# 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 is the "Magna Carta" of the New Testament.***

**Martin Luther continued emphasizing the importance of the book of Romans by saying, “The Book of Romans is so important that every Christian should memorize the entire book!”**

**By Dr. Ernest Gambrell**

# INTRODUCTION

The human penman of the book of Romans is the apostle, Paul. Paul did not start the church in Rome. Paul had never been to Rome when he wrote this letter. With the exception of possibly 3 - 5 people, the members in the church in Rome had never seen Paul. 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 the past he had persecuted the church. They had heard that he had trusted Christ and now preached the Gospel that he once persecuted.

**ROMANS AND EPHESIANS ARE DIFFERENT FROM PAUL'S OTHER BOOKS.**

Of all the books of the New Testament which were written by Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, there are two books that stand out for an important reason. 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 included some other person, or people, as being present when he penned that particular book.

God had Paul do this for a 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 only means of salvation. Paul received this 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 of the victorious Christian life. Therefore Paul, humanly speaking, is saying, "I take full responsibility for the contents of these two books!"

**THE THEME OF ROMANS IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD.**
**THE OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS:**

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 will study the main points 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 (1) To prove that all men are sinners and guilty before God, (2) To prove that the doctrine o**f grace through faith** is the only way through which a person can be saved, regardless of whether they were in the Old Testament or New Testament. 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 alone, without the law! In those eight chapters, Paul proves beyond a doubt that salvation is: (1) Not by works, (2) Not by religion, and (3) Not by the law.

# THE BOOK OF ROMANS
# SECTION ONE

# THIS SECTION DEALS WITH BIBLE DOCTRINE.

# ROMANS CHAPTER ONE THROUGH CHAPTER EIGHT

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## CHAPTER ONE
## PAUL INTRODUCES HIMSELF TO THE CHURCH AT ROME
## PART ONE
## Romans 1:1-4

Paul's primary goal in the first eight chapters of Romans is (1) To prove that all men are sinners and are guilty before God, both Jew and Gentile. The Jews did not consider themselves to be 'lost sinners" but rather they boasted in the law. Paul pointed that out to the Jews in Romans 2:23, *"Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God?"* (2) To prove that the doctrine of being saved by grace through faith, is the only way for them to be saved.

The Jews in Paul's day detested the Cross. They looked at it as a bloody religion. The Cross was very offensive to the Jews, and they greatly resisted it in that day and continue to resist it today. However, in these chapters Paul will prove that salvation was (1) not by works, (2) not by religion, and (3) was not by the law.

### Paul Was A Man With A Master.
### Romans 1:1-4

*"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, 2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) 3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; 4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"*

At the time Paul wrote the Book of Romans, the Romans practiced slavery and had over six million slaves. Paul used this as an example to introduce himself. In verse one the word servant is translated from the Greek word 'Doulos.' Again, at that time there were two types of slavery. First, there was 'douleous' which means a person who was forced to be a slave. Second, there was 'doulos' which means a person who had been a slave, but his master had set him free. His owner had loved him and manifested that love and had provided him with housing, food, clothing, medicine, and any and everything else which he needed, and then set him free. However, the man who had been a forced slave but set free because he had a very good master and one who had loved him, did not want to be set free. Therefore, the man returned to his master and became 'a bond slave' which means to be a slave or servant by his own free will.

Paul knew that God loved him and had purchased him by the blood of his Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore, Paul obeyed what he later wrote in Romans 12:1-2, and gave his life back to his master, the Lord Jesus Christ. Having done that, he knew he had a master, and he had no right or abilities to use his life for any purpose other than to please his master. He was a "volunteer servant/slave" to the Lord!

Every person on earth, a lost person or a saved person, is a slave to someone. Lost people are slaves to sin. (See John 8:30-34.) Saved people were slaves to sin before salvation. (See

Ephesians 2:1-5.) Saved people are to be slaves to righteousness. (See I Corinthians 6:19-20.) Romans 6:16 declares that truth. *"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"* Also, Matthew 6:24 tells us we cannot be slaves to both! *"No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."*

The Lord Jesus Christ has directed us, as His disciples, to freely consider ourselves as slaves to Him. Colossians 4:12 says, *"Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God."* Also, Acts 4:23 and 29 declare that command. *"And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them …. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,"*

**Question:** Are you a "bond slave" to Jesus Christ? Have you died to self and become a servant of Christ. Are you a person with a master? Have you obeyed Romans 12:1-2?

Before moving to the next point, let me share how you can know if you are a 'bond slave" or not. 1I Corinthians 1:16 gives us a command. "*For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." W*hat does it mean to "have the mind of Christ?" It means to:

**Think like Christ thinks**: Philippians 2:5-8 "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."*

**Want what Christ wants**: Matthew 6:33: *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* John 12:26 *"If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour."*

**Ask for what Christ wants you to ask for.** James 4:3. *"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."*

**Be like Christ and do everything you do to please God**: John 8:29. *"And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him."*

There is no greater privilege than to be a bond slave of Jesus Christ, and to have Him call you His friend. John 15:15. *"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you."*

I am not sure whether you know the name Vance Havner, but most do. He was a great evangelist. He was an understudy of my great, great uncle, Dr. Jim Burton Gambrell. Dr. Havner knew my great, great uncle well and had shared a lot of his history with me by mail. God had called me to be a foreign missionary in 1969 and I was leaving for the field in about three weeks. Dr. Havner was preaching at a church in Memphis, Tennessee. I went to hear him preach and to meet him personally for the first time. After the service was over and the crowd had left, I walked up to Dr. Havner and introduced myself. He remembered me from us talking on the phone. I shared with him that God had called me to the mission field and told him that I had been a United States Marine and that I had wanted to be the very best Marine I could possibly be. I then asked him what advice he could give me as a missionary, because I wanted to be the very best missionary I could possibly be. Immediately, without stopping to think, he told me to "Open my Bible to the first page," which I did. He then said, "Write this on the opening page."

***If you please the Lord, it doesn't matter who you displease.***
***If you do not please the Lord, it doesn't matter who you do please!***

I was excited and thought I was going to get something VERY deep. When he gave me that, I was a little disappointed, but I thought that was very simple! However, through the years I have learned how deep it was. I have tried to live by it. It may sound simple to you when you read it, but it is difficult to live by because it will cause you to lose some friends.

Paul lived by it from the day he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior. Let's look at the very first thing Paul said after he received Jesus. That is found in Acts 9:6. *"And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."* Paul arose, went, and did!

**Paul Was A Man With A Mission**
**Romans 1:1**

*"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,"*

The “apostle" in this verse is translated from the Greek word "Kletos." The word means: "A person who is Delegated, or one who is sent as an ambassador or commissioned to do a certain work." My point is, Paul did not just decide that he was going on a mission. He was CALLED of God and appointed to be an ambassador to the world, and was given a certain work to do, which we will study later. Therefore, Paul took his "calling" very seriously. If you study through the 13 books written by Paul in the New Testament, you will see that his "calling” was the most important matter in his life!

Genesis 24:9, 27, 33-34 gives an understanding of how Paul, and other people called of God, lived their life. You should read the entire chapter, as it will challenge you concerning your life. I will simply point out three passages. Abraham sent his servant, whom most Bible believers think was Eliezer, to find a wife for his son Issac. He made Eliezer swear that he would not take a wife for his son Issac from the Canaanites but would return to Abraham's country and find him a

wife. Verse 9 says, *"And the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and sware to him concerning that matter."*

God led Eliezer and a group of servants to Abraham's country and also led him directly to the woman whom God had already selected to be the wife of Isaac. Verse 27 points out that God led him, *"And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who hath not left destitute my master of his mercy and his truth: I <u>being in the way, the LORD led me</u> to the house of my master's brethren.* Any time God calls us and appoints us to a certain work, God will always lead us. However, you and I have our part! Every day we should start our day in prayer, and ALWAYS ask God to give us the spirit of discernment concerning His will for us that day and should walk in fellowship with Him throughout the day.

The young lady whom God led him to was named Rebekah, and she knew of Abraham and invited Eliezer to her home to meet with her father. As the group arrived, Laben, who was Rebekah's brother, ran out to meet them and then invited Eliezer and his group to their home. When they arrived, Rebekah's family received them well and fed their camels. Keep in mind, Eliezer and his group had been traveling for 30 days and nights and had to prepare their own food as they traveled. No doubt they were hunger for a good meal. Rebekah's family immediately prepared a very good meal for them and told them to sit down and eat. In Verses 33-34 we see Eliezer's response,

*"And there was set meat before him to eat: but he said, <u>I will not eat, until I have told mine errand</u>. And he said, Speak on. And he said, I am Abraham's servant."* Eliezer felt that the mission his master had sent him on was SO important that despite not having eaten a good meal in over 30 days and nights, he refused to eat and said, "<u>I will not eat until I have told my master's mission</u>!" Paul was a man with a Master and a man with a mission! Obeying his Master, and being faithful to his mission, were the two most important things in his life.

Now, let's apply these things to you and to me. Are the two most important things in your life (1) to please your master? Remember, you are bought with a price, and you are not your own (I Corinthians 6:19-20). Some of you may be saying, "That was Paul the apostle. This is me. I am not Paul! If you have received Jesus Christ as your savior and been born into His family, you are just as "called" as Paul was called! Romans 1:6 states this truth, *"Among whom are ye also the called* (kletos), *of Jesus Christ.*" The same word for "called" which Paul used concerning himself, is used in Verse 6 referring to EVERY born-again person, such as you and me!

You are just as much called as Paul was called. You should be exactly like Paul and consider yourself a "bond-slave" who was set free by Christ, and you should be saying the same words that Paul used after being saved, "Lord what would you have me do?" The two most important things in your life should be (1) To please your Master, and (2) Being faithful to what He called you to do! Those should be the two most important things in the life of every Christian, even more important than eating!

I understand that not every believer is a preacher, a missionary, a pastor, or even on a church staff, but EVERYONE is called of God to be a part of "the mission" of the church. However, EVERY Christian was given a spiritual gift when they were saved (I Corinthians 12:1-

7). EVERY Christian is a part of the body of Christ (I Corinthains 12:12-13). The first commandment which God gave to the members of the body of Christ is clearly stated in Acts 1:8, *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* This was given to you at salvation, and that is when the Holy Spirit came to live in you!

Paul was transformed by God from a man who was His greatest enemy to be one of His greatest servants. I shared above that when Paul accepted Jesus as his savior, he immediately asked the question, *"Lord, what would you have me do*?" God revealed His plan for Paul, and in Acts 26:19 Paul said, "*I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:"*

**Question:** Do you acknowledge Jesus Christ as your Master? Are the two most important things in your life to "Please your Master and to make the mission He has given you the most important thing in your life?" If not, you are not right with God!

**Paul Was A Man With A Message.**
**Romans 1:3-9-8**

*"Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world."*

As you know, II Corinthians 6:17 says we are commanded to be separated from the world, "*Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,"* However, to be separated from the world is of no value at all, unless you are separated "unto something else." Every person in the world is separated unto something. Some are separated to something social, to entertainment, or to some other cause. If you listen to their talk, you can quickly know what they are separated from!

For a Christian, it is worth absolutely nothing to be separated from the world unless you are separated to something better. In Verse one, Paul said he was, *"…separated UNTO the Gospel of God."* This is the business of the local church. This is the business of every Christian, and nothing should ever come before being "separated unto the Gospel of God." Everything a Christian does, be it where a Christian works or somewhere else, they should be "separated UNTO the Gospel of God. Le me give you an example by using the testimony of William Carey, a well-known missionary.

Some businessmen in Britian where Carey lived, said they had heard about Mr. Carey and about his plans to go to India to be a missionary. One day they saw him walking down the street and stopped him and asked him a question. "Mr. Carey, what is your business?" He responded, “My business is preaching the Gospel.” They said, “Oh, yes, but 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, which is preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

**Question:** What is your business? You may say, "Oh, I work for FedEx in Memphis." If you are a Christian, you should never work FOR FedEx or any other company. You may work AT FedEx, but you should be working at FOR the Lord Jesus Christ! The work and the will of God should always be "separated UNTO the Gospel of God." According to Ephesians 2:4-7, a believer being "in Christ" has part of His body already in heaven. *"But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus in heaven."* However, temporarily we are left here on earth to serve Jesus, and to show others how to get there!

## FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MESSAGE
### The Message was Provided by God

The message we have was provided to us by God and not by man, as is declared in Romans 1:4! *"separated unto the gospel of God."* God provided the "good news" and you and I are nothing but "the news boys" delivering the Good News! I rejoice and am thankful that we know that we have a message that was given to us by God in written form, the Bible. I have preached across the United States from Maine to California in churches where I know there are people far smarter than I am and have far more education. There are lawyers, doctors, and many others in some of those churches where I have preached. I would never have done that, if I did not have a "message from God" laying on the pulpit before me. I would not dream of getting behind a pulpit and preaching a message or lecturing to a Sunday School class if I did not have a "message from God". I walk to the pulpit now with the Bible in my hand that has all the answers to anyone's questions. You may be smarter than I am, but I have a "message from God" and have peace in my heart that He will guide me.

Jeremiah 23:29 tells us how powerful the Word of God is. *"Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"* Also, we have the Holy Spirit which will guide us and empower us. John 14:26. *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*

Many Christians are fearful to share the Gospel door to door, to witness to people in public. You have nothing to fear. You have a message from the God who created the heaven and the earth and created all of mankind. You have the power of the Holy Spirit living in you and he will guide you in everything to share concerning the Gospel and how to apply it and answer questions when they are asked. Let's use the message and the power of God and share the Gospel at every opportunity!

**The Message was Foretold by the Prophets.**
**Romans 1:2**

God declares that truth in Romans 1:2, *"Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,"* The Gospel can be preached from the New or the Old Testament. It is the same message. All 66 books contain the Gospel. Jesus, in John 1:45-47, said that Moses declared the Gospel, *45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph. 46. And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see. 47. Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!"*

Deuteronomy 18:15 speaks of Jesus, *" The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken; Acts 2:22-26 confirms that which is recorded in Deuteronomy 18:15. "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities."*

There are people that believe and teach that salvation by faith is not taught in the Old Testament, but that salvation came by keeping the law and by works. If you read Romans 4:1-8 you will see that is not true*!*

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

**The Message Was Declared by Jesus.**
**Romans 1:3-4**

*"Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"*

Jesus came as the seed of David, and in John 1:14 it says, *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*" He was declared to be the Son of God. He was not part man and part God. He was not half man and half God. He was what we call "The God Man." He was very God of God and was very man of man. Jesus was 'total man and total deity."

**The Message is Proved by the Resurrection.**
**Romans 1:4**

*"And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"* If Jesus was still in the grave, we would have no hope. Hebrews 7:25 tells us that Jesus is still alive! *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*" Jesus is not only still alive, but he is also sitting at the right hand of God the Father, making intercession for you and me!

*"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."*

## CHAPTER TWO
## PAUL INTRODUCES HIMSELF TO THE CHURCH AT ROME.
## PART TWO
**Romans 1:5-11**

No doubt when Paul wrote this letter to the church at Rome, he understood that some of them may have questions about him as he had always persecuted the church. In Verses 1-4 Paul shared his Testimony about him being a "bond-slave" with the church at Rome, plus he clearly identified himself as being a Christian and now a servant of Jesus Christ. Now he moved to share the primary purpose of his life and love, prayers and appreciation of the church in Rome.

**The Primary Purpose of Paul's Life.**
**Romans 1:5**

*"By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:"*

Being obedient to the faith includes EVERYTHING which you know concerning God's Commandments in the Word of God. In my opinion, that will be the first thing for which God will judge us when we stand before Him at the Judgement Seat of Christ. Obedience! I believe the Bible teaches that we will give account for, (1) The things we knew and if we did or did not obey them, and (2) The things we should have known if we had been faithful to assemble with the church and be taught, and if we spent time in the Word of God with a desire to grow in faith and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. 1 Samuel 15:22 tells us how important "obedience" is, *"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams."*

**The People About Whom Paul Was Concerned**
**Romans 1:7.**

*"To all that be in Rome, <u>beloved</u> of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

As I shared before, Paul had never been to Rome, and he did not personally know any of the members in that church. At that time, Rome was the most wicked city in the entire world. Sin abounded! In spite of knowing nothing about them and having never met any of them personally, he called them "beloved." Beloved is a very strong word. It is translated from the Greek word, "Agapetos" which means the type of love which God has for us as His children. John 3:16, says, "*For God so loved the world."* There are many other scriptures which refer to God loving the people of the world. However, there is no place in the Word of God where God refers to any of the people of the world, as "beloved." It is ONLY used for believers, God's children. The Bible clearly commands us to love one another. John 13:34-35 is one of the strongest scriptures commanding us to love one another, *"A <u>new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another</u>. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* According to these verses, you and I are to love one another, in the same manner in which God loves us!

**<u>Question</u>:** Do you love all the members of the body of Christ with the same love that God loves you?

Paul also called the believers in the church at Rome saints. The verse says, *"… called to be saints*:" If you will read this verse in the King James Bible, you will find that the two words, "to be" are in italics. According to the men who did the translates of the 1611 KJV, they told us that any words in italics are words that 'they added' and that those words are not in the Textus Receptus. They added them saying they might help us better understand the verses in which they are found. If we read that verse, directly from the Textus Receptus, it would read, " *"To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, <u>called saints</u>: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."* That teaches us that in the sight and the mind of God we are already seated in a Heavenly place with Christ, are already saints. The word saints comes from the Greek word, Hagios, which means, "Morally clean, pure, blameless, consecrate and holy!"

**<u>Question</u>**: Romans 8:29 tells us that God predestined us to be *"conformed to the image of His Son."* Are you doing all that you can to live a life like Jesus Christ lived, “morally clean, pure, blameless, consecrate and holy?"

The Catholics "make saints." This is the way they make saints. They appoint someone to be the "Devil's advocate” to find out as much as they can, and as much bad about the person that they can possibly find. Then, his own advocates find all the good things that the person has done. If the good outweighs the bad, then the Catholic Church makes them “a saint.” I am VERY glad that is not the way God makes us a saint. I am VERY glad that He does not have a Devil's advocate to find out as many bad things about me as he could, before He made me a saint. He would have found out a lot of bad things!

**The Pattern of Paul's Prayer For Others**
**Romans 1:8**

*"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;"*

**First:** Paul's prayers were "personal." He did not say, "I thank God through Jesus Christ." He said, "I thank **my** God through Jesus Christ." Paul had a personal relationship with God, and could truly say, "Abba Father." This name of God is found three times in the New Testament, in Mark 14:36, Romans 8:15 and in Galatians 4:6. Using the named Abba, is a very tender and personal relationship between a son and his father. It might be considered as the word we use today, when many children go to their father for help, and they say, "Daddy, I need your help." Paul, on behalf of his brothers in Christ in Rome, was saying, "I have a very close personal relationship with my God, and I am going to him, my daddy, do some very special things for you!

**Second**: Paul's prayers were always prayed through Jesus Christ and for the glory of God. We are to pray in the same manner. John 14:13-14 states. "*And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it*." This does not mean that you can get anything you ask for, just by ending your prayer by saying, "In Jesus name I pray.*"* There is no prayer recorded in the Bible that ends by saying, "in Jesus' name I pray." The Bible is clear that we can often "pray for something that we will not get." James 4:3 states "*Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts*." God does not even hear our prayer if we "ask it that we may consume it on our lust".

According to II Corinthians 1:20, all the promises of God are yea and amen. "*For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.*" But, as you read in this verse, God's promises are ALWAYS "yes and amen," but, they must be prayed for the glory of God, and not for ourselves.

**Third:** Paul's prayer in these verses was 'for others.' You will not find any prayer in the Bible, which Paul prayed, where he asked anything for himself and got it. The only place which I can find in the New Testament where Paul asked something for himself is in II Corinthians 12:7-9. *"And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."* Paul gladly accepted God's refusal to remove the thorn in his flesh, as his desire was always to grow in the Lord and the power in God rested on him. Paul's prayers were ALWAYS for others.

Sad to say, but much praying today is for ourselves, and sometimes people make long prayers to impress others. A young girl might pray, "God, my mother greatly needs a son-in-law!" I am sure you know the motive behind such a prayer. God does not hear any prayer that is not for His honor and Glory. Hebrews 4:16 tells us that we can come boldly to the throne of grace and find mercy and help in a time of need. However, even those prayers should be for the glory of God and the good of others.

**The Principal Characteristics of Paul's Prayer**
**Romans 1:8-11**

*"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers; Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;"*

I find six simple characteristics in Paul's prayer. We will simply break down Paul's prayer in these verses and briefly point out the characteristics. They were….

1. Selfless Prayers (Verse 8). Paul was praying for people he had never seen or met. In his prayer he was praying and said, "*for you all…*" He was praying for every believer in the church in Rome, a church he did not start and had never visited. How often do you pray for believers in churches in Mexico? A place you have never been, or in ANY other churches where your church supports missionaries who are winning people to Christ and training them to be disciples? The great Commission may abound worldwide if Christians in America would ask God to burden their hearts and pray for those missionaries and churches around the world.

2. Secret Prayers: In Verse 9 Paul said, *"God is my witness…*" There was no one with Paul as he prayed this prayer. As I pointed out in the introduction, when Paul opened the Book of Romans he was writing alone. He did not include any other people, as he did in most books. That is the way we can pray effectively. Matthew 6:6 states, *"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."*

3. Spiritual Prayers: In Verse 9 Paul said, *"…with my spirit."* God is a spirit. We communicate with God through our spirit. I Corinthians 2:11 states, *"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."* We must be filled with the Holy Spirit to communicate with God. John 4:12 says, "*God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."* When we pray in the spirit, we know that we are praying and asking for things in the will of God because, according to Romans 8:26-27, *"The Holy Spirit makes intercession for us. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."*

4. Steadfast Prayers: In Verse 9, Paul also said, "…*without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers…"* Acts 12:5 also tells us that *"the church prayed without ceasing."* We should be in prayer, day and night. We can pray while we are cutting grass, planting a garden, driving down the highway, or lying in bed at night. The throne of Grace is ALWAYS open. We

should pray without ceasing. David, in Psalms 55:17 said, *"Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."*

5. Surrendered Prayers. In Verse 10 Paul said, *"…if by any means…"* When you pray, you must be willing to be used of God to be a part of the answer to your prayer. Paul was telling the church in Rome that he was willing to travel and visit them in their church "…*by any means*." He was saying, "I am willing to visit Rome and minister to you, regardless of how or what means it takes for me to visit. Two years later, Paul visited Rome. He went there as a prisoner, which is explained in Acts 27.

6. Specific Prayers: In Verse 11, Paul continued the statement above about visiting Rome, and said, "*I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;"* When we pray, we should not pray generally such as "God bless everyone." We should be specific! Paul requested that God would allow him to have a prosperous journey by the will of God. Be specific!

## CHAPTER THREE
## PAUL'S THREE "I AM'S"
## Romans 1:14-16

*I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

### Paul Said, I Am Debtor
### Romans 1:14

*"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise."*

**First**, let's look at who Paul was a debtor to! We all know that Salvation is free. It does not cost us anything. We were under the penalty of sin, which is found in Genesis 2:17. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sinned against God, and partook of the forbidden fruit. That penalty of death has been passed on to every generation. Romans 5:12 states this Bible truth, *"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"* Therefore, in order for God to save us from the penalty of sin, which is death. This is speaking of the "second death, which is found in Revelation 20:14. The second death is separation from God for all eternity in a lake of fire and brimstone.

Because man could not pay the debt, God sent His Son, Jesus Christ into the world and according to John 1:14, Jesus took on the form of a man. Later in II Corinthians 5:21 it tells us, "*For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* After He was made "*to be sin for us*," they later nailed Jesus to a cross, where he shed his blood and died, in our place! That means God purchased us! I Corinthians 6:19-20 clearly states that truth. *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in*

*you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

Paul was a debtor to God and to His Son, Jesus Christ. Why? Because "we owed a debt we could not pay, Jesus paid a debt He did not own." The results are stated briefly, but clearly in Romans 6:23, *"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."* If Paul was a debtor, you and I are debtors!

**Second**: Not only are you and I debtors to God, but there are also other men to whom we owe a debt. There are men like John Huss who in 1415 AD was burned because he stood firm and would not deny the Bible. There are men like D. L. Moody, Andrew Murray, Charles Spurgeon and Adoniram Judson who stood steadfast, unmovable in obeying God in spreading the Gospel by which they were saved, to the uttermost part of the world. Before God called those men home to be with Him, they handed the baton to men in America like Lee Roberson, Harold Sightler, Oliver Greene, and Lehman Strauss, who continued to be faithful and continued to pay the debt we owe God. Those men have now moved to heaven, but those men who were steadfast and unmovable, have handed the baton to us. In my opinion, we are not only debtors to God and to Jesus Christ, but we are debtors to those faithful men listed above, who followed the words of Paul and said, "We are debtors."

**Third:** To whom was Paul a debtor? Paul said, *"I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise."* In other words, Paul said I am a debtor to God to preach the Gospel to everyone with whom I come in contact. He said I am willing to become all things to all people, that by all means I can win some. You and I are debtors to the people of the world, but we are also debtors to "our next-door neighbor!" We are debtors to people we pass by in Walmart, Lowes, and at any other place when we have an opportunity to hand someone a Gospel tract! Also, we have testimony that Paul did EVERYTHING possible to pay his debt. In Acts 20:26 as he neared the end of his life Paul wrote, *"Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men."*

**Question**: Do you realize that you have been bought with a price and therefore you are a debtor? Can you say with Paul, I am pure from the blood of all men.

## Paul Said, I Am Ready
## Romans 1:15

*"So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also."* Paul had preached the Gospel through the known world at that time. Now he says, I am ready to make a trip to Rome and *"to preach the Gospel to you that are at Rome also."*

**First:** Paul said, "I am ready to serve." I have heard many Christians say something to this effect – "I want to serve God, but I do not have the ability to teach or preach." Please do not take this in the wrong way, but you do have the ability to serve God! You only need two abilities in order for God to use you. Those two abilities are availability and dependability! If you have those two abilities, God can and will use you. You may not be able to serve as a pastor at this point in your life. But where did preachers start out? They started out where you are. When they started,

they only had two abilities: availability and dependability! If you have these two abilities, you can serve with power. When you trusted Christ as Savior, you immediately had the Holy Spirit to come and live in you! You are the Temple of God. The Holy Spirit is the most powerful person in the entire universe. Zechariah 4:6 says, *"…Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."*

I understand that you may not be able to teach or preach, but you can do as Paul said, I am ready to preach the Gospel. Let me ask you this question. Do you have the ability to hand someone a Gospel tract and say, "Let me give you this Gospel tract. It will tell you how you can be sure you are going to Heaven when you die." Yes, you have the ability to do that. Now, let me ask you another question. Are you available? Are you ready?

**Second**: Paul said, "I am ready to give!" Most Christians spend most of the time thinking about and seeing the dot in the middle of a blank page, which is themselves! Me, my, us four, no more. Yet in John 4:35 God said, *"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."* We need to remember that God said it is more blessed to give than to receive. To go along with the verse, God made us a promise in Luke 6:38, *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.*

**Third:** Paul said, "I am ready to go!" In I Corinthians 11:1 Paul said, " *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.*" Paul was called to go. Acts 13:1-3 tells us Paul was called of God to go. He went and did not ask any questions. *"Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away."*

As Paul traveled on his missionary journeys, he found a young man named Silas. Acts 15:*40* tells us that Silas dropped what he was doing and went, *" And Paul chose Silas, and departed, being recommended by the brethren unto the grace of God."* Silas said, "I'm ready to go.*"* Later, *i*t tells of Paul recruiting another co-laborer. Keep in mind, Paul had never known the men before and they had not known him. While Paul was in Derby Acts 16:1-3 Paul says, *" Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek. Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium. Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters, for they knew all that his father was a Greek*." On a third occasion, II Timothy 4:11 says that Paul chose a young man named Mark and Paul said, "*Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.*

All three of these men were "ready to go" wherever God opened to them. When God opened a door of service, those men were ready to go! History tells us that all three men were greatly used by God.

**Question**: If God should open a door of service to you, are you ready? If you are a Christian, something is wrong with your Christian life if you are not ready to go. Anytime God opens a door, we should be available and "be ready to go!

