

# THE BOOK OF ROMANS

The Book of Romans is the "Magna Carta" of The New Testament.

Martin Luther said,

"The Book of Romans is of such great importance that every Christian should memorize the book word for word!"

# INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Martin Luther, the great reformer, spoke of the book of Romans and said, "The book of Romans is the most important book in the entire Bible to Christians." He said the book of Romans was so important that every Christian should memorize the book of Romans "word for word."

The Book of Romans is the "Magna Carta" of the New Testament.

The Book of Romans is the "Great Charter" of the New Testament.

The human penman of the book of Romans is the apostle Paul. However, Paul did not found the church in Rome. This will become more and more important as we study the book of Romans. Paul had never been to Rome - he had never visited the church in Rome before. With the exception of possibly 3-4-5 people the Christians in the church in Rome had never seen his face and he had never seen their face. The small exceptions were people who had met or known Paul in other cities, but had later moved to Rome. Others had only heard of the apostle Paul. They had heard how, in times past, he had persecuted the church. They had also heard that he had been converted to Christ, and now preached the Gospel that he once persecuted.

Before we begin our study of the book of Romans, there are a couple of things that are of great interest to which we need to direct our attention. Of all of the books of the New Testament that were written by Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, there are two books that stand out. Paul stands alone as the writer of the book of Romans and also the book of Ephesians. In all the other letters written by Paul, he always included some other person, or people, as being present when he penned that particular book. For example: Paul began the second epistle of Corinthians in this manner. "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia."

It is reasonable to believe that Paul did this for the following reason: Romans is the main book in the New Testament that deals with salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the means of salvation. Paul is the only person who received this message as a direct revelation from God (see Galatians 1: 15-24). The book of Ephesians is the "alps" of the New Testament and contains the highest form of New Testament church truths and Christian life. Therefore, Paul, humanly speaking, states, "I take full responsibility for the contents of these two books!"

# THE THEME OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS

# The Righteousness of God (Romans 1:17).

# THE OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS

Romans has five sections. All five sections have a doctrinal and a practical application.

The Introduction: (Romans 1:1 – Romans 1:17).
The Doctrinal: (Romans 1:18 – 8:39).
The National: (Romans 9:1 – 11:36).
The Practical: (Romans 12:1 – 15:13).
The Conclusion: (Romans 15:14 – 16:27)

We will not study the book of Romans, verse by verse; rather, we shall elucidate the book of Romans and seek to cover the main points from this book which are important to us today. Paul clearly had a primary goal in the first eight chapters of the book of Romans. That goal was to prove that all men are sinners and guilty before God. When we say "all men," this includes both Jew and Gentile. You see, the Jews did not consider themselves to be sinners like the Gentiles.

Their boast was in the law, found in Romans 2:23. Along with the goal of proving that all men are sinners and guilty before God, Paul's goal was to prove that the doctrine of **grace through faith** is the only way through which a person can be saved. Keep in mind that the Jews detested the cross of Christ.

The Jews were known to have referred to the cross of Christ as a bloody religion. They greatly resisted Paul and the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ - that men were saved by **grace through faith**. In the following eight chapters Paul **proved**, without a doubt, that salvation is: (1) Not by works, (2) Not by religion, and, (3) Not by the law.

**Romans 1:1-4** 

# PAUL'S INTRODUCTION OF HIMSELF TO THOSE AT ROME

**Introduction:** Martin Luther said, "Romans is the Greatest Book in the Bible."

"It is the Master-Piece of the New Testament."

"Every Christian should memorize it "word for word."

**Human Penman of Romans:** Paul did not found the church in Rome. (This will be important later in the lesson.)

Paul had never been to the church in Rome, but desired to visit them

**NOTE OF INTEREST:** Paul stands alone as the human penman of this book! **Romans** and **Ephesians** are the only two books that Paul wrote to "churches," where he stands alone as the penman. In all of the other "church epistles," Paul included someone besides himself in the opening verse. (**Example: I Corinthians 1:1** "Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, unto the church….").

**The reasonable reason:** Romans is the main book in the New Testament that deals with Salvation by Grace through Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as the means of salvation. Paul is the ONLY person to receive that message as a direct revelation from God (Galatians 1:15-24). The book of Ephesians is the "alps" of the New Testament and contains the highest form of New Testament Church truth and Christian life, more than any other book in the Bible. Therefore, humanly speaking, Paul takes full responsibility for the contents of these two books!

**Theme of the book:** The Righteousness of God (Romans 1:17).

(God is righteous – fair – just - in all that He does.)

Outline of the Book: Five Sections: (All five have a doctrinal and practical application.)

1. Introduction (Romans 1:1-1:17).
2. Doctrinal (Romans 1:18 – 8:39).
3. National – Israel (Romans 9:1 – 11:36).
4. Practical (Romans 12:1 – 15:13).

5. Conclusion (Romans 15:14 – End of Book)

We will not study Romans, "verse-by-verse" - - - - We will cover the main points of the book.

**Today:** Paul's primary goal - Chapters 1-8 is:

- A. To prove that all men are sinners and guilty before God (Both Jew and Gentile).
  - 1. Jews did not consider themselves sinners Boasted in the law (Romans 2:23).
- B. To prove that the Doctrine of Faith (Grace), is the only way to be saved.
  - 1. Jews detested the Cross.
  - 2. Jews called it a "bloody" Religion.
    - a. It was greatly resisted in that day by the Jews, who trusted in the Law.
    - b. Considered a "bloody" religion.

c. The Cross was offensive to people.

Paul will establish/**prove** that salvation was:

(1) Not by works (2) Not by religion (3) Not by law

Paul Considered Himself a Slave: - "Doulos" - A Bond Salve (Verse 1)
The Scriptures point out "three things" that considered Paul the World's Greatest Christian.

### I. Paul had a Master!

- A. Rome practiced slavery Paul used this as an example Rome had over six million slaves.
  - 1. Two types of slavery:
    - a. Douleous Forced slave
    - b. Doulos bond slave (Servant by his own will or choice.)
  - 2. Slavery is not "bad" if you have a "good" Master.
    - a. Master provides: housing, food, clothing, medicine, EVERYTHING!
- B. Paul knew that he had been Purchased and he gladly accepted that truth.
  - 1. Wholly to the Lord No right to use his life or abilities for any other purpose.
- C. Every person is a slave Lost or saved.
  - 1. Lost people are "slaves" to sin.

(John 8:30-34)

- a. Saved people were slaves to sin before salvation. (Eph. 2:1-5)
- 2. Saved people are "slaves" to righteousness.

(**I Corinthians 6:19-20**)

- a. Some are not a bond-slave won't yield.
- (Romans 6:16).

- b. Cannot serve both masters.
- (Matthew 6:24) (James 1:8)
- 3. Christ directed his disciples to consider themselves His slaves.
  - a. Matthew 20:27
  - b. Colossians 4:12
  - c. Acts 4:23 & 29

**Are You a Servant???** 

- D. How do you know if you are a true "servant" (bond-slave) of Jesus Christ?
  - 1. Mind of Christ (I Corinthians 1:16):
    - a. Thinks like Christ thinks (Phil 2:5-8).
    - b. Wants what Christ wants (Matthew 6:33 & John 12:26).
    - c. Asks for what Christ wants you to ask for (James 4:3).
    - d. Do what Christ wants you to do (Romans 12:1-2).
      - 1. John 8:29 "I do ALWAYS those things that please him."
- E. The great privilege of being a "bond-slave" of Christ John 15:15 No greater privilege than be called, by Christ, "a friend."

#### **GUIDE:**

If you please the Lord, it doesn't matter whom you displease. If you don't please the Lord, it doesn't matter whom you do please.

F. Acts 9:6 records Paul's salvation experience – WATCH!
He immediately asked, "What would you have me do?"

#### II. Paul had a Mission

- A. Paul was called (Kietos) to be an Apostle (Romans 1:1).
  - 1. Apostle: One sent on a Mission (Delegate Ambassador Commissioner).
  - 2. Paul did not "DECIDE" he was going on a Mission.

He was CALLED – He was appointed – He was serious about his calling. **ILLUSTRATED: Genesis 24:9, 27, 33-34** – Eliezer would not eat until he had told his mission.

- B. Christians are "called" (Kietos) appointed by God (Romans 1:6).
  - 1. Called to the same "mission" as Paul (Verse 5 makes this clear.)
    - a. John 15:16 "You have not chosen me. I have chosen you..."
    - b. You are called just as much as I am called.
    - c. "Called" to be a servant <u>a bond slave</u> of Jesus Christ.

If you won't submit – Masters are under no obligation to provide for you.

- C. Christian's Calling:
  - 1. Not all called to be a preacher.
  - 2. Not all called to be a missionary.
  - 3. Not all called to be a minister of music.
    - a. Everyone is called to take a message to the nations (Acts 1:8).
    - b. Everyone has a gift (I Peter 4:10).
    - c. Everyone is called to minister (I Corinthians 12:7) Entire chapter.
- D. Paul's salvation experience is recorded in Acts 9:5-6.
  - 1. Immediately asked: "What would thou have me to do?"
  - 2. Later said, "I was not disobedient to the Heavenly vision" (Acts 26:19).
- E. God transformed His greatest enemy into His greatest Christian.

God can do the same for you and me.

### III. Paul had a Message:

- A. Separated **UNTO** the Gospel. (Many have lost their way.)
  - 1. Not separated unto:
    - a. Social work
    - b. Entertainment
    - c. Not to a "good cause"
  - 2. Separated unto "The Gospel of God." (THIS IS OUR BUSINESS AND OUR ONLY BUSINESS.)

The Whole Counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

- B. Separated FROM the world is not worth anything unless "one is" separated UNTO Psalms 1:1-3.
  - 1. Every person is "separated unto something!"
  - 2. Listen to their talk and you will immediately learn what they are "separated to!"
- C. Everything a Christian does should be for the cause of Christ.

**Example**: William Carey

Some businessmen had heard about Wm Carey. One day they saw him and asked him about his business. He responded, "My business is preaching the Gospel." They said, "Oh, yes, we've heard that you are going to India as a missionary, but what is your business?" Again he responded,

"My business is preaching the Gospel." As they started to ask the question again, Carey interrupted and said, "Do you want to know what I do to make money?" They said, "Yes." He said, "I cobble shoes, but I only work at cobbling shoes to make money to finance my real business – preaching the Gospel."

# **Four Things About the Message**

# 1. God, not man, provided the message - (Romans 1:1).

- A. God provided the "good news." You and I are "news boys."
- B. That frightens many of us going door to door or witnessing. (WHY? we have a message from God!
  - 1. I'm too dumb to preach anything but the Gospel.
  - 2. I'm too smart to preach anything but the Gospel.

Jeremiah 23:29 - Word like fire – hammer – No need to be intimidated!

- 3. The only book in the world that has all answers to all questions for all people.
- C. It would scare me to death to get up here and teach or lecture you.
  - 1. Many of you are smarter than I am lawyers doctors, etc.
    - a. Many here smarter than I am.
    - b. BUT I have the Gospel provided by GOD!
    - c. I have a Book that has all the answers.
    - d. The book comes WITH the Holy Spirit. (He will guide you: John 14:26).

# 2. Prophets foretold the Message (Romans 1:2).

A. The Gospel can be preached from the Old Testament.

All 66 books contain the Gospel.

The New is in the Old concealed – The Old is in the New revealed.

The New is in the Old contained – The Old is in the New explained.

The New is in the Old foreknown – The Old is in the New full-known.

- B. The Gospel was preached by Moses.
  - 1. Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures". (They had only the Old Testament.) "They testify of ME!" (John 5:39).
  - 2. "Moses spoke of me." (John 5:45-47)
  - 3. Where? **Deut. 18:15** –
  - 4. Confirmed Acts 3:22-26
  - 5. "Beginning at Moses...." (Luke 24:25-27)

# 3. Jesus Declared the Message - (Romans 1:3-4).

A. Made of the seed of David – Flesh.

**John 1:14** – "made flesh and dwelt among us."

- B. Declared to be THE SON OF GOD.
  - a. Not part man and part God.
  - b. Not half man and half God.
  - c. All man All God.

d. Totally Man – totally Deity.

# 4. The Resurrection Proves the Message (Romans 1:4).

- A. IF he were still in the grave No Hope!
- B. He is Alive (Hebrews 7:25).
- C. At the right-hand of God Making intercession for US!

**Romans 1:5-11** 

# AN EXAMPLE OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

**Intro:** Paul introduced himself in Verse One.

He now proceeds to tell the Christians at Rome a little about himself.

Keep in mind: Paul had never visited the church in Rome.

He knew possibly 4-5 people from other places who had moved to Rome!

Apart from that 4-5, Paul had never met others in the church.

Others had never seen Paul's face.

They had "heard" how he persecuted the church – now he is preaching.

#### I. The Purpose of Paul's Life

- A. Paul continues to introduce himself
  - 1. Paul states the "primary purpose" of his life (Verse 5)

Being obedient to the Faith. (Includes EVERYTHING in the Word of God.)

- 2. Obedience should be the "primary purpose of every Christian (I Samuel 15:22).
- B. Paul received two things:
  - 1. Apostleship
    - a. He was called We are called (Verse 6)
    - b. He was given a mission (Assignment).
  - 2. Grace Provided ALL that he needed to carry out the mission (Assignment).
    - a. Christ is "made unto us" (I Corinthians 1:30).

**Example:** Where God guides – God provides (Always).

#### II. The People about Whom Paul was concerned (Romans 1:7).

- A. Christians in Rome. Paul had never been to Rome Did not know Christians in Rome.
  - 1. Rome was the most wicked city in the world at that time.
    - a. If you can be a Christian in Rome You can be a Christian in Memphis.
  - 2. Paul called them **"Beloved." Verse 7 (Strong word.)** 
    - a. God so loved the world.... (God **NEVER** calls the people of the world, "beloved".
    - b. God calls his own children, "Beloved." (You are special to God.)
  - 3. Paul called them "saints".
    - a. Not, "called to be saints." Words "to be" are not in Greek.
    - b. You became a saint when you were saved.

Your sins were washed away – cleansed from all unrighteousness.

Greek (Hagios) = pure, morally blameless, consecrated, holy.

c. Catholic church: Makes saints???

Has a Devil's Advocate – Finds out all the bad things the person has done. His own advocates - Find all the good things the person has done.

If good outweighs the bad – they make him/her a Saint!

I'm glad I don't have a "Devil's advocate." He would find a lot of bad!!!

#### III. The Pattern of Paul's Prayers (Romans 1:8) – Intercessory (Three things)

- A. To God
  - 1. I thank "my" God... (Personal Not just "God".)

**Ephesians 1:16; Philippians 1:3; Colossians 1:3;** 

I Thess 1:2 (Expresses Thanksgiving!)

- B. Through Christ (Romans 1:8)
  - 1. In Jesus' Name.... **John 14:13-14** 
    - a. No prayer in the Bible ends, "We pray in Jesus' name."
    - b. It doesn't mean you can get anything you want by saying, "In Jesus Name."
    - c. It means: "For His Glory."
    - d. Sometimes we "ask amiss" (for ourselves). James 4:3.
    - e. II Corinthians 1:20 All promises "yea," and... "Amen" for His glory.
- C. For Others (Romans 1:8) - "For you all...."
  - 1. Most praying is: "Me and mine, us four, and no more!"
    - a. Paul did not start the church in Rome.
    - b. Paul had never been to Rome.
    - c. Paul had never met any of those Christians in Rome.
    - d. Paul had only "heard about them."
  - 2. Paul was burdened for the people at Rome. (NOT FOR HIMSELF.)
    - a. Much praying today is for our self!

**Examples:** Girl prays: "My mother badly needs a son-in-law."

Wife Prays: "Please save my husband." – may want a better life for herself.

a. Okay to pray for personal needs (Hebrews 4:16).

#### IV. The Characteristics of Paul's Prayer - His prayers were:

- A. Selfless Prayer (Romans 1:8) For people he had never met, but had heard of their faith!
  - 1. How often do we pray for Christians in Mexico? People we have never seen.
- B. Secret Prayer (Romans 1:9) (Matthew 6:6 "Closet" prayer).
  - 1. Called of God to be his witness He prayed in secret private alone.
    - a. We should not pray to impress others.
    - b. Spend much time with God alone in prayer.
  - 2. People who pray long prayers in public are most likely "catching up."
  - 3. John 11:6: Jesus waited and prayed for two days when he heard Lazarus was dead.
    - a. When he arrived, His prayer consisted of 43 words (John11:42-43).
  - 4. I Kings 18:36: Elijah spent three years by the Brook Cherith and Zaraphath.
    - a. Prayed 63 words and called down fire from Heaven.
- C. Spiritual Prayer (Romans 1:9) "...with my spirit."
  - 1. God is a Spirit Worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:12).
  - 2. We communicate with God through our spirit (I Cor. 2:11).

