Without Regard for a Brother**

1. Neither condemn nor despise any longer, rather be mindful of your behavior (14:13)
  - A. Behavior can bruise another with intentional offense
  - B. Behavior can entrap another in demolishing sin
  
2. Be mindful of your behavior in light of it causing another in offense (14:14-21)
  - A. Your behavior can cause permanent regret to a brother (14:15a)
  - B. Your behavior can be outside the greatest command to walk in love (14:15b)
  - C. Your behavior can destroy the PERSON for whom Christ died (14:15c)
  - D. Your behavior can result in the things you regard as good blasphemed (14:16)
  - E. Your behavior can miss the effects of the Holy Spirit at work in Kingdom life (14:17)
    - i. Kingdom life is not centered on uniformity in matters of earthly provisions (14:17a)
    - ii. Kingdom life is centered on unity in matters of heavenly provisions (14:17b)
  - F. Your behavior requires both divine and filial acceptability (14:18)
  - G. Your behavior can intentionally and freely build up the whole church (14:19)
    - i. It is a pursuit
    - ii. It is regarding a wide range of earthly provisions
    - iii. Its goal is for unhindered fellowship for reconciliation in love.
    - iv. Its goal is for reciprocal fellowship for edification in love.
  
3. Be mindful for your behavior in light of it entrapping another in sin (14:20-23)
  - A. Your behavior can intentionally demolish the WORK of God to establish the law of love in His kingdom (14:20a)



## Romans Lesson 25

### Romans 15:1-13

#### Review:

1. Because God has saved us by faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone and we are in union with Him now, WHAT DOES A RENEWED-MIND LIFE LOOK LIKE (Rom. 12:1-2)?
2. First: Humility in response to the varied gifts God gives in the church.
3. Second: Love toward one another and our enemies.
4. Third: Submission to governing authorities.
5. Fourth: The law is fulfilled and our salvation is proved by our love.
6. Fifth: That we do not pass judgement on one another in the body of Christ (lesson 23-24).

**Remember, the underlying theme:** *God's Kingdom is to be one of peace and order through the restorative work of the gospel – particularly in the ethnically/culturally diverse Roman church. This is the slow restoration of the image of God in man/society in Genesis 1-2.*

**Sixth: Christ died for the unity of the body and he is our model of other-centered living.**

- 1. The High Priestly Prayer of Jesus (John 17:20-26 particularly).**
  - a. That God and Jesus may be glorified – 7x.
  - b. That the church may be unified – 8x.
  - c. Jesus prayed this about 25 years earlier.
- 2. The work of the Word of God and the Spirit of God over 2000 years.**
  - a. Roman church: New converts from very different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds living together in close quarters in a mega city. Think: strong American, Christian Patriots and strong Iraqi Muslim Patriots coming together to live and worship in love and unity. Wow, a pastoral problem I'm sure.
  - b. Over 2000 years, the completed NT canon and the Spirit of God through local churches have done A LOT to improve these issues Paul writes about in Romans 14-15.
- 3. READ 14:13-23. Then READ 15:1-12.**
- 4. 15:1-4: For the strong in faith, our reason for being mindful of our behavior and the weak in faith is that we are not here to please ourselves anymore.**
  - a. When we are focused on ourselves, or flaunting our freedoms in Christ, we are, well, still living for our own glory. This is contrary to the effect of Christ's death for us and God's work in us (14:15, 20). Ps. 69:9 is quoted.
  - b. V. 1,3 "please ourselves, please himself" – effort for self good to the detriment of another or without regard for another.

# **Paul's Confidence in the Prophetic Fulfillment of Worldwide Church Expansion Upon and Through the Roman Church: Part 1**

## **The Plan Announced**

### **Romans 15:14-33**

- I. Paul's Confidence in the Gracious Store of Obedience from the Roman Christians (15:14)
  - A. Confidence in their rich supply of goodness (15:14a)
  - B. Confidence in their abundance overflow of knowledge (15:14b)
  - C. Confident in their continued instruction of each other (15:14c)
  
- II. Paul's Confidence in his own Proven Faithfulness to the fulfilment to His Commission (15:15-22)
  - A. Confidence in His Written Reminders (15:15a)
  - B. Confidence in His Apostolic Commission by Grace (15:15b)
  - C. Confidence in His Service Towards Gentiles (15:16a)
  - D. Confidence in His Priestly Proclaiming of the Victory of the Christ (15:16b)
  - E. Confidence in His Acceptable Sacrifice being Divinely Sanctified (15:16c)
  - F. Confidence in His Exultation in His Authenticated Work for Christ (15:17-21)
    1. By Christ Through Him Saving the Gentiles (15:18a)
    2. Through Word and Deed (15:18b)
    3. Through Sign and Wonder (15:19a)
    4. Through Power of the Spirit (15:19b)
    5. Through His Full Proclamation to the Corners of the Empire (15:19c)
    6. Through His Laying New Foundations in the Name of Christ (15:20)
    7. In His Ministry Fulfilling Scriptural Pronouncements (15:21)
  - G. Confidence in His Excuse for a Delayed Visit (15:22)
  
- III. Paul's Confidence in the Prophetic Expansion of the Gospel of the Kingdom in the future work (15:23-33)
  - A. Confidence In His Geographical Freedom (15:23a)
  - B. Confidence in His Internal Desire for Fellowship (15:23b)
  - C. Confidence In His Announced Mission to Spain (15:24a)
  - D. Confidence in His Expectation of Permanent Support from Roman Saints (15:24b)

## Romans Lesson 27

### Romans 16:1-27

#### Review:

1. Because God has saved us by faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone and we are in union with Him now, WHAT DOES A RENEWED-MIND LIFE LOOK LIKE (Rom. 12:1-2)?
2. First: Humility in response to the varied gifts God gives in the church.
3. Second: Love toward one another and our enemies.
4. Third: Submission to governing authorities.
5. Fourth: The law is fulfilled and our salvation is proved by our love.
6. Fifth: That we do not pass judgement on one another in the body of Christ (lesson 23-24).
7. Sixth: Christ died for the unity of the body and he is our model of other-centered living.
8. Seventh: Confidence that God will see the church expand worldwide (and it has).

**Remember, the underlying theme:** *God's Kingdom is to be one of peace and order through the restorative work of the gospel – particularly in the ethnically/culturally diverse Roman church. This is the slow restoration of the image of God in man/society in Genesis 1-2.*

**Eighth: Paul could have never done this alone. He deeply appreciates his co-laborers.**

1. Paul hits hard on theology in chapters 1-11.
2. Paul hits hard on unity and love in chapters 12-15.
3. Paul closes with deep appreciation for his co-laborers in chapter 16.

#### His co-laborers in general:

- Writing to the Christians and church leaders in Rome.
- He says hi to and shows appreciation for 26 co-laborers listed here! Since it says “greet”, we must assume that the church body and church leaders would be able to pass this onto these folks personally. Thus, they were likely co-laborers in and around Rome or who come to Rome or have ongoing communication with the Roman church leaders to some degree.
- At least 3 are mentioned in other epistles.
- Both men and women are listed. This was a big deal. About a third were women.
- Some young and some old. Some newer in the faith and some mature.
- Some goers and some stay-at-homers.
- A mixture of Jews and Gentiles.
- Slave and free. Most were slaves or former slaves.
- Rich and poor.
- Most churches met in homes or storefronts.
- Most people illiterate. Depended on literate people to read and teach them the gospels and letters of Paul. Many of these were likely literate to some degree.