**Fourth:** Paul said, "I am ready to die!" In II Timothy 4:6-8, Paul is looking back over his life, dating back to Acts Chapter 9 where he trusted Christ as his Savior. He said in Verse 6, *"For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.* Verse *7, I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:* Verse 8, *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."*

From the day Paul trusted Jesus as his Savior, there is no doubt that he lived his daily life thinking ahead to the day that he would die and meet his God face to face. In my opinion, that is what Paul meant when he said in I Corinthians 15:31, *"I die daily."* That is strongly indicated in Galatians 2:20 where Paul gave a word of testimony concerning how he lived his life, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*

**Question**: Are you ready to die for the cause of Jesus Christ? If not, you should be. Let me share with you what I am told is a true story.

There was a family who had a little girl about 12 years old who needed a blood transfusion. It was serious enough that the doctors said the little girl may die. The doctors looked and looked for someone who had a perfect match in blood type to give her a transfusion but could not find anyone. After several days, they checked the blood of the girl's little brother, who was eight years old. He was a perfect match. The mother and father sat down with their son and explained the problem, telling him why she needed the blood transfusion and how it would be done from his arm to her arm. They asked if he would be willing to give her the blood transfusion. After thinking for a few minutes, he agreed that he would give her the transfusion. They scheduled it for the next day. They arrived at the hospital and put the little girl and her brother on platforms side by side and set up the transfusion tubes, with one needle in his arm and one needle in his sister's arm and began the transfusion. A few minutes after it had started, the little 8-year-old boy called his mother to his bedside and said he had a question. She said, "What is it son?" He responded and said, "How long will it be before I die?' His mother was surprised and said, "Son, you are not going to die. You are just giving your sister a little of your blood." The boy then said, "Oh! I thought I was going to die after I gave her the transfusion, but I did not want my sister to die!" Shouldn't you and I feel the same about people who ARE GOING TO DIE!

## Paul Said, I Am Not Ashamed of The Gospel
## Romans 1:16

*"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."*

**First**: Paul said, I am not ashamed of the Person of the Gospel." In Paul's day, death on a cross was considered bloody and shameful. Christianity was called a "bloody religion." However, Paul was not ashamed to be identified with the cross and with the blood of Christ which was shed on the cross. Paul marched as we should march, "under the blood-stained banner!"

**Second**: Paul said, "I am not ashamed of the Purpose of the Cross. At this time, Rome was known as "The Sin City" of the world. It was more like Las Vegas today. In spite of that, Paul never got 'side-tracked' nor in any way got distracted in his purpose for writing to the church. He spent no time acting like a lawyer and trying to convince people that a certain activity in Rome was wrong and sinful. If we fast forward to today, 2025, you can persuade a person to be against Sodomy, but that does not make them a Christian. On the other hand, when the Gospel of Christ is preached and people trust Christ as Savior, you will not have to convince them that Sodomy is wrong. The Holy Spirit will take care of that. God never told us to be a lawyer. God commanded us to "*…be witnesses unto me."*

**Third**: Paul said, I am not ashamed of the Power of the Gospel. The word power is translated from the Greek word, 'Dunamis' which means it is as powerful as dynamite! It is explosive! The Gospel can change (1) Drunks to Disciples, (2) Peddlers to Preachers, (3) Tellers of lies to Teachers of Truth, and (4) Sinners to Saints!

**Fourth**: Paul said, I am not ashamed of the Plan of the Gospel. The words "Whosoever will may come" is the ONLY plan that is a perfect and fair plan in the universe! There is no better plan. There is no simpler plan, and there is no fairer plan than the Gospel.

God could have said, "Just run around the block and you will be saved." That is very simple, but what about the cripple who cannot run?

God could have said, "Read one chapter in the Bible and you will be saved." That is very simple, but what about the blind who cannot read?

God could have said, "Listen to five minutes of Gospel songs and you will be saved." That is very simple, but what about the deaf who cannot hear?

God could have said, "Be baptized and you will be saved." That is very simple, but what about the people who live in the middle of the Sahara Desert in Africa? The Sahara Desert covers 3.5 million square miles. It is over 500 miles from the middle portion of the desert to the nearest lake or ocean.

**Question:** Are you ashamed of witnessing for Jesus Christ? Are you ashamed of telling people that Jesus died on the cross in your place so they could be saved? Are you ashamed to share something as powerful as the Gospel with people? If you are, you are like a medical doctor who knows the cure for a person's deadly sickness but will not write them a prescription to cure them!

Let me share a short story which I read about. It is a true story and can be verified by scripture. A party of missionaries were sitting around a table drinking coffee one afternoon. Suddenly, an ant appeared on the table and made its way to the bowl of sugar. They watched as

the ant climbed into the sugar bowl and appeared to eat some of the sugar. Then the ant picked up a small piece of sugar, went back across the table, and down the table leg to the floor. He went across the room and went into a crack in the floor. A short time later, a stream of ants came slowly out of the same crack. They followed the one ant, which they assumed was the first ant that came to their table, and then they followed the ant up the table leg, across the table to the sugar bowl. The missionaries were amused, and therefore they did not disturb them. They just watched! The ants entered the sugar bowl and stayed about 15 minutes, eating the sugar. After a while, they all left, crossed the table, went down the leg of the table, and back to the crack in the floor which they came out of. About an hour later, a HUGH stream of ants came out of the crack, across the floor, up the leg of the table, and went to the sugar bowl!

What a great lesson that is to Christians who know the Gospel, who know the power of the Gospel, and know how it will change the lives others if they hear and accept it. They will go and tell others and will continually bring others to the "bowl of the Gospel." The ant who came first went to tell others of the "good news" he found in the sugar bowl! Those came and ate and went and told others! Proverbs 6:6 says, *"Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:"* **Question**: Have you learned anything from the ants concerning how we should share the Gospel with others?

## CHAPTER FOUR
## WHAT HAPPENS TO THE HEATHEN?
## Romans 1:18-23

*"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse. 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things."*

These are some of the things I have heard people say when talking about the heathen. I believe that if the heathens are sincere in what they believe, God will allow them to enter into Heaven!" Or "I believe that God is a God of love and will not send a person to Hell who has not heard the Gospel!" Or "I believe that if a person has never heard the Gospel, and he dies, that God will declare him innocent because of his ignorance!"

These are just a few of the answers that have been given when the question arises, "What happens to the lost heathen?" I have traveled across the United States and visited several foreign countries. **This has been the question that is asked more frequently than all others.** I have found among sincere Christian brethren, some of them college professors, that they do not understand the "ways of God" in dealing with the heathen. I have found many people who know the right answer, but do not know the Scriptural basis for their position.

In order to set the stage for the message, let me explain a little about those whom we call "heathen." As you and I sit here enjoying the good things of life on this earth, it is not good with every creature that God made. We have wall-to-wall carpet, sit on padded church pews and enjoy air-conditioning and heat. The jungles of Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Columbia, as well as several other countries are **still** inhabited by thousands of Indians who have never been contacted by the outside world. They do not have "wall-to wall" walls. They sleep on grass mats on the jungle floor, and, many times, have no roof over their heads. They are born in the jungle, live in the jungle, eat what the jungle has to offer, and die in the jungle. Those Indians have never heard the name Jesus Christ; they have never seen or heard of a Bible; they do not know what a church is. They have never seen a missionary. They have never heard the Gospel in any form whatsoever. They do not even have words in their vocabulary for Gospel, church, Bible, or any of the words that you and I take for granted. What happens to those people when they die?

A portion of the Ayoré Indians has been reached with the Gospel. Some have been saved, and a church has been started in the jungles of Bolivia. I was privileged to visit with that tribe a few years ago. The missionary out-post is located some 100 miles east, northeast of Santa Cruz, Bolivia and is named Puesto Paz. It is in the midst of a high, green, humid jungle that is referred to by missionaries as “the green hell of Bolivia.” We flew there in a small, mission, 206 Cessna, six-passenger airplane. Missionaries had cleared a grass runway, and we were able to land the plane. It was about a one-hour flight. It would have taken several days to reach the camp on foot. I spent several days visiting with the Indians, talking with and sleeping among them during the day and walking with them at night as they hunted. As we walked down a damp, dimly lit jungle path, with the high green tropical growth rising 60 to 70 feet on each side, **the Ayoré Indians told me how years ago, before they had been contacted by missionaries, they roamed the jungles** as naked savages. They would travel and hunt by night and sleep on the jungle floor during the hot part of the day. They ate what the jungle had to offer in the way of berries, fruits, nuts, and wild animals.

As we walked, **they told me of other tribes** that live in that 750 square-mile span of jungle – tribes with whom they fought wars in years past! They told me of Indian tribes who have yet to be contacted by the outside world or by missionaries. **Those tribes have never heard the name Jesus Christ.**

It is this type of person to whom we refer when we say, “What happens to the heathen?" Yet, it is far more inclusive than this. It will include thousands, yes millions, living in other countries where the Gospel has never been preached. It engulfs 55% of the world population or 3,000,000,000 plus people who are alive today. **This 55% of the world population has never once heard the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ.** What happens to these people when they die?

This question poses two possibilities. First, if these people are allowed to enter Heaven, **whether you call them saved, safe, sincere, or by any other terminology,** then there must be another way into Heaven. Is there another way to enter Heaven besides the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ? Will a person be declared innocent because of ignorance?

The second possibility is: if that person has never heard the Gospel, has never seen a Bible, has never been contacted by a missionary, has never had the opportunity to be saved, <u>is God fair</u>

and righteous to send that person to Hell?

**These are good questions, and they deserve an answer.** We will answer these questions later in the message. However, lest we leave anyone with a question in his mind, I assure you that if a person goes to Heaven, regardless of whether they live in Memphis, Tennessee or in the jungles of South America, it will be because they heard the Gospel Message of Jesus Christ and accepted Him by faith. A well-known evangelist was quoted as saying that in years past he believed that the heathens were lost, but he no longer believes this. He now believes that God has another way of dealing with the heathen when they get to Heaven. There is one problem with that position - it is not true! The big-named evangelist is wrong. The Word of God plainly states, "*Neither is there salvation **in any other:** for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12). *Jesus saith, "…I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"*** (John 14:6).

If any man, woman, boy, or girl in the world, regardless of whether he is born and lives in the United States of America or in some dark jungle of South America, goes to Heaven, it will be because he heard the Gospel Message and **trusted Jesus Christ** as his Saviour. If he does not hear the Message and trust Christ as Saviour, he is destined to Hell! Jesus Christ is not one of several ways to go to Heaven; According to the Bible, Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven. In this message we will consider four truths from the Word of God. The first that we will consider is that even though these people, whom we call "heathen," may not have heard the Gospel message, however,

**All Men Everywhere Have Spiritual Light.**

When we say "spiritual light" we are not speaking of the type of light which we have in our houses. We are speaking of spiritual light concerning the existence of God and of His righteousness. If we believe one simple verse, there would be no need to debate this truth. The Apostle John, speaking of Jesus, said: "*That was the true Light, which lighteth **every man** that cometh into the world*" (John 1:9). That should settle the question. Now we will study how God "goes about" giving "light" to every man.

In Romans 1:18-20, the Apostle Paul explained how that light is revealed. Verse 18 declares, "*For the wrath of God **is** revealed from heaven against **all** ungodliness and unrighteousness of men..."* (**All**, not just those who have **heard** and **rejected** the Gospel - "all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men".) Verse 19 explains **why** God is just in pouring out His wrath on people who have never heard the Gospel of Christ. Paul declares, *"Because that which may be **known of** God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them."* Paul calls two witnesses to testify to all men that God reveals His **existence** unto men who do not have the Gospel message. The Scripture says that He, number one, "*shewed it unto them*" and number two, He "*manifested it in them*." Men cannot be saved by Spiritual light that is revealed by these two methods but obeying that light **can lead** them to a full understanding of God's plan of salvation.

Let us examine the two witnesses that Paul uses to show that God gives spiritual light to every man. I have chosen to look at them in the reverse order. What did Paul mean when he said, "*For God hath **shewed it unto them***"? What was Paul talking about? Verse 20 explains how

God shows His existence unto men, "*For the invisible things of Him* (things of His person) *from the* ***creation*** *of the world are* ***clearly*** *seen, being* ***understood by the things that are made,*** *even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse…"* The first witness that Paul calls to testify to this truth is the witness of:

**The Testimony of Creation**

The witness of creation clearly testifies to all people everywhere that there is a God, and that He is an all-powerful God. It is **so clear** and **so easily understood** that the Bible states, "*They are without excuse."*

What did Paul mean when he wrote, "*…from the creation of the world are clearly seen…*"? Have you ever been shopping and picked up something in the store, turned it over, looked on the bottom and found a stamp or seal which read "Made in Japan" or "Made in Mexico"? Certainly, you have! You go outside and look around at creation, everything that you see – the sun, the moon, the stars, the trees, the animals, whatever it is - they all have a stamp on them. What does that stamp say? It says, **"Made by God - Made by God!"** David, the Psalmist, knew this truth. He declared, "*The* ***heavens declare*** *the glory of God; and the firmament* ***sheweth his handiwork.*** *Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night* ***sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language,*** *where their* ***voice is not heard"*** (Psalm 19:1-3).

We have a creation. Everywhere we look we see His handiwork. It is of no importance whether it is you or me looking at it in the United States, or some Indian looking at it in the jungle of South America, the handiwork testifies of one true fact: where there is creation, there must be a CREATOR. I understand there is a group of people called "evolutionists" who teach that this is not true. Those people are wrong! If you have a watch, there must be a watchmaker. I have here a nice Pulsar watch (taking it off my wrist and showing it to the congregation). You ask me, "Brother Gambrell, that is a nice watch you have. Where did you get that watch?" I respond, "I didn't get it." They ask, "Where did you buy it? - I didn't buy it. Who gave it to you? - No one gave it to me. Where did you find it? - I didn't find it. Did you steal it? - No, I didn't steal it." "No" is the answer to all those questions. Then you remark, "You didn't buy it, no one gave it to you, you didn't find it, and you didn't steal it - tell us something, - you have a watch." I explained the watch by telling the following story.

You know how little boys are, they are curious. Years ago, when I was just a small boy, I found a rock. It was odd-shaped and caught my interest. So, I wrapped it in a handkerchief and put it in the drawer with my socks. A year or so later, I was going through that same drawer, and I came across the rock. I had forgotten it. When I unwrapped it, it was no longer a rock but had changed into a piece of iron. I didn't understand that, but after all, I was just a little boy. I wrapped it again and put it back in my drawer. A few months later, my mother told me to straighten up my room and put everything away. As I was arranging my socks, I again came across the rock/piece of iron that I had placed in the drawer approximately the year before. This time, I unwrapped it and it was no longer a rock or a piece of iron, but it had turned into a piece of 24 carat gold! I was surprised - but still did not understand it - I had not been to the big university where they teach evolution! Once again, I wrapped it and placed it in the back corner of my sock drawer. Almost a year went by, and I remembered putting the 24-carat piece of gold in my sock drawer. I went to the drawer,

took it out and unwrapped it. Now, it was no longer a rock, or a piece of iron, or 24 carat gold, but it was a beautiful watch, ticking right along keeping accurate time and it had a Spidel flex-band on it. You say, "Poor Brother Gambrell. The men in the white jackets need to come get him." And you would be correct. But some highly educated professors at a big-name university of "higher-education," teach the exact same principle about how our earth was created - and people believe him.

These creations, a watch or the earth, do not evolve. And I will not take the space to pay tribute to the evolutionist. However, such men do have a theory, and you can write it down on paper. This is what they expect you to believe: "Nobody plus nothing equals everything!" You can believe that if you wish, but I will not! If you have a watch, you must have a watchmaker. If you have a creation, you MUST have a creator.

This analogy of a watch serves to illustrate the world's complexity and the necessity of a Creator. Just as a watch needs a watchmaker, the existence of the universe implies a Creator. Paul's assertion in Romans highlights the undeniable truth that creation itself is a testament to God's eternal power and divine nature, leaving humanity without excuse. The intricacies and wonders of nature, from the vast cosmos to the smallest organisms, continually point to the existence of an intelligent Designer.

God has set in this world an everlasting testimony to His eternal power and to His Godhead that can never be denied: CREATION! Man has progressed rapidly and has come a long way in knowledge. We give him credit. Most of you know what a lima bean is. No doubt man could go in his laboratory and make a lima bean. If you examined it with the naked eye, alongside a real lima bean, you would not be able to tell the difference. You can bring it here, pass it around to everyone present tonight - everyone could smell it, inspect it or taste of it, and no one could tell the difference between the one man made in his laboratory and the one God made. However, there is a test. If you plant the two beans, one that God made and one that man made, you will very quickly find that **one has an element called life!** The one that was "made by God!" Man has never been able to reproduce that element. God truly has placed a testimony to Himself in this world. All men everywhere can see it! It is clearly seen! It is understood! All people everywhere **have spiritual light.** They are without excuse!

Also, in Romans 1:19a, Paul said, *"...that which may be known of God is **manifest <u>in</u>** them!"* **<u>In</u>** them! Paul was talking about a man's conscience.

**The Testimony of Conscience**

*"For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their **conscience also bearing witness..."*** (Romans 2:14-15a).

God has placed in the heart of every person everywhere, a conscience. No doctor, while doing surgery has ever found a conscience. However, all of us know what a conscience is. A man's conscience will witness to him that there is right and wrong, good and bad, righteousness and sin. It will witness to him of a higher power, a creator, a God, if you please, by whatever name one

may call him. Man is made to worship God. This truth is borne out, consistently, time and again. Man is a religious being. **Everywhere** men and women have been found, no matter how far from civilization they live, no matter how far from any place of teaching and worship, no matter how dark the jungle, in every place missionary enterprise has found people, they all do two things: They pray to something, and they worship something! They are also knowledgeable of several principles. They know that murder, lying, stealing, adultery, and many other things are wrong! (It would not hurt to tell some people in America that!) Among the Indian tribes in South America, if a person is caught stealing something belonging to another person in the tribe, his hand is cut off! In the jungle, they have "common-law" marriage. If a man or woman is caught in adultery, he or she is buried alive! That will stop a lot of stealing and adultery! Maybe we should practice that in America!

Let me ask a question; "How many of you, before you were saved, before you attended church, before anyone ever taught you anything about the Bible, about God, etc. - how many of you knew there was a God in heaven? Certainly, you did - everybody knows that. How did you know? God "manifested that in us."

All people everywhere have spiritual light. It is clearly seen. It is understood! No man will ever stand before God and be able to claim he is innocent because of his ignorance. The Bible emphatically states that he will be "without excuse."

Once a person has light, no matter how small that light is, **it demands that he make a decision.** What is that decision? He must decide if he wants **to obey that light,** or if he will **reject that light**. That leads us to our second point.

**What Happens If Men Reject The Light?**

When God gives light, it is for one reason and one reason only. **God does not give light to a person, just for him "to consider it." No, God gives light, and when He does, He expects us to OBEY the light He gives us.** What happens when a person has light, and he rejects that light?

Look again at Romans 1:19-20 - God has manifested Himself in them and has **showed** Himself unto them. Verse 20 states that He is "clearly seen" and "understood," to the conclusion that Paul writes "so that they are without excuse."

The light was clear; it was understood. And they rejected it. What **was** the result? Continue to read in Verse 21, *"Because that when they **knew** God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and <u>their foolish heart was darkened</u>."* When men have spiritual light and reject it, immediately their spiritual understanding begins to darken. Their hearts begin to become darkened.

**First,** even though they understand and realize the existence of God, His eternal power, and His Godhead (Verses 20,21), **they would not glorify Him as God.**

**Second,** although they should be eternally thankful that He has revealed Himself to them, they are not. Verse 21 reads, ***"…neither were thankful..."*** Basically, they said, "God, we don't

want you."

**Third,** when they reject the light that God gives, it leaves a void in their soul. They become "**vain in their imaginations,** and **their foolish heart" is "darkened."** The light which God gives - whether it be from creation, conscience, or from His Word - is not something which one can put in his pocket and keep until a "convenient season." When God gives light to a person, He does so, expecting that person to be obedient to, and to act upon, that light. Any time that anyone willingly rejects that light, his understanding darkens! This is true with Christians, just as it is true with the Indians in the jungles of South America. One cannot willfully reject light given from the Word of God and expect God to continue to bless and give him more light. He will not!

Today, many Christians have the attitude that God is running a cafeteria! He is not! Christians go along the serving line, starting at salvation and say, "I'll have some of that." Following this is the promise of provisions, and again they say, "I'll have some of that!" They continue down the line, filling their tray with blessings, protection, provision, and more, until they come to the bowl marked, "discipleship." They immediately pull back their tray and say, "No, thank you, I believe I'll pass!" Again, **God is not running a cafeteria!** He reveals light for one reason, and one reason only. He expects us to act and obey. When we do not, darkness begins to cover our spiritual understanding. We should all ask ourselves this question: "Am I obeying all the light I have from the Word of God?" Am I doing everything that I know I should be doing? This is a most sobering thought.

**Fourth,** the rejection of spiritual light **leads to idolatry.** Verses 22 and 23 warn, *"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and **changed** the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things."*

Have you ever wondered why or how some of the Indians of South America started worshiping the "birds" of the air as their gods; or how the people of India started worshiping the "cow" (four footed beast); or how other Indians of South America started praying to and worshiping "snakes" (creeping things)? It all started in time past, when their "forefathers" rejected the light which God gave them and their understanding was darkened. They did not glorify Him, neither were they thankful!

I do not mean to imply that they are in their present darkness and practice such things solely as a result of the decisions made by their ancestors. John 1:9 says, "*...which lighteth **every** man...*" Those who practice such forms of idolatry today have been given the same light that their ancestors were given. They continue to reject that light. **They have chosen not to follow it!** They are without excuses. By their own volition, they have refused the light given to them.

The **fifth** and final step of decay is a study all its own. We only have space to mention it. The various forms of idolatry which have developed as a result of disobedience to revealed light, leads to moral degradation, which is the judicial consequence of the dishonor done to God. It is indeed justly so, for an unworthy and degrading concept of Deity brings complete moral decay.

It climaxes in human beings indulging in sexual practices totally contrary to that for which

they were biologically and emotionally designed: namely **homosexuality and sodomy.** So great is God's hatred of these sins that He adds six phrases to them for clarity: "uncleanness, lust, dishonor, vile affections, against nature, and unseemly."

After listing numerous other sins, Paul concludes this portion by pronouncing **the certainty of God's judgment** against all who commit such sins. The Bible says, *"God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts…"* (Romans 1:24a).

In conjunction with the above, there is a principle found in 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12. I realize the text is speaking of another dispensation, but the principle applies today.*"9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*

For example, let's take a young man living in the United States. He visits a church and hears the Gospel preached. He understands that he is a sinner, that he is lost, and that Jesus died on the cross to pay for his sins. He understands that he needs to accept Jesus Christ as his Savior and to have his sins forgiven. He understands that if he does not, he will one day be cast into Hell. But he says, "No! I realize all of this is true, and I realize that God wants me to receive His Son, Jesus Christ, But I do not care - I don't want to receive Him - and I won't receive Him. I want to live like I want to live." The young man turns and goes the other way, mad at the preaching, the preacher, and the church.

Many times, we misread the Scripture. We think it should say, "Satan shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." That is not what it states in the verses above. It reads, "*God shall send them strong delusion*…" It states that "GOD" will do this, not Satan; God will do it! When this happens, that young man, and others like him, generally end up joining a religion that does not require him to believe in Jesus Christ: a religion that does not require him to make a change in his lifestyle.

This is what happens to that young man. He is sitting in his living room on a Sunday morning, reading the morning newspaper. He should be in church, but he is not. A knock comes at the door. When he opens the door, there are two young men standing there, wearing suits, white shirts, and a tie. They have a book in their hands - not a Bible - just a book. They start by stating, "We are two young preachers (they will not even be truthful and tell you they are Jehovah Witnesses), and we've come here to tell you that there is no such place called Hell." He says, "Oh, I like that - Please come in." These two young men sit in his living room and share the damnable doctrine that there is no such place called Hell, and that Jesus was just another man, not the Son of God - AND, what happens? That young man BELIEVES THE LIE. Why? Because he heard the truth and did not believe it, that he might be saved, and now his mind is diluted, and he will believe any lie that replaces the truth but does not require him to trust Jesus and change his lifestyle. I have seen this happen, both in the United States and on several foreign fields.

What happens when people reject light that God has given them? A darkened heart, a debased form of worship, a decay of morals, and the damnation of one's own soul becomes their standard lifestyle.

The rejection of light and spiritual darkness results in many other forms of spiritual decay. Now, let's see:

**What Happens When Men Obey The Light?**

When a person, regardless of his geographical location or spiritual circumstances, receives light, exercises faith, and acts upon the light given, no matter how small the amount of light is, the results are always the same! **God gives him more light! Light received and obeyed increases the light given!**

The principle is found in Romans 1:17, *"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith..."* One may ask, "What does that mean?" Simply this: When God gives Spiritual light, or revealed truth, to a person, no matter how small the light given is, and that person takes a step of faith, obeying that light, God gives him more light in order that he can take another step. So long as one continues to obey, God continues to give more light! He does that until the person has "full" light concerning salvation.

Let us consider the heathen in some far-off jungle of South America. Suppose there is an Indian who is truly concerned about knowing the truth. The only spiritual light which he has at this time and place in his life, is that which comes by looking at creation. On some starlit night the Indian leaves his grass hut and walks out into the jungle. He looks around and says, "Look at those stars, and look at that moon. They all move in the right order, day after day, and they never run into each other. And look at all these trees and animals, etc... There must be someone, somewhere who made it all and who controls their movement. I surely would like to know who he is." In his heart, he has an honest desire to know. God sees that desire. As surely as that man has a desire to know, God will surely send him more light. David, the psalmist, knew this truth. Psalm 36:9 states, *"... in thy light shall we see light."*

The increased light may come by the means of a missionary reaching that particular tribe. It may be by a Gospel tract which somehow finds its way into that Indian's hands. It may be that God will wreck an airplane and parachute some pastor into the middle of that jungle! One thing is sure, God is faithful to see that the person receives more light!

By this, I am not implying that it is already "predetermined" that the person, or any person, will be saved automatically. That decision will be determined by the individual person when he has received full light and has heard or read the Gospel Message. It is up to that person to make a decision to receive Christ or reject Christ, but God has been faithful. God's faithfulness and responsibility is to see that the person, who has been obedient to the light, has sufficient light to know how to be saved. How the person responds to the message of salvation is up to the individual.

Without question, God is faithful to send more light when a person acts obediently to the light which has been given him. Allow me to point out two or three occasions where we clearly

see this happening.

Consider God's dealings with the man Cornelius in Acts Chapter 10. In Verse 2 we see that Cornelius was "a devout man." He was doing all that he knew to do. He was obeying the light which he had. He feared God, gave alms, and prayed, which is better than many Baptists that I know! Amen! However, **he was not saved!** He had a true desire to know and please God, and he was acting on all the light which he had. As a result, God sent Peter to the house of Cornelius to give him the full Message of Salvation. This is verified in Acts Chapter 11, when Peter was rehearsing the matter to those of the circumcision who were contending with him for going to the Gentiles. In Verses 13 and 14, Peter repeated the words which God spoke to Cornelius, "*...Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house* ***shall be saved.***" One can see clearly that Cornelius was not saved until Peter came and preached the Message to him. Cornelius was obedient, and God sent more light.

Another Biblical illustration is found in Acts Chapter 8, which involves the Ethiopian eunuch. He had been to Jerusalem to worship. He even had a copy of Isaiah and was reading it as he was on the way back to his own country, but **he was not saved.** Without question, we would conclude that he had a desire to know God. He was doing all that he knew to do. God saw that obedient and seeking heart and sent Philip. Philip found the eunuch reading from the book of Isaiah, Chapter 56 Verses 3-7, but without understanding. In Acts 8:34-35, we read that the eunuch asked Philip a question concerning the passage, *"... of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same Scripture and* ***preached unto him Jesus."*** And the eunuch was saved!

In these two passages, it is clearly seen that God is faithful. He will always send more light to anyone who is obedient to the light which he has. God is just in His dealing with the heathen. If they go to Hell, it is because they choose to reject the enlightenment which God has given. No person will stand before God and say, "I never had an opportunity to be saved. You are not just and fair in your dealings."

Let us conclude by discussing the judgment of the heathen and considering God's judgment upon those of us to whom full light has been given. Thus far, we have seen that all men everywhere have light. We have seen what happens when men reject that light, and also what happens when men obey the light. Concerning judgment, let's begin our study by seeing that:

**Judgment Will Be According To Light.**

Someone coined a phrase several years ago: "Hell will be hotter for some than for others." The phrase did not come from the Bible; yet it is based on a Biblical principle. The Bible is clear in declaring that there will be greater degrees of punishment in Hell for some then there will be for others.