- 3. Jude 20 "Praying in the spirit."
- 4. The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us in the will of God (Romans 8:26).
- D. Steadfast Prayer (Romans 1:9) "Without ceasing."
  - 1. Acts 12:5 "Without ceasing."
    - a. Luke 18:2 The unjust Judge.
    - b. Luke 11:5 Importunity.
- E. Surrendered Prayer (Romans 1:10) Visit them "by any means."
  - 1. When you pray you must be willing to be part of the answer!
    - a. Little did Paul know that he would go to Rome 2 years later.
    - b. Paul's prayer was answered and he went to Rome –as a prisoner (Acts 27).
- F. Specific Prayer (Romans 1:11) Requested, that He might visit Rome...
  - 1. Heard of their need.
  - 2. Wanted to Help.
  - 3. Prayed "specifically."

Not just, "God bless everyone."

4. Be specific!

Acts 12:5 "Prayer was made – without ceasing – by the church – FOR HIM!"

**Romans 1:11-16** 

# THREE GREAT I AM'S

**Intro:** Things that really matter in life

Paul list "Three I am's"

1. "I am a Debtor" Vs 14
2. "I am Ready" Vs 15
3. "I am Not Ashamed" Vs 16

### I. I am a Debtor (Romans 1:12)

A. To whom was Paul a debtor?

- 1. To the Lord Jesus Christ - - From the day of his salvation (Acts 9:5-6).
  - a. Verse 1 A bond-slave

He had been purchased – I Corinthians 6:19-20

When you are purchased – there is a debt to pay (Psalms 40:1-3-See: – Trust).

- 2. To the Great Men of the Past.
  - a. Men burned at the stake.
    - 1. John Huss 1415 AD Burned regarding Whitcliff Bible.
    - 2. Michael Servantus 1693 AD Disagreed with Calvin on "Whosoever Will."
  - b. Two women tied to stakes in Wigtown Bay and left for the tide to come in and drown.
    - 1. Margaret McLachlan 1685
    - 2. Margret Wilson 1685 Both for their testimony for Christ.
  - c. Men who served and handed the baton to us.

Moody – Andrew Murray – Spurgeon – A. Jordon

- 3. To those who have never heard the Gospel (I Corinthians 15:34).
  - a. Greeks The "up and out"
  - b. The Barbarians The "down and out"
  - c. All in between!
- 4. Paul stated: "I am pure from the blood of all men" (Acts 20:26).
  - a. A Christian who won't witness is like a doctor who won't write a prescription.

# II. I am Ready (Romans 1:15)

- A. Ready to Serve
  - 1. Most Christians "intend" to witness at some time!
    - a. Every Christian has the ability to be used of God to witness.
      - 1. Availability
      - 2. Dependability
- B. Ready to Give
  - 1. Almost all Christians see in the "dot" in the center of a blank page (Themselves!)

John 4:35 "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields" - Plural! Fields

2. Luke 6:38 – "Give and it shall be given..."

The Results comprise good reasons - (II Corinthians 10:15-16).

- C. Ready to Go
  - 1. Every Christian should be "ready to go."
  - 2. Paul was called of God (Acts 13:1-3).
    - a. Paul chose Silas he went (Acts 15:40) b. Paul chose Timothy – he went (Acts 16:1-3) c. Paul chose John Mark – he went (II Timothy 4:11)
- D. Ready to Die II Timothy 4:6 -7 Ready to be offered....
  - 1. Paul said, "I die daily." (I Corinthians 15:31)
    - a. Galatians 2:20
  - 2. We are not ready to live until we are ready to die.

**Story:** A little brother and his sister:

Sister had need of a blood transfusion.

Little brother was a perfect match – Parents told him his sister would die.

He agreed – During transfusion, He said, "How long before I die?"

**QUESTION:** Am I ready to "pay my debt?"

#### III. I am not Ashamed (Romans 1:16)

- A. He was not ashamed of the **Person of the Gospel.** 
  - 1. In Paul's day death on the cross was shameful!
    - a. Christianity was called a "bloody religion."
  - 2. Paul was not ashamed to be identified with the cross or the blood of Christ.
    - a. He marched under the "blood-stained banner."
- B. He was not ashamed of the **Purpose of the Cross.** 
  - 1. Rome was "Sin City" The Las Vegas of today.
    - a. Refused to get side-tracked on social issues.

You can persuade a person to be against Sodomy and still not be a Christian.

Get a person to be a Christian – he/she will be against Sodomy.

- b. Social issues will take care of themselves.
- C. He was not ashamed of the **Power of the Gospel.** 
  - 1. Means authority here it means Dynamite!

a. Power to change "Drunks to Disciples." b. Power to change "Peddlers to Preachers."

"Teller of lies to Teachers of Truth." c. Power to change

d. Power to change "Sinners to Saints."

- 2. **NOTHING** else can do that! It changed my life!
- D. He was not ashamed of the **Plan of the Gospel.** 
  - 1. It is for "whosoever" will. The only Perfect and Fair plan in the universe!
  - 2. God planned it so anyone anywhere can be saved.
    - a. NO BETTER PLAN NO SIMPLER PLAN THE FAIRER PLAN
  - 3. God could have said:
    - a. It's simple run around the block and be saved. What about a cripple?

- b. It's simple read one chapter in the Bible and be saved. Blind can't read.
- c. It's simple listen to a five-minute Gospel song and be saved. Deaf can't hear
- d. It's simple be baptized and be saved Some are over 500 miles from water

**Romans 1:17 – 32** 

# WHAT HAPPENS TO THE HEATHEN?

Intro: From this point through Romans 3:19-20 Paul has an agenda!

A. He is set to prove that "....all the world is guilty before God!"

Romans 3:9 – Paul states he has PROVEN all guilty!

**Intro:** What Happens to Those Who Have Never Heard the Gospel?

Are they Lost and will they go to Hell?

Are they Saved or Safe and will they go to Heaven?

If so, is there another way to go to Heaven?

ONLY WAY - John 14:6

ALL MEN are accountable!

## I All Men Everywhere Have Light

(Light is interpreted in the Bible as: "enlighten Spiritual").

- A. Paul calls the witness of Creation to prove that all men have spiritual light.
  - 1. Creation: Vs. 18 Wrath, Vs. 19 Why, Vs. 20 How? God showed it unto them).
    - a. Creation has stamp "Made by God". (Psalms 19:1-3)
    - b. Creation Creator (If you have a watch, you have to have a watch maker)
    - c. Evolutionist theory: Nothing +Nobody = Everything
  - 2. People say: I can look at creation/nature and worship God.
    - a. The heathen know there is "a God" by creation.
    - b. But, it has only produced head-hunters and Cannibalism
      - 1 Offers no solution for sin
      - 2. Makes no mention of a Saviour
      - 3. Nature has a voice no heart
      - 4. Nature knows nothing of forgiveness
- B. Paul calls the witness of Conscience: Romans 2:14-15
  - 1. God is manifested in them
    - a. How many knew there was a God before being saved?
  - 2. Conscience tells a person he/she is a sinner
    - a. It gives no solution to the "sin" problem.
    - c. It makes no mention of a Saviour.
    - d. It knows nothing of forgiveness

# **II** What Happens When They Reject the Light?

- A. Their spiritual <u>understanding is darkened</u> (Romans 1:19-20)
- B. Applies to us today: God doesn't run a cafeteria line!
  - 1. You cannot "pick and choose" what you want to obey.
- C. II Thess. 2:9-11 Jehovah Witnesses and all false religions have done this.

# III What Happens When They Obey the Light?

- A. The <u>spiritual light increases</u> and give MORE light (Romans 1:17)
  - 1. God gives light when one obeys that light God gives more light. (Psalms 36:9)
- B. A person cannot be saved looking at creation
  - 1. But, when a heathen looks at creation, and says in his heart...
  - 2. "There must be someone, somewhere
    - I surely would like to know who!"
  - 3. God will send him enough light for him to make a choice.
- C. If one wants to know more, he can (Bible proof)
  - 1. Acts 8 Ethiopian
  - 2. Acts 10 Cornelius
  - 3. It still happens, even today.

# IV Judgement Is According to Light You Have

- A. Did you pick your place of birth?
- B. Better for some that others (Luke 10:12)
- C. Lights makes us accountable (Luke 12:47)

# V. Should we Send Missionaries to the Regions Beyond?

- A. More than ever!
- B. Commanded to send the "full light"
  - 1. Matthew 28:19-20 "GOD HAS THE AUTHORITY TO COMMAND US"
  - 2. John 4:35

**Romans 1:17 – 32** 

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(Light is interpreted in the Bible as: "enlighten Spiritual").

- A. Paul calls the witness of Creation to prove that all men have spiritual light.
  - 1. Creation: Vs. 18 Wrath, Vs. 19 Why, Vs. 20 How? God showed it unto them).
    - a. Creation has stamp "Made by God". (Psalms 19:1-3)
    - b. Creation Creator (If you have a watch, you have to have a watch maker)
      - c. Evolutionist theory: Nothing +Nobody = Everything
  - 2. People say: I can look at creation/nature and worship God.
    - a. The heathen know there is "a God" by creation.
    - b. But, it has only produced head-hunters and Cannibalism
      - 1 Offers no solution for sin
      - 2. Makes no mention of a Saviour
      - 3. Nature has a voice no heart
      - 4. Nature knows nothing of forgiveness
- B. Paul calls the witness of Conscience: Romans 2:14-15
  - 1. God is manifested in them
    - a. How many knew there was a God before being saved?
  - 2. Conscience tells a person he/she is a sinner
    - a. It gives no solution to the "sin" problem.
    - c. It makes no mention of a Saviour.
    - d. It knows nothing of forgiveness

# **II** What Happens When They Reject the Light?

- A. Their spiritual <u>understanding is darkened</u> (Romans 1:19-20)
- B. Applies to us today: God doesn't run a cafeteria line!
  - 1. You cannot "pick and choose" what you want to obey.
- C. II Thess. 2:9-11 Jehovah Witnesses and all false religions have done this.

# III What Happens When They Obey the Light?

- A. The spiritual light increases and give MORE light (Romans 1:17)
  - 1. God gives light when one obe 16 that light God gives more light. (Psalms 36:9)
- B. A person cannot be saved looking at creation
  - 1. But, when a heathen looks at creation, and says in his heart...
  - 2. "There must be someone, somewhere

**POEM:** Based on a true event in a Jungle of South America. The Indians were sitting around a campfire at night, talking. An old Indian lady who, after many years, had heard the Gospel and been saved, asked the missionaries these questions.

You have had the Gospel message - you have known a Saviour's love. Your dear ones passed from Christian homes, to the blessed land above. Why did you let our fathers die, and into silence go? With no thought of Christ to comfort, why didn't you let us know?

Why didn't you tell us sooner" The words came sad and low. O, ye, who knew the Gospel truths, why didn't you let us know. The Saviour died for those who sin, He died to save from woe. But we never heard the story. Why didn't you let us know?

Romans 1:17-32

# THE GUILT AND JUDGMENT OF THE HEATHEN WRATH OF GOD REVEALED FROM HEAVEN

(This wrath is revealed against men on earth – in this life)

- **Intro:** Phase #1 Paul's goal is to prove that the Heathen/Pagan/Vile people are guilty (Romans 1:17-32)
  - Phase #2 Paul's goal is to prove that the Moral/Upstanding people are guilty (Romans 2:1-16)
  - Phase #3 Paul's goal is to prove that the Jews/Religious people are guilty. (Romans 2:17-29)

# I. Declares That the Wrath of God <u>Is Revealed</u> from Heaven – Romans 1:18 (In this present life)

- A. This is a fact of Scripture
  - 1. Today, people have heard "so" much about "God is love."
  - 2. True, God is a God of Love God so loved the world, - but....
  - 3. God is angry with the wicked every day (Psalms 7:11). Days of Noah Gen. 6:6-7
    - a. Angry (Greek) "Zo'am" Means: "Foaming at the mouth."

(Proverbs Chapter 10-15) Contrast of good and evil

- B. Wrath of God is something lost people do not understand (Many Christians don't)
  - 1. Proverbs 28:5 "Evil Men understand not judgment"
    - a. Greek indication: Evil men convince themselves that their "evil" is good.
      - 1. Sodomite Claim they have the right to sexual preference
      - 2. Abortionist Women claim "my body my right" It is murder!

# II. Declares Why the Wrath of God is revealed – Romans 1:19-20

- A. Because the Gentiles had a knowledge of God but rejected it. (Romans 1:21)
  - 1. By Creation
    - EX: Lost man asked the Christian: Have you ever seen God? touched God? smelt God? Next morning the lost man said, a camel passed by here last night.
    - Christian said: "How do you know? Did you see it? did you touch it? Smell it?"

      No, but I saw its tracks!

      You can see God's tracks in creation! (Psalms 19)
  - 2. By conscience bears witness (Romans 2:15)
    - a. EVERY man is born with a conscience
    - **Testifies:** Booze was wrong BEFORE a law was passed Our government passed a law, making booze legal

# Booze is still wrong regardless of the law!

Why? – Because the Bible declares it to be wrong!

b. Conscience testifies to every person what is right and what is wrong!

Tribes in Jungle –

- (1) Know Sin cut off arms for stealing!
- (2) Worship "a" God
- (3) Pray to "something."

# III. Declares Five Great Consequences for those who reject God's light (Apostasy – Falling away from God's Truth – (II Thess 2:3)

- A. Life of Vanity (Romans 1:21)
  - 1. Vanity: Eccl 2:23 **NOTHING SATISFIES (Solomon)**

a. Eccl. 1:13-14 Wisdom b. Eccl. 1:18 Knowledge

c. Eccl. 2:3 Liquor d. Eccl. 2:4 Luxury e. Eccl 2:10 Labor

f. Eccl. 2:11 Summary

- 2. Conclusion: Eccl 12:13-14
- B. Life of Darkness (Romans 1:21)
  - 1. Refused Light God sends darkness (**Pharaoh** Ex. 8:15, 32; Ex. 9:7, 34 & 35)
- C. Life of Ignorance (Romans 1:22)
  - 1. Refused Wisdom "Fear of the Lord is the beginning..."

(Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, 15:32)

- 2. Became a fool! (Psalms 53:1)
  - a. Wise means cultured, learned and men of skills
  - b. "Fool," Greek (Tabal) is the word from which we get the word "Moron."
- D. Life of Idolatry (Romans 1:23)
  - 1. Refused God Worship snakes and creeping things Romans 1:25 Worship)
  - 2. Missionaries have found that all men do two things:
    - a. Worship something Pray to something.
  - 3 Today, men "Worship the World!"
- E. Life of Depravity (Romans 1: 24-25)
  - 1. Destroys the Body (Verse 24)
  - 2. Destroys the Mind (Verse 28)
  - 3. Destroys the Spirit (Verse 25b)
    - a. Worshipped the creature more than the Creator
    - b. We worship God in our spirit (John 4:24)

# IV. God's reaction to man's choice to reject Him and Truth. (Galatians 6:7-8)

- A. God Gave Them Up (Romans 1:24)
  - 1. To "uncleanness lust to dishonored bodies

- B. God Gave Them Up (Romans 1:26)
  - 1. To Vile Affections
- C. God Gave Them Over (Romans 1:28)
  - 1. To a reprobate mind (Romans 1:28-32)
  - 2. The picture of verse 28 from the Greek is, "God committed them to prison."

# VI. The End result of rejecting of truth is: Men and women turn to Sodomy!

(Romans 1:24-27)

- A. Produces a Reprobate and Perverted Mind.
  - 1. They gave God over God gives them over
  - 2. They abandon God God abandons them (II Thess 2:9-12)

Called: Righteous Retribution!

B. A Reprobate and Perverted mind takes a person to the lowest possible point of life

Watch: God **Piles one word on another!**)

1. Lowest possible **character** 

Unrighteousness – Wicked – Deceitful – Envious (Romans 1:29)

2. Lowest possible **conduct** 

Fornication – murder (Romans 1:29)

3. Lowest possible **conversation** 

Debate – deceit – malignity - whisperers – backbiters (Romans 1:30)

4. Lowest possible **concepts** 

Inventors of evil – disobedient to parents – Covenant breakers (Romans 1:30)

- 5. Lowest possible **companions** 
  - a. People who do the same things themselves (Romans 1:32).
  - b. People who have pleasure in those who do such things (Romans 1:32)

# VII. God's Final Judgment

- A. Righteous Retribution
- B. WHY? "They changed the truth of God into a lie....." (Romans 1:25) "For THIS CAUSE (Vs 26)
- C. When they have <u>made their choice</u> God lets them go on in their sin (II Thess. 2:8-12) God states: "You made your choice – Okay, have it your way!" – <u>THIS IS JUDGMENT</u>
- D. **Released to sin as much as you want** without conviction will ALWAYS destroy the life.
- E. Shows how TOTALLY DEPRAVED man is when he rejects God and rejects God's Word!

### VIII. Ouestion: Can a Sodomite be saved?

- A. On God's side of the question: Yes! God still says "Whosoever will, may come."
- B. On the Sodomites' side of the question: Very doubtful! They have made their choice.
  - 1. They have hardened their hearts
  - 2. Luke 13:34 "How many times "WOULD I HAVE" and "YE WOULD NOT."

# ALL the things men and women do. Romans 1:21-32

# ARE THE RESULT OF APOSTACY!

What is Apostasy? "... falling away from God's Word."

(II Thess 2:3)

If a man gets off on "one" truth - he is headed for disaster.

Because shortly he will be off on "two" truths

...then three, then four, then.....

(Read 2:1 & 2)

# THE GUILT AND JUDGMENT OF THE HYPOCRITE

- **Intro:** I. Paul has traced the awful history of the Human Race since the flood
  - II. Greatest chapter in Bible on the "Principles" of God's Judgments
    - A. Without this chapter, Moral people would imagine "vain things"
    - B. Written to those who do not think God's judgment applies to them
    - C. Those who considered themselves better because of their morals and religion
  - III. There are five principles of God's judgment upon the hypocrite A. The Jews did not accept the truth that they would be judged

### THE HYPOCRITE

# I. What the Hypocrite Feels about Himself.

- A. Other men's sins are worse than his own sins.
  - 1. True on every level: Moral people look down on the immoral The immoral people look down on the MORE immoral!
- B. Compares himself with the drunkard, the harlot, and the hoodlum
  - 1. Those who do not come up to his "moral standard."
- C. Prides himself on his church membership
- D. Prides himself on his morality and his respectable living
- E. Prides himself on having God's blessings because he is "better" than others (comparing themselves)

  II Cor. 10:12

# II. What the Hypocrite Fails to Realize about God.

- A. Fails to realize that God's goodness is not because he deserves it.
- B. Fails to realize that because God did not judge him immediately, He never will.
- C. Fails to realize that God's goodness is because of His love and long-suffering
- D. Fails to realize that God's long suffering is because he wants him to repent and be saved.

**Example:** Jew and Gentile – Religion and moral - joined forces and crucified the Son of God.

This was reason enough for God to command the angels from Heaven to destroy men. God's goodness has been longsuffering for over 2000 years – giving men time to repent.

# III. What the Hypocrite Faces as a Result of his Pride

- A. Faces the fact that he has "treasured up unto thyself wrath." (Romans 2:5)
- B. Faces the "wrath" that he has piled up day after day due to his hard heart (Romans 2:5)
- C. Faces every word deed thought and action (Romans 2:6).

# THE FIVE PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THE HYPOCRITE

Romans 2:1-16

# I. Judgment Will Be According to Truth. (Romans 2:2-4)

- A. Most men are blind to their own sins and coming judgment
  - 1. Verse 3 "Thinkest thou ......? "...thou not according to what man "thinks"..... (Jews did this as revealed in verses 17-29 covered later in lesson)
  - 2. Paul points out that all of this applies to "respectable" persons.
    - a. God sees "facts"
    - b. God sees "motives" behind the facts.
  - 3. Men are blind to the "Goodness" of God and misunderstand it.

(Today, men think "the goodness of God" means that God is pleased with them.)

Example: Policeman: "I know I'm saved because God answers my prayers!"

(Today, men do not see "the goodness of God" as a call to repentance)

- 4. God's Goodness
  - a. Daily Preserving of Man
  - b. Daily Providing for Man
  - c. Daily Protecting of Man
- 5. God's Forbearance (Romans 2:4)
  - a. Eph 4:2 "Forbearing" "Putting up with that which He hates"
- 6. God's Longsuffering
  - a. Purpose and Reason (II Peter 3:9) Salvation

# **II. Judgment will be According to Accumulated Guilt (Romans 2:5).**

(Sin already judged – (John 3:18)

- A. Refers to Revelation 20:11-13 - - Works
  - 1. Destiny of most people we meet today!
    - a. They have no brokenness of heart Think of themselves as "good."
    - b. They see no need of repentance
    - c. They have no thankfulness to God (Romans 1:21)
- B. Case of Sodom
  - 1. Ezekiel 16:47-52

"Behold this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fullness of bread, and abundance of idleness..." (Vs 49)

- 2. Luke 10:8-14
- C. If a person flees to Calvary,
  - 1. He/she will not face this judgment (John 5:24).

# III. Judgment will be According to Men's Deeds (Works) (Verses 6:10)

Verified by Revelation 20:11-25

# There are two kinds of people being judged according to their deeds. (Refers to Life Choices)

- A. Category #1 Those who Patiently Continue in Well-Doing (Romans 2:7)
  - 1. This does not refer to a "Means" of Salvation.
  - 2. Refers to a "Description" of those who have been to Calvary.

- a. Matthew 7:16 "Ye shall know them by their fruits" (by their works)
  - Abel Approached God with a sacrifice
  - Noah Obeyed and built an ark 120 years
  - Abraham Left his country not knowing where he was going
  - Matthew Left his business Follows Christ
- 3. Results Romans 2:10
  - a. Honor Glory Peace
- B. Category #2 Those who are Contentious and Disobedient (Romans 2:8)
  - 1. Pharaoh "Who is Jehovah that I should obey Him?
  - 2. Result indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish. (Romans 2:8-9)
- IV. Judgment Will Be without Respect of Persons (Verse 11)
  - A. Strongly condemned by Christ
    - 1. Today: Almost everything is affected by "respect of a person."
      - a. Generally it is done to gain an advantage.
    - 2. That day: There will be One Who will judge with no respect of persons.
      - a. Revelation 20:11-15 "....small and great!"
- V. Judgment Will Be According to the Secrets of Men's Hearts (Romans 2:16).
  - A. This is in conjunction with Verse 15 Conscience is continually working!
    - 1. Continually within us testifying to right and wrong.
  - B. In the Judgment day Christ will no longer be: Patient Forbearing Longsuffering
  - C. He will "Judge in righteousness" (Acts 17:31)
    - 1. Without respect to persons
    - 2. According to privileges people have enjoyed
    - 3. For "hearing" but not obeying
    - 4. According to those things that the conscience testified were wrong
      - a. But, they did them anyway!

Romans 2:17-29

# THE GUILTY AND JUDGMENT OF THE HEBREWS

Judgment will be according to reality – not outward appearance of religion A. This portion was written to the Jews (Romans 2:17) 1. The Jews "had the law" (Romans 3:1-2) a. Rested (trusted) in the law (Romans 2:17) b. Boasted of the law (Romans 2:17) c. They were "cocky" about their religion. 2. Did not apply the Law to themselves (Romans 10:2-5) B. Boasted in Circumcision (Romans 2:25) a. Circumcision meant they were "separated to God." The Jews had "a fair show in the flesh – outwardly" b. Circumcision is profitable ONLY when it is inwardly – of the heart (Romans 2:29) "An Israelite indeed" (John 1:45-47) C. Today: We have Professing Christians a. Trusting in Church membership b. They agree with the teaching in the Word of God – but were hearers only (Romans 2: 13) They disobey it in their daily lives. (Colossians. 2:6). I. The Jews had Confidence without Conviction. (Romans 3:1-2) A. The Jews had "Access to the Truth" 1. The Jews were confident that they had "the Truth" (Romans 2:17-18). a. Made them "cocky." b. We believe that we have "the truth" in our "King James Bible." 2. The Jews were confident they were "teachers" of the Truth (Romans 2:19-20) B. The Jews did not realize that Access to the Truth demands more Accountability! (Romans 2:21-24)

- 1. Access to an Open Bible GREATLY increases responsibility in the sight of God.
  - a. It requires sincerity
  - b. "All talk and no walk," will not stand the test at judgment! Colossians 2:8
- 2. Areas of Accountability.
  - a. We are accountable for what we know
  - b. We are accountable for what we do not know, but could have known
  - c. We are accountable for what we have done
  - d. We are accountable for what we COULD have done but did not!

# II. The Jews had Religion without Reality – It was Counterfeit! (Romans. 2:25-29)

- A. Practicing Ordinances "outwardly" that do not change you "inwardly" have no value.
  - 1. Romans 2:25 IF thou keep the law it would profit you NO MAN can keep the law.
  - 2. The Jews' outward practice HAD NOT changed them inwardly.
    - a. They did it for the "Praise of men" (Romans 2:29).
    - b. Paul said it did not profit them!
    - c. They were "counterfeits!"
- B. Practicing Ordinances "outwardly" that change the "inwardly" man has unlimited value.
  - 1. "Bring the praise of God." (Romans 2:29)
    - a. At the Judgment: "Well done thou good and faithful servant..."
  - 2. If our "walk does not match our talk," we are counterfeit Christians.
    - a. There are "counterfeit" pastors in America. (Two ways)

They do not practice what they preach.

They do not preach things that change people's lives.

Sunday Service a "happy hour!" (Rev. 3 – Church at Laodicea)

- b. When I come to church I do not need something that "makes me feel good!" I need something that will "change me into His likeness."
- b. They are "counterfeit" Christians.

# NOTE: I Cor. 11:2-17 "I praise you not!"

**SUMMARY:** Paul called two witnesses to testify that the Jews were guilty.

1. Paul called the witness of "the law."

Paul proved that the Jews did not keep the law – they only "talked" a good talk.

2. Paul called the witness of "Circumcision."

Paul proved that the Jews only practiced "outward" circumcision. (flesh)

They did not practice "circumcision" of the heart (Spiritual)

# III. The Jews' Objections Examined by Scripture

- A. The Jews had apparently asked Paul three Questions (Romans 3:1-8)
  - 1. What advantage is it to be a Jew?

**ANSWER:** Every advantage – especially having the Word of God. (Verse 2) However, that does not relieve a Jew of being guilty of sin.

2. Will Jewish unbelief cancel God's faithfulness?

**ANSWER:** Absolutely not! – "God forbid" (Verse 4)

3. If our sin commends His righteousness, how can He judge us?

**ANSWER:** We do not do evil that good may come of it. God judges the world righteously! (Verse 6-8)

**Romans 3:9-20** 

# THE CLOSING ARGUMENT AND FINAL VERDICT

**Intro:** Paul has presented his case – Like a prosecutor – A District Attorney
All Bad News! - Necessary to get people's attention (Must get them lost first)

**Today:** People want "positive preaching." (They dislike bad news)

Before they will listen to good news – they must realize that they are in big trouble

**Doctor:** "You're not sick – but I'm going to give you a Rx anyway!"

Paul, like a prosecuting attorney, has carefully presented his case:

Closing argument: He "fast-forwards" toward Romans 3:19:

- 1. EVERY MOUTH STOPPED
- 2. ALL THE WORLD GUILTY BEFORE GOD
- I. The Extent of the World's Sin (Romans 3:9-12)
  - A. Paul declares he has "proven his case." (Romans 3:9) beyond any reasonable doubt
    - 1. Chapter 1:18-32 Proves that all Gentiles/pagans are guilty of sin and need salvation
    - 2. Chapter 2:1-16 Proves that all respectable people are hypocrites, guilty of sin
    - 3. Chapter 2:17-29 Proves that all Jews/religious people are guilty of sin and need a. All need salvation
      - a. There are "no exceptions"
    - 4. Paul moves toward his "Closing Argument."
  - B. The Problem is "Total Depravity"
    - 1. Doctrine of "Total Depravity"
      - a. Does not mean we are all EQUALLY BAD
      - b. Means: Character of ALL MEN is: "Corrupt, bad, morally wicked."

We all live by that Doctrine!

How many here have, "Lied, stolen, wanted to hurt/kill, had vile thoughts?"

Don't answer out loud!

We have a class of liars and thieves!

- c. Means we are all capable of being "totally bad."
- C. Men are TOTALLY and EQUALLY sinful in their character
  - 1. Men do not believe this judgment or condemnation
    - a. "Well, I'm not as good as I could be, but I do a lot of good things."
    - b. Romans 3:10, "None righteous, no not one" (Psalms 14:3)
  - 2. David: A Man after God's Own Heart
    - a. Yet committed adultery murder
    - b. Shows: The Extent of Depravity

- D. PROBLEM: Men trying to excuse their sin and establish their own righteousness `God is angry wit the wicked every day (Psalms 7:11)
- E. GOD describes Self-righteousness: "Filthy Rags" (Isaiah 64:6)
  Filthy: Like opening a grave in that day odor of rotten.....flesh!
- F. The Jews had a racial problem
  - 1. Claimed they were better claimed they were righteous (Romans 10:3)
    - a. Romans 3:9 Question: Are we (Jews) better than they are (Gentiles)?
    - b. Looked down their noses at Gentiles -
  - 2. World's problem today is not a racial problem.
    - a. World's problem is a SIN problem
    - b. We resolve the race problem worth nothing Why?
    - c. Until the Sin problem is solved race problem(s) won't go away.
    - d. Solve the "sin" problem the race problem will be gone
  - 3. Solve the sin problem Violence will GREALT decrease!
- G. Paul's argument: (Romans 3:12)
  - 1. "They are ALL...They are TOGETHER.... There is NONE..."
- II. Evidence of World's Sin (Verses 13-19) (Going to prove that what He has said is so!)

# ALL MEN ARE SINFUL IN THEIR CONVERSATION

- A. Fondlers of Filth Romans 3:13
  - 1. Throat A Sepulcher (Grave no embalming stench!
    - a. Today: Dirty Talking
    - b. Dirty Jokes
    - c. Off-color stories some Christians
  - 2. Ephesians 4:29 Let NO corrupt communication proceed out of thy mouth!
    - a. Proverbs 14:9 "Mock at sin"
- B. Talkers of Trash Romans 3:13
  - 1. Tongues of Deceit
    - a. Some justify telling "White lies"
    - b. Christmas Santa Claus! BIGGEST LIE EVER TOLD
      - 1. As bad as it gets!
  - 2. Poison of Asp under lips
    - a. James 3:2-8
    - b. No man can tame the tongue
- D. Peddlers of Profanity Romans 3:14
  - 1. Profanity!
    - a. They take the Lord's Name in Vain!
    - b. WORST form of profanity Not held guiltless (Exodus 20:6)
  - 2. A FOOLISH sin

- a, Adds NOTHING to conversation
- b. Other sins have deeds for which to account

Stealing – to gain something

Adultery - Pleasure in sin for a season

Lying - Exalts self

c. Cursing – A person gets nothing from using profanity!

### ALL MEN ARE SINFUL IN THEIR CONDUCT

- A. Feet the "conduit" of hurt and pain (Romans 3:15)
  - 1. People enjoy pain and blood shed
    - a. People shoot people over a pair of tennis shoes
    - b. People shoot people over Road-Rage
    - c. NFL football player knocked his fiancé unconscious in elevator
    - d. People enjoy watching TV with violence, bloodshed.
    - e. Abortion-Mills in the United States
- B. Destruction and Misery are in their "ways."
  - 1. Man ruins everything he touches
  - 2. Marriage: Hebrews 13:4
    - a. Man warps and distorts EVERYTHING he touches
    - b. Always ends up perverted.
  - 3. The problem is not with the conditions or environment.
    - a. People blame sin on "being poor"
      - 1. We were poor
      - 2. Camped out under a sheet could not afford a tent
      - 3. Swam fished sat around fire at night caught crawdads
    - b. Today People save all year to take a vacation and do the same!
  - 4. The problem is sin!
- C. Result: People cannot find peace

### ALL MEN ARE SINFUL IN THEIR CONTENTIOUS ATTITUTE TOWARD GOD

- A. No fear of God! Romans 3:18
  - 1. Romans 1:21 When they KNEW God glorified Him not as God
    - a. Professed themselves to be wise (Romans 1:22)
    - b. Became fools (Romans 1:22)
  - 2. Proverbs 9:10 & Psalms 111:10: Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
  - 3. Man says: "I know what God's Word says, but I don't care"
    - a. Every time man thinks he knows better than God he fails

Ask the Israelites in the Old Testament!

The failed in **EVERY** dispensation!