*"But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: Notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But I say unto you, that* ***it shall be more tolerable*** *in that day for Sodom, than for that city"* (Luke

10:10-12). I do not pretend to know the degrees of punishment; however, the Bible is clear that there will be such. If a person goes to Hell, it would be far better for that person to go to Hell from some dark jungle of South America where they have been given little light, as opposed to their going to Hell from almost any city or town in the United States where they have the full light of the Gospel message! It will be more tolerable for the person from the jungle who has never heard where Chapter 10, Verse 13 continues, *"Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes."*

Someone has said, "Then it would be better if we did not send missionaries to that type of people. They would be better off." How absurd! They are lost! They will be in Hell! It matters little what degree of punishment they receive if they are in Hell and **forever separated from God. Without missionaries, they have no hope! We must remember there are some in every tribe and nation under heaven, who have the light of creation or conscience, who are waiting to learn of the full light of God's plan for forgiving their sin and saving them.**

I have made mention of the degrees of punishment concerning the heathen. I did so, not only to explain the degrees of punishment for the lost, but also to emphasize the responsibility of Christians.

**The Responsibility Of Christians**
**Who Have Full Light.**

Let me ask a question. How many of you can say, "I picked my place of birth?" The answer of course is, "No one. You did not pick your place of birth." You and I were born in the United States of America by the sovereign will of God. I do not pretend to understand why God allowed you and me to be born here, where we not only have the Gospel Message, but also enjoy many of the good things of life! All of us must confess, God has been good to us. He has blessed the Christians and the church in the United States abundantly above what we could ever expect. This includes Spiritual things as well as physical, material, financial, and many, many other blessings! Amen! If there is one-half of an ounce of honesty in any of us, we have to say, "God has been abundantly good to us!"

Now, look at the Bible: *"And that servant, **which knew his Lord's will**, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with <u>many</u> stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with <u>few</u> stripes. **For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:** and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more"* (Luke 12:47-48). This is not literal but certainly involves a principle of accountability.

Again, I do not understand why God allowed you and me here in the United States, to have so much and others in various foreign countries, to have so little. However, it does tell us something. It tells us that **we owe them something!** Paul said, ***"I am debtor"*** (Romans 1:14). Brethren, we are debtors! We owe them a **part of our life** and a **part of that which God has given us.**

I worked in several villages in the mountains of Mexico, where people live in adobe houses with a grass roof, a dirt floor, and **no** furniture. Many of those people have no running water in their homes - no electricity - nothing in the way of modern conveniences. I have worked with other missionaries in several foreign countries, including the jungles of South America referred to earlier. I remember talking (by an interpreter) with an Ayoré family in Puesto Paz, Bolivia. The roof over their heads was the stars above. The only things they owned were some crude homemade weapons, the clothes which they were wearing, and a pot, all of which had been given them by the missionaries who had been sent to them by God. Two small dirty, underfed, sore-infested children, wearing no clothes, played in the dirt. Each time that I have been privileged to visit in such a place, I never failed to realize, **"that man could have been me** and **that woman, my wife, and those two precious children could have been my children!** Or it could have been you and your wife and your children!" We could have just as easily been born in their bodies, in their country, and possibly in the jungle in which they live.

Brethren, we are debtors! God has not been good to us solely for the purpose of us having more than they have or that we can do more than they do. God has been good and has given to us abundantly, because **He wants to use us! God has many purposes for Christians. God has a perfect will for each of us. All His purposes and all His perfect will for Christians must, in some way, center around the preaching of the Gospel to every creature. God wants to use "some of us" to reach to the "uttermost part."** Every Christian should feel the weight of this debt upon his soul.

**Is the heathen lost?**
**Yes!**

**Are we responsible for them?**
**Yes!**

**Should we desire to be used of God to reach them?**
**Yes!**

**Should we be willing to**
**Give of ourselves and to give of that which God has given us, in order to reach them?**
**Yes!**

In the light of how good God has been to us, we should be doing all we can to reach those who have never heard the Gospel, in order that they can be saved. What could we do to reach them? I seriously doubt if any one of us can say, "I am doing all I can possibly do." Let me conclude by sharing with you a story, which was translated by missionaries into a poem. It was translated from the words of an elderly Indian woman, who had been reached with the Gospel in the last days of her life. It is a true story and took place in the jungles of South America. An old Indian woman was saved in her later years after hearing the Gospel. She was sitting around a campfire one night with several missionaries, those who had reached her with the gospel. She asked the missionaries these questions. She did not say it like it is recorded below, but the missionaries, later, rewrote it in poetic form. She asked:

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?

These are good questions. Compared to what we have done with all that God has given us, and we stand before Jesus Christ to give an account of how we used what God gave us, I wonder if any of us will have a good answer to the questions that this old Indian lady asked the missionaries in the jungle that night.

## CHAPTER FIVE
## THE HEATHEN ARE GUILTY SINNERS AND NEED CHRIST.
## Romans 1:21- 2:29

The chapter above is titled "What Happens to the Heathen?" Paul now follows that up by explaining what their life will be like if they do not believe the Gospel and Christ. In Romans 1:21 through Romans 2:29, Paul will apply this to three different classes of people. First, he will deal with what we call heathen who, according to Romans 1:21, have seen the light and rejected it. That does not refer just to Indians who live in the jungles, but to heathens who live in the cities of America and love the world and the things of the world! Second, he will deal with hypocrites who have seen the light and put on a front, but do not accept Christ. Third, he will apply it to the religious Hebrews who have seen the full light of Jesus being their Mesiah but rejected Him.

### Part One
### The Guilt and Judgement of the Worldly Heathen.
### Romans 1:21-32

*"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,*

*Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."*

God declares "Five Major Consequences" for those who reject God's Light. **First: <u>They will live A Life of Vanity</u>**. Romans 1:21, says, *"… but became vain in their imaginations."* That is proven by a study of King Solomon. Solomon tried to satisfy himself with the things of the world. However, he found the world to be vanity.

<u>The wisdom of the world is vanity</u>. Ecclesiastes 1:13-14. *"And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith. I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit."*

<u>The Knowledge of the world is vanity.</u> Ecclesiastes 1:18. "*For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow."*

<u>The drinking of liquor is vanity</u>. Ecclesiastes 2:3. *"I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life."*

<u>The enjoyment of luxury is vanity</u>. Ecclesiastes 2:4. *"I made me great works; I builded me houses; I planted me vineyards: I made me gardens and orchards, and I planted trees in them of all kind of fruits: I made me pools of water, to water therewith the wood that bringeth forth trees: I got me servants and maidens, and had servants born in my house; also I had great possessions of great and small cattle above all that were in Jerusalem before me: I gathered me also silver and gold, and the peculiar treasure of kings and of the provinces: I gat me men singers and women singers, and the delights of the sons of men, as musical instruments, and that of all sorts".*

<u>The labor of your hands is vanity</u>. Ecclesiastes 2:10. *"And whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them, I withheld not my heart from any joy; for my heart rejoiced in all my labour: and this was my portion of all my labour. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun."*

<u>The summary of living a worldly life is vanity</u>. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. *"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil."*

**Second: <u>They Will Live a Life of Darkness</u>**. Romans 1:21 says, *"and their foolish heart was darkened."* We see that in the life of Pharaoh. At that time Israel, God's people, were in captivity to Pharaoh in Egypt. God was dealing with Pharaoh and asking him to "let my people go!" God gave Pharaoh opportunity after opportunity to obey God's word, but Pharaoh hardened

his heart and rejected God's Word and Commandment. Let's go to Exodus 8:15, 32. *"But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said…… And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.:* Again, in Exodus 9:7 we find the same. *"And Pharaoh sent, and, behold, there was not one of the cattle of the Israelites dead. And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the people go."*

After Pharaoh hardened his own heart and would not let God's people go, we find in Exodus 9:12, that because Pharaoh rejected the light of God and lived a life of darkness, God sent more darkness. *"And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had spoken unto Moses."* I imagine that most people reading this book, know that later on God completely destroyed Pharaoh and his entire army of warriors. They drowned in the midst of the Red Sea. (Exodus 14:21-18).

**Third: <u>They will Live a Life of Idolatry</u>** Romans 1:23 and 25 says, *"And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things…..Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."*

All people who reject the light of the Gospel, will end up worshiping something. The foreign mission I have been affiliated with for 40 years has missionaries in 18 foreign countries. Regardless of what country or culture people are in, we have found that everyone does two things. One, they all worship something. Two, they all pray to something, someone, or some creature. Back in the early 1980s, I spent some time in a place called "Puesto Paz" which means "A Place of Peace." Missionaries there had met a good number of Ayore' Indians. The Ayore's were born in the jungle, grew up in the jungle, ate what the jungle had to offer, slept on the jungle floor, and died in the jungle. While there, I learned that the Ayroe' Indians worshipped "The Bird God." They literally worshipped the birds of the air. To show you how sincere they were, once a year several tribes of Ayore's, which lived in different parts of the Amazon jungle, would meet together and spend a week worshipping the birds as they flew overhead. During that week, they would "cast lots" and select a small baby, one less than 3 months old if possible, and at the end of the week they would build a high table out of tree limbs. On the last day, they would tie the small baby on the tree rack, raise it as high as they could, and then leave. They would return and meet again after three months to see if their "Bird Gods" were pleased. If the baby had been eaten, they rejoiced because they believed their God was pleased with them and they were saved until the meeting next year. The family, who's baby was selected, rejoiced in a special way because they thought they were VERY special because their God had chosen their baby. They were very proud! Today, if nothing else, men and women worship the world!

**<u>Fourth: They will Live a Life of Depravity</u>**. That is declared in Romans 1:24 and 28. *"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to <u>dishonour their own bodies</u> between themselves ...And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to <u>a reprobate mind</u>, to do those things which are not convenient;"*

When people have heard the Gospel, understand it, yet reject Jesus and the light He has given them, two things happen in their lives. First, they destroy their bodies! That is found in Verse 24. Second, they destroy their minds. That is found in Verse 28. Both verses are quoted above. As we just studied, when men know there is a God and then reject Him, they always turn to practicing sin more and more, as we will see later. They begin to defile their bodies, as stated in Romans 1:26-27. *"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet."*

When they begin to practice sin, more and more it destroys their minds. They not only begin to practice sodomy, but they begin to worship "creatures" and put God out of their minds! They justify their sin and see nothing wrong with men doing unnatural things with other men and women doing unnatural things with other women. They not only justify doing such things, but they begin to boast, and brag about being part of what is today called "the LGBTQ group. As you know, the government in America has already passed laws protecting such people from openly practicing their sins and protesting against truth and righteousness. They worship the creatures more than the creator, and their minds are so depraved that they think there is nothing wrong with what they are doing!

## GOD'S RESPONSE TO MAN'S CHOICE
## Romans 1:24-32

In Galatians 6:7-8 Paul, under the inspiration of God, wrote concerning the choices people make. Thoe verses say, *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."*

We will find that to be true as we study God's response to the choice of people who "knew there is a God yet rejected His light which He had given them. Paul is referring to people in Romans 1:24-32, who choose to reject the light, do what their sinful flesh enjoyed doing, and live a worldly and ungodly life. We find three statements which God made in His response to their choice to reject the light and live a sinful life.

**First**, Romans 1:24 says, *"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:"* Following that statement, in Verses 25 and 26 God explained what He was referring to in Verse 24.

**Second**: Romans 1:26 says, *"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:"*

**Third:** Romans 1:28-30, God basically said the same thing. *"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"*

God gave three responses, which were all the same. Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, *"And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."* In all three of these responses the basic words, *"God gave them up to…"* basically means the same thing. It means that " God abandoned them, or He ceased to restrain them, and suffered them to act out their carnal sentiments, and to manifest them in their life. This does not imply in any way that he exerted any influence on them to sin. God would not do that! It is like parents who have a headstrong youth who they taught how he should live, but as he grew older he rejected the teachings of his parents and chose to ruin his life by sin.

**THE END RESULT OF REJECTING GOD'S LIGHT**
**Romans 1:28-32**

*"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;** Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."*

God then explains the results of a person who rejects His love and chooses to live by a reprobate mind. That is found in five sections. Please watch as God PILES one word after another on the lifestyle of a person who has a reprobate mind. It results in:

1. The Lowest possible character (Verse 29)
   Unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness
2. The Lowest possible conduct (Verse 29
   Murder
3. The Lowest possible conversation (Verse 30)
   Debate, deceit, malignity, whisperers and backbiters
4. The Lowest possible concepts (Verse 30)
   Inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, covenant breakers, without natural affections, implacable, and unmerciful.
5. The Lowest possible companions. (Verse 32)
   People who commit all these sins and enjoy the same things as they do.
   People who have pleasure in others joining them in their sinful life.

**GOD FINAL JUDGEMENT**
**II Thessalonians 2:8-12**

God deals with such people by what we call "Righteous Retribution." God gave these people full light. They rejected the truth of God and made their own choice to live in the flesh. God said in common language, "You made your choice and rejected me. Okay, have it your way!" They brought the judgement of God on themselves. When a person does the above, is released to sin as much as they want, and have no convictions against their sin, it will ALWAYS end up destroying their life. I am repeating the verse below to tie all this together.

*"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness."*

This always produces a question. **"Can a sodomite be saved?"** There is a "two-sided" answer to that question. **First**, there is God's side. Yes! God's word says he will save, "whosoever will, may come." **Second:** There is the side of the sodomite. Can a committed sodomite be saved? Yes, he can, but it is very doubtful. They had heard the truth. In Luke 13:34, God pleaded with sinful people to repent. Then He said, *"…how often would I have … and ye would not!"* They had rejected the truth. They had hardened their hearts. God sent fire and destroyed Sodom!

## CHAPTER SIX
## THE HYPOCRITES ARE GUILTY SINNERS AND NEED CHRIST.
## Romans 2:1-16

Paul dealt with the "pagan heathen" in the last chapter. In that section, he traced the history of the human race all the way back to Genesis Chapter 19 where God, in righteous judgement, sent down fire from heaven to destroy Sodom. Now, Paul moves to the guilty and judgement of hypocrites. This is one of the outstanding chapters in the Bible concerning the "principles of God's judgement." Without this chapter in the Bible, moral people would do vain things. Simply going back to the last chapter on the judgment of the heathen, many people would not think that the judgement of God would apply to them. There are "five great principles in these verses" which we will study but first let's look at three things concerning what "hypocrites" are like and how they think.

**First:** What do hypocrites think about themselves? Most hypocrites think other men's sins a worse than their sins. Good hypocrites look down on immoral people and immoral hypocrites look down on people who are more immoral than they are and criticize them. They compare themselves with drunkards, harlots, and hoodlums; those who do not come up to THEIR moral standard! Many of them are members of some church, and they pride themselves on the fact that they are a member of a church. They pride themselves on living a moral and respectable life. They compare themselves with others, saying we are better than them. They do not understand II Corinthians 10:12, which says, *"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."* They believe that because they are better than the ones they compare themselves to, that they already have the blessings of God on their life and that God is pleased with them.

**Second:** What hypocrites fail to realize about God. They fail to realize that God's goodness is not because they have done anything to deserve it. They fail to realize that just because God has not already judged them, they are good people and will never be judged by God. They do not realize that God's goodness toward them is because of his love for them and His long-suffering.

They fail to realize that God's goodness and long-suffering is because he loves them and wants them to repent and be saved! They do not realize that it was "moral and strongly religious people" who worked together to crucify Jesus on the Cross. What they did was reason for God to send down angels from heaven and destroy them, but God did not! They do not realize that God has been longsuffering for over 2000 years, wanting them to repent and be saved!

**Third**: What hypocrites fail to face, as the result of their pride. They face the fact that during God's longsuffering, he, the hypocrite, is "treasuring up unto himself wrath" which he will one day face." Romans 2:5 states that. *" But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;"* They fail to realize that one day they will face and give an account for every word, every deed, every thought, and every action. Verse 6 verifies that statement. *"Who will render to every man according to his deeds."*

## FOUR PRINCIPLES OF GOD'S JUDGMENT ON THE HYPOCRITE
## Romans 2:1-16

**First:** The judgment of God will be according to truth. Romans 2:2-4, *"But we are sure that the judgment of God is **according to truth** against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?"*

God said, *"…. thou thinkest…*"The judgment of God will not be according to what man thinks. According to Romans 2:17-19, the Jews thought that. We will study that in the next chapter. Paul points out that this applies to "respectable people." God sees facts and God sees motives behind the facts. Men are blind to the "goodness of God" and totally misunderstand it. Today, the hypocrite thinks that God being good to him means they are saved. I will give an example. I was sharing the Gospel with a friend of mine who was a policeman I had worked with in past years in the Memphis Police Department. As I shared the Gospel, he said, "I'm saved!" (He lived a life of drinking and immoral activity.) I responded and asked him, "How do you know you are saved?" He responded back and said, 'because God answers my prayers. I prayed all last week that a certain college football team would beat another college team, and they won!' As you know, that is no assurance at all to think in that manner. Today men do not see the goodness of God as a "call to repentance." God dealt with that in Verse 4, *"Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?*

God's goodness daily preserves man and daily provides for the needs of man (Matthew 5:45) both lost and saved and daily protects man. The word "forbearance" found in these verses means that God is putting up with that which he utterly hates! In II Peter 3:9 you will see that God gives his reason for being longsuffering, *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."*

**Second**: The Judgment of God will be according to accumulated guilt and man's deeds. (Romans 2:5-6 states, *"But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath*

*against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds:"*

This is not speaking of "accumulated sins." This is referring to Revelation 20:11-13, *"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, <u>according to their works</u>. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works"* This means hell will be hotter for some than for others!

This is described in Ezekiel 16:47-52. *"Yet hast thou not walked after their ways, nor done after their abominations: but, as if that were a very little thing, thou wast corrupted more than they in all thy ways. As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good. Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done. Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters. As I live, saith the Lord GOD, Sodom thy sister hath not done, she nor her daughters, as thou hast done, thou and thy daughters. Behold, this was the iniquity of thy sister Sodom, pride, fulness of bread, and abundance of idleness was in her and in her daughters, neither did she strengthen the hand of the poor and needy. And they were haughty, and committed abomination before me: therefore I took them away as I saw good. Neither hath Samaria committed half of thy sins; but thou hast multiplied thine abominations more than they, and hast justified thy sisters in all thine abominations which thou hast done. Thou also, which hast judged thy sisters, bear thine own shame for thy sins that thou hast committed more abominable than they: they are more righteous than thou: yea, be thou confounded also, and bear thy shame, in that thou hast justified thy sisters.*

**<u>Third</u>:** <u>The judgment of God's will without respect of persons</u>. Romans 2:11 assures us of that statement; *"For there is no respect of persons with God."* Today, many, many, if not most things are done in the lives of Christians and in church to 'please people.' I was talking with a pastor a few years ago. It was a long conversation, but I always remember one thing he said, "I do not want anyone to ever leave my church feeling bad." If that happens it only tells us something very true about such a pastor. It tells us he is not a good pastor, and he did not preach the word of God in the manner God wants a pastor to preach, and he should not be a pastor. God, through the pen of Paul in Galatians 1:10, made a very strong statement concerning pleasing people. *"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."* For example, when was the last time you heard a pastor, one of any independent Baptist church, preach on Biblical Dress standards? Why does a pastor avoid preaching on dress standards? He avoids it because people, members of his church, come to church

dressed like the world. Some women go to church today wearing short skirts, and some even come wearing leggings which show the clear outline of their bodies. That is TOTALLY against Bible dress standards!

**Fourth**: Judgement will be according to the secrets of men's hearts. Romans 2:16 declares this form of judgment, *"In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."* This is in conjunction with Verse 15, which says, *" Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;"* Every person in the world has a conscience! Our conscience is continually working within us to convict us of what is right and what is wrong.

When judgment day comes, Christ will no longer be patient, forbearing, or longsuffering. Acts 17:31 tells us how he will judge. "*Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*" He will judge without respect of people for hearing and not obeying, and according to those things that the conscience testified were wrong, but they did them anyway!

## CHAPTER SEVEN
## THE HEBREWS ARE GUILTY SINNERS AND NEED CHRIST.
## Romans 2:17-29

Paul has dealt with the "pagan heathen and the modern hypocrites," and now he moves to the "religious Hebrews." (Verse 17). The Hebrews (1) had the law, (2) they trusted in the law, and (3) they boasted in the law and were proud of their religion. However, they did not apply the law to themselves.

### The Jews Had Confidence in The Law, But No Conviction.
### Romans 2:17-20

*"Behold, thou art called a Jew, and restest in the law, and makest thy boast of God, And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law; And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness, An instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babes, which hast the form of knowledge and of the truth in the law."*

In the days this was written, the Jews were known to be highly religious. The very name "Jew" indicated that they were "God's chosen people." The Jews considered themselves as the only truly religious people in the world, because they had been given the law. Truly, according to Romans 3:1-2, it was the Jews who were a very privileged people to whom God had given the law. *"What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision. Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God*." However, the major thing the Jews did not realize, or did not want to realize, was "that great opportunities always come with great obligations."

The Jews had complete knowledge of the law and were relying on the fact that since God had chosen them to receive the law, that they were guaranteed salvation. Despite them believing the law, they lived in violation of those laws. They were less sinful and degrading as the Gentiles, yet they had no convictions concerning what the law said, and their lives showed that the law had brought no change to their lives. Their lifestyle, which Paul pointed out to them in Romans 2:21-24 verified that their knowledge of the law, had not changed their lives, *"Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written."* Paul, in these verses, charges them with theft, adultery, sacrilege and with other transgressions which the law strictly forbids! They had not kept the law of God, but they would not admit that they were guilty of sin and needed salvation!

**The Jews Had Confidence In Circumcision, But No Conviction.**
**Romans 2:19-25**

The Jews had confidence, because they had submitted to, and had been Circumcised. Paul pointed out to them that there was no profit at all if they did not "live by the law." That alone made circumcision worthless. Paul dealt with that in Romans 2:25-29, *"For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. 26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? 27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? 28 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."*

Paul was pointing out to the Hebrews that their circumcision did not amount to anything at all, because they KNEW that they could not keep the law. The Hebrews believed that when they were circumcised, they were "separated to God for all eternity!" They based their belief on Genesis 17:9-10. They refused to accept that the covenant God made with Abraham had nothing to do with salvation, as they knew they could not keep the law!

This made them even more accountable. We are accountable for (1) what we know, (2) what we do not know, but should have known, (3) what we have done, and (4) what we could have done, and didn't! The Hebrews met nor practiced any of the principles! Paul had pointed out to them, back in Romans 2:13, " *(For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified)*. In the New Testament, Colossians 2:6 says, "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:"*

Today, we teach it by saying, "Your walk must match your talk!" They would talk about all the knowledge they had, but their knowledge brought NO CONVICTION. There was no change in their lives. When it reached the end, it was this same religious Hebrew crowd who crucified Jesus. When your talk is with conviction, your life will change. If your walk does not match your talk, then your talk has no value. When your walk matches your talk, it will bring conviction and

will ALWAYS bring about major changes in you. (II Corinthians 5:17-21). All talk, talk, and no walk, will not stand in the day of Judgment.

Paul sums up his teaching to them in Romans 2:28-29 by saying, *"For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."*

It is explained this way in II Corinthians 5:17-21. *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

All these teachings concerning the Jews can be applied to people today who call themselves Christians, based on being a member of a Bible believing church. There is NO value in being "a church member" unless you have realized you are a guilty sinner, and you repent of your sin and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior!

**The Jews Had Objections But Would Not Examine Them by Scripture.**
**Romans 3:1-8**

*"1 What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. 3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect 4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged 5 But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance? (I speak as a man.) 6 God forbid: for then how shall God judge the world? 7 For if the truth of God hath more abounded through my lie unto his glory; why yet am I also judged as a sinner? 8 And not rather, (as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just."*

**The Jews Asked Paul Several Questions.**
**Romans 3:1-8**

**First Question**: "*What advantage then hath the Jew?"* (Romans 3:1)

**Answer**: Every advantage! Especially by having the Word of God given to them by God. However, Paul had already answered that question. Paul declared that they knew the law, therefore they were guilty sinners.

**Second and Third Questions:** *"For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?"* (Romans 3:3). The Jews were asking, "What if some Jews do not believe, would that cancel the promises of God to the entire nation? They were asking, would not that make God unfaithful? If sin commends His righteousness, how can He judge us?

**Answer**: Paul answers that question immediately in Verse 4. *"God forbid!*" The answer means, "Do not even think that way or suppose that God is not faithful! God is true and faithful in every way, regardless of the consequence for some who did not believe. God is not unjust in judging men for their sins. Paul had already taught that in Romans 2:6-11, which says, "*Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God."*

## CHAPTER EIGHT
## PAUL'S CLOSING ARGUMENT AND THE FINAL VERDICT
## Romans 3:9-20

Paul, like a prosecutor or district attorney, has presented his case concerning the heathen, the hypocrite, and the Hebrews. Paul realized that it was "bad news," but he knew that he MUST first make them understand that they were sinners, were lost, and were on their way to a devil's Hell, before they would listen and understand the Gospel, and be saved! Sad to say that today most people want to hear "positive preaching". They do not like "bad news" and they do not like to have their "toes stepped on." If a preacher does not preach the "bad news to sinners" and if he does not "step on the toes of Christians" he has not done a good job of preaching. It is like when you go to a doctor and he examines you and says, "You are not sick, but I am going to write you a prescription to make you well." I personally would not take the prescription! It would sound like nonsense to me.

Paul, like a good prosecutor, has carefully presented his case to make them know they are guilty, and in his closing argument he fast forwards to Romans 3:19, *"Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."* Then he makes his closing argument!

### Paul Presents the Extent of The World's Sin.
### Romans 3:9-12

**First:** All the world is guilty before God. The heathen are sinners and guilty before God, (Romans 1:18-32). The hypocrites are sinners and guilty before God, (Romans 1:1-16). The

Hebrews, religious people, are sinners and guilty before God, (Romans 2:17-29). They all need God's salvation and there are NO exceptions!

**Second**: All men are totally depraved. That does not mean they are equally bad, but it means the "character" of ALL MEN is corrupt, bad, and morally wicked. That means that all men are capable of being totally bad.

**Third**: All men are equally sinful in their character. Romans 3:10 states, *"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:"* A good example of that is King David. The Bible says, he was a man after God's own heart. However, he committed adultery and murder (II Samuel 11:1-15).

**Fourth**: Paul's closing argument! (Romans 3:12) "*They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."*

**PAUL PRESENTS PROOF THAT ALL MEN ARE SINNERS.**
**All Men Are Sinful In Their Conversation.**
**Romans 3:12-19**

*"12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. 15 Their feet are swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery are in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes. 19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."*

**First**: All men are Fondlers of Filth. Romans 3:13 says, "*Their throat is an open sepulchre.*…God said that concerning the guilty sinners of the world. The "sepulchre" pictures an open grave, with a body in it that has never been embalmed. It gives off a terrible stench! Today, it is common for people to tell dirty, filthy jokes in public and laugh about it. Sad to say, some Christians tell some "off-colored stories." Ephesians 4:29 says, *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers."*

**Second**: All men are Devisers of Deceit. Romans 3:13 says, " *their tongues of deceit.*" God said that concerning all the guilty sinners of the world. Men feel justified in deceiving people with what they call a "white lie." What is one of the biggest deceitful lies in the world that men tell? It is called "the lie about Santa Claus!" That is the biggest lie ever told? That is as bad as it gets, to teach children that Christ is substituted by a false being called Santa Claus, flying around the world in a sled pulled by reindeer, going down chimneys, who brings children gifts on the day we celebrate as the birth of Christ. That is once a year. What about an automobile dealer who advertises on television, and says, "If it doesn't say (name of dealer) you paid too much." What about injury lawyers who advertise on television, and say, "I would be honored to take your case. If I don't win your case, there is no charge." I worked in law enforcement for several years. Most lawyers won't take your case unless they know they can win your case and get a percentage of

what you are awarded! They are all there for one purpose: to entice you to purchase the product or be hired for their services, and to MAKE MONEY!

**Third**: All men are Peddlers of Profanity. Romans 3:14, Paul said, concerning all sinners of the world, "*whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*" Today, men take the Lord's name is vain, The say, "Oh my God!" over many things that happen. That is the worse form of profanity in the universe! Exodus 20:7 says, "*Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain*." A person who does so will not be held guiltless!

## All Men Are Sinful In Their Conduct.
## Romans 3:15-17

**First**: All men are sinful because their "feet are swift to shed blood." Romans 3:15 says, *"Their feet are swift to shed blood:*" Paul did not explain exactly what people were doing in that day, but we can fast-forward to 2025 and see that happening daily. I live in Memphis, Tennessee. I served on the Memphis Police Department from 1957-1962. We had a total of six murders in those five years. In 2023 Memphis had 399 murders and hundreds more shootings where people were sent to the hospital. In the month of January 2025, two teenage brothers got into an argument and one shot and killed the other. In another case, two cousins got into an argument over an NFL football game and one shot and killed the other. In 2023, 82 people were shot because they cut in front of someone on the I-240 the expressway around Memphis!

On television there is violence in about every program. The "abortion mill" is growing every year. There were over one-million abortions in the United States in 2024! "*"Their feet are swift to shed blood:*" Lawsuits have been filed to stop abortions, but they continue to grow each year!

**Second**: All men are sinful because "Destruction and Misery Are in Their Ways." (Romans 3:16 says, *"Destruction and misery are in their ways:* This points to the fact that man, as a Steward of God" has failed in all points. They have failed because they have not made decisions based on the principles in the Word of God. For example, when God established Human Government in Genesis in Verse 6 of Chapter 9, He said, *"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."* Today, we call that the "death penalty." Man has now determined that they think God is wrong, and therefore they have almost done away with the death penalty and called it "cruel and inhuman treatment." It is sinful conduct by sinful men!

**Third:** All men are guilty because The Way of Peace Have They Not Known. (Romans 3:17 says, *"And the way of peace have they not known:"* As a result of the above, now man cannot find peace. Why? Because of his wickedness and his rebellion and disobedience to God's Word. Isaiah 57:22-21 says, *"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."* AND Psalms 7:11, says, *"… and God is angry with the wicked every day."*

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## All Men Are Sinful Because of Their Contentious Attitude toward God.
## Romans 3:18

**First**: <u>All men are guilty because there is no Fear of God Before Their Eyes</u>. Romans 3:18 says, *"There is no fear of God before their eyes."* Proverbs 9:10 tell us, *" The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom:"* Man today not only has no fear of God, but they also think they know better how to do all things better than God, and they do not think they need God for any reason. Since God created the world and then set up different dispensations, man has thought he knew better than God. Every time he has thought that MAN HAS FAILED. Go back and ask the Israelites! They failed in every dispensation, and since the time Christ came to set up his Kingdom on Earth, they rejected him and they have been blind even until this day, 2025!

**<u>Second</u>:** *All men are guilty because When They Knew God They Glorified Him Not As God."* Romans 1:21 says, *"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened."* They professed themselves to be wise, but Romans 1:22 tells us that they became fools! They had such a contentious attitude toward God, that Romans 1:28 says, *"And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;"* A good example of that is the governments of the world!

**THE FINAL VERDICT** is found in Romans 3:19b. *"…that every mouth may be stopped, and* ***<u>all the world may become guilty before God.</u>****"*

## CHAPTER NINE
## THE FINAL VERDICT ON HOW TO BE SAVED.
## Romans 3:20-28

Paul has proved that the entire world is guilty before God. He proved it by our conversation, our conduct, and our contempt for God.

*"20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. 27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. 29 Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:"*

### SALVATION

**Salvation is Explained to be Free by Faith in Jesus Christ and Faith Alone!**

Today, many denominations and wanting to “add something to faith in Christ.” Think about this. How do you think God the Father feels when someone says, "What you did when you sent your Son Jesus Christ to suffer and die on the cross was not quite enough. We must add something to it.” Let me give you a human example of that. A dear friend buys a brand-new pickup truck and pays $60.000 for it. Then he wants to give it to me as a free gift. But I say, "Oh, I can't take a big, big gift like that for free. I'll take it but here, let me give you a $10.00 bill to help you pay for the gift!" Later, another close friend sees the truck in my driveway and asked me, "Oh, I see you bought you a new truck. Wow! How much did you pay for it?' I respond, "Oh, my friend, _____ gave it to me but I gave him some money to help pay for it!" What would you think if you were the one who gave me the truck? That is the same way God feels when we will not accept his gift which he offered us free and we tell him that we will accept it, but we can't take it for free. We will add a little something to it and help you pay for our salvation, then we will accept it!

**Salvation is Explained to be Free by Faith in Jesus Christ and Without Works.**
**Ephesians 2:8-9**

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*"

**First**: God’s Son, Jesus Christ, was a Propitiation for sin. In Romans 3:25, Paul explains "why" salvation is free and without works. *" Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;"* The word propitiation is translated from the Greek word, hilasterion. It means “an atoning victim, one who is an atoner, or a substitute.” Let me point this out before we move forward. Jesus did not need any help from anybody when he made that atonement for us on the Cross! Please study the scriptures concerning the Cross. Nowhere will you find that he had any help! Roman 6:23 says, "*For the wages of sin is death*…." Jesus Christ PAID the wages of sin when he died on the Cross. The PAYMENT IS MADE! That "propitiation" was made for you and for me, but not for us alone. I John 2:2 says, *"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."*

**Second**: God the Father was Justified in Forgiving Our Sins. There are people who think God could have forgiven our sins without Jesus dying on the Cross. NEVER! That would have made God a liar! That is impossible! Genesis 2:17 contains a promise God made to man. *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* God put the DEATH PENALTY" on sin! Someone HAD to die and pay the penalty before God could forgive anyone's sin! Jesus Christ paid the debt we owe. Therefore, Romans 3:26 tells us God was JUST and was JUSTIFIED in forgiving our sins. *"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be **just**, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."*

**Third**: Therefore, you and I cannot boast about our salvation. Boasting is excluded! Romans 3:27 explains it this way. *"Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. 28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.* If baptism were a part of salvation, then the person doing the baptizing could

proudly boast and say, "I had a part in that person's salvation! God Forbid!" Boasting is excluded!!!

**Salvation is Explained as being Without The Deeds of the Law.**
**Romans 3:28**

*"Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith <u>without</u> the deeds of the law*." "The word "without" is translated from the Greek word, "choris," which means "separated from or totally apart from." In this case, the word "without" means without any aid or help from the law. Our God needs NO HELP of any type to save us. There has never been a man or a woman who can "keep the law." When the Bible says "keep the law" it is applying to ALL the law. Galatians 3:10 makes that clear. *"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, <u>Cursed is every one that continueth not in **all things** which are written in the book of the law to do them.</u>"* James 2:10 added this to the fact that no man ever has or ever will keep the law. *" For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."* I cannot imagine any man or woman who can claim they have never committed ONE sin! That is foolish!

There is an outstanding example in the Old Testament that illustrates a man being cursed who has not kept the law in <u>ALL THINGS</u>.

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."* (Exodus 35:3). How then was this Law to be "established" or enforced? By letting the lawbreaker 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:

That is found in Numbers 15:32-26. *"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:"*

Galatians 3:10 says, *"Cursed is every one …"* Galatians 3:13 tells us that Christ was *made a curse for us. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, <u>being made a curse for us</u>: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:"* 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, as God promised. God made that promise to Abraham. That is recorded in Galatians 3:14-18. "14 *That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.* 15 *Brethren, I speak after the manner of men; Though it be but a man's covenant, yet if it be confirmed, no man disannulleth, or addeth thereto.* 16 *Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.* 17 *And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul,*

*that it should make the promise of none effect.* 18 *For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise."*

That promise was given to Abraham in Genesis 12:1. The Law was not given until Exodus Chapter 20, which was 430 years after the promise God gave to Abraham. The coming of the law DID NOT disannul the Promise of God. Galatians 3:17, from the scripture above, tells us *"And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect."*

The clear promise which God made to Abraham is found in Galatians 3:8-9. *"And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. 9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."* We will study this in depth in our next chapter, which will start in Romans chapter four.

If the law was not given to us to save us, why did God give us the law? Galatians 3:19 explains the purpose for which God gave us the law. *"Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator." That is further expanded and explained in Galatians 3:24. "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to* ***bring us unto Christ****, that we might be justified by faith.*

Therefore, for how long was the law added. It was added *" …till the seed should come to whom the promise was made;"* The purpose of the law was to be a schoolmaster in order to make us realize we are transgressors of the law, and therefore to bring us to Christ (Galatians 3:24). After we received Jesus Christ as our savior, according to Galatians 3:25, we are no longer under the schoolmaster *"But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

Think of it this way, if there had ever been a law that could save people, Jesus Christ being crucified on the Cross of Calvary was the biggest blunder ever made in the history of the world. Galatians 3:21 states, *"Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.*"

**The Final Verdict Is In!**
**Galatians 3:21 clearly states that there has never been a law given that could give life"**

## CHAPTER TEN
## THREE THINGS ABRAHAM FOUND
## Romans 4:1-8

*1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh,* ***hath found?*** *2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. 3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. 4 Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. 5 But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for*

*righteousness. 6 Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, 7 Saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered. 8 Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin."*

**First**: Abraham FOUND He Could Not Be Justified By Works. If a person can be justified by work, they would clearly have reason to boast. As I mentioned before, if baptism was part of salvation, then the person who does the baptizing could boastfully say, "I helped save him!" What does Romans 4:3 state? It states, "*For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness."* What was it that counted, or put to his account, for righteousness? The Bible clearly tells us. ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD!

Hebrews 11:7-9 is a picture of a man named Noah, and a man named Abraham. *6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.* 7 *By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.* 8 *By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went."*

People are referred to in James 2:21-24 in order to try and prove that Abraham was justified by works. Those verses state, *"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?* 21 *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar*? 22 *Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?* 23 *And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.* 24 *Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."*

Those verses in no way teach that Abraham was justified by works. Those verses teach us that "saving faith" will produce works that glorify God and will let the people of the world SEE a life changed by faith. That principle is clearly explained in the text in James 2:14-20. 14 *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?* 15 *If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,* 16 *And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?* 17 *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.* 18 *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works*. 19 *Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.* 20 *But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"*

II Corinthians 5:17 tells us that if a man has faith and has been saved, there will be a CHANGE in his life, a change that can be seen. James said, *"…show me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works*." If there has been no change in a person's life, you will see that by "their works." If a person, by faith trusts Christ as their savior, there will be a change in their life that YOU WILL SEE!????

II Corinthians 5:17, which I mentioned above says, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* If a person's faith is real, you will always see a change in their life because they will immediately begin to be obedient to God's Word. Titus 2:11-14 says, *"Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. 11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, **zealous of good works**."*

Matthew 7:16 says, *"Ye shall know them by their fruits."* God looks upon the heart, but men cannot look upon the heart. However, men should see the change in your life by the works that you do, because He saved you by faith!

**Second**" Abraham FOUND that He Could Not Be Justified by Religion or Ritual. Romans 4:9-12 state, *"9 Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that faith was reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. 10 How was it then reckoned? when he was in circumcision, or in uncircumcision? Not in circumcision, but in uncircumcision. 11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also 12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised."*

Paul points out to the people who were in the church at Rome that Abraham, the one they looked up to, was justified BEFORE circumcision. That is clearly stated in Verses 10-12 above. God first preached the Gospel to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3. I am sure you are familiar with the verses, so I won't quote them here. There are people who "think" God did not preach the Gospel to Abraham in those verses but simply made a promise to Abraham that he and his seed after him would be blessed. One might assume that in their own personal thinking that the Gospel as we share it today, is not found in Genesis 12:1-3. However, let's look at Galatians 3:8 and see what Paul, under the inspiration of God wrote about that; *"And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed."*

That everlasting covenant was CONFIRMED by circumcision. Let's look at Genesis 17:9-14 and read God's confirmation; *"9 And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations. 10 This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. 11 And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. 12 And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed. 13 He that is born in thy house, and he that is bought with thy money, must needs be circumcised: and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting*

*covenant. 14 And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant."*

As you see, the Bible clearly states that Abraham is the father of ALL OF them that believe, though they were not circumcised at the time. Go back and read Verse 11 above. That would make it clear today that people do not have to be baptized to be saved. I believe and preach that people should be baptized but not to be saved, but to confirm their belief in salvation by faith, and to give testimony of their faith be being publicly baptized. That is VERY clearly stated in Acts 10:43-48. Peter had preached the Gospel to the people. Some of the disciples criticized Peter for doing that and especially disagreed with him about baptizing them. Let's look at Peter's answer in those verses. "*To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."* 44 *While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.* 45 *And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.* 46 *For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,* 47 *Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."* It is clear that those people were ALREADY SAVED as they had received the Holy Spirit.

A second application is the Catholic Church's ritual called "Mass." Going to mass CANNOT SAVE a person.

**Third**: Abraham FOUND That He Was Not Justified By The Law. Romans 4:13-14 state that truth in no uncertain words. "*13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, **was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law**, but through the righteousness of faith. 14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:"*

If a person can be justified by the law, then Christ died in vain. Why would Jesus have needed to come to this earth, take on the form of a man, be made sin for us, and be crucified? Galatians 2:21 clearly states this truth. *"I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain."* Abraham was justified by faith 430 years before the law was given in Exodus Chapter 20!

## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW?'
## Galatians 3:17

*"*17 *Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."* The Law was given in order for you, me, and all men to know beyond any doubt that they were guilty sinners and were under the penalty of death!

**Conclusion:** Men are justified freely, without merit or without cost. (Romans 3:24). And there is NO ROOM for man to boast! (Romans 3:27). Abraham FOUND three things to be true. It is my prayer and my heart's desire, that everyone reading this book will FIND the same things!

## CHAPTER ELEVEN
## THE GREAT BENEFITS OF SALVATION IN OUR LIFE ON EARTH
## Romans 5:1-2

*"1 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: 2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."*

### THE FIRST BENEFIT WE HAVE IS PEACE WITH GOD AND OF GOD.

Paul said, *"Therefore…."* He is summing up all he has taught in Romans Chapters 1-4. All men are sinners and without excuse, and Salvation is by faith and by faith alone. Now Paul is going to give the church in Rome, and us, two great benefits of salvation.

**First**: We Have The Benefit of Having Peace **With** God. (Romans 5:1). What does it mean to have "peace with God?" There are two kinds of peace which we, as Christians, have with God. We have "Peace WITH God" and we have the "Peace Of God." That peace is spoken of by Paul in Philippians 4:7. "*And the peace OF God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* We will study that later in the lesson. The peace with God and the peace of God are very different, but both are of great benefits for us.

Lost people are "at war with God" and have no peace of either type. Isaiah 57:20-12 declares that to be a fact. *"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.* 21 *There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."* They have no peace with God and no peace of God. Moving to the New Testament, Romans 8:7-8 gives us a picture of what the lost of the world are like. *"7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."* The lost people of the world are "enmity" with God, meaning they are "against God, hostile toward God, and have hatred of God." It is impossible for lost people to have peace with God through their works, through the law, through religion, through rituals, through church membership, nor in ANY other manner. Paul proved that in Romans 3:9.

A lost person can only get peace with God by total surrender and God dictates the "terms of surrender. (1) Repent! Acts 17:30. *"And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to* ***repent****:"* (2) Confess and Believe. Romans 10:9-10. *"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

Peace WITH God comes only through Jesus Christ. I Timothy 2:5 declares Jesus Christ to be the mediator between man and God. *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"* Jesus is pictured in the Old Testament as our "Daysman." Let's read Job 9:1. In that verse, Job asks a question. *" I know it is so of a truth: but how should man be just with God?* Then Job takes us to Verses 32-33. *" For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. 33 Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that*

*might lay his hand upon us both."* The verse says, a "daysman" is a man who can put his hand upon us both. The name "daysman" means an arbitrator who understands both sides of a matter.

Let me give you an example of a daysman. There was a King who lived in a palace and a beggar who was homeless and lived just outside the King's gate. The king and the beggar got to know each other, as the King would stop and talk with the beggar as he left his palace. They had several discussions about the difference in whose life was best but never could settle the matter. One day the King made a suggestion. He said to the beggar, "We need a "daysman" who can decide who is right." The beggar responded and said, "That's fine. I will work with that." The King said, "I have a friend who is a king. I can get him to come here and meet with us and settle this matter." The beggar responded and said, "Oh no! That king will always take your side because he is a king, and two kings would always be against me." Then the king said, "Well, who do you recommend we get to be an arbitrator for us?" The beggar quickly responded and said, "Oh, I have a friend who is a beggar, and I am sure he would be glad to settle this matter." The king said, "Oh no! I'm a king and you know beggars would always be against me." They never got the matter settled.

However, Jesus is a "daysman." When Jesus came to earth, he took on the form of a man. He was what we call a 'God man.' Jesus was as much man as if he was not God at all, and Jesus was as much God as he was not man at all. Jesus is a true "daysman" who can "put his hand on us both!" Amen!

**Second**: We Have The Benefit Of Having The Peace **Of** God! The peace of God "calms a troubled heart in the time of a storm and trouble." John 14:1 says, *"Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me*. Then John 14:27 says, *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."*

An outstanding example of having the peace of God in your life is found in the life of Joseph, who is also a beautiful type of Christ. We won't go through all the scriptures but point out certain verses. Joseph's peace of God is found from Genesis 37:5 through Genesis 50:20. We will look at several very difficult storms which Joseph went through, yet you will find no place in his life where he complained about the storms he was going through. He had peace in his heart, knowing that God was in control of all things.

**First**, Joseph was hated by his brethren. "*And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more."* **Second**, Joseph's father sent him to see how his brethren were doing when they were far away from home, keeping the flock. It picks up in Genesis 37:19-24 where his brethren saw him coming and planned to slay him. *"And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. 20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. 21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. 22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again. 23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him; **Third**: his brethren cast in a pit and planned to leave him there to die. 24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and*

*the pit was empty,*. **Third:** In Genesis 37:27-28, it says his brethren sold him as a slave to be taken to Egypt. *"27 Come, and let us sell him to the Ishmeelites, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. 28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt."* **Fourth:** We won't quote all the Scriptures here, but you can go back and read Genesis Chapter 39. You will find that Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph, but he honored God, and he refused. He did what was right before God. Potiphar's wife lied to her husband about Joseph and Potiphar cast Joseph into prison.

There were at least two other trials Joseph went through, but again, NOT ONCE will you find where Joseph complained in any manner. He knew God had a plan for his life, therefore he waited on the Lord and had the peace of God in his heart. If you go to Genesis 50 and read Verses 15-21, you will find that true. Isaiah 26:3 says, *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."* God has promised us perfect peace if we keep our mind stayed on the Lord Jesus, and II Corinthians 1:20 says, *"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."* God will keep you safe though any and every storm you go through, and you can have perfect peace.

**THE SECOND BENEFIT IS THAT WE HAVE ACCESS TO THE THRONE OF GOD**
**Romans 5:2**

*"By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God."*

Please think about the great privilege we have to be invited to meet with God. Let me ask you a question. How many of you have been invited to go to Washington DC to meet with the President and would count that a privilege and an honor? Sure, we would. I was invited to meet with President Ronald Regan when he was president. I was preaching in a suburb of Washington DC and the director of his Security Staff set up an appointment for me to meet with him the next morning. I was looking forward to that with great expectations! Much to my disappointment President Regan was shot that afternoon, so naturally my meeting was canceled. I think you can imagine how I felt. I was disappointed! However, an appointment to meet with the President is not even CLOSE to the honor of meeting with God.

Looking back to the Old Testament, Hebrews 9:6-7 tells us the high priest could go in and meet with God, but he could only go in ONCE a year. *"Now when these things were thus ordained, the priests went always into the first tabernacle, accomplishing the service of God. 7 But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people:"*

However, you and I have a standing invitation in Hebrews 4:14-16 to meet with All Mighty God. And we can meet with him as often as we want and stay as long as we need and want to stay. We have his undivided attention. *"14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace,*

*<u>that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need</u>."* No one has EVER had such an invitation with the President of the United States! PLEASE stop a minute and think about the great privilege you have. You have access to God!

**<u>Question:</u>** Are you going to accept God's invitation and meet with Him daily as long and as often as you want, and stay as long as you want?

As I said in the opening section of this book on Romans, I am not writing and presenting it "verse by verse" but rather dealing with the main subjects. Romans Chapters 5 and 6 are all "follow-up information and application of the first four chapters of the book. Therefore, we are moving forward to Chapter 12 in this book, which takes us to Romans Chapter 7 in the Bible. This is another very important chapter in the book of Romans.

## CHAPTER TWELVE
## PAUL'S WARFARE WITH THE FLESH
## Romans 7:1-25

As I shared in the introduction of the book, I am not going "verse by verse" but rather main subject by main subject. Romans Chapters 5 and 6 continue to cover how salvation is free apart from works, the law, and from religious rituals. Therefore, we are moving to Romans Chapter 5, which is very important. This chapter is titled "Paul's Warfare With The Flesh." It is vitally important because everyone reading this book, including the writer, has a continual warfare with our flesh! Paul dedicated this entire chapter sharing his testimony concerning his personal warfare. I think he did that because he most likely realized that some people thought a dedicated man like him was above struggling with the flesh. He is making it CLEAR that he is no different from any other man, that he had a warfare with his flesh and found that he had “no good thing in the flesh.”

### Paul Was <u>A Saved Man</u> When He Wrote Romans Chapter Seven

In order that everyone will understand and be able to apply the principles of Romans 7 to themselves, we must see that Paul was a saved man when he wrote about his struggle with the flesh. Paul gave his testimony in Romans 1:1 and 5. *"Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God …. By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:"* Another testimony to him being saved when he wrote about his struggle in Chapter 7, is that he wrote the entire book of Romans under the inspiration of God! Therefore, there is no doubt about Paul. He was a SAVED man when he wrote and told us how he struggled with his flesh.

### Paul Was <u>A Struggling Man</u> When He Wrote Romans Chapter Seven.

Paul gave clear testimony in Romans 7:14, that he understood that "his flesh" was carnal and was sold unto sin. He no doubt felt guilty every day of his life after being saved. "*For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.*" He understood it was HIM, HIS FLESH,

that was his problem. He gave testimony again in Verse 18, "*For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."* Too many people today, even after being saved, do not understand that when God saved them, he saved THEIR SOUL only, and then when they received Jesus Christ as their Savior and were saved, God did not do ONE THING for the body of flesh they live in. My flesh is just as sinful today as it was before I got saved. Like Paul, I war with it every day! Every Christian needs to realize that truth. God DID NOTHING for our flesh when He saved us.

Paul, in Romans 7:15-24 said, "I am the problem!" In those verses, 32 times he said, "I - Me - My flesh! Not once did he blame God in any way. In Verse 14 he said, "*I am carnal."* In Verse 18, he said, "*my flesh*." In Verses 22-23 he said, *"…bringing me into captivity*…"

Christians go through the same struggle today, and they/we go through it EVERY day. Sad to say, many Christians try to "win the war" by fighting their flesh. They slip, sin and fall. They come under conviction, and they say, "I am going to turn over a new leaf. I am not going to do that again." When the New Year comes around, they say, "I am going to make a New Years Resolution." They do those things again and again, but the only thing they learn is, "Those will not work! They continue to slip, fall, and sin!"

What was Paul's problem? Was he too weak of a Christian? No, that was not his problem. His problem was his flesh was too strong! In Galatians 5:17 Paul wrote, *"For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would."* Christians today, including you and me, need to realize these truths. We fall over and over again; we get right again; we ask forgiveness again; we turn over a new leaf again; but we FAIL again and again and again.

**Paul Was A Sorrowful Man When He Wrote Romans Chapter Seven.**

This is somewhat repetitious, but Paul repeated it again and again, so we will follow his example. Let's look at Romans 7:15-17. *"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me."* Paul realized that when he trusted Christ as his Savior, that God did not do one thing for the flesh he lived in! No doubt, until he learned how to win the war, he got discouraged with himself again and again.

That same thing happens to Christians today, in 2025! They know they are saved, but they get discouraged again and again by yielding to the desires of their flesh. They get discouraged! They begin to doubt their salvation! If they don't learn how to win the war, many end up dropping out of church. They quit! That is EXACTLY what the Devil wants you to do. That is his goal to make you discouraged until you quit! Satan knows you are saved. He will not tell you that, but he KNOWS you are saved and that is why he attacks you again and again. One of the evidences of salvation is that shortly after you trust Christ and are saved, you come under attack of the devil. It convicts you. You repent and ask forgiveness. But the Devil keeps on and keeps on. I said this is one evidence of salvation. Let's turn it around and you will see this. Lost people sin. What happens to them? THEY FEEL GOOD ABOUT IT! They enjoy it. They do it again, and the Devil never attacks them in the way he attacks a saved person. Why? Because he already has them! But, saved

people are sorrowful, just as Paul was. However, Paul won the victory. Let's study more and you will learn how to win the victory also.

**Paul Was <u>A Successful Man</u> Who Won the Warfare Through Christ.**
**Romans 7:1-4**

*"Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? 2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. 3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. 4 <u>Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.</u>"*

There are many people, including some pastors I have talked with, who think that somehow the above passage on marriage is "out of place" in the scripture. They feel it does not fit the context of Paul's struggle with the flesh. I am not criticizing anyone, but that is not true! This text is EXACTLY where God put it and fits the context 100%! Paul is using "marriage" to illustrate what the law does to a person's flesh, and how to win the victory of the flesh. Example!

There is a woman who meets "the perfect man" and she falls in love with him. He is perfect in every way. She has never seen him do ANYTHING that was wrong. That is because he IS PERFECT. She thinks he is so wonderful that she agrees to marry him. His name is Mr. Law! After they are married, every morning before he leaves for work, he tells her what he wants her to do and tells her what not to do! Every day she fails in some way. Every day her husband returns home and asks her if she did this and did not do that. He criticizes her when he hears that she did not do what he told her to do and what he told her not to do. That goes on, week after week, month after month, year after year, for years! After several years of being married to "Mr. Law" she was about to go crazy. However, she could not get free from him unless he died. She figured out that he was never going to die, but she was desperate to get out of the marriage. Finally, she got so desperate that rather than continue to live with "Mr. Perfect" she would rather die! So, she dies! Suddenly after she died, she was free. Immediately, Mr. Love heard about her death and came along and "touched her" with the touch of life. Mr. Love was named Jesus Christ. She married Mr. Love and lived happily ever after. That is a picture of Romans 7:4.

The solution is "die to self." That is exactly what happened to Paul. He gives us that testimony in Galatians 2:20. *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* That is also described in Romans 12:1-2. *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."*

From that day forward, 1 Corinthians 15:31 Paul said, *"I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily**."* This is the only way to have victory of the flesh. If you are a Christian and have not followed God's command in Romans 12:1, and presented yourself a living sacrifice, you should stop reading the book, get down on your knees, and "present your body a living sacrifice." A sacrifice has died! You should die to yourself and present your body to Jesus Christ. After you have done that, as a Christian, if you want victory over your flesh, there are three things you should do before you get out of bed every morning. You should spend a few minutes of prayer, and (1) Start your day by "dying to self." Paul said, *"I die daily!"* (2) You should ask God to fill you and control you with the Holy Spirit throughout the entire day. Ephesians 5:18 says, *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*" The word "filled" in the Greek means to "be controlled by." Just as a "drunk" is controlled by wine, we should be controlled by the Holy Spirit. God gave us a promise concerning having victory over the flesh in Galatians 5:16 says, *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*" (3) Ask God to give you "the mind of Christ" for that day. Philippians 2:5 says, *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"* If you are serious and practice these three, you will have victory over the flesh!

## CHAPTER THIRTEEN
## A CHRISTIAN'S DECLARATION OF FREEDOM
## Romans 8:1-31

*"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."*

How many of you are, at times, tormented by sins you committed in the past, some sins you committed before you were saved, and some sins you committed after you were saved? I have been, I am pretty sure, where you have been. The Devil is a master at tormenting Christians like you and me, reminding us of our past sins. In Chapter 8, Paul is teaching us how we can have freedom and peace concerning our sins, sins committed both in the past, in the present and future sins. Above, in Verse 2, Paul said, *"I have been made free…."* What was Paul set free from? Whatever Paul was set free from, you and I and all Christians are set free from!

### A Christian Is Free From All Condemnation.
### Romans 8:1-4

*"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

Verse 1 tells us "…*no condemnation…*" Those two words are of great importance and should be a great blessing to us. Those "two words" are a STATEMENT OF FACT! NO one can produce an argument against that clear statement, which God Himself made. **First:** All Christians

are "set free" from the law of condemnation. That phrase is preceded by the word "NOW!" That verse clearly states that took place the instant you trusted Christ as your saviour and were placed *"in Christ"* by the Holy Spirit. **Second:** All Christians are set free from *"…the law of sin and death."* After you trusted Jesus Christ as your saviour, you immediately became free from the law and from sin. If you look above, that is clearly stated in Verses 3 and 4. **Third**: Galatians 3:22-26 tells us that we are set free from the control of the law, as our schoolmaster."