- B. The Conclusion Romans 3:19
  - 1. All men need to "stop running their mouths"
  - 2. All men need to admit they are guilty before God

Romans 3:21-28

# THE CONCLUSION OF THE MATTER

Intro: The doctrine of "Justification by Faith" was revealed to Paul and to Paul alone.

The Jews had a difficult time accepting that truth.

In Romans, Paul went to great extremes to prove that salvation is by faith.

- 1. Paul proving that "All the world was guilty before God." was his first objective.
  - A. By conversation (Vs 3:13-14).
  - B. By conduct (Vs 3:15-17).
  - C. By contempt (Vs 3:18).
  - D. PROVEN (Vs. 3:19)
- 2. Paul pointed out three universal truths.
  - A. God's righteousness is universally revealed (Romans 1:17-20)
  - B. God's righteousness is universally available (Whosoever)
  - C. God's righteousness is universally needed (Romans 3:23)
- 3. Paul proves that Salvation is free and it is by faith in Christ.
  - A. It is WITHOUT the deeds of the Law (Rom 3:28)
    - 1. "Without" in Greek means "apart from or separated from"
    - 2. "Without" any aid from.....
      - a. God Needs NO HELP!
    - 3. Salvation is totally "FREE" (Rom. 3:24)

**Example:** A friend buys me a new "Lexus" for \$50,000. Offers it to me.

I say, I can't take a big gift like that for free. – Let me help you and I give him a dollar. Another friends sees me driving it and asks where I got it. I say, "Oh, so and so and I went together and bought it!

- 4. Paul provides information about how it was accomplished without works
  - A. Christ was made a "Propitiation for us" (Rom 3:25).
    - 1. An "atoner" a "sacrifice" a "substitute"
    - 2. He did not have any help in being a Propitiation!
    - 3. He had NO HELP when he died in our place on the cross!
      - a. "For the wages of sin is DEATH" (Romans 3:23)
  - B. Sin MUST be paid for This is the Scripture!
    - 1. Some think Christ could have "just forgiven us." NO!
    - 2. God must be JUST (Rom. 3:26)

**Example:** A judge who finds a man guilty, but forgives him is a UNJUST judge The judge took an oath to uphold the law.

- C. God is not unjust
  - 1. He is JUST because the debt we owe for being found guilty has been paid!
  - 2. God is "JUST" because He requires the penalty for sin death. The debt is paid!
  - 3. God is the "JUSTIFIER" of him who believes in Christ, Who paid the sin debt. (Vs 26)

D. Therefore, "Boast is excluded." (Romans 2:17)

**Example:** Baptism – If baptism was a part of salvation The man doing the baptizing could say, "I helped save him...."

### Romans 3:21-28 is Explained in Galatians

- I. "Cursed is everyone that continueth not in <u>all things</u> which are written in the book of the law to do them."
  - A. Galatians 3:10-12
    - 1. James 2:10 if a man breaks "one" law he is guilty of all!

# **Old Testament Illustration - The Law REQUIRES DEATH**

In the wilderness, a man was found gathering up sticks to make a fire on the Sabbath day. Now, the Law had said, "ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations on the Sabbath day." How then was this Law to be "established" or enforced? By letting the law-breaker off? No! By securing his promise to keep the Law in the future? No! How then was the Law "established"? All Israel was commanded by Jehovah to stone the man to death. We read;

"And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it had not been declared what should be done to him. And Jehovah said unto Moses, The man shall surely be put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp. And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him to death with stones; as Jehovah commanded Moses: (Numbers 15:32-36).

- 2. Christ has been made a curse for us (Galatians 3:13)
  - We are "justified' by faith in the promise of God to forgive our sins and to save us, based on our believing in Jesus Christ. God promised that.
- 3. God made that promise to-through Abraham (Galatians 3:17-18).
  - a. The law came 430 years AFTER "The Promise."
  - b. The law CANNOT disannul the "Promise of God."
- 4. What was the promise? (Galatians 3:8-9)
  - a. God....preached the gospel unto Abraham...."
  - b. We will study this in depth in Romans, chapter four.
- B. If the law cannot save us "Wherefore serveth the Law? (Galatians 3:19)
  - 1. It was "ADDED"
    - a. Because of transgression (Galatians 3:19)
    - b. To reveal to us that we were transgressors
    - c. To "bring us to Christ" (Galatians 3:24)
  - 2. For how long was the law added?
    - a. "Till the seed should come to whom the promise was made" (Galatians 3:19)
    - b. Verse 25 "no longer under a schoolmaster."
  - 3. If there had been a law that could save, Calvary was the biggest blunder of history
    - a. There was never a law given that could save people
    - b. Galatians 3:21 clearly states this truth

- 4. The law was given to Israel (Exodus 20)
  - a. If people could have been saved in the Old Testament....

Then people could be saved by keeping the law in the New Testament.

b. Galatians 3:21 CLEARLY states, "No law was given that could give life.

**Romans 4:1-4** 

# THREE THINGS ABRAHAM FOUND

**Introduction:** Generally, people do not like "Charity" (Free things) People LIKE charity – free things – but too embarrassed to accept it. A. People prefer three things: 1. Do something to "earn" it 2. Do something to "merit" it 3. Do something to "deserve" it B. People prefer to "Glory" or "Boast" in THEIR accomplishments C. People do not like charity and want to "justify" receiving help. **Example:** John Doe and I bought "me" a new car. John paid \$20,000 - but I helped, I gave him \$20 bucks. WE bought... I. **Abraham Found He Could Not Be Justified By Works** If by works – we can glory. Oh, yes, Christ died, BUT I helped! A. What saith the Scriptures? (Romans 4:3) 1. Abraham "believed" God a. It was "counted" to him.... b. Put to his account c. Reckoned – placed in his inventory B. There is no contradiction between Romans 4 and James 2 1. James 2:21-24 "Was not Abraham our father justified by works....? (Implied) C. There are "two-types of justification. 1. Justified before God – God looketh on the heart – "With the heart.." (Romans 10:10) 2. Justified before men – Men cannot see the heart! a. Before God - Romans 3:19-20 b. Before men – **James 2:14-18** 1. **Verse** 18 – "show **ME...**." 2. Verse 18 – "I will show THEE...." 3. Scriptures a. Matthew **5:16** b. Titus 2:11-14 ....zealous of good works (Vs 14) c. Titus 3:4-8 D. True Faith will always produce WORKS 1. Matthew 7:16: "Ye shall know them by their works." 2. II Corinthians 5:17: "If any man be in Christ...." E. Three Prepositions that are important (Ephesians 2:8-10) 1. **By** – Grace

G. David gives "support" to Abraham," Verse 6-7 (Psalms 32:2)

2. Though – Faith
3. Unto – Good works
F. God justifies "the ungodly" Verse 5

#### II. Abraham Found That He Was Not Justified by Religion or Ritual. (Romans 4:9-12)

- A. He was justified <u>before</u> Circumcision (Verse 10)
  - 1. **Gen. 17:10-14** "Everlasting Covenant...."
  - 2. Galatians 3:17-18: Law came 430 years after the covenant!
- B. Father of ALL them that believe though they be NOT of circumcision (Verse 11)

**Application today #1:** Church of Christ – Baptism cannot save (Acts 10:44-48) People "received the Holy Spirit "and were saved" BEFORE baptism.

**Application today #2:** Catholic Church – Mass (a ritual) cannot save.

C. Abraham was saved by the "Promise of God" (Rom 5:13-14)

#### III. Abraham Found That He Was Not Justified by the Law (Romans 4:13-25)

- A. **Verse 13**: By PROMISE NOT by the law
- B. Verse 14: If though the law then the Promise is void
  - 1. If a person can be justified by the law Christ died in vain (Gal 2:21).

### WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW?

#### I. Galatians 3:19 – It was added

1. Why? – Because of Transgression!

In USA – it was wrong to sell booze (always)

In USA – Passed a law that made it illegal to sell booze

Now Everyone KNEW it was wrong.

In USA – Later passed a law to make it legal

Legal – but STILL wrong

#### II. For How Long was the Law in Effect?

- A. Galatians 3:19 "Till the seed should come."
- B. Galatians 3:24-25 no longer UNDER a schoolmaster (law) But under under Grace!!!

### **Conclusion:**

A. Men are Justified FREELY (Romans 3:24)

Without Merit – Without Cost

B. No room for man to boast (Romans 3:27)

#### **Romans 5:1-2**

## PEACE - ACCESS - STAND

**Introduction:** Therefore....

- A. Paul is "summing up" Chapters 1-4
  - 1. All men are sinners and without excuse
  - 2. Salvation is by faith and faith alone
- B. Now Paul will share three results of salvation through Jesus Christ.

## I. WE HAVE PEACE WITH GOD (Romans 5:1)

- A. What does this mean?
  - 1. It does not mean that one has "Peace in his/her heart."
    - a. John 14:1 "This verse is about the heart.
  - 2. This is peace "with" God not peace "of" God.
- B. Lost people are at war with God.
  - 1. Ephesians 2:1-3
  - 2. Romans 8:7-8
  - 3. Galatians 5:17 In Rebellion against God
- C. Man cannot know peace through religion church membership, or through any other way.
  - 1. Get peace "with" God by surrender!
  - 2. God offers "Terms of Surrender"
    - a. We must accept those terms
    - b. When we accept the "terms of surrender," we are at peace with God
  - 3. Terms are "not negotiable."
- D. Men say, "I made my peace with God.
  - 1. No God makes peace "with" us.
- E. Peace "with" God brings, Peace "of" God to our hearts
  - 1. Colossians 3:15 "let the peace 'of' God rule in your heart(s).
  - 2. Countless Christians on edge of nervous breakdown continually
  - 3. Possible to lose "peace of God" Nothing can take away the peace "with" God.
- F. A Christian can lose his/her peace "of" God
  - 1. Your sin:
    - a. Someone does or says something to hurt you (Still have your peace)
    - b. When you decide to "get even" you lose the peace "of" God
- G. Peace "with" God comes "through" Jesus Christ
  - 1. A mediator
    - a. Job 9:1 How can a man....
    - b. Job 9:32-33 Needed a "daysman." (Arbitrator)
  - 2. An "Arbitrator" is a person accepted by both parties in a dispute to settle the matter.

**Example:** War going on between a king and a beggar – They seek an "arbitrator."

The king wants to find another king, but the beggar says, "Oh, no" Another king would be in favor of a king.

Beggar wants to find another beggar, but the King says, "Oh, no" Another beggar would be in favor of a beggar.

An Arbitrator needs to be able to "lay his hand upon them both."

Jesus was the God Man.

As much man as if he were not God at all.

As much God as if he were not man at all.

The perfect Arbitrator – The perfect "Daysman."

Able to "put His hand upon us both."

## II. WE HAVE ACCESS TO THE THRONE OF GRACE (Romans 5:2) – Great Privilege!

- A. So to speak, we can meet "face to face" with God.
- B. People generally think that anybody can pray any time he/she wants to pray.
  - 1. They believe that God is obligated to hear and answer.
    - a. THIS IS NOT TRUE!
- C. Scriptural situations where God will not hear or answer prayer.
  - 1. Psalms 66:18 Regards inquiry in heart
  - 2. Proverbs 28:9 When a person willing disobeys God's Law (Word)
  - 3. Proverbs 21:13 Those who won't hear the cry of the poor
  - 4. Isaiah 1: 15 Those who have blood on their hands
  - 5. II Chron. 7:14 Then will I hear..... after they turn....
  - 6. James 1:6-7 No faith in God's promise receive nothing
  - 7. James 4:3 Asks amiss asking for his/her own desires
  - 8. Jer. 11:11-14 Those who worship idols
  - 9. Psalms 18:40-41 Those who mistreat God's people
  - 10. Micah 3:2-4 Those who mistreat God's people
- D. Old Testament access to God was difficult!
  - 1. Tabernacle
    - a. Lev 16:34 High priest entered once a year.
    - b. Hebrews 9:7 Priest in "Holy place" High priest in Holy of Holies
    - c. ONCE A YEAR Always with blood
  - 2. God met with Moses on Mt Sinai

The people could not even touch the mountain (Exodus 19:9-12)

- E. New Testament believers are privileged! (personally, invited by God to enter the Holy of Holies!)
  - 1. Veil torn from top (Pictures God above tearing veil) to bottom Matthew 27:51 **God** opened the way for us to enter the Holy of Holies
  - 2. We have access to come boldly (Hebrews 10:19-22 Hebrews 4:14-16) We should not come "frivolously."

#### **III.** We Stand (Romans 5:2)

- A. What we have in Christ cannot be taken away.
  - 1. We are "saved" by grace

- 2. We are kept "standing" by grace
  B. Romans 14:4 "God is able to "make us stand."
  C. If we sin God may "take us to the woodshed." (Hebrews 12:6 & 10-11)
  D. We CANNOT lose what we have in Christ!

**Romans 7:15-25** 

#### A MAN STRUGGLING WITH THE FLESH

**Introduction:** A. Was Paul saved when he wrote this potion of Scripture or not?

- I. Paul was a "Saved man" when he wrote this section
  - A. Romans 1:1 and 5:1
  - C. I Cor. 2:14: It is clear that Paul "understood Scripture"
  - D. God used Paul to "pen" Holy Scripture Paul had to be saved.
- II. Paul was a "Struggling man" when he wrote this section
  - A. Romans 7:14 "Carnal made under sin" Struggling! (Had Guilt feelings)
  - B. What was Paul's problem?
    - 1. No mention of Christ or the Holy Spirit.

**READ:** Romans 7:14 – 21: "I – Me – My"

- 30 times in 10 verses
- 40 times in entire chapter
- 2. Paul was saying; "LAM THE PROBLEM!"
  - a. Carnal Vs 10
  - b. Fleshly Vs 18
  - c. Captive Vs 22 & 23
- 3. Struggle
  - a. Paul was "trusting" for Salvation
  - b. Paul was "trying" in the flesh to live the Christian life!
- C. Some would say, "He was not trying hard enough" No! "Trying" won't ever help
  - 1. How many of us have "Turned over a new leaf?
  - 2. How many of us have "Made a New Year's Resolution?
  - 3. How much have these helped?
  - 4. Answer: The only answer is "Death." (Galatians 2:20).
- D. What was Paul's problem?
  - 1. Was saved: Was Excited & Sensitive to Holy Spirit
    - a. Few months fell on his face HE FAILED!
    - b. Got right "rededicated his life!!!"
    - c. Did that AGAIN and AGAIN..... Romans 7:15-17
    - d. Failed again and again.
  - 2. Was his problem that he was too weak?
    - No His problem was **he was strong!** (Galatians 5:17) His flesh
  - 3. Same things happen to us today.
    - a. We fail Get right ask forgiveness

Turn over a new leaf – Make New Year's Resolutions - Fail

b. We do that again and again and again.

#### III. Paul was a sorrowful man when he wrote this section.

- A. Such ones are more miserable than a "saved "man who is "trying" but failing
  - 1. They are more miserable than lost people!
- B. Sorrowful because he kept failing over and over and over.
  - 1. Romans 7:15-17 "I can't do it!"
  - 2. People "Turn over a New Leaf" and.....Fail
  - 3. People make "New Year's Resolution(s)".....Fail.....Fail, and .....Fail! a. Get discouraged
- C. Begin to wonder, "Am I really saved?
  - 1. Get discouraged
  - 2. Drop out of Church
- D. SOONER OR LATER: Devil tells you; "Your problem may be you never were saved!"
  - 1. If you are not TRULY saved <u>SATAN WOULD NEVER WANT YOU TO</u> KNOW

But, Satan wants you to get discouraged – embarrassed - Drop out of church **This is what the Devil wants!** 

- 2. You know you are saved when you can sin, but not feel good about it!
- 3. Only lost people can sin and feel good about it.
- E. You may say, "Paul was too weak."

NO! Paul was too strong – Had not given up to do it in the flesh.

**Example:** Man drowning: Man who was a good swimmer stood on bank and watched

People tried to get him to dive in and save him

He waited until the man was going down the third time

Saved him – "Had I gone in while he was strong, he would have drowned us both"

#### **IV.** Refer again to Romans 7:1

- A. Many people think this passage is about marriage and is "out of place."
- B. This passage is not "out of place." And it is not really about marriage.
  - 1. Paul is using "marriage" to illustrate what the law does to a person

#### A woman married the "perfect man" - Mr. Law

She thought he was WONDERFUL – so perfect – never did anything wrong Every morning he told her what he wanted her to do that day and not do.

Every day she failed - - - Every day he criticized her! She would say, "I'll try to do

#### better."

Continued on day after day – week after week, month after month – for years.

She was about to go crazy! However, she could not be free from him unless he died. She figured out that he was NEVER going to die, but she was desperate to be out of the marriage.

Finally, she decided that rather than live with "Mr. Perfect" she would rather die. So, she died! When she died, she was free!

**Mr. Love** (Jesus Christ) came along and "touched her" with the touch of life. She married Mr. Love and lived happily ever after! (Romans 7:4)

**Romans 8:1-31** 

## THE CHRISTIAN'S DECLARATIONOF FREEDOM

**Intro:** Over the years I have talked to several people during conferences.

- A. They felt guilty over past sins which they had confessed
- B. They thought God was convicting them of that sin again
- C. They were being made to feel guilty by Satan.

(One can only be forgiven a confessed sin one time~

- 1. Jeremiah 31:34 I will remember their sins no more
- 2. Isaiah 38:17 Cast all my sins behind thy back
- 3. Psalms 103:11-12 Far as East is from west (East can NEVER find the west The two NEVER meet.)

#### **Intro:** Done in the power of the Holy Spirit

- A. Holy Spirit is not mentioned in chapter 7
- B. Holy Spirit is mentioned 19 times in chapter 8
- C. One must believe, accept, and practice **by faith** (I Corinthians 1:30 MADE unto us)

#### I. The Christian is Free from Condemnation (Romans 8:1-4).

- A. Verse 1 "There is therefore <u>now</u> <u>no</u> condemnation.....(Two Words!)
- B. Unconditional Phase, "...they who walk" is a STATEMENT of FACT
- C. Does not mean you will not make mistakes, fail, and sin
  - 1. Abraham Father of Nations Lied about his wife
  - 2. David A man after God's own heart committed adultery
  - 3. Peter One of three of inner circle denied he knew the Lord cursed

#### D. Three freedoms

- 1. Free from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:2)
  - a. Galatians 3:10-13 Law has been fulfilled (Romans 8:4)
- 2. Free from the Condemnation of the law (Romans 8:3).
  - a. Righteousness of the law was "fulfilled IN US!" By Christ (I Cor. 1:30)
- 3. Free from control of the law
  - a. I Corinthians 1:30 MADE UNTO US.....
  - b. Galatians 3:22-25 No longer under the schoolmaster
- 4. Christians have complete "freedom" from the penalty and the power of sin.
  - a. There are no conditions to the "freedom" of a Christian.
  - b. Grace writes an unconditional guarantee of freedom.
  - c. If it had conditions, it would not be grace
  - d. If it had conditions, it would mean it is "debt." See Romans 4:4

Romans 8:1 states it is because we are "in Christ." What does it mean to "be in Christ Jesus?"

#### I. Old Testament Example is Noah

- A. Genesis 7:1 "Come thou and all thy house into the Ark. (All he had to do....)
- B. Genesis 7:16 "God shut them in."
  - 1. God did not say, "It is going to be a rough ride, so drive 8 spikes in the walls of the ark and "hang on."
- C. The Ark was "pitched" Genesis 6:14 (Hebrews word is "Kaphar."
  - 1. Same Hebrew word is translated "Atonement." (READ Exodus 32:30)
    - a. 71 times in the Old Testament.
- D. The Ark is a picture of the New Testament Christian being, "In Christ."

#### **II.** The Christian is free from Defeat (Romans 8:5-17).

- A. Paul is not talking about two types of Christians
  - 1. Comparing lost and saved (Romans 8:5-9) NOT DEBTOR TO LAW (V. 12)
    - a. Lost is "FLESH" saved is "SPIRIT" Conforming to His Image
    - b. Lost: "at war" saved: "at peace" (Romans 8:11)

## III. The Christian is free from discouragement and frustration (Romans 8:18-30) Why Should You Be Discouraged?

Let us look at "Why you should not be discouraged."

- A. Jesus Christ is greatly concerned about you and me
  - 1. Hebrews 4:14-16 He understands
  - 2. Mark 7:32-34 Signed - He was Grieved!
  - 3. John 11:33-35-38 Troubled
  - 4. Luke 19:41 Jesus Wept
- B. Christian has two great Intercessors
  - 1. Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27)
  - 2. Jesus Christ (Romans 8:34)
- C. Threefold cord is hard to break Eccl 4:12
  - 1. Jesus Christ Holy Spirit Christians
- D. There are four truths that we know
  - 1. God is at work doing something good Romans 8:28
  - 2. God has a plan and His plan is perfect
  - 3. God's plan will succeed
  - 4. God's ultimate plan is to conform us to his image (Romans 8:29)
- E. Three groanings: WE ARE NOT ALONE!
  - 1. Creation groans (Romans 8:18-22)
    - Genesis 1:31 "....very good"
  - 2. Believers groan (Romans 8:23)

**Example:** Teddy Steele, who was pastor of East Side Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee, who was dying of cancer, was looking forward to the day when he would have "no sin nature."

Ephesians 1:3 and I Corinthians 2:9

3. Holy Spirit groans (Romans 8:26)

## IV. Christians are free from separation from God

A.	God is for us	(Romans 8:31)
В.	Christ died for us	(Romans 8:34)
C.	God justified us	(Romans 8:33)

Romans 8:31-39

## FIVE QUESTIONS SATAN CAN'T ANSWER

#### **Intro:** Satan likes to ask questions:

- A. Eve "Yea, hath God said....?"
- B. Job "Doth Job serve God for naught....?"
- C. Christ "If thou be the Son of God....?"

## I. If God Be For Us, Who Can Be Against Us (Romans 8:31)

### **No Intimidation!**

A. What enemy can stand against us?

Psalms 23: - Young boy said: "The Lord is my Shepard – That's all I need!"

- B. No Enemy can prevail against us.
  - 1. Isaiah 54:17 "No weapon formed against thee"...(a Christian)
  - 2. Matthew 16:18 "The gates of Hell shall not prevail..."
- C. Isaiah 41:10-11 God is on our side Christian is assured of victory.

**Example:** Napoleon, with 500,000 men, marched against Russia in 1812. Stated, God is on the side of the mightiest (Not necessarily) All but 27,000 of his troops froze to death

- D. No victory without an enemy.
  - 1. Luke 21:12-15 & 18 We have an enemy
    - A. Not "a hair" of our head will perish.
- E. II Kings 6:15-17 "They that be with us are more than they that be.....against us!"

## II. "He That Spared Not His Own Son, But Delivered Him Up For Us All, How Shall He Not With Him Also Freely Give Us All Things?" (Romans 8:32)

## No Deprivation!

- A. Romans 5:8 If God sent his Son while we were yet sinners....
  - 1. Will He, as His children freely give us all things? YES!
- B. Philippians 4:19 "...according to His riches in glory."
- EX: Niagara Falls

Water just keeps rushing

When Niagara Falls dries up – God's blessings will continue to flow.

## **III.** Who Shall Lay Anything To The Charge of God's Elect (Romans 8:33)

#### No Accusation!

- A. Satan tries to accuse us (Revelation 12:10)
  - 1. He was cast down!
  - 2. When Satan reminds you of your past remind him of his future.
- B. Daniel 7:25
- C. Revelation 20:9-10
- D. Men may try to accuse you.
- E. Jesus "Paid our debt in full"
  - 1. Past Present Future sins
  - 2. You cannot be tried twice for the same sins (Double Jeopardy)
- F. Christ on the Cross John 19:30 IT IS FINISHED!
  - 1. (Greek) - - "Teleo" Means: "Paid in Full."
  - 2. Colossians 2:13-14 He forgave all Blotted out all that is against us.

#### **IV.** "Who Is He That Condemneth?" (Romans 8:34)

#### No Condemnation!

- A. There is only One who can condemn us (John 5:22 Judge)
  - 1. But Christ died for our sins Therefore, He would not condemn us
- B. We are "Justified" by His Blood
  - 1. He cannot justify us and condemn us!
- C. He is at the right hand of the throne of God
  - 1. He is making intercession (Romans 8:34)
- D. Satan can accuse us all he wants
- E. Only the Law can condemn us We are FREE from the Law (Romans 8:2)

#### V. Who Shall Separate Us From The Love Of Christ? (Romans 8:35)

#### **No Separation**

- A. Setting: Church in Rome was not like today!
  - 1. It was an "underground" Church
  - 2. Lived in fear of their lives.
  - 3. Christianity had no license to practice openly
    - a. Capitoline Hill There was a building called "The Parthenon"
    - b. Must have an "visible image" to practice one's religion
  - 4. Their lives were in danger
    - a. They had no Bible
    - b. Rome occasionally received a letter Delineating Paul's experiences
    - c. Had never seen him, but heard of him How he persecuted the church.
  - 5. They sat quietly and listened as this letter was read.
  - 6. WHO SHALL SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD!

## B. List of things that cannot separate us from the Love of Christ

- 1. Tribulation
- 2. Distress
- 3. Persecutions
- 4. Famine
- 5. Nakedness
- 6. Peril
- 7. Sword
- 8. Death
- 9. Life

- 10. Angels
- 11. Principalities
- 12. Powers
- 13. Things Present
- 14. Things to Come
- 15. Heights
- 16. Depths
- 17. Any other Creature.

**Romans 8:28 – 29** 

## ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD

#### **Introduction: Paul has dealt with**

Salvation by Faith

All guilty before God

Struggles with his flesh

Victorious life

Groans of creation

Groans of Christians

Holy Spirit making intercession

Now - Romans 8:28

#### I. The Purpose of God is For His Children

- A. Begins with "We know..." Writing to Christians
  - 1. Does not apply to lost people
  - 2. God's purpose for lost people
    - a. Reach them with the Gospel
    - b. Strive earnestly to see them saved.
- B. Starts with a conjunction "And" Ties two truths together.....
  - 1. Holy Spirit praying for us to be in the "Will of God."
  - 2. All things working together for good "ACCORDING" to Will of God
- C. WE KNOW that ALL things **ALL** things...
  - 1. Not just what we understand or can "see." We walk by faith not by sight.

#### II. The Purpose of God "From the Beginning."

- A. Genesis 4:8-12 Cain slew Abel first boy ever born
  - 1. Hebrews 12:24 The Blood of Abel is still speaking 6000 years later
  - 2. Blood states, "Man is TOTALLY depraved!"
    - a. Cain was raised in a perfect environment! Committed murder Good Parents Good Home life No TV No Movies No Guns Nothing to steal No Strong drink No drugs
  - 3. Cain had a heart problem!
- B. It worked "for good."
  - 1. The Blood still gives the message today.
  - 2. Man has a heart problem –a heart problem needs to be "dealt with immediately." TODAY NOW

#### III. The Purpose of God for Joseph (Genesis 37)

A. Cast in a pit - (Genesis 37:24)
B. Sold into slavery - sent to Egypt (Genesis 37:28)

- C. Lied about by Potiphar's wife (Genesis 39:11)
  D. Cast into prison (Genesis 39:20)
  E. Forgotten by the butler (Genesis 40:23)
  - 1. 40 years later!
  - 2. Joseph became the second most powerful man in the world
- F. Revealed himself to his brothers (Genesis 50:18-21)
  - 1. God meant it unto GOOD!
    - a. Worked for God's purpose to be accomplished
    - b. Worked for Joseph's good
    - c. Worked for the good of the people.

God was good to His people – lost people benefit Rains on both the good and the evil (Matthew 5:45) Holy Spirit is holding back wrath of God today (II Thess 2:7)

### IV. The Purpose of God for Job (Job 1:1)

- A. Job's Substance (Job 1:1-3).
  - 1. Seven Sons
  - 2. Three Daughters
  - 3. 7000 Sheep
  - 4. 3000 Camels
  - 5. 500 Yoke of Oxen = 1000
  - 6. 500 Asses (donkeys)
- B. Job's Losses (Job 1:13-19)
  - 1. Oxen and Asses (Vss. 13-16).
  - 2. Sheep (Vs. 16).
  - 3. Camels (Vs. 17)
  - 4. Sons and daughters Vs. 18-19)
- C. Job's Response (Job 1:21-22)
- D. Job's Rewards (Job 42:12-13)

Latter end of Job's life was BETTER than beginning!

- 1. Sheep 14,000 (double) 2. Camels 6,000 (double)
- 3. Oxen 1000 (yoke) (double)
- 4. Asses 1000 (double)
- 5. Seven sons and 3 daughters

#### V. What is God's Purpose?

- A. Romans 8:29!
- B. God has two purposes for every person born into the world
  - 1. For you to hear the Gospel and be saved! And after you are saved
  - **2.** God's purpose for you changes - to a **New purpose**To develop and mold you into "the likeness of Christ"

#### VI. How does God develop and mold you to be like Christ?

- A. Two ways of molding a Christian
  - 1. The Word of God (Ephesians 5:24-27) "...washing of water by the word."
  - 2. Hardships and Trials (I Peter 1:6-8)

#### VII. Why does God mold us to be like Christ?

A. For the work of the ministry! (Ephesians 4:12)!!!

**Example:** You say, "Brother Ernest, we need a good Youth Director."

I say, "You're right, we need a good Youth Director."

You say, "Where can we find one?"

I say, "In the church at East Side." – YOU DO IT!

B. God gives spiritual gifts to you in order for the entire church to PROFIT. (I Corinthians 12:7)

C. We are laborers TOGETHER with Him! (I Corinthians 3:9)

Everyone in the church should be "on staff." (Unpaid!)

## VIII. The "Three-fold" Purpose of God.

A. For you to be saved
(II Peter 3:9)
B. For you to be like Christ
(Romans 8:29)
C. For you to have a part in the ministry!"
(Eph. 4:12)

**Romans 9:1-5 – Romans 9:14-17** 

#### ISRAEL'S PAST

- I. The setting "seems" to change completely
  - A. Paul had dealt with the Gentiles in Romans, Chapters 1-8
- II. The "setting" changes, but the "theme" is the same Kinsmen.
  - A. Paul speaking directly to the Jews His kinsman in the flesh.
  - B. Paul is still trying to convince them of "Salvation by faith not works"
  - C. Paul will approach it in three sections:
    - 1. Chapter 9 Israel's Past
    - 2. Chapter 10 Israel's Present
    - 3. Chapter 11 Israel's Future

## **Paul is dealing with Israel's Past**

#### I. Paul Establishes His Love For His Kinsman

- A. Paul's opening remarks: I SPEAK THE TRUTH I am not lying!
  - 1. Jews were skeptical of Paul With good reason
  - 2. He had been extremely zealous for the Jewish religion
    - a. Now he preached and proclaimed what he had once destroyed.
- B. Paul is considered "a traitor" to the Jewish religion and the Law of Moses.
  - 1. Paul knew they were skeptical of him; therefore, he wants to assure them.
    - a. My Conscience
    - b. The Holy Ghost
- C. About what???
  - 1. So loved them that he was willing to go to Hell if they could be saved!
- D. Only Two men were ever recorded as having that kind of burden for people
  - 1. Moses Exodus 19:12 Climbed up to Mt. Sinai to meet with God. Exodus 32:30-32
  - 2. Paul Romans 9:3

#### II. Paul Reminds Them of Their Great Privileges in the Past (Romans 9:4-5)

A. Named Israelites – Honor
B. Adoption – (Exodus 4:22)
C. Glory – Shekinah – (Exodus 40:34-35)
D. Covenants:
1. Abrahamic
2. Renewal of the Covenant
(Isaac and Jacob – (Genesis 26:2-5)
3. Mosaic – Law – (Exodus 20-21)

- 4. Davidic (II Samuel 7:16) 5. New Covenant – (Jeremiah 31:33).
- E. Service Worship associated with Tabernacle (Exodus & Leviticus)
- F. Promises of Messiah
- G. Fathers The Patriarchs national history and heritage of Jews
- H. That Christ came to them after the flesh. (John 1:11).

## III. Paul Explains Israel's Misunderstanding Concerning Their Nation. (God has not abandoned his people - Israel)

- **A.** People think that the Bible is teaching that God predetermines people to salvation.
  - 1. EXPLANATION:
    - a. **TULIP:** T = Totally Depravity: U = Unconditional Election: L = Limited atonement: I = Irresistible Grace: P = Perseverance of Saints
  - 2. Text is not about salvation! The word SALVATION is not found in the text
    - a. The text is about God's CHOSEN PEOPLE and **their service** (Romans 9:12)
    - b. It is a subject about "NATIONS."
  - 3. Esau and Jacob - "As it is written...." Source Malachi 1:1-4
    - a. To whom is Malachi speaking? Verse 1 "The Word of the Lord to Israel"
    - b. Wherein has thou loved "US?" (not loved me).
    - c. Not referring to "two men" Esau and Jacob.
    - d. God did not hate Esau hated his heritage (Malachi 1:3) Edomites
  - 2. Genesis 25:23 Two nations are in thy womb.
    - c. Wherein has thou loved "US?" (not love ME).
    - a. Genesis 36:12 & 16 Who is Amalek? Go to verse 16! Generational...