*"22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. 23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed. 24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith. 25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. 26 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus."*

**Fourth**: Let's look at some scriptures which tell us how and when we were set free. Matthew 5:17 tells us that Jesus Christ came to fulfill the law. He fulfilled it on our behalf. *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."* That verse preceded Romans 8:3-4, which again, says, " *3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* How is that possible" Turn to II Corinthians 5:21 and you will see how that took place. *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."* This took place when they nailed Jesus Christ to the cross. At that time, he was made to be sin for us. When he died, he paid our sin debt, that " *we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

**Fifth**: What happened to our sins when Jesus fulfilled the law for us, and we were made righteous in Him? Isaiah 38:17 tells us, "*Behold, for peace I had great bitterness: but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back.*" Now, how far did God tell us that He cast all our sins behind His back? Psalms 103:11-12 tell us how far God cast all our sins behind his back, *"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us."* God cast our sins behind His back as far as the east is from the west. I am very glad that God did not say that He cast our sins behind His back as far as the north is from the south! Why? Because you can start going north and you will shortly arrive at the north pole, then you turn directions, and you are going south. That means "you can find the north and you can find the south. However, God said "as far as the east is from the west. We are in Memphis, Tennessee as we write. When you leave Memphis and start west, you are headed to California. However, when you arrive in California, you have not found the west. The west is in Japan. You continue your journey trying to reach the west and you arrive in Japan. Have you found the west? No! When you are in Japan, the west is in Europe. You continue your journey trying to find the west and later you arrive in Europe. Have you found the west? No! Therefore, you continue your journey, still trying to find the west, and you arrive in Memphis, Tennessee! The east and the west NEVER meet! The west CANNOT BE FOUND! Our sins are gone!!! Not only are they gone, but they are forgotten. Hebrews 8:12 says, *"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will* ***I remember no more****."*

**Sixth**: Our freedom comes through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not mentioned one time in Romans Chapter 7. If you read through Romans Chapter 8, you will find the Holy Spirit mentioned 19 times! Each of those 19 times, the Holy Spirit is connected to us being set free!

Someone has asked me several times, "I know that when I trusted Jesus as my Savior, that my sins were forgiven, but what about my future sins?" I have always answered that question by asking them a question. "How many of your sins were future when Jesus died on the cross and paid for your sin? ALL of them were future! You can sin and break your fellowship with God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, but you restore that fellowship by confessing you failed, and God restores you to fellowship, but YOUR SINS ARE GONE!

## A Christian Is Free From All Fear And Discouragement.
## Romans 8:18-31

Let me start by saying that if you have any fears in your life, they did not come from God! II Timothy 1:7 makes that clear beyond doubt. "*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."* We can understand this if we think of our family relations. As a father, I would never want any of my children to have a spirit of fear. I would do whatever I needed to do to keep my children from being afraid. Compare that to our relationship to our Father in heaven. He is greatly concerned about you as His children. First, we see that in Hebrews 4:14-15. *"Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."*

Our high priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, came to this earth and took on the form of a man for 33 plus years. In Verse 15 God tells us two things He went through while he was here on earth. **First:** He tells us that "*we HAVE NOT a high priest, <u>who cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities</u>*." Our High Priest is the Lord Jesus Christ, who now sits at the right hand of God making intercession for us. In other words, God is telling us that His Son, our high priest, while here on earth went through EVERYTHING that you and I have been through in our life. That includes ANYTHING that would cause us to be fearful. **<u>Second</u>:** God tells us that Jesus *"was in all point tempted as we are."* In other words, Jesus was tempted and tried in the exact same manner that we are tempted and tried. Keep those things in mind as we read a promise God gave us. Keep the two things above in mind as we read Hebrews 13:5. *"… I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."* Jesus, sitting at the right hand of God, KNOWS our infirmities and our temptations, and has promised to never leave us or forsake us! WOW! What a promise! What a blessing to realize that Jesus knows EXACTLY what you and I are going through and realize that regardless of what we are going through, HE IS WITH US!

**<u>Second</u>**: We should never be fearful, regardless of what we are going through, because we have perfect access to God's "Throne of Grace." Hebrews 4:16, which follows the two verses above, tells us that God loves us and cares for us. It tells us that when we are going through a

difficult time in life, He says, "*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."*

Let me add one more thing before we move on. We "go boldly to the throne of grace in prayer, seeking help, and we have two others who join us and pray with us. The first person is the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:26-27 tell us this truth. *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, <u>because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God</u>."* The second person is Jesus Christ. Romans 8:34 tells us, *"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, <u>who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us</u>.*

Also, there is another very important reason we have no reason to have the spirit of fear. We KNOW that God has a plan for our life. In that plan, He gave us a promise found in Romans 8:2, which most of you are familiar with; *"<u>And we know</u> that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*" God follows that promise with the reason He allows us to be tested and tried. That reason is found in Romans 8:29, which says, *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* EVERYTHING God allows us to go through is "for our good," and it will be used by God to conform us more every day into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. Verse 39 says, *"Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*" Therefore, Paul said, *"I glory in tribulation!"*

I read this in a devotional book and think it is a good example of how God is working in our lives. "A teacher in a physics class was teaching about how magnets work. The teacher told each student to take a piece of paper and then passed a box of steel filings around to each member of the class. He then told them to sprinkle the steel filings on the sheet of paper. The fine particles looked like grains of sand and scattered all across the papers when the students sprinkled them. The teacher then said, "take your sheet of paper with the filings on it and place it above the magnet." The students did so, suddenly stirring all the filings. In a split second all the filings came together and arranged themselves in a beautiful pattern. It seems that every filing quickly found its place in the pattern. God works in the same manner in our lives. Just when it may seem that life is falling apart, God draws all the things we have been through together and changes us into the likeness of Christ! Amen! I turn 90 years old this year, 2025, and I have seen this happen in my life and in the lives of many others. It ALWAYS TURNS OUT for our good!

**A Christian is Free From Defeat.**
**Romans 8:14-17**

*"14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of <u>bondage again to fear</u>; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are*

*the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together."*

These verses sum up what Paul has been teaching concerning fear or discouragement. This takes us to the final verdict, which is found in Romans 8:31-34 and 37. *"31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 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? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. 34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us …. 37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.*

**A Christian is Free From Any Possible Separation from God.**
**Romans 8:35 & 38-39**

*"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come ….. 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

**A Christian Should be Thankful For All He Has Been Set Free From.**

In closing this section, I will share three principles which I have used several times through the years, especially on Thanksgiving Day.

A Christians **receives**" benefits from God daily. Psalms 68:19 *"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah."*

A Christian should **remember** the benefits he receives daily. Psalms 103:1-2. *"Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:"*

A Christian should **reciprocate** for the benefits he receives daily. Psalms 116:12. *"What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?*

We should reciprocate because of His love for us. We should reciprocate because "He first loved us." (I John 4:19). We reciprocate by obeying I Corinthians 10:31. *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or **whatsoever ye do**, do all to the glory of God."*

**CHAPTER FOURTEEN**
**YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.**
**Romans 8:31-39**

We will go by these verses one by one, rather than print them all here. I hope this does not apply to you, but sad to say, there are many Christians who worry themselves to death! They seem

to worry about everything. God's Word makes it clear beyond doubt, that "we have nothing to worry about."

**First: You Do Not Have To Worry About Losing The Battle.**
**Romans 8:31**

*"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?"*

If God Be For Us, Who Can Be Against Us? Paul is referring to the last chapter, when he asked this question. Paul is pointing out that "no one that is against us will prevail." NO ONE! God makes this clear beyond doubt in Verses 32-39. Someone might be against us, but they will not prevail against us, so we have nothing to worry about! Romans 8:31 states this truth. *"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?*" Isaiah made that clear in Isaiah 54:17. *"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD."*

Matthew 16:18 tells that even the Devil cannot prevail against us! *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*" Who can be against us? The devil is against you, but you have nothing to worry about. According to the Word of God, he SHALL NOT prevail against us! As you know, every believer is "a part of the church, the body of Christ. So, what do we have to worry about? We do not have anything to worry about!

This subject is so important I am going to give you a couple of other scriptures to assure you that "you have nothing to worry about." Luke 21:12-15 & 18. *"But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. 13 And it shall turn to you for a testimony. 14 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: 15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to …. 18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish.:*

Now turn to II Kings 6:15-18. *"And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? 16 And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. 17 And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. 18 And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha."* The Battle is the Lord's. **You have nothing to worry about**!

**Second: You Do Not Have To Worry About Your Needs Being Met!**
**Romans 8:32**

*"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 5:8 says, "*But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Understanding that God loved us in such a manner that he sent His son to die for you, why would any of us doubt that he will not provide all our earthly needs. Some of you reading this book are fathers. How much do you love your children? I cannot imagine a father who would let one of his children go hungry. I can't imagine a father who would not be absolutely sure that his children had "all of the essentials of life" they need. If you are a father, ask yourself this question, "Would I let one of my children go hungry?" Surely not! Then HOW MUCH MORE will our heavenly Father be sure that we have all the things we need in the way of the essentials of life! Most fathers will not only make sure their children have the "essentials" but if they are able, they are going to provide things they do not really need but would enjoy having. God is the owner of the entire world. Do you think God does not feel that same way about His children?

Philippians 4:19 puts it this way. *"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."* In this verse, God promised *"all of our needs, according to His riches….which are endless!"* God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. Let me share an illustration which pictures "God's riches." All of you are familiar with Niagara Falls. According to the record, there is 750,000 gallons of water that flows over Niagara Falls PER SECOND! Those falls have been there since the earth was created. They never run dry. They never run low on water. With that kind of resources, surely God can meet our needs! God made a promise in Psalms 37:23-26, *"The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. 24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand. 25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, **nor his seed begging bread**. 26 He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed."* **You have nothing to worry about!**

**Third: You Do Not Have To Worry About Anyone Laying Any Charges Against You.**

**Romans 8:33**

"*Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth."* Satan, according to Revelation 12:10, will continually accuse you, but when he does, God, your Father, will always justify you! *"And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night."*

As a Christian, we have already been "charged." I was charged, found guilty, and sentenced to death. However, when Christ was nailed to the cross, shortly before He died, in John 19:30 said, *"It is finished, and bowed his head, and gave up the ghost."* At the second I trusted Jesus Christ as my Savior and by faith received him, all charges were dropped. The Greek word for "It is finished" is Teleo. It means "paid in full."

Let's go to Colossians 2:13-14 and learn even more about those charges. "13 *And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; 14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;"* The word "blotting" is translated from the Greek word, Exalcipho which means, "Obliterated and wiped away." Our sins are gone, past, present, and future, as we studied in our last lesson. When Satan comes and tries to remind you of your past, turn and remind him of his future. His future is found in Revelation 20:9-10. *"And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever."* **You have nothing to worry about!**

**You Do Not Have To Worry About Being Condemned.**
**Romans 8:34**

*"Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."*

According to God's Word in Romans 5:9, you have been justified; *"Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."* God Himself, in Romans 3:6, declared that, in his righteousness He justified us, AND that He was JUST in doing so, because our sin debt had been paid in full. *"To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."* God cannot "be just and justify us and then turn around and condemn us! If He did so, He would not be honest, and we all know that God is always honest and cannot lie.

Satan can accuse of anything he wants to accuse us of, but he cannot condemn us. Only the law can condemn us, and Romans 8:1-2 state that we are free from the law. *"There is therefore now **no condemnation** to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."* **You have nothing to worry about!**

**You Do Not Have to Worry About Ever Being Separated From The Love Of God.**
**Romans 8:35**

This is one marriage where the honeymoon never ends, and divorce is impossible! There will never, for all eternity, be any separation between you and your heavenly Father.

I think we need to go back and see the important reason why Paul wrote and explained these four reasons why they had no reason to worry. All of us are familiar with the church today. However, in that day the church of Rome was totally different. There was no 'legal" church in those days. The church in Rome was an 'underground church.' The believers who made up the church in Rome lived in fear for their lives. Christianity had no legal way or license to practice openly as we have today. On Capitoline Hill, there was a building called the Parthenon. In order to legally practice meeting together as a church, there had to be a 'visible image' in the Parthenon,

which had been approved by the Emperor of Rome. The church at Rome did not have that. Their lives were in danger every time they met together. Also, they had no Bible. The only thing they had was occasionally they would receive a letter from Paul sharing the things God had shown and revealed to him. Again, they had never seen Paul. They knew about him and how he had persecuted the church but had CHANGED greatly and was not preaching the Gospel and how Jesus, God's Son, had come to earth, taken on the form of a man and had been crucified on the cross to pay our sin debt. Try to imagine how they felt, as they sat quietly, and listened as this letter from Paul was read. Imagine how they felt when he asked them the question, "Who shall separate us for the love of God?" and then explained a long list of things that COULD NOT separate them (or us) from the love of God! Following is a list of things he told them COULD NOT separate them from the love of God.

In the book of Romans, Paul shared these things. *(1) Tribulation could not separate them from the love of God. (2) Distress could not separate them from the love of God! (3) Persecutions could not separate them from the love of God! (4) Famine could not separate them from the love of God! (5) Nakedness could not separate them from the love of God! (6) Peril could not separate them from the love of God! (7) Sword could not separate them from the love of God! (8) Death could not separate them from the love of God! (9) Life could not separate them from the love of God! (10) Angels could not separate them from the love of God! (11) Principalities could not separate them from the love of God! (12) Powers could not separate them from the love of God! (13) Thing Present could not separate them from the love of God! (14) Things to come could not separate them from the love of God! (15) Heights could not separate them from the love of God! (16) Depths could not separate them from the love of God! (17) Nor ANY other creature shall be able to separate them form the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord!*

John 8:32, Jesus said, *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* I heard a little boy say, in response to a question about the needs in his life using Psalms 23. He said, "The Lord is my Shephard and that is ALL I NEED!" Amen and Amen! **You have nothing to worry about!**

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN
## WE KNOW THAT ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD
## Romans 8:28-29

*"28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."*

Paul has covered that Salvation is by faith, and faith alone. He has made it clear that all men are sinners and guilty before God. He then shared with us the struggle and warfare he has with his flesh. Thus far, in Romans Chapter 8 he has covered how to have a victorious life. Now, we are going to move on to the subject of:

### The Purpose God Has For His Children

Paul begins with a strong phrase, *"And we know…*" He is writing to Christians. He is not writing to, including, or applying to lost people of the world. God only has "one" purpose for the lost people of the world. His purpose that through believers, they will hear the Gospel and be saved. Jesus Himself said that in John 17:9. *"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine."* As we study, please do not be confused by applying any of Chapter 8 to lost people.

Notice also that Paul begins Verse 28 with the word, "*And…*" That means he is tying Verse 28 together with the preceding verses of Romans 8:26-27, where it says, *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. 27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."* That ties two truths together. First, the Holy Spirit is praying and making intercession for us, thus keeping our prayers in the will of God because many times we do not know what to pray for. The second truth is that because the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us, He is going to keep us in the will of God and make all things work together for our good! Many times, we cannot see or understand why things are happening as they are happening, but we are not to walk by sight, but by faith.

**The Purpose God Had for the Life Of Joseph**
**Genesis Chapter 37.**

I am repeating this from Chapter 11, but it is worth repeating. God had a purpose for Joseph, and although he went through at least seven trials of great tribulation, God guided him through the trials, and it ended up "working for good." Joseph, about 40 years later, saw that ALL those trials worked together for good.

**First**, Jospeh was hated by his brethren. *"And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and **they hated him** yet the more."* (Genesis 37:5) **Second**, Joseph's father sent him to see how his brethren were when they were far away from home, keeping the flock. It picks up in Genesis 37:19-24 where his brethren saw him coming and planned to slay him. *"And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh. 20 Come now therefore, and **let us slay him**, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams. 21 And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him. 22 And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again. 23 And it came to pass, when Joseph was come unto his brethren, that they stript Joseph out of his coat, his coat of many colours that was on him;* **Third***:* his brethren **cast him in a pit and planned to leave him there to die.** *24 And they took him, and cast him into a pit: and the pit was empty.* **Fourth:** In Genesis 37:27-28, it says his brethren sold him as a slave to be taken to Egypt,*"27 Come, and l**et us sell him to the Ishmeelites**, and let not our hand be upon him; for he is our brother and our flesh. And his brethren were content. 28 Then there passed by Midianites merchantmen; and they drew and lifted up Joseph out of the pit, and sold Joseph to the Ishmeelites for twenty pieces of silver: and they brought Joseph into Egypt."* **Fifth:** Joseph was sold to Potiphar in Egypt. (Genesis 39:1) *"And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the*

*Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither."* then, in Genesis 39:7-8 we find that Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph, but Joseph honored God, and he refused. "*7 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. 8 But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;"* **Sixth:** Jospeh honored God, and did that which was right before God. Because of that, Potiphar's wife lied to her husband about Joseph. Genesis 39:17-18 says, "*And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, "17 The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came **in unto me to mock me**: 18 And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out."* **Seventh:** Potiphar cast Joseph in prison. That is stated in Genesis 39:20, *"20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison."*

There were at least two other trials Joseph went through, but again, NOT ONCE will you find any place where Joseph complained in any way. I am sure Joseph knew God had a plan for his life, therefore he waited on the Lord and had the peace of God in his heart. About 14-15 years later Joseph, by the grace and plan of God, was brought out of prison by Pharaoh, and he was promoted and became the second most powerful man in all of Egypt. Joseph served under only one man named Pharaoh. That can be reviewed in Genesis 41:14-44. During those years, due to the great famine, Joseph's brothers came to Egypt to get food, and they had to "go before Joseph, their brother. Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him! Joseph provided them with food, and they returned to their father Jacob's house. To make a long story short, Joseph had his brothers to return to Egypt and bring his father, Jacob, with them. Later he revealed himself to them and it put great fear in their hearts, as they thought their brother who they hated would seek revenge.

Now, let's go to Genesis 50:15-21, and we will see that God had a plan for Joseph's life and all the above worked together for good of Joseph, his brothers, his father, and for the entire known world.

*"And when Joseph's brethren saw that their father was dead, they said, Joseph will peradventure hate us, and will certainly requite us all the evil which we did unto him. 16 And they sent a messenger unto Joseph, saying, Thy father did command before he died, saying, 17 So shall ye say unto Joseph, Forgive, I pray thee now, the trespass of thy brethren, and their sin; for they did unto thee evil: and now, we pray thee, forgive the trespass of the servants of the God of thy father. And Joseph wept when they spake unto him. 18 And his brethren also went and fell down before his face; and they said, Behold, we be thy servants. 19 And Joseph said unto them, **Fear not: for am I in the place of God**?* 20 *But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. 21 Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them."*

*"28 And we **know** that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

**What is God's Purpose For Men Today?**

**Romans 8:29**

*"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* **This includes EVERY BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIAN IN EVERY CHURCH!**

God has a "two-fold" purpose for every person born into the world. **First:** God's purpose is for everyone to hear the Gospel message and be born again. **Second:** After you are born again and become a part of His family, His purpose is for you to be changed into the likeness of His Son, Jesus Christ. God uses a "two-fold" method of molding a new convert into the likeness of His Son, Jesus Christ. **First**: He uses the Word of God. Ephesians 5:24-27 declares that *"Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; 26* ***That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word*** *27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."* **Second**: God uses trials, storms and hardships to mold us into the likeness of his Son, Jesus Christ. I Peter 1:6-8 declares God's reason for allowing us to go through such things, *"Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: 7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: 8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:"*

**What is God's Purpose In Molding Us To Be Like Christ?**
**Ephesians 4:11-12**

*"11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12* ***For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry****, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"*

EVERY member of every church is called of God to the work of the ministry. I have been told this several times through the years, along with the question, "How can I help them?" They say, "Brother Ernest, we need a Youth Director for our church." I have responded, "I agree, from all I know, you do need a Youth Director, to assist your pastor in the ministry." Then they ask, "Do you know where we can find one" I have always responded, "Yes, you can find one in your church!"

Every member in every Bible believing church has a spiritual gift. God gives each member a gift "for the work of the ministry." When you select and train people in your church and then put them in a position, such as a Youth Director, they know a great deal about the youth of the church. They know 100% more than any young man you might select and call from some "Bible college" to move to your city, join your church, and be Youth Director! 100% MORE! I Corinthians 12:4-7 tells us that every member has a spiritual gift and THEIR gift should be used to profit the church of which they are a member, *"4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to*

*every man to profit with al* You will not find ANYWHERE in the Bible where there was a "Bible college" that trained people for the ministry to go and serve in various churches."

Every church is to train their own people and use them for the work of the ministry. I Corinthians 3:9 says, *"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building."* With Christ as our co-laborer, having the written Word of God, and every member having the Holy Spirit dwelling in them, THAT IS ALL WE NEED! The church does not need any outside help! I have seen many cases where a church "hired" someone they did not know and who had never been a part of the church ministry but was trained in a "Bible college" to come on the church staff as a Youth Director or other position, and it ended up causing more problem than it did good. NOW, I am not saying that a Bible college is not a good thing. But churches should "look ahead" and if they foresee a need for the future, they can send one of their members to a good Bible college for training. After their training is completed, they can put them on the church staff where they fit! In a sense, every member of your church should be an "unpaid member of the church staff."

# THE BOOK OF ROMANS
# SECTION TWO

# THIS SECTION DEALS WITH
# THE NATION OF ISRAEL

# ROMANS CHAPTER NINE THROUGH CHAPTER ELEVEN

## CHAPTER SIXTEEN
## PAUL DEALS WITH ISRAEL AND THEIR PAST
### Romans Chapter 9

From Romans Chapter 1 through Romans Chapter 8, Paul has dealt primarily with the Gentiles and several major doctrinal issues they did not fully understand. Now, from Romans Chapter 9 through Romans Chapter 11, Paul changes and is speaking to the Jews, and the Jews only. In Chapters, 9, 10, and 11, he is speaking DIRECTLY to the nation of Israel, who are his 'kinsman' in the flesh. In Romans Chapter 9, Paul is dealing with the Jews and reminding them of how their fathers had failed.

Before going to these scriptures, let me lay a little groundwork with the hope of making the study clearer. God did a GREAT number of things for Israel throughout the Old Testament. EVERYTHING that God did for the nation of Israel, He did by His own Divine Sovereignty! Those things which God did, Israel "did not earn nor deserve!"

Beginning with Abraham, in Genesis Chapter 12, God made His first promise. He said He would make of Abraham a great nation! Following His promise to Abraham, God made promises to Isaac, to Jacob, to Moses, and to David. Again, and again the Israelites rebelled against God and his teaching that salvation was "by faith in Jesus, and not by the law or by works. According to Romans 4:1-8 The Jews KNEW that salvation was by faith in Jesus, as their Messiah. Because of Israel's rebelling and rejection of Jesus, were the promises of God canceled? By no means! Why? We will develop that answer over the next three chapters.

**Paul Releases His Heart Desire And Love For Israel, His Kinsmen In The Flesh.**

**Romans 9:1-3**

*"1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, 2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. 3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:"*

Paul was a Jew by birth and had practiced the Jewish religion to the point of him arresting people, committing them to prison, and consenting to the death of some who opposed his religion! Paul had been one of the most extremely zealous men for the Jewish religion. However, as you know, Paul had trusted Jesus Christ as his Messiah and his Savior and now rejected the religion he once fought for. Now he is preaching the Gospel which he had once tried to destroy. For that reason, the people in the church in Rome, which had many Jews in it, were skeptical of Paul and with good reason. He was now extremely zealous for preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ and proclaiming Jesus as the Messiah of the Jewish people. Look how he began. He said, *"I speak the truth in Christ, I lie not…!!!* He then called the Holy Spirit as his witness, by saying, "*I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost.*

Paul wanted to assure the church that he loved them as Jews, to the point that he said*, "For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:"*

Those were strong words! He told them that he was willing to *"be accursed…"* The word "accursed" means to "be cut off from Christ." Basically, what Paul was saying was that he loved them so much, that he would be willing to "be cut off from Christ" and give up going to heaven and spend eternity in the lake of fire and brimstone, if his kinsman in the flesh could be saved. This should be an example to Christians today. If we had that type of love for the lost, we would be witnessing and giving gospel tracts to EVERY person possible! Now with all of that in mind, let's look at the rest of the chapter as Paul deals with Israel, his kinsman in the flesh, and their failure over the past all the way back to Abraham which is where the Jewish nation began.

**Paul Reminds Israel Of Their Great Privileges In Their Past.**
**Romans 9:4-5.**

*"Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; 5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. "*

There are <u>seven basic privileges listed in these verses, which the Jews easily understood,</u> and all of this had been personally passed down to them from generation to generation. Paul reminds them of how good God had been to their fathers since the days of Abraham!

**<u>First</u>**: God changed Jacob's name from Jacob to "Israel." That is recorded in Genesis 32:28. The word "Israel" means A Prince with God! **<u>Second</u>**: God stated that he legally adopted them to sonship, meaning they had become God's Son. That was never declared before. That is found in Exodus 4:22. **<u>Third</u>**: God revealed the "Shekina Glory" to Moses and the Jews when the Tabernacle was set up in the wilderness. (Exodus 40:34-35) **<u>Fourth</u>**: God made Covenant after Covenant with Israel. Those were:

The Abrahamic Covenant. (Genesis 12:1-3).
The Noahic Covenant. (Genesis 9:1).
The Mosaic Covenant, the Law. (Exodus 20-21).
The Davidic Covenant. (II Samuel 7:16).
The New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:33)

**Fifth:** God gave them the privilege and allowed them to Serve and Worship Him. That is covered in Exodus and Leviticus. **Sixth**: The were called The Father of the Patriarchs. **Seventh**: God promised them a Messiah (Genesis 3:14 & John 1:11). All these privileges were given to Israel by the Divine Sovereignty of God! Despite all of this, the Jews, throughout the Old Testament had disobeyed God and rebelled against Him. Also keep in mind, they had all heard about all God had done for them, like the opening of the Red Sea, the drowning of Pharoah and the Egyptian army. The had heard how God guided them through the wilderness and gave them the Promise Land. ALL OF THIS had been passed down to them from generation to generation, yet they turned on this and now were rejecting God's Son as their Messiah!

**Paul Rebukes The Jews Misunderstanding of The Sovereign Blessing of God on Israel.**
**Romans 9:6-13**

*"6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: 7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. 8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed."*

Most all Jews, both in those days and also today, think they are saved and going to heaven because they are Israelites. The Jews Paul was writing to thought they were saved and going to heaven because they were born as Jews. They did not understand that salvation has nothing to do with their birth! The word "salvation" is not found in ANY text where the promises of God were made to Israel nor is it implied. Paul told them, *"For they are not all Israel which are of Israel."* Paul was teaching them that "not all Israelites are going to be in heaven." Only those who put faith in the Messiah. He called their attention to Abraham. God made Abraham a promise, but that promise was that He was going to make him a great NATION! There was NO MENTION or reference to salvation in that promise! The promise God made to Abraham is found in Genesis 12:1-2. Paul then referred them to Isaac and Rebekah who bore two sons.

When Rebekah learned she was going to have a child, God appeared to her in Genesis 25:22-23 and told her that in her womb were two nations. *"22 And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD. 23 And the LORD said unto her, **Two nations are in thy womb**, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger."* Again, there is no mention of salvation in any of the promises of God, nor is it implied!

**Paul Reveals The Difference Between The NATURAL Israel And The TRUE Israel.**
**Romans 9:9-14**

*9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son. 10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; 11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. "*

Esau is a picture of the Jews Paul was writing to, and to any and all Jews today. Esau was a man who sold his birthright for a pot of stew and is a picture of the Jews who rejected the truths which he KNEW but preferred to trust in his works for salvation rather than trust in the shed blood of a sacrifice, which he understood, but rejected. You can read about that in Genesis 25:27-34. Also, you can go to Malachi 1:1-4 and it further explains that situation. Esau is "a picture of a man in the flesh" and not interested in true spiritual truths.

Below is an outline to study the history of Jacob, and Esau and His Kinfolks.