      1. Genesis 36:12 Esau's grandson
    - b. Edom refused Israel permission to pass through their land (Judges 11:14-18)

#### IV. Paul is Pointing Out the TRUE Israel (Romans 9:4)

A. Romans 9:6-7-12

Esau: a picture of the flesh – (NATURAL ISRAEL)

Jacob: a picture of the Spirit – (SPIRITUAL ISRAEL)

- B. The seed of Isaac is CHOSEN to serve God.
- C. "For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel." (Verse 6)
- D. Only those who choose God by faith are of the promise of God

#### **ROMANS 9:14-17**

Paul is now going to illustrate that there is NO UNRIGHTEOUSNESS in God.

#### I. Pharaoh Exalted

- A. "For the Scriptures saith unto Pharaoh." (Verse 17)
- B. "I raised thee up..." Greek word: "Exhgeira" The definition follows:

"I raised thee up" - "I have made thee stand," The Greek word, "exhgerir," used by the apostle (exhgeira) means: I have excited, roused, or stirred thee up; but it may also have the meaning, "I have sustained or supported thee." That is, I have kept thee from death - I have ministered strength to thee, so that thy full character has been developed. It does not mean that God had placed into his mind an evil which he could not refuse, or that by any direct influence God had given him any evil feelings. It means that he had kept him in circumstances which were fitted to develop his true character. The meaning of the word and the truth about Pharaoh is explained in the following:

1. God meant to accomplish some great purposes by Pharaoh's existence and conduct.

- 2. God kept him, or sustained him, with reference to that purpose.
- 3. God had control over Pharaoh's life and could have taken his life at any time.
- 4. God was "patient and longsuffering," thus giving Pharaoh ample time to repent. a. See Romans 9:22
- 5. God gave Pharaoh ample warning of judgment. (Romans 9:17)
- 6. Instead of repenting, the circumstances further developed Pharaoh's own character.
- 7. It does not imply that God exerted any evil influence on Pharaoh's mind.
- 8. Pharaoh acted freely. He did that which he chose to do. He pursued his own course. By his own free will he continued to oppress the Israelites. By his own free will he continued in opposition to God. By his own free will he pursued the Israelites to the Red Sea. Pharaoh did all AS HE CHOSE TO DO! Pharaoh determined to ignore the warning of the judgment of God and continued in his own course.
- 9. Neither Pharaoh, nor any other sinner, can blame God for placing them in circumstances where they make only bad choices. All men develop their own character according to their own choices and actions. God is not to blame! The sinner is not compelled to sin. People sin of their own choice.

#### II. Pharaoh's Choice

- A. Verses which state that Pharaoh hardened his heart; (Referred to 20 times -10 & 10)
  - 1. Exodus 8:15
  - 2. Exodus 8:32
  - 3. Exodus 9:7
  - 4. Exodus 9:34-35
- B. It is true that God also hardened Pharaoh's heart.

- 1. God hardened Pharaoh's heart in response to Pharaoh's choice.
- 2. Exodus 3:19 God foreknew Pharaoh's choice.
- 3. God gave Pharaoh "space to repent."
  - a. God forewarned Pharaoh 12 times.
  - b. God sent nine judgments
  - c. God's final judgment Death of first-born Exodus 11:4-5
- 4. Pharaoh made his choice
  - a. God never "over-rides" a sinner's choice!

#### **III.** Pharaoh's Destruction

A. Exodus 14:26-28 "Not one remained!"

"What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God?"

#### **GOD FORBID!**

God will receive glory when a sinner repents.

If a sinner will not repent and trust Christ,
God receives glory in being a just God in judging sin righteously.

In all things, God is just and God is righteous!

## **ROMANS #16-B**

## ESAU AND HIS KINFOLKS

(Additional Explanation of Israel's Past)

## **Background:**

- I. Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12:1-3). The covenant is "seven-fold"
  - A. I will make thee a great nation
  - B. I will bless thee
  - C. I will make thy name great.
  - D. You shalt be a blessing
  - E. I will bless them that bless thee
  - F. I will curse them that curse thee
  - G. In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.
- II. Abraham's Faith Fails (Genesis 16:1-4)
  - A. Ishmael Born by Hagar Handmaid of Sarai
  - B. Prophecy of Ishmael (Genesis 16:12)
    - 1. Be a wild man!
    - 2. Be against every man
    - 3. Every man shall be against him
    - 4. Shalt dwell in the presence of his brethren (Israel)
  - C. Promise of God re-confirmed to Abraham (Genesis 17:15-19)
- III. The Promise of Isaac The son of Promise (Genesis 17:15-17)
  - A. God's promise to Abraham is established with Isaac (Genesis 17:19)
  - B. Still in effect today!
- IV. The Birth of Isaac (Genesis 21:1-3)
  - A Covenant confirmed with Isaac (Genesis 22:15-18)
- V. Isaac Marries Rebekah (Genesis 24:64-67).
- VI. Birth of Twins Two nations (Genesis 25:21-23)
  - A. Jacob Spiritual Man Abrahamic Covenant Confirmed
    - 1. God changed his name to Israel, "Prince with God." (Genesis 32:27-28)
  - B. Esau Carnal Man (Galatians 5:16-17)
    - 1. Sold His Birthright dealt with later.
  - C. Malachi 1:1-4 (Underline last part of verse 4)
  - "... The people against whom the LORD hath indignation forever!"

(People who live for the flesh! - - - and always oppose God's Work)

#### **History of Esau**

- I. Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:27-34d)
  - A. Esau A Man's man
  - B. Jacob A Mama's boy

- 1. God's Choice
  - a. Esau despised Spiritual things (Genesis 25:27-34)
  - b. Jacob desired Spiritual things
- C. Jacob Wrestled with God (Genesis 32:24-28)
  - 1. Fixed fight! "What's your name?"
    - a. God knew his name
    - b. God wanted Jacob to admit "what/who he was."
- D. When Jacob admitted confessed, God changed him and his name!
- E. Esau is the "symbol" of
  - 1. Malachi. 1:4 "...the people whom God has indignation for ever."

#### II. Esau and True Israel (Judges 11:14-18) Show on Map #2

- A. Moses leading God's people to the Promise Land Edomites OPPOSED
  - 1. Shortest route was straight across from Goshen Promised Land
    - a. The Edomites controlled that land
    - b. They refused to grant Moses permission to cross their land (75 miles)
    - c. Goshen to Red Sea and back to Israel -400-450 miles (18-20 days travel)
      - 1. Stopped and camped for days at a time.

#### III. Esau and Moses - (Exodus 17:8-16)

- A. Amalek was Esau's grandson! (Genesis 36:12)
  - 1. Moses was "bound for the promised land." (Close to Mt. Sinai)
  - 2. "Promised land" was a "place of rest" for God's people (Hebrews 4:9)
    - a. Amalek (Esau's grandson) strongly OPPOSED him even to warfare!
  - 3. Battle was won "On the Mountain Top." (Prayer)
  - 4. Underline the last part of verse 16 "The LORD will have war with Amalek from generation to generation" (Exodus 17:16b)

(The people of the flesh – who will always OPPOSE the things of God!)

#### IV. Esau and Saul (I Samuel 15:1-3).

- A. Agag, Amalek, Esau, all his kinfolks! Picture of the flesh always opposes God
- B. God instructed Saul "Spare not...." (Vs 3)
  - 1. Samuel came to Saul and Saul said, "you'll be proud I have performed the commandment...." (I Samuel 15:13)
  - 2. Samuel said, "What meaneth the bleating of the sheep...? (vs 14)
    - a. "We saved the best to offer to God!" (vs 15)
- C. Satan's Master Plan!

Going to offer "the very best of what God utterly hated!" (THE FLESH)

- D. Using human abilities human wisdom worldly methods
  - To help God out!
- E. Conclusion: I Samuel 1:9-13
  - 1. Saul was slain by an Amalek the flesh! Whom he had been commanded to destroy!
  - 2. If Saul had been obedient it might have turned out differently!

Romans 9:30 - 10:21

### **ISRAEL'S PRESENT**

**Introduction:** Paul is drawing to a conclusion all that he has shared concerning Israel's past. He refers to two Old Testament Passages – well known to the Jews

- **I. Esau and Jacob.** - - We studied this previously.
  - A. They had wasted their great privilege (Romans 9:4-5).
  - B. They had failed to realize they were not saved by being Jews
    - 1. Not all Israelites are Israelites (Romans 9:6-7)
- **II. Pharaoh** - - We studied this previously
  - A. They apparently had accused God of being unrighteous (Romans 9:14)
    - 1. Paul had told them they were lost sinners
    - 2. That they would be judged and go to Hell the same as the Gentiles!
    - 3. God would allow this "because of their choices!"
    - 4. God had given them ample time to repent and trust Him by faith
    - 5. God was not unrighteous to judge them
    - 6. Paul proved that they are "without excuse"
  - B. Christ was a "stumbling block to the Jews." (Romans 9:32)

## Paul is now dealing with Israel's "Present" THREE ASPECTS OF ISRAEL'S REJECTION OF THEIR MESSIAH

- I. The Reasons for Their Rejection (Romans 10:1-3).
  - A. Had a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge
    - 1. The Jews had great pride in their law and in their traditions (Books)
    - 2. Their pride led them to choose their law and tradition rather than to "obey."
    - 3. Jews "would not submit to God's righteousness." (Romans 10:3)
    - 4. Brought on their own judgment by "their free-will to choose." (John 12:37-40).
  - B. The Old Testament Saints understood "Trusting Christ 'by faith."
    - 1. Romans 4:1-4
    - 2. Hebrews, Chapter 11
    - 3. The Jews of Paul's day were "without excuse."
  - C. God had prepared them to recognize Christ as their Messiah!
    - 1. See attached list of prophecies God had given to his people. Attached)
  - D. Romans 9:14, "Is there unrighteousness with God?" NO! NONE WHATSOEVER!
- II. The Remedy for Their Rejection (Romans 10:4-13).
  - A. Romans 10:13 is a quote from Joel 2:32

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B. Romans 10:16-18 – Israel had heard! – Refers to Psalms 19:1-6
1. Isaiah 53:1-6 explains Christ
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- C. Romans 10:14-17 Our obligation
  - 1. Paul and the disciples had "fulfilled the Great Commission."
- D. Have you and I done our part in "fulfilling the Great Commission?"

We must never become apathetic toward our responsibility to preach the gospel to every creature. This is still, today, the responsibility of the church. While this passage relates primarily to Israel, it applies to all lost souls around the world. People around the world cannot be saved unless they call upon the Lord Jesus Christ. However, they have no chance of being saved unless they can hear the message of salvation. "Faith comes by hearing" so they must hear the message before they can be saved. That means a messenger must be sent to them with the message. God does not call everyone to go around the world with the Gospel message of Jesus Christ; however, He calls some. Some of us share the news here at home, but others must be sent to distant places. In spite of those countries which have closed their doors, there are far more open doors to the Gospel than there are closed doors. And there are far more open doors than ever before in the history of the world. Also, we have far better with which to work with than they had in Paul's day - yet they fulfilled the Great Commission.

There are four reasons why the church must send out missionaries.

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    The command from above – "go ye into all the world" (Math. 28:19-20).
    The cry from beneath - "send him to my father's house" (Luke 16:27).
    The call from without - "come over and help us" (Acts 16:9).
    The constraint from within - "the love of Christ constrains to us" (2 Cor. 5:14).
```

#### **III.** The Results of Their Rejection

(Three results – supported by Old Testament Scripture.

- A. Israel was guilty of hearing but rejecting the truth.
  - 1. Israel had heard (Psalms 19:1-6).
  - 2. Israel did not believe (Psalms 19:7).
  - 3. Israel was guilty before God (Romans 3:9).
  - 4. Israel had AMPLE opportunity to repent.
    - a. Israel knew the Old Testament Scriptures
    - b. Israel knew all the prophecies concerning her Messiah
    - c. Israel had AMPLE opportunity to believe (John 12:37)
- B. Their rejection opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles (Romans 10:19-20).
  - 1. Predicted Deut. 32:21
  - 2. Predicted Isaiah 65:1
  - 3. Jews hated the Gentiles and were angry about their being saved.
- C. Israel's rejection of God in no way cancels God's love for his "Chosen People."
  - 1. God stills loves and cares for His Chosen People.
  - 2. Isaiah 65:2 (See vs 17)
  - 3. God wants "us" to share the Gospel with the Jews.
  - 4. God still has a plan for them in the future (Explained in Romans, chapter 11)

## **ROMANS #17-C**

#### OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES EXPLAINED

- Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
- Micah 5:2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.
- Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- Genesis 12:3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.
- Genesis 49:10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.
- Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- Psalms 69:8 I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.
- Isaiah11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:
- Psalms 35:11 False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not.
- Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.
- Isaiah 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.
- Psalms 35:19 Let not them that are mine enemies wrongfully rejoice over me: neither let them wink with the eye that hate me without a cause.
- Isaiah 53:12 Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.
- Psalms 69:21 They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Psalms 22:16 - For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

Psalms 22:18 - They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

Psalms 109:4 - For my love they are my adversaries: but I give myself unto prayer.

Psalms 16:10 - For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Romans 11:1-36

## **ISRAEL'S FUTURE**

#### Intorduction: Israel has always been a puzzle

- A. Nations hate Israel and they cannot give a reason why!
- B. In spite of all attempts to destroy Israel God has a future plan for them.
- C. Paul presents four witnesses to prove that Israel has a future.

#### I. Paul Testifies that God is not Through with His People (Romans 11:1-2)

- A. Paul is talking to the Jews (Romans 10:21)
- B. Paul was an Israelite (Romans 11:1)
- C. Paul refers to himself as, "One born out of due time." (I Corinthians 15:8)
- D. "...That in me first..." God will show a pattern (I Timothy 1:16)
- E. Book of Acts Dr. Luke repeats Paul's conversion three times!
  - 1. Acts 9:1-6
  - 2. Acts 22 Before his kinsman, the Jews (Verse 1 & Acts 10:27-30)
  - 3. Acts 26 Before Agrippa (Acts 26:12-15)
- F. Paul's Testimony is different from any today.
  - 1. No one has seen a great light from Heaven
  - 2. No one has heard a voice from Heaven
  - 3. No one has fallen on the ground
  - 4. No one has been blinded
- G. Paul said, "This is a pattern" (I Timothy 1:16)
  - 1. Paul, like Israel, rejected Christ
  - 2. Paul, like Israel, fought against Christ (Acts 8:1-3)
  - 3. Paul, like Israel, was blinded (II Corinthians 3:13-17)
- H. Picture of how Israel shall be saved
  - 1. Zech 14:4 & 12:10 & 13:1
  - 2. The Nation shall "see" Him in visible return (Revelation 1:7)
  - 3. All similar to Paul's pattern
- I. God still has a plan for Israel (Romans 11:2)

#### II. Paul points to the Prophet Elias (Elijah) as a Witness (Romans 11:2-10)

- A. Most of Israel rejected Christ, but God has always had a remnant.
- B. I Kings 19:18
  - 1. Elijah thought he was the very last Jew left on earth.
    - a. Found there was a remnant of 7000
- C. There has NEVER been a time when ALL Israel has been true to God
- D. There has NEVER been a time when ALL Israel has rejected God

- E. God made a distinction
  - 1. Romans 2:25-29
    - a. Natural Israel
    - b. Spiritual Israel
  - 2. All may have been circumcised (Romans 4:1-5), but not true Israel
- F. The Remnant is "saved by Grace: (Romans 11:5-6)
  - 1. Romans 9:30-33 & Romans 4:1-4
- G. Has God "cast them aside?" (Romans 11:1) No!
  - 1. "God Forbid" (Vs 11:1)
  - 2. Revelation states there are 144,000 who will be missionaries!

## III. Paul points out that the Gentiles testify that Israel has a future. (Romans 11:11-15)

- A. In Romans 2:1-3 Paul used the Gentiles to prove the Jews guilty before God
- B. Here, Paul uses Gentiles to assure Jews that God has a plan for them in the future.
  - 1. Isaiah 11:10 & Isaiah 60:3-5 Gentiles will join Israel in the Kingdom.
- C. Israel fell, but God was not surprised (Foreknowledge)
- D. What will happen to the Gentiles when Israel falls?
  - 1. The Church rose up and God began to use the "Gentiles and Jews" together!
  - 2. Jews and Gentiles became one body (Ephesians 2:11-22)
  - 3. However, God is still not through with Israel!
  - 4. Jeremiah 31:35-37 ISRAEL CANNOT CEASE
- E. Israel has a past a present and A FUTURE WHICH IS STILL AHEAD!

#### IV. Paul points to God Himself

- A. Paul lists six points concerning God testifying that He is not finished with Israel.
  - 1. God's Timing is yet future (Romans 11:25)
    - a. Blindness is not TOTAL or FINAL
    - b. Blindness of Israel is temporary
    - c. "...Until fullness of the Gentiles.... (Luke 21:24)
    - d. Acts 15:12-18
  - 2. God's Promise (Romans 11:26)
    - a. Isaiah 59:20-21
    - b. Isaiah 60:3-5
    - c. Jews living when he returns They shall see Him!
      - 1. Zech 12-13
  - 3. God's Covenant (Romans 11:27-28)
    - a. Isaiah 59:20-21
    - b. God chose Israel (Deuteronomy 7:6-11 & 9:1-6)
    - c. God WILL NOT break his Word with Abraham Isaac Jacob
  - 4. God's Nature (Romans 11:29)
    - a. "...I change not..." (Mal 3:6)
    - b. Numbers 23:19
  - 5. God's Grace (Romans 11:30-32)
    - a. Gentiles have an obligation to Israel (Romans 10:19; 11:11,14)
  - 6. God's Wisdom (Romans 11:33-36)

**Romans 12:1-8** 

#### **OUR RELATIONSHIP TO GOD**

#### **Introduction #1:** Paul has taught doctrine in Chapters 1-11

1. Now: Time to translate "learning" into "living."

Learning is in vain if not translated into living

Belief to behavior

Doctrine to Deeds

2. Result: Right Relationship to God translates into Right Relationship with Others.

## Your Reasonable Duty

(Romans 12:1-2).

#### **Introduction #2:** This is the fourth "Therefore" in Romans.

- 1. Romans 3:20 "The *Therefore* of Condemnation."
- 2. Romans 5:1 "The *Therefore* of Justification."
- 3. Romans 8:1 "The *Therefore* of No Condemnation."
- 4. Romans 12:1 "The *Therefore* of Dedication."

## What is "Dedication?"

(Three steps)

## I. Present your "Body" to God (Romans 12:1)

In <u>the past</u> you used your body for self and sinful pleasures In the future, use your body for God's glory. (I Corinthians 6:19-20)

- A. How do you present your body to God?
  - 1. As a "living" sacrifice.
    - a. Romans 6:13: Become an "Instrument of Righteousness."
    - b. It is more difficult to be a "living" sacrifice than it is to be a "dead" sacrifice!
  - 2. Present your body.
    - a. Once and for all
    - b. Once and forever
  - 3. Why should you present your body?
    - a. Because God "beseeches" you to present it.
- C. The usage of the word "Beseech"
  - 1. Used 35 times in Old Testament (Always used by people "beseeching the Lord."
    - a. NEVER used by the Lord to "beseech" people
    - b. Used 30 times in the New Testament, by the Lord, to "beseech people."
    - c. "I beseech ve, brethren...."
- D. Meaning: I am "asking, pleading with, exhorting you..." NOT COMMANDING YE...
  - 1. Asking: "based" on the "mercies of God."
  - 2. Reflect back at what God has done for you!
    - a. Died for your sins (I Corinthians 15:3)
    - b. Forgave all your sins Past, Present & Future (I John 2:2)

- c. Opened the Holy of Holies and invited you in (Heb. 4:14-16)
- d. Promised you sufficient grace for any trial (II Cor. 12:9)
- e. Promised He would never leave you. (Heb. 13:5)
- f. Sent the Holy Spirit To comfort and to guide (John 14:26: 16:3)
- g. Given you eternal life (John 10:28).
- h. Sealed your eternal life so you can never lose it. (Eph. 1:13-14)
- i. Made you joint-heirs with Jesus Christ (Romans 8:17)
- j. Calls you His Friend (John 15:14)
- 3. What you do for Jesus should be in consideration of what He has done for you.
- 4. II Corinthians 5:14: Paul said, "The love of Christ constraineth us...."
- 5. Hudson Taylor, the great missionary to China said:

"Lord, please let me do something to show you that I love you."

- E. Why did you come to Sunday School this morning?
  - 1. Because of what He has done for you?
  - 2. Some come because they are expected to come -and may look bad if they don't
  - 3. Some do not come their body wants to be somewhere else –having fun!
  - 4. Question: Do you think God wants your body to be in SS on Sunday morning?
- F. Some Christians "Quit." Can't understand people quitting because Sunday School or Church
  - 1. Disappointed in Pastor
  - 2. Disappointed in a deacon teacher The church
  - 3. HOW can a Christian "quit" after what God has done for them.
    - a. See Jeremiah 2:5
- G. There is a "test" that comes into the life of every Christian to see if you will quit!
  - 1. If one is serving Him by love a Christian will not quit!

#### II. Give Your "Mind" to God (Romans 12:2) (Philippians 2:5)

- A. The world wants to control your mind
  - 1. If the world controls your mind you are a "conformer."
  - 2. If God controls your mind you are a "transformer."
- B. How do you "give" your mind to God?

Think as God thinks. (Phil 4:8)

Want what God wants (John 8:29 & I Peter 3:9)

Ask for what God would have you to ask for (John 14:13)

Do what God wants you to do. (John 14:12)

- C. The only way to accomplish each of the above is to spend time in God's Word
  - 1. Joshua 1:8 Key to good success!

#### III. Yield Your "Will" to God (Romans 12:2).

- A. Yield your <u>will</u> to God not your "<u>willpower</u>!"
  - 1. God will give you "will power."
  - 2. God will give you "won't power."
- B. Spend time in prayer
  - 1. Strive for, "Not my will, but thy will be done."

**Romans 12:3-8** 

# HAVING A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH THOSE IN THE CHURCH

#### **Introduction:** Written to the local church in Rome

- A. The church was about 20-25 years old
- B. They did not have a New Testament It had not been written at this time.
- C. Most likely they had only this Epistle from Paul

#### I. Paul addresses the first problem in the local church in Rome

- A. Romans 12:2 closes: "That ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."
  - 1. Every member should be in the will of God
    - a. You can be saved and not be in the will of God.
    - b. You can be a member of the church, but not in the will of God.
      - 1. Some Christians in Rome were apparently not in the will of God.
      - 2. Most likely they had never been taught this principle
- B. Problem: Some were thinking **more** highly of themselves than they should. Rom.12:3
  - 1. Written to "every" man (Women included).
  - 2. Written to people in the local church: "...among you." (Romans 12:7)
    - a. Some Christian was "thinking he was better at something than others."
  - 3. They were not thinking accurately.
  - 4. They were not thinking humbly. (Philippians 3:1-4)
- C. Paul was speaking of "Spiritual Gifts."
  - 1. Every Christian has at least one gift. (I Cor. 12:11)
    - a. Every Christian has not been given the same measure of faith. (Romans 12:3)
    - b. Every Christian has not been given the same abilities (Romans 12:6)
    - c. Every Christian has not been given the same gifts (Romans 12:6)
  - 2. Perhaps they did not understand God's design for the local church

#### II. Paul explains God's design for the local church

- A. Each member must function accordingly as a hand, a foot, an eye, an ear; etc. Some members thought they could "pick their gift, or gifts."
- B. The body must be unified
  - 1. Every part is necessary
  - 2. Every part is important
  - 3. Every part needs the other parts
- C. The body can function without some parts

It can function without an eye, an ear, an arm, a leg, etc.

- BUT, it cannot function as effectively!
- D. Every member of the local church is important
  - 1. Every member has a purpose
  - 2. Every member is needed

3. Every member is important

Every member doing his/her part – the church functions effectively.

### III. The gifts are decided and given to every member by God (I Cor. 12:11 & 18)

- A. God gives every member a special gift BY DESIGN (Romans 12:3 I Peter 4:10)
  - 1. Someone may say, "I don't like my gift I want your gift."
  - 2. If I can't have your gift, I won't exercise my God-given gift!
- B. You may be given other gifts. Not all Christians are given the same gift.
  - 1. If you have used your gift faithfully, you may be given other gifts.
- C. We are commanded to "covet" the best gifts. (I Cor. 12:31)
  - 1. We are commanded not to "covet" the gift of others in the church!
- D. People up and down the halls at every church are teaching.
  - 1. Other people have no God given ability to teach/communicate.
  - 2. Some attempt to teach: (Maybe they want to be seen) but cannot communicate.
- B. QUESTION: Is God upset with people who do not utilize the gift HE gave them?
  - 1. Would YOU be upset if you were in His place?

## IV. Paul lists the main gifts in the local church. (Romans 12:6-8).

- A. Prophecy preaching
  - 1. Pastor will have this gift as well as several others
  - 2. Given for the "perfecting of the saints" (Eph. 4:11-12)
- B. Ministry various
  - 1. We think of someone in the ministry as a "full time" person
  - 2. Many in each church process this gift
    - a. Visit the sick
    - b. Run errands for shut-ins
  - 3. This gift relieves the pastor of this task and provides additional time in his study of the Word of God!
- C. Teaching processes the ability to communicate
  - 1. Can develop a subject and make it sound simple.
  - 2. Some Christians want to teach but do not have the ability
    - a. This is not to be critical of that person. Thank God they have a desire
    - b. This is the pastor's fault for giving that person a class
- D. Exhortation
  - 1. Important listed among all other gifts
  - 2. Everyone needs encouragement
- E. Giving With simplicity
  - 1. Do it without calling attention to themselves
  - 2. Some at East Side have this gift I see it in the office of Fundamental Baptist World-Wide Mission.
- F. Ruleth Administrative or in charge of a project
  - 1. Deacons
  - 2. They do not rule the church Not a board!
  - 3. They preside over the "business" that was assigned them by the pastor.
- G. Mercy Visiting the sick or disabled

- 1. Encourage the sick or disabled
- 2. Don't "be as sick as they are"
- 3. Don't share the sad story of someone else who is sick!
- 4. Update them concerning the progress of the church.

## II. God gave each member "Three Principles" to follow (Romans 12:3-9).

- A. Evaluation: Think soberly in finding your gift and place in the ministry (Romans 12:3)
  - 1. Gifts are listed in Romans 8
    - a. Evaluate yourself and learn your gift. (That which motivates you)
    - b. Recognize the gift/s in others
    - c. Do not try to take someone else's place in the body.
    - d. Do not "think more highly of yourself than you should
      - 1. Saved by grace through faith
      - 2. Live by grace through faith
      - 3. Serve by grace through faith.
    - e. Apply Ephesians 4:7-16 READ!
  - 2. Gifts are explained in I Corinthians 12
    - a. "Spiritual gifts" Not natural abilities (I Cor. 12:1)
    - b. "Salvation gifts" God gives at least one gift at Salvation

      Vs 3 "Every man" I Corinthians 12:11, "to every man..."
    - c. "Sovereign" gifts I Corinthians 12;11, "...as He will..."
    - d. "Super-natural gifts" (I Corinthians 12:4)

One person will sing "professionally" - but won't touch hearts Another will sing in the "power of the Holy Spirit - bless hearts.

d. "Service" gifts – I Corinthians 12:7 – "...to profit withal That ALL may profit!

- **B. Co-Operation:** Every member should "fit" perfectly in using his/her gift.
  - 1. You might have a "spiritual gift" but use it in an "unspiritual" manner.

"Each believer has a different gift. God has given these so the local church can grow in a balanced manner. To accomplish this, each Christian must exercise his or her gift by faith. You may not "see" the result of your ministry but God sees and blesses. Notice that "exhortation" is just as much a spiritual gift and ministry as preaching or teaching. A church is headed for disaster when any one gift is emphasized beyond all the other gifts. "Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? The answer to these questions is, "no." When a Christian "minimizes" the gifts of others, and "emphasizes" his own, there will be trouble in the church! Members must fit perfectly!

- **C. Participation:** Serve lovingly and keep unity in the ministry (Romans 12:9)
  - 1. By love (Romans 8:9-10)
    - a. Honestly not hypocritically (Romans 12:9)
    - b. Humbly not proudly (Romans 12:10). (Phil 2:1-4)

## VI. Be prepared to give an account! (II Corinthians 5:10)

A. One day – you will stand before God

Each of us will stand before God and give an account for what we did with our gift!

## VII. How to use your gift, please God, and help the church

- 1. In love! (Romans 12:9). I Corinthians 13
  - a. Without dissimulation without hypocrisy without pretense
    - 1. Some people "pretend to love God."
    - 2. Some people "pretend to love others."
    - 3. Some people "simply love themselves."
- 2. Not proudly
  - a. Gifts are tools with which to build
  - b. Not toys with which to play
  - c. Not weapons with which to fight.

**Romans 12:17 – Romans 13:7** 

## A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP TO AUTHORITY

**Intro:** There is a great need to be accurate concerning "Human Government."

- A. People do not like Human Gov't (Good authority over them)
  - 1. Want total freedom to practice their sin without fear of consequences.
- B. Today, the "respect/fear of authority" has been destroyed.
- C. The next time you get robbed call the ACLU Gay & Lesbian Office, etc.

#### I The Powers That Be Are Ordained of God. (Romans 13:1)

- A. Human Government is ordained of God (Romans 13:1)
  - 1. God Established: The Home Human Gov't The church
- B. God removeth and setteth Kings (Daniel 2:21).
  - 1. Proverbs 21:1 "The King's heart is in the hand....."
  - 2, Sometimes God gives nations a bad king because they desire wickedness!
- C. All Human Gov't is controlled by God (John 19:10-12).
  - 1. If you resist the "powers that be" you are resisting God.
  - 2. I Peter 2:13-15 Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake!!!!