**ESAU AND HIS KINFOLKS**
**Malachi 1:1-4**

**Intro:** God did not hate "the man" Esau.
Esau is a picture of the "flesh."
God hates "the flesh principle."

**I. Esau and Jacob (Genesis 25:27-34)**
A. Esau – A man's man! – Hunter – Camper – Cut his way through anything.
1. As a young man Esau despised "spiritual things."
B. Jacob – A sissy – Trickster – Cheat – Supplanter
1. A "Mama's Boy"
2. Mama didn't let him date until he was 50 years old!
C. God's choice? Jacob – Why?
1. Jacob wanted more (Went about it the wrong way – like Moses)
D. Wrestled with God (Genesis 32:24 – That was a "fixed fight").
1. Question: "What is your name?" GOD KNEW HIS NAME!
2. God wanted Jacob to "admit what he was" - I'm Jacob – a trickster.
E. God changed him – Made him "A prince with God."

**II. Esau and Moses (Exodus 17:8-16).**
A. Amelek – Grandson of Esau (Genesis 36:12).
1. God said, *"He has indignation for ever!"*
B. Israel was headed to the Promise Land (**Victory – Rest – Joy – Peace – Hebrews 4:9)**
1. Flesh said, "I'll stop them."
C. Battle won in a strange way.

1. On the mountain top!
2. By prayer - Intercession
    a. Paul won the battle – not fighting - but in prayer – (Acts 27:21-24)
3. Moses' arms got tired!

D. When a man is fighting the battle against the flesh. (Like A Pastor.)
    1. The CHURCH needs to hold their hands up!

E. **Exodus 17:16**: The LORD will have war with Amalek from **generation to generation**.

**III. Esau and Saul (I Samuel 15:1-3 – 7-15)**

A. Esau – Amelek – Agag – **ALL KINFOLK**
    1. Indignation forever – (Malachi 1:4)
    2. From Generation to Generation – (Exodus 17:16)

B. God said, "SPARE NOT."
    1. They saved the best….

C. What were they going to do:
    1. They were going to offer the VERY BEST of that which God Utterly hates as a sacrifice.

D. How does the Flesh Work?
    1. We ARE IN THE FLESH when we do not obey ALL that God commands.
    2. We ARE IN THE FLESH when we use "fleshly – worldly methods in God's work"

**IV. Conclusion:**

A. I Samuel 31:4 – II Samuel 1:9-13

B. Saul did not obey and "utterly destroy" the Amalekites (The flesh).

C. And - **an Amalekite – THE FLESH came back to destroy Saul!**
    1 "…. came back to bite him.

**V. The Bible Formula for Victory over the Flesh:**

A. Galatians 5:16
    1. WALK IN THE SPIRIT – Will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
        a. Romans 8:13 (READ)
        b. Galatians 2:20

All of this was done by the Divine Sovereignty of God, based on His foreknowledge. Again, there is NO MENTION of salvation in any of the promises God made to Israel as a nation. Some have wondered, does all Israelites not being saved mean that God is unrighteous? Absolutely not!

**Is There Unrighteous With God? - God Forbid!**
**Romans 9:14-16**

*"14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom*

*I will have compassion. 16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.* The first example is Moses

Paul gives the Jews two examples that the Jews understood in order to show them that God does many things by His Divine Sovereignty and foreknowledge, but they have nothing to do with salvation. Remember God knows the beginning and the end! He was saying they should learn from them that they cannot go to heaven just because they were born an Israelite and had received many blessings as an Israelite! Going to heaven is based on "their own choice!"

Paul was pointing back to the blessings all Israelites had received. Sovereignty in Exodus 33:19, where God said, *"And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy."*

That had been illustrated in Exodus 32:7-14 where the Jews had made and worshipped an idol while Moses was on the top of Mt Sinai.

God, **in His divine mercy** spared the people after their great sin, but you read that God also said, "*Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my books."* God showed mercy and longsuffering because He was not willing that those people should perish but be saved by faith! God gave Israel these blessing by His only sovereignty. If you go back and study this, please note that there is NO MENTION OF REPENTANCE in any of the blessings God bestowed on Israel. God's blessings have nothing to do with salvation! God was patient and longsuffering, in spite of knowing they would not repent. He gave them ample opportunity, but they rejected God's teaching. This proves God is not unrighteous!

**Pharaoh**: In the next two verses God gave the Jews a second example. Romans 9:17-19 says, *"17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. 18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth."*

The phrase "*raised thee up,"* referring to Pharaoh, comes from the Greek word "Exhgeira." The definition of that word is found in Strong's Hebrew Concordance and is: "I have made you stand; I have sustained thee; I have supported thee; I have kept you from death, I have ministered strength to thee." God was patiently waiting for the true character of Pharaoh to be developed. It DOES NOT mean that God placed any evil thoughts in Pharaoh's mind, nor did God predestinate or influence Pharaoh's decisions in any way. As you know, Pharaoh rejected God, and God sent ten plagues to draw Pharaoh to the truth. It is said 10 times that Pharaoh "hardened his heart."

Pharaoh's disobediences are foretold. God, by his foreknowledge of Pharaoh's character, said in Exodus 3:19, "*And I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not by a mighty hand*." Pharaoh's disobedience began in Exodus 7:22. *"And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, neither did he hearken unto them; as the LORD had said."* Even after Pharaoh saw the mighty hand of God through "ten plagues" Pharaoh continued to harden his heart and God later destroyed Pharaoh and the entire nation of Egypt. God was using this to show that God WAS NOT unrighteous! God was showing the Jewish

people that God was patient and longsuffering. But His judgement came because Pharaoh would not repent and listen to God. Paul was applying this to "his kinsman in the flesh" to show them that God was just in his judgment and punishment of sin.

Was there any unrighteousness by "God judging Israel? No! Why? Because Israel sought salvation by the "works of the Law and refused to believe in Jesus Christ by faith! Isaiah 8:14 tells of Israel's stumbling and failing. *"And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem."* The Jews refused to accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah, therefore God judged them and was not unrighteous in doing so. God is always right and always acts in righteousness!

## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN
## PAUL DEALS WITH ISRAEL AND THEIR PRESENT LIFE
## Romans 10:1-21

Paul had Explained to the Jews that they had enjoyed great privileges which were given them by God, but those were given by his Divine Sovereignty and that those privileges had nothing at all to do with salvation (Romans 9:4-5). He also pointed out that they had wasted those privileges. They had failed to realize that they were not saved and going to heaven because they were Jews and were descendants of Abraham (Romans 9:6-7). Thirdly, he had pointed out that they had "stumbled" over Christ and would not acknowledge that salvation came by faith in Jesus Christ as their Messiah (Romans 9:32-33).

In Romans 10, Paul is dealing with the fact that they, the Jews, were still rejecting Jesus who had come to earth in the form of a man and that he was their Messiah.

### Three Aspects of Israel's Present Continued Rejection of Their Messiah.
### The Reason - The Remedy - The Results

**First: Paul Deals With Reason For Their Rejection of Jesus**. In Romans 10:1-3 Paul says, *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."*

In verse one, Paul boldly declares to the Jews that they are lost, by saying, *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved."* In verse two, He acknowledges that the Jews had a great zeal, but their zeal was "not according to knowledge, but it was according to THEIR knowledge and not the knowledge from the Word of God. When Paul wrote this, he fully understood the “zeal” according to knowledge. Paul had been where they are.

Acts 26:4-11. Paul gives his testimony of his zeal. *"My manner of life from my youth, which was at the first among mine own nation at Jerusalem, know all the Jews; 5 Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee. 6 And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: 7 Unto which promise our twelve tribes, instantly serving God day and night, hope to*

*come. For which hope's sake, king Agrippa, I am accused of the Jews. 8 Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead? 9 I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. 11 And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities."* Paul knew and understood where the Jews were in their zeal.

The Jews had great pride in the fact that God had given them the law. They had great pride in all the privileges that God had bestowed on them. Their pride, which they did not want to give up, caused them to choose the law for salvation over salvation by faith in Jesus. They were extremely proud, in spite of the fact that they knew the scriptures and understood that the law could not save them. Leviticus 18:5 testifies to them having been told that they could not be saved by the law because they knew that if they could be saved by the law, they had to live by the entire law. *"Ye shall therefore keep my statutes, and my judgments: which if a man do, he shall live in them: I am the LORD."* The scriptures are clear that no man can keep the law, and the Jews knew that.

In Verse 3, Paul points out that they, the Jews, were "ignorant of God's righteousness, but their ignorance was because they would not submit to the righteousness of God." It was voluntary ignorance! That ignorance was brought on by their own choice and that was because they loved the praise of man, more than the praise of God. John 12:37-43 declares that truth about the Jews. *"But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: 38 That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? 39 Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, 40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. 41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him. 42 Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: 43* ***For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*** *"*

Also, the Jews understood that salvation was by trusting Jesus Christ by faith. John 8:32,33 and 39 declared that they understood. "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?"* Paul also had reminded them of that in Romans 4:1-4. It is clear beyond doubt that the "true Israel" knew that salvation was by faith. In Hebrews Chapter 11 every person mentioned about trusting God by faith were Jews, with the exception of Rahab!

Throughout the Old Testament God has well prepared the Jews to recognize Jesus as their Messiah. The following is a list of prophecies God had given His people:

**OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES OF JESUS CHRIST BEING THE MESSIAH**

| **PROPHECY** | **FORE-TOLD** | **FULFILLED** |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. He would be born of a woman | Genesis 3:15 | Matthew 1:20 |
| 2. He would be born in Bethlehem | Micah 5:2 | Matthew 2:1 |
| 3. He would be born of a virgin | Isaiah 7:14 | Matthew 1:22-23 |
| 4. He would come from the line of Abraham | Genesis 12:3 | Matthew 1:1 |
| 5. He would be of the tribe of Judah | Genesis 49:10 | Luke 3:33 |
| 6. He would be called Immanuel | Isaiah 7:14 | Matthew 1:23 |
| 7. He would be rejected by his own people | Psalms 69:8<br>Isaiah 53:3 | John 1:11<br>John 7:5 |
| 8. He would be called a Nazarene | Isaiah 11:1 | Matthew 2:23 |
| 9. He would be falsely accused | Psalms 35:11 | Mark 145:57-58 |
| 10. He would be silent before his accusers | Isaiah 53:7 | Mark 15:4-5 |
| 11. He would be spat upon and struck | Isaiah 50:6 | Matthew 26:67 |
| 12. He would be hated without a cause | Psalms 35:19 | John 15:24-25 |
| 13. He would be crucified with criminals | Isaiah 53:12 | Matthew 27:38 |
| 14. He would be given vinegar to drink | Psalms 69:21 | Matthew 27:34 |
| 15. He would have his hands and feet pierced | Psalms 22:16 | John 20:25-27 |
| 16. He would have his garments gambled for | Psalms 22:18 | Matthew 27:35-36 |
| 17. He would pray for his enemies | Psalms 109:4 | Luke 23:34 |
| 18. He would be resurrected from the dead | Psalms 16:10 | Matthew 28:2-7 |
| 19. He would be a sacrifice for sin | Isaiah 53:5-12 | Romans 5:6-8 |

Three reasons why the Jews rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah: (1) Their pride! (2) Their willful ignorance, (3) Their pride and ignorance would not let them submit to truth about salvation!

**Second: <u>Paul Deals With The Remedy For Their Rejection</u>!** Romans 10:4-13 *"4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. 5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them. 6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) 7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) 8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 <u>For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."</u>*

In Romans 10:13, Paul tries to lead them to the truth and the remedy for their ignorance. He is quoting from the Old Testament book of Joel 2:32, which they were very familiar with, *"And it shall come to pass, <u>that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered:</u> for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call."*

In Romans 10:16-18, Paul is again trying to lead them to the truth and the remedy for their ignorance. He is referring them to Isaiah 53:1-6, which they were very familiar with, *"1 Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? 2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. 3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. 4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 <u>But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all</u>."*

No doubt, Paul was thinking back to the example of Pharaoh, which he gave in Chapter 9! He was trying to make them see that if they did not repent and believe, by faith, that Jesus was their Messiah, that sooner or later God would harden their hearts as he did to Pharaoh!

The one section which Paul added that applies to us today is Romans 10:14-17, which is our obligation to be sure and preach the Gospel to the Jews. We use these verses commonly, but in this text, Paul was talking about how important it is for us to preach the true Gospel to Jewish people. You may or may not know this by experience, but it is very difficult to share the Gospel with a Jew. They are blinded and their hearts are hardened. It is very rare that we hear about a Jew being saved. That is because of their blindness and hardened hearts.

I will briefly share an example. I have a foot doctor who is a Jew, whom I have been going to for years because I have neuropathy in my feet. One day when I was in his office and we were talking, he learned that I was in the ministry. One thing led to another, and finally I was impressed by God that He had opened the door for me to witness to him. As I began talking about Jesus, his facial expression quickly changed and he said rather harshly, "I know where you are going, and I DO NOT want to talk about that. I do not want you to use the name Jesus with me again!" He was angry. That was about 5 years ago. I have continued to go to him for my feet about two or three times a year. I led the conversation to "religion" every time I went to see him. Slowly, slowly he calmed down and would talk, but very generally. A couple of year ago, I called IBJM, International Boad of Jewish Missions in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and got some literature designed for Jews. I mailed the doctor, whose name I prefer not to mention, a book by Dr. Jacob Gartenhaus titled "A Study In Prophecy."

At my next appointment, he told me he got my mail and thanked me for sending it. However, it was obvious that he was not open to discussing it. Later, I mailed him another book by Dr. Gartenhaus titled "The Importance of the Jewish Nation to the World." He has still not accepted Jesus as his Messiah, but each time I go he opens the conversation, and I am carefully continuing to share the Gospel. If I can lead him to Christ, it will be THE FIRST Jew I have ever led to Christ. They are hard hearted, and their eyes have been blinded by God! Please pray that God will open their eyes to the truth!

We need to be SURE that we do our part to lead Jews to Christ. There are basic reasons that we should do all possible to carry out the Great Commission, and please remember that Paul, in Romans 1:6 said, "*To the Jews First."* I shared in the introduction of this section that it was for the Jews only. However, there are two verses in Chapter 10 that can be applied to the church of today. That is found in Romans 10:14-15, which asks the question. *"<u>How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in</u>*

*him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"* The church today, has four important reasons why they should make preaching the Gospel to the world the center of their ministry:

1. It is a commandment from above - "*Go ye into all the world…"* Mark 16:15
2. It is a cry from beneath - "…*send him to my faither's house."* Luke 16:27
3. It is a call from without - "… come over and help *us*." Acts 16:9
4. It is a constraint from within *"... the love of Christ constrains us*." II Corinthians 5:14

Every church should be a mission-minded and mission-hearted church. Many churches and many pastors do not realize what their church is responsible for and that their field is the world. I will give a real-life example of that. I was preaching a Mission Conference for a friend of mine in Virginia Beach, Virginia, who was a well-known pastor. This was around 1990. He picked me up at the motel I was staying in, and we went to lunch. After lunch, we got in his car, and as we were leaving the restaurant he said, "I want to drive you around and show you my church field." I responded, "Sorry Brother _____, I do not have time to drive around a see your church field." He said, "Sure you do. We have all afternoon, and I can show you my church field in a couple of hours." I said, "That's not possible." He responded by saying, "Why?" I said, "If you are going to show me your church field, we have to start in the United States, which will take months. Then we have to go to Mexico and tour that country for several months, then we move to Central and South America, and that could take many months…." He interrupted me and said, "Oh, I did not mean to survey the world, I am talking about my church field here in Virginia." We continued and you can imagine where it ended. It ended with him realizing that his church field is the world!

In John 4:35, Jesus said, "… *Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."* Matthew 13:38 clearly outlines the field of the church. *"The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;"*

In James 5:1-4 we see an application showing that the church's field is the world, and pastors and churches are responsible for the world, not missionaries, but the church has a debt to pay. James described the attitude of many churches and pastors in America today. Those verses say:

*"Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. 2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. 3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days. 4 Behold, the hire of the labourers* ***who have reaped down your fields****, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth."* I have a small book which I wrote titled "Is Your Church Debt Paid" If anyone is interested in reading it, just go to "fbwwwm.org" which is the Missions website. Then click on "bookstore" and you can download the book for free. The church's field is the world! It is not the local area where your church is located!

**Third: Paul Deals With The Results Of Their Rejection.** There are three results of the Jew's rejection of Jesus Christ.

The first result of Israel's rejection of the truth which they knew but they refused to obey, and refused to accept Jesus as their Messiah, ended up in the Israelites being blinded. God did the same thing to them that He did to Pharaoh after Pharaoh hardened his heart again and again. God hardened Pharaoh's heart even more. John 12:40 states that the result of the Jews rejecting the truth that salvation was by faith in Jesus Christ and kept putting their confidence in work and the law, that God let them have their way. *"He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them."* The Jews are still that way today. You read about that in the experience I had with my foot doctor!

God was patient and longsuffering with the Jews. He gave Israel ample time and opportunity to repent and believe. Romans 10:21 says, *"But to Israel he saith, all day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."* God knew that the Jews knew ALL OF THE scriptures in the Old Testament, plus Paul's teaching in the New Testament. He knew that they knew all the Prophecies He gave them to identify Him when he came, but they rejected the scriptures.

The second result of the Jews Rejecting Jesus Christ as their Messiah was, "It Opened the Door of Salvation to the Gentiles! That was revealed by Jesus in Romans 10:19-20. *"But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you. 20 But Esaias is very bold, and saith, I was found of them that sought me not; I was made manifest unto them that asked not after me."*

This was predicted in Deuteronomy 32:2 and again in Isaiah 65:1. *"I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name."* In those days, the Jews hated the Gentiles. They looked on the Gentiles as dogs. They were angry with Paul that the Gentiles were even hearing the Gospel. As you know, the result for us today is that we have the truth that "*God so loved the world*…." and thousands of churches have been found that continue to preach the Gospel to every creature!

The third result was we learned that their rejection of Jesus Christ as their Messiah in no way cancels God's love for His people as "His chosen people!" God still loves His people, and they will one day "*look on him who they pierced*." That is foretold in Zechariah 12:10 *"And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."*

That Old Testament prophecy is repeated and verified in John 19:37 which says, *"And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced."* The Jews are still "God's Chosen People" and when that day comes, which it will, the Jews accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah. Revelation 7:9 tells us that "God's Chosen People" will evangelize the world like the Gentile church has never done. Revelation 7:9 is talking about 144,000 Jews who will preach the Gospel to the world, *"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;"*

As always, God uses everything for good. In the next chapter we will study Israel and their future! Please be obedient to Psalms 122:6. which says, *"Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee."*

## CHAPTER EIGHTEEN
## PAUL DEALS WITH ISRAEL AND THEIR FUTURE
## Romans 11:1-36

The nation of Israel has always been sort of a puzzle. Most of the nations of the world hate Israel and they do not know why they hate them. We have seen this in the past couple of years, as Israel has been in a war. As far as I can find out, the United States is the only nation who has stood by Israel. We saw in the last lesson that God hardened their hearts, blinded their eyes and deafened their ears. One of the big scriptural questions has been, has God cast Israel away forever? The answer is "No!" Despite the attempts to destroy Israel and wipe them off the map, they are still here. That can only mean one thing, God has defended them, and God has a future plan for "His chosen people!" Paul deals with that question in Romans Chapter 9.

### FOUR WITNESSES THAT PROVE GOD IS NOT FINISHED WITH ISRAEL

**First**: Paul points to his own testimony that God is not through with Israel. Paul gives that testimony in Romans 11:1-2. "1 *I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,"*

Paul is writing to the Jews in this chapter. He is reminding them that he is also an Israelite, and he is still being blessed and used of God. The Jews know that at one time Paul was one of the bitterest enemies that Christ had ever had. In Romans 10:21, Paul had just remined them of God's patience and long suffering. *"But to Israel he saith, All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people."*

Paul amplified his testimony in I Timothy 1:16. He reminded them that in times past he had been a Devoted Pharisee for many years, but that after trusting God by faith in Jesus Christ, he had become a Devoted Christian. *"Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting."* . Paul basically told them to follow his pattern.

Paul, in the past had rejected Jesus Christ.
Paul, in the past had fought against Jesus Christ. (See Acts 8:1-3.)
Paul, in the past was blinded. (See II Corinthians 3:13-17.)

Paul was saying, if God will forgive me after me rejecting Jesus and after I fought against Him and His followers, save me when I put my faith in Christ, change me into one of His servants, and use me in a mighty way, God can and will do the same for you. He was assuring them that, "It is never too late for them to repent and put their faith in Jesus, instead of the law, and they would be saved and changed! He assured them in Verse 2 that, "*No, God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew!* In Verse 5 he pointed out and said, *"Look round. "…Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace."* Paul was saying, if God can do what He did for me, God can do the same for you! Follow my pattern! Yes, God has a plan for Israel. ***"Hath God cast away his people? God forbid."***

**Second:** Paul points to the testimony of Elijah, and how God told him He is not through with Israel! That Testimony is found in Romans 11:2-10. We will divide those scriptures into different sections. Verses 2-4 say, *"God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, 3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. 4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal."*

Elijah's testimony is a repeat of I Kings 19: 14 and 18. Paul went back to the Old Testament, where most Jews rejected the Messiah and had slain the prophets, to prove that God is not through with Israel. Elijah thought he was the only Jew left on earth who had lived by faith in the promise of God as Abraham did. He seemed to be having a "pity party" and was complaining to God. God assured him that he was wrong, thinking he was the only believer left on earth. To Elijah's surprise, God not only assured him that he was not the only Jewish believer left on earth, but that He had a remnant of 7,000 who had not rejected the promised Messiah and had not turned to worshipping idols! There has never been a time when ALL of Israel had been true to God, but also it tells us there has NEVER been a time when ALL of Israel was not true to God.

Paul continues this example by showing the Jews that there is now and will always be "two classes" of Israelites. There is a believing minority. That is explained in Romans 11:4-6, and Paul points out that not only was there a remnant in the days of Elijah, but there was a remnant at that present time. *"But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal. 5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."*

Paul also points out that there was a majority of Jews at that time, who did not believe. That is explained in Romans 11:7-10. "*What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded. 8 (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. 9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: 10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway."* In these verses Paul called on David to be a witness to the fact that Israel is to blame for their blindness. Psalms 69:22 says, "*Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap*." Then in Isaiah 29:10 Isaiah confirms this same truth. "*For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered."*

The Jews have no one to blame but themselves for the unbelief and rejection of Jesus Christ. The same is true with the Gentiles of today. For the most part, every person living in America since it was founded has in one way or another heard that Jesus came and died for our sins. But a large majority has hardened their hearts and rejected Jesus Christ. That majority are in love with the world! The day is coming when Israel will have the blindness taken off their eyes, and they will accept and put their faith in Jesus Christ as their Messiah and their Savior. When that takes place, when the large majority of Israelites trust Jesus, Revelation 7:4 indicates there will be 144,000 missionaries who will do the work the church did not do; preach the Gospel to every creature. The result of the work of those 144,000 is stated in Revelation 7:9. *"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; "**Hath God cast away his people? God forbid."***

**Third:** Paul points to the Gentiles as a testimony that God is not through with Israel. Romans 11:11-15 *"I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. 12 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? 13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: 14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. 15 For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?"*

The failure and fall of Israel opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles. That door had never been open before. However, it was prophesied in Isaiah 49:6. *"And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth."* This prophecy is confirmed, explained, and gives us the time when the prophecy was fulfilled. Acts 15:12-18. *"Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought among the Gentiles by them. 13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: 14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. 15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, 16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up. 17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things. 18 Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.*

Israel's fall was not a surprise to God at all! By foreknowledge, God knew all of this before the earth was formed. Today, more than 2000 years later, God has not lost sight of His ultimate goal. The "open door of salvation to the Gentiles" led to "the open door of the New Testament Church!" It brought the Jews and the Gentiles together, which is verified in Ephesians 2:11-12. None of this means that Israel will cease to be "God's Chosen People." This is one more step in God's Ultimate Goal, which is "the Gospel being preached to every creature." God's ultimate goal is found in II Peter 3:9. *"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

**Fourth**: Israel has a past, present, and future. The future is yet in the future! When will that be? In Verse 25 Paul tells us when that will be. Paul points to the testimony of God that He is not through with Israel, His People! Paul lists about six points in Romans 11:25-36 that testify that God has not cast "His Chosen People" aside. He is not through with Israel.

**God's Timing witnesses to this truth**. Romans 11:25, *"For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.* Jesus Himself testified to this truth in Luke 21:24, *"And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled."*

**God's Promise witnesses to the truth.** Romans 11:26 "*And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from* Jacob." That promise dates back to Isaiah 59:20-21, *"And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. 21 As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever."*

Zechariah 12:10 tells us that the Jews who are living will see him when he returns, 10 "*And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn."*

**God's Covenant witnesses to this truth**: Romans 11:27-28 says, *"For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."* 28. *As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes."* Isaiah 59:20-21 also testifies to this truth, *"And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.* 21. *As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.*

**God's Nature witnesses to this truth.** Romans 11:29 says, *"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."* God never changes in His nature." Malachi 3:6 says, *"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."* Numbers 23:19 also verifies that God never changes. *"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"*

**God's Grace witnesses to this truth.** Romans 11:30-32 says, *"For as ye in times past have not believed God yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:"* His grace also tells, that we as Gentiles, have an obligation to Israel. Romans 11:31-32, 31 *"Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. 32 For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all."*

**God's Wisdom witnesses to this truth. Romans 11:33-36**. *" ¶ O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? 36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen."*

**God, in His foreknowledge, knew what it would it take for the Gospel to be preached to every creature!**

# THE BOOK OF ROMANS
# SECTION THREE

# THIS SECTION DEALS WITH CHRISTIANS LEARNING HOW TO CHANGE LEARNING INTO LIVING!

# ROMANS CHAPTER TWELVE THROUGH CHAPTER SIXTEEN

## CHAPTER NINETEEN
## HAVING A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
**Romans 12:1-2**

In Chapters 1 through 8 Paul taught doctrine. In Chapters 9 through 11 he taught about Israel's past, present and future. Now he is dealing with all believers, both Jew and Gentile. He begins by saying, "*I beseech ye therefore…"* This is the fourth time Paul has used the word, "'therefore." He used it in Romans 3:20, Romans 5:1, Romans 8:1, and used it in Romans 12:1. Any time you see the word "therefore" you need to stop and see what it is "there for." Paul is basing the things he is preparing to deal with on something he has already dealt with earlier in the book. He had taught them a number of things about doctrine, and now he says, "therefore" meaning they need to remember what they have learned and now put it into living!

This is the "Therefore of Dedication!" The word dedication means, "The setting aside oneself and all they want to do, in order to take care of the business of another person." It is possible for a person to be saved and on their way to heaven and not be dedicated. Those people are not Christians! However, a person cannot be a Christian unless they are fully dedicated to Jesus Christ. The word "Christian" means "to be like Christ." There are three basic steps to be a dedicated Christian:

### YOU MUST PRESENT YOUR BODY A LIVING SACRIFICE
**Romans 12:1**

*"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present yourbodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.* (Romans 12;1)

**First**: What Does It Mean To "Present" Your Body To God? The word "present" is translated from the Greek word "praistemi." It means to **AUTHORIZE** the use of your body by another person. In this case, it is a Christian "authorizing" the use of their body to God. In the Old Testament, all sacrifices were "dead" sacrifices. In the New Testament, sacrifices are "living" sacrifices! Paul testified to that in Galatians 2:20 where he said, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* Please make a note of this - it is easier to be a dead sacrifice than to be a living sacrifice!

A Christian should not only "present" their body to God as a living sacrifice, but they should begin their day, each morning, by "dying to self." Paul gave a testimony that he did that in I Corinthians 15:31. He said, *"I die daily."* Why should every Christian die daily? We should die daily because we live in a body of flesh. You may go to bed every night with Jesus Christ sitting on the throne of your heart. However, it is strange, but during the night our flesh wakes up and wants to take the throne back! That is testified to in Malachi 1:4, "*Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished, but **we will return** and build the desolate places; thus saith the LORD of hosts, They shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them, The border of wickedness, and, The people against whom the LORD hath indignation for ever.*

By presenting our body as a living sacrifice, we are ACKNOWLEDGING that we know that God has a plan for our lives - each and every day. By dying each morning before you get out of bed, you are saying that you understand and believe that God's plan for your life that day is better than ANYTHING we might plan! I Corinthians 6:19-20 tells us that dying to self is the right to understand about presenting our bodies and dying daily: *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?* 20 *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

**Second:** Why Should We "Present" Our Bodies To God As A Living Sacrifice? Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, begins Roman 12:1 by saying, "*I BESEECH you therefore…*" He closed Verse 1 by saying, "*…which is your reasonable service."* The word "beseech" comes from the Greek word, "parakaleo." According to Strongs Greek Concordance, it means: "I am asking you, I am pleading with you, and am exhorting you…" This is a very strong word. I also pointed this out earlier in this lesson, but the word "therefore" refers back to ALL God has done for you and me as believers. This word is used 35 times in the Old Testament, but it was by the people beseeching the Lord! However, it is used 30 times in the New Testament, and in each case, it is used by the Lord beseeching believers!