- D. What about a bad Government?
  - 1. Time of Jesus, Nero was King a Sodomite Wicked
  - 2. Jesus never led a rebellion
  - 2. Jesus said, "Render unto Ceasar ... (Authority!) (Math. 20:15).

#### II. Should A Christian Always obey "Human Government?"

- A. No! There are exceptions
- B. God ordained/established Human Gov't God can make any exception He desires!
  - 1. God has authority to "set aside" laws that conflict with the Word of God.
- C. Acts 5:28-29
  - 1. Clearly teaches that we are to obey God rather than man.
- D. Ex: Daniel 6:7-10 Daniel disobeyed Human Gov't
  - 1. Cast into the lion's den
  - 2. God protected him.

## III. Is "Capital Punishment" right or wrong?

- A. Murder is wrong Against Human Gov't and against God (Luke 23:25 John 8:44)
- B. Taking a "life for a life- according to the Scripture" is not only right, but is Godly.
  - 1. Romans 13:4 "Sword is a symbol of death."
- C. Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:13)
  - 1. Turn to Exodus 21:12-17.
  - 2. "Whosoever sheddeth man's blood ...." (Genesis 9:6)
- D. World says: Death Penalty is "Cruel and unusual punishment!"
  - 1. If it's wrong blame it on God!
  - 2. Proverbs 28:5 "Evil Men understand not judgment."
- E. Romans 12:19 "Avenge not thyself ..."

Prohibits taking matters into our own hands..

- F. Romans 12:19 "I will repay....."
  - 1. How? Romans 13:4
    - a. He is the minister of God!!!
    - b. Bears "the sword"
    - c. To execute judgment! on God's behalf

#### IV. Judgement should be swift!

- A. Eccl 8:11 (The cause of downfall in America today)
- B. This is the reason our crime rate is going higher and higher
  - 1. Takes YEARS to punish a murderer
  - 2. Worse some judges release them on the spot or 5 years later
- C. When a person murders another person he is guilty of murder
  - 1. When a judge "releases" a murderer and the murderer kills again...
    - a. The judge who released him is guilty of murder.

#### V. What about killing people during a war?

- A. King David was a "man of war" killed people
  - 1. Did not suffer judgment for killing enemies at war.
- B. Had Uriah killed suffered judgment.

## VI. Do we have the right, under human government to protect our family and home?

A. Yes! (Exodus 22:2)

- 1. If someone breaks into your home you have the right to shoot him
- 2. If that person dies, you are not held responsible.

Romans 14:1-23

#### ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS CONCERNING QUESTIONABLE MATTERS

**Introduction:** Paul has dealt with two problems in the church at Rome

- A. Chapter 12 Some were out of will of God wanting someone else's place.
- B. Chapter 13 Some did not want to obey the Human Gov't

**Rome** – Major city in the world – Great Buildings – Great Culture – Ruled the world

But – A Church – under ground – in homes – in catacombs!

- A. Two different types of Christians in church
  - 1. Gentiles Born and raised in Rome
    - a. Worshiped various Gods
    - b. They ate anything
    - c. They had no special days to celebrate
    - d. They had no Bible background
  - 2. Jews Saved and moved to Rome
    - a. Witnesses to Gentiles some saved met together in the church
    - b. They did not eat certain meats
    - c. They had days they celebrated
    - d. Jews had the Old Testament some background religion
- B. Those who ate all things did not receive those who ate herbs (weak Rom. 14:2)
- C. There was Division! - Paul instructed: RECEIVE them! (Rom. 14:1)

The church, or people in the church, have no right to "make rules" which violate the personal liberty concerning things which are not clearly forbidden in the Scriptures

#### Intro: Scripture warns us about two matters or principles

- A. Our attitude toward people who differ with us.
- B. Out actions toward people who differ with us.

Guard our "Attitude" toward "People" – not toward "Things." (Rom 14:3)

#### **EATING MEAT**

- A. Question about eating meat (Romans 14:1-4)
  - 1. This text applies to either (1) all meat or, (2) forbidden meat
    - a. Jews who trusted Christ did not want to eat "unclean" meat.
    - b. Jews did not want to eat "meat offered to idols." (PORK)
- B. The stronger Christian is to receive him that eateth meat (Vs 1)
  - 1. Not with doubtful disputations (Attacking his position or opinion)
  - 2. Each believer is entitled to his opinion concerning "questionable" things.
- C. He that eateth all things is not to judge the brother that eateth not (Vs 3)

He that eateth only herbs is not to judge him that eateth all things.

- 1. They are not to say, "He is a sinner!"
- 2. Both are to "respect" each other.
- D. What may Christians eat without violating God's Word?
  - 1. Mark 7:18
  - 2. I Timothy 4:4-5 All things can be eaten "with thanksgiving"
- E. You cannot do those things if it causes a weaker brother to stumble" (I Corinthians 8:13)

#### **OBSERVING DAYS**

- A. Jews observed "days"
  - 1. These Jews were young Christians
  - 2. Had not grown since they had no Scriptures
    - a. They wanted to continue observing special days (The Passover)
  - 3. Today
    - a. Christmas Celebrates the Birth of Christ
    - b. Easter Celebrates the resurrection of Christ
- B. Christians are not to judge people who differ in opinion about days.
  - 1. HOWEVER: Today WE HAVE THE SCRIPTURES & PRINCIPLE

## BIBLE PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE IN DECISIONS WHERE THERE IS A QUESTION

I. Today, there have been "heated" debates over:

Where a Christian should go – where he should not go

What a Christian should wear – what he should not wear.

What a Christian should do – what he should not do.

**Example:** Some think it is a sin for a Christian lady to wear make-up

I think it is a sin for some not to wear make-up! (LOL)

I think you should do the best you can with what you have!

What about???

Movies

**Smoking** 

Dress

Beards

These issues can "divide" churches and Christians

- II. The Bible is "a Book of Principles." It is not a "rule" book! (It guides us to right decisions).
  - A. Example: Movies: "I will set no wicked things before mine eyes" (Psalms 101:3)
  - B. Example: Smoking There is no verse that says, "Thou shall not smoke."
    - 1. But there is a principle: Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit
  - C. Example: Dress "Women adorn them selves in modest apparel." (I Timothy 2:9)
  - D. There involved "doubtful things" "Principles" direct us to right decisions.

#### III. Warnings

- A. We are warned of "two" strong teachings
  - 1. We are not to be a stumbling block in a brother's way. (Rom. 14:13)
  - 2. We are not to give an occasion to fall in a brother's way.
- B. Watch: (Romans 14:7) We all affect someone other than ourselves.

## IV. Three Deciding Verses – principles that will guide us to decisions

#### A. Frist Principle: Realize - we are not our own! I Corinthians 6:19

- 1. We have no right to:
  - a. Choose where we work
  - b. Choose whom we marry
  - c. Choose what we eat
  - d. Choose what we don't eat
  - e. Choose what we wear
- 2. Therefore, everything we do must be "approved" by The King!

#### **B. Second Principle: Can It Be Practiced for His Glory?** – (I Corinthians 10:31)

- 1. If you can drink alcohol for the glory of God drink it!
- 2. If you can smoke for the glory of God smoke!
- 3. If you can go to a Hollywood movie for the glory of God go!

#### C. Third Principle: Is it "Acceptable to God?" (Romans 12:1)

- 1. Concerning apparel we put on our bodies....
  - a. Romans 12:1 gives two requirements
  - b. Does it speak of "holiness?"
  - c. Is it "acceptable to God?"
- 2. Can a Christian wear clothing that is not modest short skirts low cut blouses' skin tight jeans or leggings and consider it:
  - A. Holy?"
  - B. Acceptable of God?"
    - 1. Would God approve of it?
    - 2. If it is not Holy If it is not acceptable unto God

#### A Christian should not wear such garments!

#### V. Test of ALL things –

- A. There is the "whosoever" in Scripture
- B. There is the "whatsoever" in Scripture

## VI. One day we will "give an account." Romans 14:11-12

The Judgment Seat of Christ (II Corinthians 5:10)

- 1. A Place of Review
- 2. A Place of Reward
- 3. A Place of Re-evaluation
- 4. A Place of Regret

In that day we will give anything if we had sought his approval before we did "questionable things."

**Romans 15:1-4** 

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR STRONG CHRISTIANS

**Intro:** Paul points out three major responsibilities in these four verses

- A. Chapter 14 Receive Them
- B. Chapter 15 Bear their infirmities

Support them

Not to please our selves

#### I. A Christian's "Duty" Toward Weaker Brethren (Rarely practiced today!) (Verse 1)

- A. We are to bear the infirmities of the weak
  - 1. Most Christians today are not interested
  - 2. We are interested in "Our way."
  - 3. Duty: "...the strong ought..."
- B. We are to support them
  - 1. You say, "I do not owe anyone anything."
  - 2. Yes, you do! II Corinthians 6:19
  - 3. The Text says, we are to Receive them Support them
  - 4. What does it mean to "support them?
    - a. It does not mean "put up with them"
    - b. It means "Get beneath the load."
  - 5. How did you get to be a strong Christian?
    - a. Not by yourself we all had help support
    - b. I Corinthians 4:7 "What have you got that ye did not receive?"
- F. We are "...not to please ourselves!" (Ouch!)
  - 1. Galatians 1:10 Paul was not a "people pleaser" –

#### a. People pleasing always involves compromise

- 2. Romans 15:1-2 is for the edification of a weaker brother! (BIG DIFFERENCE)
- G. Be honestly concerned about a weaker brother.
  - 1. I Cor. 10:32-33 Give no offense
  - 2. If you invite a Jew to dinner do **NOT** serve ham!
  - 3. Christians should ALWAYS use good manners

#### II. A Christian's attitude toward "Despite" in his life (Verse 3)

- A. Meaning: If you suffer "despite" (Looked down on); Do not change to please self
- B. Paul referred to Psalms 69 to make his point (Messianic Psalm)
  - 1. Verse 4 Enemies despised Him
  - 2. Verse 8 Family despised Him
  - 3. Verse 12 Leaders despised Him
  - 4. Verse 12 Drunkards despised Him
    - a. Same today All of the above
    - b. Write wicked, vile songs sing them in bars making fun of Jesus Gospel Rock Jokes "The man upstairs" JUNK

- 5. John 8:52 Called Him an illegitimate child. "...whom makest thou thyself"
- 6. Matthew 12:24 Beelzbub
  - a. god of flies b. god of filth c. god of dung d. The dung god"
- C. John 15:18-20 Servant is not better than his Master!
  - 1. Cannot be friend of the world and friend of Christ (I John 2:15) (Luke 11:23)
    - a. II Cor. 6:17 "...come out from among them."
  - 2. Do you know why the church is not making an impact on the world today?
    - a. Nobody wants to kill the people in the church!
    - b. Live like they lived in the NT era they will still want to kill us
    - c. One should be very concerned if her/she never suffers reproach!
  - 3 What should our attitude be when despised? (I Peter 4:12 16)
    - a. Vs 13 Rejoice
    - b. Vs 13 Be glad
    - c. Vs 13 Have exceeding joy
    - d. Vs 14 Be happy
  - 4. WHY?
    - a. Vs 14 The Spirit of Glory rests upon you
    - b. Vs 14 Spirit of God rests upon you.
  - 5. Today, Christians want to reach to Heaven UNMARKED
  - 6. When reproached Do not be ashamed of Christ
  - 7. Weaker brethren suffer let's support them
    - a. They will grow, and later, will mediate for others
    - b. Get under the load
  - 8. Last, but not least We can't elevate them any higher than where we are.

#### III. The Christian's "Direction" in Life (Romans 15:4)

- A. Four Principles to in establishing a successful Christian life:
  - 1. Learning
    - a. Not "book-learning."
    - b. Romans 10:17 The Greek word is Rhema not Logos

"Receiving a message from God"

"Receiving a command"

"Receiving enlightenment"

"Receiving 'a word' from God."

- c. Desire the "sincere milk" of the Word to grow thereby (I Peter 2:2)
- 2. Patience
  - a. The result of "learning" and growing
  - b. Enduring the hard times that Christians will face if they STAND
- 3. Comfort
  - a. Result of the first two.
  - b. Joy comes even in trial
  - c. If you see someone whose Bible is falling apart You are looking at someone who's life is not falling apart.
- 4. Hope Today, people think of "hope" as a wish!
  - a. It means "an absolute certainty"

b. Hebrews 6:19-20 — In that day all people understood shipping terms
Pictures a ship waiting to enter harbor, but the seas are too rough
Ship parks away from the shore to wait till seas calm
Small boat takes an anchor to shore and attaches to giant rock

c. Our Anchor is Christ

Entered into the "Holy Place" within the veil Anchored our soul It is "sure" and "steadfast"

Romans 15:1-13

## THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

**Introduction:** In Bible times, people testified concerning the New Testament church, "They are turning the world upside down."

This has not been said of the church since those days.

It could be said, "IF" we could become a New Testament Church!

Teddy Steele, the former pastor at East Side, in Memphis Tennessee and I often conferred that the Church today does not remotely resemble the Baptist Church in the New Testament.

#### What was the New Testament Church like in the days of Paul?

- I. It was a Compassionate Church – "selfless" (Romans 15:1-3)
  - A. John 13:34-35 Commanded to love one another
    - 1. Cannot "love" one another without "living" for one another.
    - 2. People will KNOW by what they continuously observe (John 13:35!).
  - A. Every member lived "for one another."
  - B. Come to church and ask:

Not what can the people of the church do for me.

But, what can I do for the people of the church?

- C. NOT "Pleasing ourselves pleasing others."
- D. Romans 14:1 Not criticizing one another
  - 1. Caring helping supporting encouraging.....
- II. It was a Church operated ACCORDING to the Scriptures. (Romans 15:4)
  - A. They were not as interested in "Quantity" as they were "Quality."
  - B. They did everything "exactly according to the Scriptures."
  - C. Their names compared to:

program!

1. Seed – I Peter 1:23	For growth
2. Lamp – Psalms 119:105	For light
3. Bread – Deut. 8:3	For food
4. Sword – Hebrews 4:12	For power

- a. Weapons are not carnal (II Corinthians 10:4)
- b. That church never used a "program, contest, or a gimmick"
- c. "Mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds" (II Cor. 10:4)
- 5. Hammer Jer. 23:29

For breaking down walls

- a. Can't crush a stone with your fist.
- 6. Fire Jer. 20:9 For warmth
- 7. If the BIBLE won't work you are wasting your time using any other plan or

God blesses HIS WORD – Not our programs. (Isaiah 55:11)

#### III. It was a Harmonious Church (Romans 15:5)

- A. What does it "take" to have a Harmonious Church?
  - 1. Walk in the Spirit and trust your Mind

When we have the "mind of Christ – Christ takes control."

- 2. Only way you and I can be "like-minded" is to have the "MIND OF CHRIST
- 3. To be a harmonious church every member must:
  - a. Have the mind of Christ
  - b. Be close to and walking with Christ
  - c. We cannot not get "close to Christ without getting close to each other!"
  - c. **Result:** Members will be close to each other!
- B. If we are not a "harmonious" church Somebody is not close to Christ!
- IV. It was a Praising Church (Romans 15:6) "...with one mouth...glorifying God." READ Romans 15:6-11 and apply
  - A. Hebrews 2:11 Not ashamed of us (Nothing more precious)
  - B. Hebrews 2:11 He that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are one!
    - 1. Jesus Christ is with us in the church
      - a. "...in the midst of the church, will I sing praise unto thee" (Hebrews 2:12)
  - C. To do that we must all have the "SAME" mind
    - 1. If we do not we lose the presence, the singing, and the blessings of God!
  - D. "...glorifying God" (I Corinthians 10:31)
- V. It was a Church that Received all People (Romans 15:7)
  - A. It was a "peoples" church
    - 1. Verse 8 Received Jews
    - 2. Verse 9 Received Gentiles
    - 3. Verse 10 "Rejoiced together"
    - 4. Verse 11 Praise the Lord- "ALL YE PEOPLE"
  - B. Jesus is Savior to ALL PEOPLE
    - 1. Red, Yellow, Black and White
    - 2. Receive ye one another
  - C. Christ RECEIVED us "to the glory of God
    - 1. Ephesians 1:12 –We are like "Trophies" in God's "Trophy Case"
- VI. It was a Believing Church (Romans 15:13)
  - A. If you want Joy and Peace

Start believing **ALL** the promises of God. (II Corinthians 1:20)

B. I know what every believer in this class wants – Joy and Peace

Do this in the power of the Holy Spirit

C. If you REALLY believe – You will have God's peace! (Always!)

Question: What are you believing God for today?

**Romans 16:1-27** 

#### PAUL'S CLOSING REMARKS

**Intro:** In Paul's closing remarks, he names about 26 people or churches he wishes to greet.

- A. He lists nine people who were present as he wrote this letter to the church in Rome.
  - 1. It shows that Paul was personal and friendly
  - 2. It shows he did not consider himself better, or above, others around him.
  - 3. It shows his appreciation for them.
  - 4. It showed that he knew that "we need each other."
  - 5. He addresses "three" things he considered important in closing.

#### I. Friends to Greet (Some have stories we know – others do not.)

- A. Phebe Paul's helper
  - 1. She apparently delivered the letter to the church at Rome.
  - 2. She was from the seaport of Cencharo in Corinth
- B. Aguila and Pirscilla (Acts 18:1-3, 18, 19, & 26)
  - 1. Paul's helpers in the faith (I Cor. 16:19 & II Tim 4:19)
  - 2. Paul had stayed in their home at an earlier time
  - 3. The church met in their house.
- C. He called four of the people "beloved"
  - 1. Epaehetus Romans 16:5
  - 2. Amplias Vs 8
  - 3. Stachys Vs 9
  - 4. Persis Vs 12
- D. Referred to two of them, Andronicus and Junia, as "my kinsman." (Verse 7)
- E. This showed Paul's "heart-felt" appreciation for these people They had touched his life

#### II. Some Foes to Avoid (Romans 16:19-20)

- A. Not everyone who claimed to be serving God WAS serving God.
  - 1. These were most likely the same ones in Phil. 3:17-21
- B. Paul gives instructions
  - 1. Identify them Vs 17
  - 2. Avoid them Vs 17
- C. Our priority is "not to win friends and influence people"
  - 1. It is not "maintaining friendships with those" who have left the true doctrine
- D. Our Priority should always be
  - 1. Pleasing the Lord (John 8:29)
  - 2. Protecting our testimony
  - 3. Practicing Obedience.
- E. Verse 20 indicates that these people are being used of Satan!

DO NOT MAKE FRIENDS WITH THEM (Galatians 1:9)

## III. Some Faithful Servants to Honor (Romans 16:21-23). (List of 9 people).

- A. Timothy the man whom Paul considered, "My son in the faith."
- B. Lucius, Jason, Sosipater My kinsman (Most likely Jews and not "blood kin."
- C. Tertius The man who penned the letter as Paul dictated it.
- D. Gaius apparently the owner of the house in which Paul stayed.
- E. Erastus the chamberlain of the city
- D. Quartus a brother
  - 1. Paul considered them "co-laborers")
  - 2. Holy Spirit counted them "worthy" of their listing in the Inspired Word!

#### IV Pauls' Closing Benediction (Romans 16:24-27)

- A. These verses were most likely written by Paul's own Hand
  These words were "Paul's Trademark." (II Thess. 3:17-18) (READ)
- B. This benediction comprises the longest of all the closing remarks Paul wrote in any epistle.

#### V. The Purpose of the letter to Rome

A. To establish truth!

Christians need to "Be established in Truth"

Then, anything that comes along, one can "lay it alongside the straight edge" and determine if it is true or false!