Then, Paul continued to try to encourage us by saying, "*by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies…*" We will include all the verses concerning "*the mercies of God*" but will give you a list of "the mercies" of God that Paul is referring to when he ended Verse 1 by saying, "*…which is your reasonable service*." Why is it reasonable for us to present our bodies a living sacrifice? Because of the mercies of God. I will not quote and print all of the scriptures in this list, but I do want to share with you "the mercies of God" which we all have received from God and help us understand why it is our reasonable service.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. He was made to be sin for us. | II Corinthians 5:21 |
| 2. He died to pay for our sins. | I Corinthians 15:3 |
| 3. He forgave your sins. Past-Present-Future | I John 2:2 |
| 4. Invited you into the Holy of Holies. | Hebrews 4:14-16 |
| 5. Promised you sufficient grace for every trial. | II Corinthians 12:9 |
| 6. Promised He would never leave or forsake you. | Hebrews 13:5 |
| 7. Sent the Holy Spirit to comfort and guide you. | John 14:26, 16:3 |
| 8. Gave you eternal life. | John 10:28 |
| 9. Made you joint heirs with Jesus Christ. | Romans 8:17 |
| 10. He calls you His friend. | John 15:14 |

In everything we do with our life, we should always remember "His mercies" to us. Paul said, "*The love of Christ constraineth me*…"A great missionary of yesteryear, after trusting Christ and realizing all Jesus has done for him, said, "Lord, PLEASE let me do something to show you that I love you and greatly appreciate all you have done for me. PLEASE let me do something."

Question: Why do you go to Sunday School and Church? Do you do that to show Him that you are thankful for what He has done for you? Or do you go because you feel it is expected of people and the pastor? Some Christians do not even attend Sunday School and church faithfully because they are tired and want to sleep in! Some just because of other things they want to do, like go fishing! Do you think God loves you enough that He wants you to come to Sunday School and church so He can speak to your heart and make you grow stronger? Be sure of this, there will always be a "test" to see if you are thankful and appreciate God's mercies, and to see if you love Him like you say you love Him.

**YOU MUST EXCHANGE YOUR MIND FOR THE MIND OF CHRIST!**
**Romans 12:2**

"*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God,"*

**First:** Why should we not be conformed to this world? Because the world has one thing in mind. The word conform means to live your life the way YOU want to live it, do what YOU want to do, and **leave God out**! The world wants you to conform to the fads of the world, conform to the fashions of the world, conform to the filth of the world. The world wants you to do EVERYTHING they do for their own enjoyment. You cannot love the world and love God at the same time. I John 2:15-17 says, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."*

**Second:** Why should we be transformed by the renewing of our mind? To keep us from being conformed to the world! It means that we should daily study His Word, learn and memorize important passages, and hide them in our heart that we might not sin against God. (Psalms 119:11). It means that we study and search the scriptures, and listen to the Holy Spirit, in order that we will know and do the will of God in every decision we make. We are to "have the mind of Christ! I

Corinthians 2:16 says, *"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ."* There are four basic parts in having the mind of Christ, (1) We must think like Christ thinks. (2) We must want what Christ wants. (3) We must ask for what Christ would have us ask for. We must put all these together and (4) We must do what Christ would have us do!

The word "transformed" is used several times in the New Testament. It is used in Matthew 17:2 and Mark 9:2. It is translated in these verses as "transfigured", but it comes from the same Greek word as transformed, which is "metamorphoo." Those verses both say the same thing. *"And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them up into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them."* Then it is used in II Corinthians 3:18 and there it is translated "changed." This is the way we are to become "transformed" by the renewing of our minds. *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."* Romans 8:29 tells us that God predestinated us to be conformed to His image. *"For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."* **That should be the ultimate goal of every Christian, to BE LIKE CHRIST!**

## CHAPTER TWENTY
## HOW TO HAVE A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP IN YOUR CHURCH
## Romans 12:3-10

*"3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: 5 So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. 6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. 9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. 10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;"*

Keep in mind that Paul is writing this letter to the church in Rome. The church was about 20 years old, but it was still an 'underground church.' They did not have a New Testament as we do today. The New Testament had not been written at that time. Most likely the only thing the church had was this epistle, which was originally written to them in the form of letter.

### Paul Addresses a Problem Within the Local Church in Rome

Paul had just 'closed the door' concerning them proving what is the will of God for their life. Every member should be in the will of God and apparently some were not. Please do not think that's strange. Remember, Paul was writing to the church, which is an assembly of born-again believers. I am sure most of you know this, but you can be saved, have your sins forgiven and be

on your way to heaven, but still not be in the will of God. Members of the church can be faithful and never miss a service and still not be in the will of God.

Some of the members seemed to be thinking of themselves more highly than they should. Paul wrote, "… *to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think;"* It seems that some of them were thinking they would be better at doing something in the church, than the person who was already doing it! God forbids that! In Philippians 2:1-4 God forbids that we do that, *"1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."*

Paul is approaching the teaching of spiritual gifts. Perhaps there were some in the church who did not understand God's design concerning how the church was to function. They did not understand that God had given every member of the church at least one special gift. There are some general gifts like mercy and giving, but each member is given a particular gift to make the church work together, and to function effectively. In I Corinthian 12:11, where Paul taught on spiritual gifts and how they are to be used, he said, *"But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."* Every Christian was given a particular gift, to be used by God, to make the church function as a body functions, to be in one accord, and profit the entire church. Now, let's look at how God expects the church to function.

**Paul Explains God's Design For The Function of The Local Church.**
**I Corinthians 12:12-15**

This is a long passage, but it needs to be inserted here as we study God's plan for the function of the local church. Please read these verses carefully.

*"12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For the body is not one member, but many. 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body? 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body. 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another."*

As you read this you will see that the Lord compares the "function of the church to the function of the human body." I feel sure He did that to make it easier for you and me to understand how the church is supposed to function. Let me start by pointing out that EVERY member of our human body is important and must function as it is designed to do, every part working together. If the body is going to function as it should, a foot must function as a foot, a hand as a hand, an ear as an ear, etc. A foot CANNOT function as a hand, and an ear cannot function as an eye or as ANY other part of the body. That is the exact way God wants the church to function. We will study the spiritual gifts in the next section. Before we do that, let me point out that the church must function in unity, just as our body must function in unity. There are three truths I want to point out. Hopefully you will keep them in mind as we study. (1) Every part of our body is necessary, (2) Every part of our body is vitally important, and (3) Every part of our body needs every other part of our body to function correctly and effectively. These three things are also vitally important to the function of the local church. As you know, our body **can** function "in part" without all the parts doing what they should do, but it cannot function correctly or effectively as it was designed to do. EVERY part of the human body must do its job if the body is to function 100 % effectively. The same is true in the local church. The church needs to have every member doing their part for the church to function properly and as God designed it to function.

**Spiritual Gifts are Given to Every Member of the Church by the Sovereignty of God.**
**I Corinthians 12:11 and 18**

*"11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will …. 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him."*

PLEASE keep in mind that whatever gift God gave you, He did it with a plan for you to make the church function as effectively as it can possibly function. You are an important part of making the church ministry successful. God knows the beginning from the end and makes no mistakes. You need to realize that God picked you out a special place in your church and gave you a special gift to do that part in the ministry of your church. PLEASE remember, no one in the church can do the job God gave you than you can. YOU are vitally important! Also, PLEASE remember that you cannot do a part in the ministry as well as the person God chose and gifted to do that part. If you are faithful to use your gift, God will give you other gifts to use to serve Him. God tells us in I Corinthians 12:31, *"But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way"*

**Seven Basic Gifts Which God Gives People In The Local Church**
**Romans 12:6-8**

*"Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; 7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; 8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness."* There are other gifts which "fit into these seven gifts," but these are the basics:

1. The Gift of Prophecy. In the generation of the church the pastor and teachers will be preaching and teaching. Every man who is called of God to be a pastor and teacher has been given the gift of prophecy/preaching. Ephesians 4:11-12 tells us the purpose of the gift of prophecy. *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"*

2. The Gift of Ministry. Many people think that this applies to people in a "full-time ministry". I do not agree with that. In my opinion, God has given this gift to every member of the church in one way or another. Deacons are servants! Every member is a servant. This may mean preparing a meal for a member of your church who is sick. That is a ministry! I could be running errands for a "shut in." I could be cutting the grass for the church. You name it, if it has anything to do with the church it is a ministry.

3. The Gift of Teaching. This is a special gift of being able to teach in such a manner that you communicate with those sitting in front of you, making the scriptures clear, simple, and understood. All teaching should be applied by the teacher to those he is teaching.

4. The Gift of Exhortation. This is a 'two-fold' gift. It means to be good at encouraging other members of your church, and to challenge every other member of your church to be busy and get involved.

5. The Gift of Giving. This applies to giving special offerings. It does not apply to the tithe, which is the Lords, therefore it cannot be considered 'giving.' Leviticus 27:30 says, *"And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD'S: it is holy unto the LORD."* This gift is to be used without calling attention to oneself as the giver.

6. The Gift of Ruleth: This does not mean that they rule the church. The word "ruleth" means someone to whom God has given a special ability to organize and get others involved in a project at your church. Organization is important. It has been proven that two men working together can accomplish more than three men working separately.

7. The Gift of Mercy. This means someone who enjoys helping another person who is going through a difficult situation or encouraging them. This could be a person who is disabled, going through a long sickness. It could be for running errands, doing something to cheer them up, or many other things of this nature.

All these gifts are further explained and how they should be applied in I Corinthians Chapter 12. The gift God gives us should always be done from our hearts with the goal of others profiting from our gift. I Corinthians 12:7 says, *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal."*

**God Has Given Each Member Three Principles To Follow.**
**Roman 12:3**

**First**: Evaluation to Determine Your Gift! Romans 12:3 says, *"think soberly, According as Gd hath dealt to everyman the measure of faith."* Soberly means to be serious minded about finding your gift and your place in the ministry. One of the main ways you can determine your spiritual gift is by thinking about what part of the ministry motivates you most. There may be several things you enjoy doing at your church, but there is always one that you are very motivated to do, you enjoy doing, and are very satisfied with yourself after doing it.

**Second**: Co-Operation With Other Members. If you will keep a watchful eye, you will see how you are "fitting together" with other members of your church. Different members have different gifts, but all members, if they truly want to, can see how the entire membership fits and works together like one of your hands working together with your other hand. The body is made to fit together. Ephesians 2:20-22 gives us a picture of how the church should function. *"20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."*

**Third**: Participation in the Ministry of the Church. Every Christian should be constrained by the love of God to participate! **Serve honestly, participate** from your heart and do not be hypocritical. Romans 12:9 *"Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good."* **Serve humbly** and participate for the glory of God. After all, it was God who gave you the gift to serve, and not of your own making. DO NOT be proud and brag about what you do. Romans 12:10. *"Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another*;" Serve lovingly and diligently. Work hard and not just do it with lip service.

**Fourth**: Serve looking forward to the day you will give an account to God for what you do. II Corinthians 5:10 tells us that day IS COMING! " *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."* Each of us will stand before God and give an account about (1) did we use the gift God gave us, and (2) how we used the gift God gave us!

## CHAPTER TWENTY ONE
## HAVE A RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH AUTHORITY
## Romans 13:1-8

*"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. 2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same. 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. 7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear;*

*honour to whom honour. 8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."*

There is a great need to understand Human Government as God established it beginning in the book in Genesis Chapter 9. It has GREATLY changed through the years, but the principles are the same. Man has changed human government, but God never changes. Today many people have no respect for the government, and they want to do what they want to do with no consequence. Today the "respect and fear of human government has been destroyed."

I will give a personal example. I served with the Memphis Police Department in Memphis, Tennessee from 1957-1962, for a total of five years. During those five years Memphis had a total of 6 murders, slightly over one per year. In 2023, Memphis had a total of 399 murders plus hundreds of shootings where people were seriously injured and some crippled for life! Those six murderers were caught, tried and executed within months. I do not remember anyone trying to speed away from a police car when they were being pulled over. In 2024, the Memphis Police Department had 286 police cars involved in crashes, most of them were people trying to evade arrest. I could go on and on, but I am sure you understand that this is a picture of America today. Today, people call the police when they have a problem and then criticize them if they do not like the way the police handled their case. In many cases, they contact the ACLU (American Civil Liberty Union) and file a lawsuit against the police department! Other times, they do not call the police and then blame them for the crime taking place, saying, "The policemen need to spend more time in our neighborhood!" Next time someone tries to break into your house, steal your car, I suggest you call the ACLU and ask them for help instead of calling law enforcement!

**HUMAN GOVERNMENT IS APPOINTED BY GOD**
**Romans 13:1**

*"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God."*

Human Government was established by God in Genesis 9:6. *"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."* The taking of a life is the highest form of human crime. Therefore, that is why God established the principle of consequences. God said, the consequences must match the crime. It is the government's responsibility to follow this principle and make the consequences match the crime.

Human Government speaks of "all leaders" in government, from the President down to the lowest officer on the city streets. There are many proof texts concerning these principles. Daniel 2:21 says, *"And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding:"* God establishes every man who has ever been President of the United States. Yes, He also "sets up some cruel and ungodly Presidents." He did that throughout the Old Testament, and that was a result of "His People" not obeying His Word and being rebellious. That is still true today. Then, after setting up a King which would include Presidents of today, Proverbs 21:1 tells us that God is still in control. *"The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will*." Yes, the United States has had some very ungodly Presidents, but God

uses that to punish the disobedient people in this country, which as you know America has asked for! America started out as a Christian nation but has far left that position today in 2025. Our country is passing laws which make Sodomites legal, and the companies of America cannot discriminate against them. America has done these things KNOWING they are contrary to the Word of God. All principles in this text applies to all leaders from the President to the newest police officer, and there are NO EXCEPTIONS!

**HUMAN GOVERNMENT IS AUTHORIZED BY GOD TO ENFORCE THE LAW.**
**Romans 13:2-4**

*"Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. 3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: 4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."*

Human Government has two basic responsibilities. (1) They are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of our country. The government goes to the extreme to make sure that our country is always safe from all outside countries. (2) They are responsible for the protection of the people of the country. Rulers are not a terror to those who do good works but are to show respect for them. They are for the GOOD of those who do good, and they should be rewarded and praised for doing the same. Good people are not to be fearful of God's ministers but are to honor them. Evil and law breakers are to be afraid of the law enforcement officers, who are also God's ministers. Sad to say they are not doing that today, but that is also a failure of human government not doing their job as God has instructed.

Human Government has NO RIGHT OR AUTHORITY to make any type of law which overrides "privately owned companies." For example, the government has been given no authority by God to make laws dictating “who a company can hire or not hire.” They have no authority to make laws dictating "who a company can fire." They have no authority to dictate the salary a private company must pay the people they hire. God has other instructions concerning those matters, which we will study later.

Human Government has no right at all to make laws which are contrary to the Word of God. There is NO justification for human government making ANY law that is in ANY way contrary to the Bible. Even if the court system, all the way to Supreme Court, decides that they can make a law contrary to the Bible, the Supreme Court is WRONG! If the Supreme Court, any other court, or any part of human government makes such a law contrary to the Word of God, they are saying “God was wrong when he made that decision and set that principle.” They are saying we are smarter than God and we are going to correct what God did!" **Question**: How dumb can man get???

This principle is clearly stated in Acts 5:28-29. *"28 Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine,*

*and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. 29 Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men."*

You say, "Oh that would get a man in big trouble." Yes, I agree with you, but it is still true. Daniel got in big trouble by disobeying a man-made law. Let's go to Daniel 6:7-10 and see that. *7 All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. 8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. 9 Wherefore king Darius signed the writing and the decree. 10 Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."*

Yes, Daniel got into big trouble. He got thrown in the lions' den to be eaten alive! Verse 16 tells us about the trouble Daniel got in. *"Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions."* Daniel 6:19-23 tells us that despite him being in BIG trouble, God stood by him and delivered him. *"Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions. 20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions? 21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever. 22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt. 23 Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God."*

Then, go to Daniel 6:24 and we will see what happened to the group of men who persuaded the King to make a wrong law, and forced him to follow that law. *"And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den."*

People who rebel against these Bible principles <u>are rebelling against God</u>, and they will "reap what they sow!" Today's problems are three-fold. (1) Man lacks respect for God. (2) Man lacks Respect for God's Laws, and (3) Man lacks respect for the enforcement of God's laws! That is stated in Romans 13:2. "*"Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and <u>they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation</u>." If you do not believe that, go back and ask the men who had Dniel thrown in the lion's den!!!* When God said, *"…they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation",* the word "damnation" means they will be punished "IN THIS LIFE!"

**HUMAN GOVERNMENT IS ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD ALMIGHTY!**
**Romans 13:4-6**

*"4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. 5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake"*

Human Governments "are ministers of God." Therefore, they are accountable to God! Human Government was established in Genesis 9:6, which was about 2348 BC, about 4375 ago as this book is being written in 2025. Human government totally failed about 2247, which was only about 100 years after God established it. Human government has failed in EVERY generation since that date. Christ foretold the failure of the human government in Matthew 24:12. which says, *"And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."* The word, "**iniquity"** is translated from the Greek word, 'amomia,' which according to Strong's Greek Concordance means; "violation of law, lawlessness, wickedness, iniquity, transgression of the law, and unrighteousness" That take place everywhere and every time the Human Government fails! It is taking place today in every country in the world, and it is taking place in the United States! It all started with King Nebuchadnezzar, who was the first Gentile king. He is the king who had Daniel cast in the lion's den! If you want to follow up these statements, please go to Daniel Chapter 4 and read the entire chapter. You will find that King Nebuchadnezzar "reaped what he sowed" and paid a great price to the point that he great regretted his decision and wished he had followed God's instructions.

**HUMAN GOVERNMENT IS TO EXECUTE JUDGMENT SWIFTLY.**
**Ecclesiastes 8:11**

*"Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil."*

Why is evil, shooting, and murder abounding in the United States today? According to FBI records, there were an estimated 24,849 murders committed in the United States in 2024. Evil abounds because man continues to disobey God. There are 23 States which have outlawed the death penalty! Others are trying to outlaw it. Of those 24,849 estimated murders in the United States, there was an estimated 19 executions! Also, it takes years and years to execute consequences. There are men in prison across the United States who have been in prison for years and have never even been brought to trial! There are judges who are releasing murderers to go free on bond; murderers who are guilty with evidence beyond any reasonable doubt. Some of those who have been released on bond have committed murder again and arrested again!

God has these words to say to 'judges' who disobey His word. Psalms 2:10-12. *"Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. 11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. 12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they that put their trust in him."*

A man who murders another man, is released on bond by a judge and goes out and murders again, the judge should be removed from the courtroom, found guilty for the second murder, and both should face the death penalty! You say that is not going to happen in a courtroom in the

United States. I agree with that. It is highly likely that it will ever happen. However, those men are not going to court in the United States! They are going "to court" before the God of the universe who began human government with "the death penalty." (Genesis 9:6).

**IS CAPITAL PUNISHMENT RIGHT OR WRONG?**

Many Judges have ruled that capital punishment is "cruel and inhuman" treatment and they have refused to sentence any murderer to death! Let's consider several things.

1. Murder is wrong: John 8:44 says, *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."*

2. The Ten Commandments say murder is wrong. Exodus 20:13 says, *"Thou shalt not kill."* Now, let's go to Exodus 21:12-17 and read more about what God said about murder and the death penalty. *"12 He that smiteth a man, so that he die, **shall be surely put to death.** 13 And if a man lie not in wait, but God deliver him into his hand; then I will appoint thee a place whither he shall flee. 14 But if a man come presumptuously upon his neighbour, to slay him with guile; thou shalt take him from mine altar, **that he may die**. 15 And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, **shall be surely put to death.** 16 And he that stealeth a man, and selleth him, or if he be found in his hand, **he shall surely be put to death**. 17 And he that curseth his father, or his mother, **shall surely be put to death**."* I wonder why God made these verses such STRONG, STRONG WORDS? Five times in five verses God said, "*he shall surely be put to death*." The death penalty, to God, is VERY, VERY SERIOUS!

3. A 'life for a life" is taught by God in Scripture: Genesis 9:6 says *"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man*

Again, the world today has declared the 'death penalty' as cruel and inhuman treatment. When they say that, they are saying that God is "cruel and inhuman" for establishing the death penalty and that God was just plain wrong! Proverbs 28:5 says, *"Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things."*

Based on Genesis 9:6, where God set a principle for the consequence of crime, he used murder as that principle and that all crime, regardless of what it is, the consequences should match the crime. Since God chose murder to set that principle, we must assume that God put murder at the top of the list!

## CHAPTER TWENTY TWO
## ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS CONCERNING QUESTIONABLE MATTERS
## Romans 14:1-23

Paul has dealt with two problems in the church at Rome. Some were out of the will of God and some members were seemingly criticizing other members and the way they were doing things. Second, some did not want to respect and submit to Human Government. Now he moves to dealing

with some things that he had apparently learned about people in the church, mainly about the difference of opinion if something was right or wrong. There are many things which the Bible does not address, especially in those days when many changes were going on concerning what the Jews had believed over the years.

Rome was the major city in the world at that time. The city had great buildings, a great culture, and basically ruled the entire world. However, the church was underground, meeting in homes and catacombs. There were two types of Christians in the church at Rome.

**First**: There were Gentiles who were born and raised in Rome. They had worshipped various gods. They had eaten anything and everything they wanted to eat. They had no special days which they celebrated, and they had NO Bible background of any type. However, they had heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and received him by faith and were members of the church at Rome.

Second: There were Jews who had also heard the Gospel and trusted Jesus Christ by faith and became Christians. Those Jews had apparently moved to Rome over the years and were members of the same church as the Gentiles. Many, if not most of them had personal convictions concerning eating certain meats. Before they were saved, they had always celebrated special days which were a part of the Jewish religion. Also, the Jews had the Old Testament and some knowledge and some Bible background

Therefore, there were divisions between the two groups. Paul started by saying '…*receive ye.*" Romans 14:1 *" Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations."* Paul was saying, receive them but not with a bad attitude or purpose such as to debate them, beat them over the head, or whatever it took to change them to your way of thinking. There are things in the Bible today that Christians have to "agree to disagree on." As Paul continues, he deals with two things that the Gentiles and Jews disagreed on.

The first of those was the matter of eating meat. Romans 14:1-4. *"1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. 2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. 3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. 4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand."*

There were some members who ate all things, but there were other members who would not eat meat and ate vegetables only. This was most like a reference to the Jews, who forbid them to eat meat offered to idols. Paul called them weak and warned others not to mistreat them or visa-versa! The stronger Christians were not to despise those who ate meat, nor were the weaker Christians to despise those who would not eat meat. Neither was either group to "judge those with whom they disagreed." Paul later dealt with the matter in more detail in I Corinthians 8:1-13.

The second matter was observing special days. Romans 14:5-6 says, *"One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. 6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not*

*the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks."*

Again, this seemed to be dealing with the Jews as they celebrated specials days, such as the Passover and several other days. As I mentioned before, these saved Jews did not have a New Testament. Therefore, they had not grown very much in the scriptures. They wanted to continue to celebrate those days which had been very special to them in their Jewish religion. Some Christians today have those same issues. For example, most Christians today celebrate Christmas on December 25th as the birth of Christ, and Easter as the day Christ was resurrected from the grave. Now I do not know many, but I know a few Christians who do not celebrate Christmas or Easter and reject those days as they do not think those are the dates Christ was born or resurrected, which is most likely true. However, Christians today are not to judge those who do not celebrate Christmas and Easter, and those who do not celebrate those days are not to judge those who do. The Bible clearly teaches 'soul liberty' for every believer. If you stop and think about it, there is nothing in the Bible about celebrating those events or not celebrating those events on certain days. We are to celebrate those events every day of our life!

## BIBLE PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE US CONCERNING QUESTIONABLE ISSUES.

Today, in many churches there are heated debates concerning (1) Where a Christian should go or not go. (2) What a Christian should wear or not wear. (3) What a Christian should do and not do. Some of those are about movies, smoking, dressing, etc. How do we make those decisions?

### The Bible is a Book of Principles.

It is not a 'rule book.' The Bible will guide us to decisions which please and glorify God. Let's look at some principles concerning the things mentioned above and you can decide if you “should or shouldn't”.

A. Should a Christian go to a movie theater and watch a movie? The Bible principle to be considered is Psalms 101:3. *"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes:"* Also, if you attend a worldly movie house and watch a Hollywood movie, you are financially supporting a very ungodly business.

B. Should a Christian smoke cigarette? There is no verse in the Bible which says a Christian should not smoke. However, there is a Bible principle to consider before smoking. That is found in I Corinthians 3:16. *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"* If you are a Christian, God in the Person of the Holy Spirit lives in you. If you smoke, you have God living in a tobacco barn!

C. How should Christian women dress? The principle which guides us on how we dress is found in I Timothy 2:9. "*In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array*;" When a woman dresses in the morning to go out into the world, before leaving she should ask

herself this question. "Does God consider what I am wearing today as modest apparel?" If the answer is "no." Take it off and redress!

**Four Deciding Principles That Will Guide Us to a Right Decision**

**First Principle**: Realize That We Are Not Our Own. I Corinthians 6:19-20, *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."*

This would mean that you and I HAVE NO RIGHT to make any major decisions on our own. We should ALWAYS seek the counsel and guidance from the one who bought us and owns us. Failing to do that will always lead to a failure in our life. Joshua failed to seek council from God in Jushua 9:14. "*And the men took of their victuals, and asked not counsel at the mouth of the LORD*." If you read the remaining part of Chapter 9, you will see that they GREATLY regretted not seeking God's counsel.

**Second Principle:** Can the decision we are making be done for the glory of God? I Corinthians 10:31 says *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."*

If you can go to a worldly, Hollywood movie for the Glory of God - then Go!
If you can smoke a cigarette for the Glory of God - then smoke!
If you can drink alcohol for the Glory of God, then drink!
If you can go to a beach and wear a bikini bathing suit for the Glory of God - then Go!

You know I am being facetious! I included those things just to make us think. Whatever we do, we should always ask ourselves this question, “Will God be Glorified and pleased with me if I do this?”

**Third Principle**: Is what I am about to do acceptable to God? Romans 12:1 says, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."* Immediately following the principle 'acceptable unto God' the verse says, *"which is your reasonable service."*

Let's use the example above about women dressing in modest apparel. If a Christian woman leaves her home and goes out in public wearing shorts, or a short skirt, a low-cut blouse which shows part of the private part of her body, skin-tight jeans or leggings which reveal the shape of her body beneath them, is that acceptable to God? If it is not "modest apparel" you cannot wear it! Deuteronomy 22:5 says, *"The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, **neither** shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the LORD thy God."* The word 'garment' in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word, 'simlah. Strong's Hebrew Concordance gives the definition of that word as, "the idea of a cover assuming the shape of the object beneath; a dress, a mantle, apparel, clothing, or raiment." If what a woman is wearing conforms to her body beneath it, it is not acceptable to God!

**Fourth Principle**: Does what you are doing offend a weaker brother in Christ? Romans 14:7 says, *"For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself."* All of us are members of the body of Christ. Every member of the body, in some way affects every other member. WE are not to be a stumbling block to a weaker brother. Romans 14:13 tells us, *"Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way."* In Romans 14:22 we are told again that we are not to do anything that might cause a brother to stumble. *"It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor any thing whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak."* In I Corinthians Paul tells us the seriousness of us offending or causing a brother to stumble. *" But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.*

**At the Judgment Seat of Christ, we Will One Day Give an Account for the Four Principles**

**Romans 14:11-12**

*"For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."*

**What Will The Judgment Seat of Christ be Like?**
**Romans 14:10**

"*But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."* The Judgment Seat of Christ will be:

1. It will be a Place of Review.
2. It will be a Place of Reward.
3. It will be a Place of Re-evaluation.
4. It will be a Place of Regret!

In that day, if we have done anything that is not "acceptable to God" we will greatly regret it and if we could, we would go back and not do it!" As you know, we will not be able to go back. I would encourage you to write down the four principles and use them in everything you do. If you will do that, when you stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ you will be glad and will hear it said, "Well done good and faithful servant."

## CHAPTER TWENTY THREE
## GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR STRONG CHRISTIANS
**Romans 15:1-4**

*"We then **that are strong** ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. 3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. 4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."*

Paul points out three major responsibilities which every older, stronger, and more mature Christian should have for younger, weaker Christians. In Romans 14:1, Paul said, "*to receive them*." In Romans 15:1 Paul says we are to bear the infirmities of the weak. Then in the same verse, Romans 15:1, Paul tells us that we should not do things "to please ourselves." In Verse 3 Paul tells us that we are to follow the pattern of our Lord Jesus Christ and put others first! If Christ is truly the Lord of your life, you will always follow His pattern!

**A Strong Christian's Attitude Toward Our Duty To A Weaker Brother**

The duty of strong Christians is to bear the infirmities of a weaker brother. Every church has strong Christians and weaker brethren. Because of that, there will always be a difference of opinion concerning various matters. Those matters could be the celebrations of days or dressing in modest apparel. Sad to say that many strong Christians want it their way and have no concern for weaker brethren.

However, God's plan is for us to receive them and support them. The verse above, Romans 15:1 says, "*WE then that are strong ought to…."* The word "ought" is translated from the Greek word. 'opheilo.' The meaning of that word will help us to understand our duty to them. The meaning of the word is 'we owe them.' I Corinthians 6:19 says we have been bought, therefore, because of God's command, we are in debt - we owe our weaker brethren. We are to support them. To support them does not mean to "put up with them." It means we are "to do whatever is necessary to help them grow in the Word and become stronger each day, as opportunity arises.

We stronger Christians are NOT TO PLEASE OURSELVES! That is stated in Verse 1. Also, Titus 1:7 tells us "*For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; **not selfwilled,** not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre."* We are not to be self-willed! I realize that this verse is referring to a pastor, but anything which applies to a pastor, applies to every member of that pastor's church. It is our duty to do everything we can do to edify a weaker brother. Let me call your attention to this fact, you were not always a strong Christian. How did you get to be a strong Christian? I Corinthians 4:7 tells us how that happened, *"For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?* You grew because someone received you, helped you, encouraged you, taught you, and supported you! As a strong Christian, you and I should have an honest concern for our weaker brother. We should follow the instructions in I Corinthians 10:32-33, *"Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God: 33 Even as I please all men in all things, not seeking mine own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."*

**A Strong Christian's Attitude Toward Derision in Our Own Life**
**Romans 15:3**

*"For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me."*

The word derision means to suffer persecution, mocking, reproach, and criticism. When Paul in Verse 3 said, *"…The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me,"* He was referring to Psalms 69 where King David, a man after God's own heart, suffered persecutions, reproaches, and mocking, and was despised. In Psalms 69:4 it says his enemies despised him. *"They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away.*" Then in Verse 8 it says his family despised him, "*They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away."* In Verse 12 it says the leaders despised him, *"They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards."* Also, in Verse 12 it says the drunkard despised him. If it can be so about King David, it can be so about us. We should not develop a bad attitude when Satan has people of the world attack us.

The same things are true today in the world in which we live. Verse 12 where it says, *"I was the song of the drunkards."* That is referring to drunkards singing vile songs and mocking Christians. Today, across America rappers have written wicked and vile songs about Jesus. They make jokes about Jesus. They mock, make fun of, and tell jokes about Jesus, and call Him 'the man upstairs!" In Matthew 12:24 they accused Jesus of being Beelzebub!" Blaspheme!!! However, Jesus never retaliated against them but continued to live his life.

The servant is not better than his master. John 15:18-20 says, "*18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also."*

If you do not suffer any 'derision,' reproach, mocking, and being despised by some, there is something wrong with your Christian life! That would most likely mean that you are being friends with the people of the world. You are not living a true Christian life, and you are not witnessing for Christ. The Scripture is clear, we cannot be a friend of the world and a friend of Christ. II Corinthians 6:17-18 says, *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.* " If we are true Christians, meaning 'like Christ,' people are going mock us, laugh at us, make jokes about us, and curse us! I John 2:15 tells us *"…If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."*

How do we know if we, and our church are making an impact on the world today? When people are living a true, dedicated Christian life, and the church is on fire for God, there will be people who will want to kill us. When we live for Christ and suffer derision in our life, mocking, cursing, and they despise us, I Peter 4:12-16 tells us what type of attitude we should have.

*"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for* ***the spirit of glory and of God resteth***

***upon you:*** *on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if "any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

Peter said, (1) We are to rejoice! (2) We are to be glad! (3) We are to have exceeding joy! (4) We are to be happy! When that happens to us, Peter tells us in Verse 14, that *"…the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon us" That* makes living a life for Christ worth living!

**Four Principles For Living a Successful, God Honoring, Christian Life.**

**First:** We need to be continually learning. Romans 15:4 says, *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were* ***written for our learning****, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*" This does not refer to "book learning." The type of learning which we, as Christians need, is found in Romans 10:17.

Let me quote that verse again. " So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." In Greek in the Bible referring to the "word of God" is "logos." That is referring to the written Word of God. However, the Greek word for the word, "word" in this verse is not logos. It is "rhema." Rhema means "that you study the word of God until you receive a message from God," something personally for you! It would mean that you "got a commandment" from God, or you got some "enlightenment" while reading on some matter that God "enlightens you personally" about, some growth or guidance for your life. It could be the "call of God to a certain ministry he wants you involved in. I Peter 2:2 tells us these things. *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:"*

**Second**: We need to learn to have patience. Patience is mentioned in Romans 15:4. The word "patience" in this context means, "to endure hardship without quitting!" We learn to do that through trials and tribulations, where we learn to be patient and "wait upon the Lord," knowing that "all things work together for good." Enduring hard times strengthens Christians and prepares them "TO STAND" when life gets difficult!

**Third**: We need to learn that God will comfort us when we go through trials. Romans 15:4. This will come through the "learning" of the first two, growing in our relationship with the Lord and learning patience. We learn to rejoice and be glad, knowing that God is truly working in our life. If we do not suffer derision, being mocked, etc. then we know that we are not living the true Christian life, and God is not using us. Satan is behind the derision and mocking. Therefore, if we are not suffering such things, Satan has no reason to attack us. When we go through suffering, we just rejoice, because we then we know that God is using us to glorify Him. When you see someone who's Bible is marked with lined verses and is about to fall apart, you know you are looking at someone who's life is not falling apart, and they are serving and pleasing God.

**Fourth**: We need to learn that because we faithfully grow, we have a hope that is steadfast and sure. Romans 15:4 concludes with Paul assuring us that because we practice the first three principles, "we have hope." Today, when people think of "hope" they are wishing some good would happen. The Greek word for "hope" in Romans 15:4 comes from the Greek word "elpis"

which means, "We have full confidence" that what has been promised is going to happen! Hebrews 6:18-10 says it this way:

*"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the **hope** set before us: 19 Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec."*

In those days, all people understood the terms of the shipping industry. When verses referred to "an anchor of the soul" those people immediately pictured a ship waiting on the coast during a storm, and the seas were too high for the ship to enter the harbor. When that happened, which was often, the ship would depart away from the shore till the seas calmed. Then they would send a small boat to leave the ship and take an anchor to the shoreline. They would then attach the anchor to a 'giant rock' to hold the ship in place until the storm was over. That gave them HOPE, which means it gave them "absolute confidence" that the ship was sure and steadfast, till the stormy life was over! That is what the writer of Hebrews was saying about our Christian life, when he wrote, "*we have as an **anchor of the soul**, both sure and stedfast,*

If we practice these four principles, we have an anchor which is sure and steadfast and we can have perfect peace, joy, and we can rejoice, as we go through derision, mocking, scorn, abuse, and being despised by the people of the world.

## CHAPTER TWENTY FOUR
## THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FIRST NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH.
## Romans 15:1-13

In the days when the first New Testament church was started, the people of the world testified about that church, and in Acts 17:6 they said, *"… These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;"* Let me ask a question. Has anyone heard anyone saying things like that concerning the church today? I do not think so! There is no recording of it being said since that day. The former pastor of the church where I continue to be a member, East Side Baptist Church, was Teddy Steele. We were close friends and met together often to have lunch. Several times Brother Steele said, “The church today does not remotely resemble the first church in the New Testament.” In my opinion, that continues to be true today in 2025.

### WHAT WAS THE FIRST NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH LIKE IN PAUL'S DAY?

### The Church Had A True Love And Heart Felt Compassion One For The Other.
### Romans 15-1-3

*"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification 3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me."*

**First**: Every Member of the Church "Had Compassion One For The Other!" Romans 15:1-3 tells us that every member in the church lived "for one another." In John 13:34-35 we find that God gave the church a commandment. *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." 35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* This begins with "love!" It is not possible to live for one another without loving one another!

One of the main and most important principles in this section is found in Verse 1 where Paul said, *"and not to please ourselves."* This is a major problem in about every church I have known for a good number of years. People want things done their way! If every member of the church today lived "not to please ourselves," there would very seldom be a problem in the church. If every member would get their priorities right and truly have the attitude in their heart that says "I prefer to please you rather than please myself," and the person they are talking to has the same attitude and can honestly say from their heart, "I appreciate that but I prefer to please you rather than please myself," there would be heart felt compassion and the church would function as God planned for it to function.!

In Philippians 2:1-4 we are commanded to practice that principle, *"If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*" Sad to say that this is just about unheard of in churches today! This should start with the pastor and then work its way down through the church. According to Titus 1:7, where we find the qualifications to be a pastor, we will find that it says a pastor cannot be "self-willed. *"For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;" This should tell us how important this principle is! I should never be, "what can the people of the church do for me, but what can I do for the people of the church!* Let's put others before ourselves and glorify God and do NOTHING for vain glory.

**Second**: The Church Was Built On And Did Everything According to The Bible. Romans 15:4 says, ***"For whatsoever things** were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."* Their main goal and purpose for the church in that day was "Quality and not Quantity!" Most churches today are more interested in Quantity! It is all about numbers. The church today does not seem to realize that Quality will always produce Quantity, but Quantity will never produce Quality! NEVER!!!

The statement "*things written aforetime were written for our learning*" is no doubt referring back to the Old Testament. If that was important enough for God to inspire Paul to refer to the Old Testament, then it is important enough for us to go back and see what Paul was teaching them. Since Paul is talking about the "local church," then he must be referring to the Tabernacle. The Old Testament Tabernacle is a perfect picture of the New Testament church and is a perfect pattern that the church should follow today. If you study the Tabernacle, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies are a picture of the local church. Let's briefly study and learn from the Old Testament

Tabernacle what Paul was pointing out to the church in Rome. What can we learn from the Holy Place of the Tabernacle? There were ONLY three things in the Holy Place in the Tabernacle.

**First:** There was a Table of Shewbread. That is a picture of a place where people come to be fed the Word of God. There was only one thing on the Table of Shewbread and that was Shewbread, which pictures the Word of God!

**Second**: There was a Golden Candlestick. The Golden Candlestick is a picture of the Holy Spirit shining light on the Table of Shewbread. The Holy Spirit shines light for us today. It is said that the Holy Spirit "enlightens" us as we are "fed the Word of God." The Candlestick also gives power to Christians as they are "*fed the flock of God*." The Holy Spirit prepares us and empowers us to be used of God and bring glory to Him!

**Third**: There was an Altar of Incense. The Altar of Incense was a place of prayer. It pictures the church as being "a place of prayer!" The local church, according to Isaiah 56:7, is to be a house of prayer. *"… for mine house shall be called an house of prayer for all people."* That is confirmed in the New Testament also. Matthew 21:13 says, *"And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves."*

**Question**: Have any of you reading this book ever heard anyone call your church or any church "a house of prayer?" I have been in what we call the "full time" ministry since 1970. I have never heard anyone refer to a Baptist church as "a house of prayer!" Why is that? It is because most churches today do not have any true prayer meetings!

Most local churches in America have a "Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting." The Wednesday Night meetings of the church did not begin until the late 1800s. Dr. D. L. Moody started the Wednesday night meeting as "An hour of prayer." They were doing nothing during that hour but seeking the POWER of God to turn the world upside down, which they did! However, over the years in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the church slowly changed the Wednesday night "hour of prayer" to a regular night of preaching. Then they added 5 minutes of prayer at the end of the preaching service. Think about how serious that is. Basically, what the church is saying is, "We can take care of everything in the ministry Lord, and we do not really need your help." They are saying, "It is more important for us to have a night of preaching, rather than have a night of seeking God's guidance, power, and blessings!" That is sad thinking. When Christ was here on earth, in Matthew 26:39-40 He was seeking God's power and guidance and went apart to pray. In those verses it says, *"And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. 40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter,* ***What,*** *could ye not watch with me one hour?* That took place between Jesus and the disciples in a matter of a couple of hours. Jesus, God in the flesh, spent an hour in prayer! When he returned to where He left the disciples, he found them sleeping and scolded them by saying, "*WHAT! could ye not watch with me one hour?* It appears the Lord Jesus was shocked! Today, the church cannot find one hour a week to pray! Is it any wonder that we are not turning the world upside down?

**Three Things Which Are Not Found In The Tabernacle**

There are three things which you will not find in the Holy Place in the Tabernacle, which is a picture and pattern of the local church.

**First**: There were no chairs in the Holy Place where the priests could sit down, rest, have a time of social fellowship, or even drink a cup of coffee. They had fellowship, but their fellowship was around the Word of God! While in the Holy Place, the priests were "busy about the Lord's business." - NOTHING ELSE!

**Second:** There were no windows or artificial light in the Holy Place. In other words, there was nothing from the outside world that was brought in, or allowed to come into the Holy Place, to attract people to come in! Today, the church uses artificial light to attract people to come to their church.

**Third:** There was no one allowed in the Holy Place except the priests! No one from the lost outside world was allowed in the Holy Place! Before anyone could enter the Holy Place, they HAD TO STOP AT THE BRAZEN ALTAR and make a blood sacrifice, which pictures salvation in the New Testament. I am sure that some will disagree with this statement, but nevertheless, the function of the first New Testament church in the Book of Acts, which followed the pattern of the Old Testament Tabernacle, verifies this statement is true. The Holy Place was not a place where the priest preached an "evangelistic" message to the lost! Every church has a pastor. The word "pastor" comes from the word, "shepherd." What is the responsibility of "a shepherd?" The responsibility of a shepherd is to feed the sheep, lead the sheep, and protect the sheep! Please do not misunderstand me. I do not see any reason why a pastor cannot weave "the plan of salvation" into a message. However, that is not his most important responsibility. When a pastor is sitting on the platform preparing to go to the pulpit and preach, he should remind himself of the reason for him going to the pulpit. The reason he is going to the pulpit is "to be used of God to change the lives of the people, the flock of God, who are sitting in front of him!"

Ephesians 4:11-12 tells us the purpose and the "God given responsibility of the pastor" of the church! *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, **pastors and teachers**; 12 **For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**"* The word "church" means an assembly of believers! In the New Testament, we are told that every believer is a priest. (I Peter 2:9) The believers are to assemble together in the church, (1) To be fed the Word of God, (2) Receive light and power from the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord, and (3) Spend time in prayer seeking God's blessing on our work. AFTER assembling as believers for those three reasons, in Luke 14:23 we read the words which the Lord said to His disciples. *"And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.*

Let's fast-forward to the book of Acts, where the first New Testament church was founded. Following the founding of the first century New Testament church, we will see how the apostles in the first New Testament church followed the pattern set forth for them in the Tabernacle. We will do that by studying two words throughout the book of Acts. **First**, we will see that when the apostle and disciples were meeting together, they were "**teaching the word of God and feeding believers**." They were not preaching "salvation messages!" The word "teach" is used in three different tenses; teach, teaching and taught. We will look at the places where the word "teach" is

used in the Book of Acts, following the study on the word "teach". **Second:** We will study the second word which is "preach." The word preach is also used in three different tenses; preach, preaching and preached. Let's begin by seeing what the disciples were doing when they met together.

## Teach - Teaching - Taught

The English words, teach, teaching, and taught are used a number of times in the book of Acts. They are all translated from the Greek word, "didasko**,**" which has a dual meaning. It means "to teach, to learn, to grow." Teaching is the word which is used **EVERY** time the disciples were meeting together as a church, "an assembly of believers." They were "teaching doctrine and fellowshipping." They were not "preaching the Gospel!" There are occasions where the word "didasko" is used when the apostles and disciples were not gathered together as a church, but in a different context. The following is an example:

*"And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved."* These were false teachers who came down from Jerusalem to where Paul and Barnabus were in Antioch and were teaching the law to the church in Antioch. As can you see, verses like these have nothing to do with what the apostles and disciples were doing in the ministry of the local church in Antioch. We are studying verses about "What the apostles and the disciples were doing when they met together "as a church." In the two verses below, the apostles or disciples are together as an "assembly of believers." They were "teaching," not preaching! Those two verses are as follows:

**Acts 11:26**: *"And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught (didasko) much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."*

**Acts 18:11:** *"And he continued there a year and six months, teaching (didasko) the word of God among them."*

These are the only two situations in the book of Acts that clearly express what the apostles were doing when the assembly of believers were together as a church. Now, let's consider what the apostles were doing when they were "outside the church" in public places.

## Preach – Preaching - Preached

Let's move to what the apostles and disciples were doing when they were out in the marketplace, community, or any other place outside the church. The English words, preach, preaching, and preached, are translated from the following Greek words. (1) Euaggelizo, which means evangelizing, (2) Kerueso, which means telling the divine truth of the Gospel, and (3) Kataggello, which means "declaring the truth of the Gospel in Synagogues, and (4) Laleo, which means "speaking, talking, witnessing." In the context where one of these four words, Euaggelizo, Kerueso, Kataggello or Laleo are found, the apostles and/or disciples were "in the public and they were preaching evangelistic messages to the lost. On EVERY occasion they were "outside the church." None of these four words are used even ONE TIME when the "church, as a group of

believers," were meeting together. The word "preach" is used 13 times in the Book of Acts. Those verses are as follows:

**Acts 5:42:** " *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach* **(euaggelizo)** *Jesus Christ."*

**Acts 8:4:** "*Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching* **(euagelizo)** *the word."*

**Acts 8:5:** *"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached* **(kerusso)** *Christ unto them."*

**Acts 8:12** *"But when they believed Philip preaching* **(euaggelizo)** *the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."*

**Acts 8:25:** *"And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached* **(euaggelizo***) the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans."*

**Acts 8:35:** *"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached* **(euaggelizo***) unto him Jesus."*

**Acts 8:40:** *"But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached* **(euaggelizo)** *in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea."*

**Acts 9:20:** *"And straightway he preached* ***(kerusso)*** *Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God."*

**Acts 11:19:** *" Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching* ***(laleo****) the word to none but unto the Jews only."*

**Acts 11:20**: *"And some of them were men of Cyprus and Cyrene, which, when they were come to Antioch, spake unto the Grecians, preaching* ***(euaggelizo****) the Lord Jesus."*

**Acts 13:5:** *"And when they were at Salamis, they preached* **(euaggelizo***) the word of God in the synagogues of the Jews: and they had also John to their minister."*

**Acts 14:7**: *"And there they preached* **(euaggelizo)** *the gospel."*

**Acts 14:21:** *"And when they had preached* **(euaggelizo)** *the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,"*

In the above verses in the Book of Acts where the words, preach, preaching, and preached are recorded, we find that the apostles or disciples who were members of the first New Testament church, were "**outside the local church.**" They were not **"assembled together as a church, as an assembly of believers," and preaching the Gospel to believers!** They were preaching the

Gospel to lost people in public places. There is not one verse in the book of Acts where you will find the Gospel of salvation being preached when "believers were assembled together" as a church. These verses are used in other places, but not where the disciples were preaching. Those are used in places such as where the Sanhedrin commanded Peter and John not to "preach" in the name of Jesus in **Acts 4:13-22.**

**Third**: The Church Lived in Total Harmony. Romans 15:5 says, *"Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:"*

What does it take to have total complete harmony in a church? There is ONLY ONE WAY for a church to be in complete harmony. God explains that in Philippians 2:5:1-5. *"1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"*

The only way a church can be in harmony is when all members seek to have "the mind of Christ" in them. We must learn to (1) Think like Christ thinks, (2) We must want what Christ Wants, (3) We must ask for what Christ would have us ask for, (4) We must do what Christ would have us do! In my opinion, there are three things which we must do if we are going to have harmony in the church. **First**: We must start by obeying Romans 12:1 and "die to self." We must present our bodies as a "living sacrifice." A person who "dies to self " has no will of their own and they have no mind of their own. **Second**: We must, from our hearts, ask God to fill us and control us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5:18 commands us to do so! "*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;"* The words "filled with" means not only have him dwelling in you, but it means that you allow Him to have complete control of your thoughts, words, and actions.

When this takes place, every member will be led by God, and they will all have one mind. For instance, when a church has a vote to purchase a new building, if everyone has the "mind of Christ," the vote will be 100% yes or 100% no! If it is not 100% one way or the other, then some of the people who voted do not have the mind of Christ! God never leads someone to vote against His way. Also, this means there IS NOT complete harmony in the church!

**Third**: The Church must Continually Praise the Lord! Romans 15:6 says, *"That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Please notice that they were not praising and glorifying God in their life and hearts. However, every Christian should be doing that, as this verse says, with, *"…one mouth glorify God."* Every member was praising and glorifying the Lord openly! God applies this in Verses 9-11. *"And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name. 10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people. 11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people."*

God continues to encourage every member of the church to praise Him openly. Look at Hebrews 2:11-12. *"For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for*

*which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee."*

This goes back to the last point. This will never happen until every member of the church has "the mind of Christ!" God expects us to do this. He gave us a commandment in I Corinthians 10:31. *"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."* **Question:** Are you a picture of Jesus Christ? When people see and know your life, do they see someone who is glorifying God in everything you do! If not, they should be! If not, you do not have the mind of Christ! Something is wrong!

**Fourth:** The Church "Believed" that the Bible was Inspired by God! Romans 15:13-14, *"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace **in believing**, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. 14 And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another."*

It seems that at that time the church at Rome "was believing and had been believing" all of the scriptures and the promises of God all the way back through the Old Testament. That is a blessing to read about people doing that when they had never read II Corinthians 1:20, *"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."* In another sense that is sad. Today, we have that promise in writing, along with the entire Word of God in the New Testament, and we still sometimes have doubts! There is no indication that they had any doubts whatsoever. We should do the same!

In closing, let me point out a few amazing blessings that Paul said they had and could enjoy. Paul said, *"…in believing, that ye may abound in hope!*" We have already covered the word "hope." It is not like we use it today and say, "I am sick, I hope I get better soon." The word hope in the Word of God means, "we have absolute confidence, as though it had already happened!"

Then Paul shared with them that, from what he knew and had heard about them, he was fully persuaded that they were real. He said, "I *myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another."* What a testimony the church in Rome had, as the most sinful city in the world at that time, and people had seen and heard it. If they could have that testimony living in Rome, the most sinful city in the world, you and I could have that type of testimony regardless of where we live in America! Paul concluded by praying for them and encouraging them, by saying, "*Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace."* They had "joy and peace in the midst of a wicked, vile, sinful city! If they can have joy and peace, you and I can have joy and peace. You can have peace that passeth all understanding!" Philippians 4:7 says, *"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."*

In closing we find that this letter was written by a "church planting missionary." Amen! Romans 15:20-21. *"Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation: 21 But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see: and they that have not heard shall understand."*

## CHAPTER TWENTY FIVE

**PAUL COMMENDS "OTHERS" WHO HAVE SERVED THE LORD WITH HIM!**
**Romans Chapter 16**

Paul concludes his lengthy letter to the church at Rome, by commending about 26 plus people whom he had apparently known before they had moved to Rome. Also, he was thankful for several people who were with him as he wrote this letter. I cannot imagine how long it took him to write the letter, as it has a total of 20 pages in our KJV Bible, which is in small, typed out print. The original letter to the church at Rome was written on scrolls and was handwritten with some type of pen or feather, by dipping it in some type of ink every few words. I think this helps us understand the love and appreciation Paul had for the brethren and for co-laborers. It shows how friendly he was. It shows that he did not think more highly of himself than he did of others. It clearly shows the he knew that EVERYONE was important and was needed. It would be a good example for us to follow today! In closing, Paul addresses three things he considered important.

**First:** He Wanted to Send Greetings to Friends in the Church! Those are divided into three different groups.

He started with a young lady named Phebe. Romans 16:1-2, *I "I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea. 2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also."* This is the only mention of Phebe in the entire Bible. She was from Cenchare, which is in the city of Corinth. There is nothing more recorded about her. However, the word "*succourer"* means "a patroness or one who has been an assistant and helper to many." It means she had been FAITHFUL since her salvation. As a reward for her testimony and faithfulness, her name is now recorded in the inspired word of God, and she has been read about hundreds and thousands of times. That tells us how important faithfulness is to our Lord Jesus! **Question**: Are you being faithful to serve the Lord and serve others, where you are with what you have? If so, you will hear "Well Done Good and Faithful Servant" when you stand before the Lord!

Next, he mentioned a couple named Aguila and Priscilla. Romans 16:3-4 tells us a little about this couple. *"Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ."* According to this verse and according to I Corinthains 16:19, the church which Paul started in Corinth met in their home for a good period of time! They are mentioned in Acts 18:1-3, 18, 19, and 26 and apparently, they had made room and had allowed Paul to stay in their home during the church plant. WHAT A TESTIMONY! As a reward, they have their names, and their ministry mentioned "seven" times in the Inspired Word of God! Their name and their ministry have been read about by millions of people around the world!

**Second:** Paul called 25 people by their name in Romans 16:5-15. I will not include the verses here, but if you like you can read them in your Bible. They are mentioned by name and have some brief explanation following their names. (1) Epaenetus - who was the first convert in Asia.

(2) Mary – "*...Bestowed much labour*." (3 and 4) - Andronicus - Junia - - "*my kinsmen in Christ before me*." (5) Amplias – "…my beloved." (6) Urbane - *"... our helper*." (7) Stachys - *"... my beloved."* (8) Apelles - *"...approved in Christ."* (9) Aristobulus - *"... and household*." (10) Herodion - *"...my kinsman*." (11) Narcissus and household. (12 and 13) Tryphena and Tryuphosa - *"...who laboured." (14) Persis - "... which laboured." (15)* ***Rufus (*****Only person in this list who is mentioned in the Bible before these verses.** (16 - 20) Asyncritus, Phlegon, Herman, Patrobas, Hermes - brethren with them. (21-25) Philologus, Julia, Nereus, his sister, and Olympas.

Out of those 25 noted above, Rufus is the only one mentioned more than one time in the Bible. He is mentioned in Mark 15:27 as one who helped carry the Cross of Christ when He was crucified!

ALL of these are "immortalized" in history and in the Word of God. The Holy Spirit told Paul *"to list their names*" because of their "unseen works." No doubt Paul remembered his own words in Romans 13:7. *"Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour."* You and I should do the same! You will not be rewarded in heaven because you are "a big name in the church." You will be rewarded for being faithful by doing what you can, where you are, with what you have! Be Faithful!

## CHAPTER TWENTY SIX
## PAUL WARNS THE CHURCH AT ROME OF MEMBERS THAT CAUSE DIVISION.
## Romans 16:17-19

*"17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. 19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil."*

Considering all the "doctrinal issues" which Paul dealt with in this letter to the church in Rome, there is no doubt there were some members who were causing divisions and were against sound doctrine. The manner in which Paul opened this subject tells us the seriousness of having people in the church who cause problems! I base that on the words where Paul said, "***mark them***" in his opening line. The words "mark them" means to "take aim at them or put them in the crosshairs" on the sight of a rifle! **That is serious**. In the same verse, Paul said "*avoid them*." The Greek word for avoid is "ekklino." It means "to utterly shun them and to decline to have anything at all to do with them!" Those are strong words, especially when he is pointing to people who are members of the church! It also means to "go out of the way to avoid them!" Paul was so pointed because he knew how people who were not of sound doctrine acted in churches. They ALWAYS come in the church and join it. They show themselves very friendly. They act very spiritual and talk much about the Bible. That makes them even more dangerous.

One thing very clear in the Scriptures is that we are to be 100% separated from the people of the world. Our goal is not to "win friends and influence people, even if they are saved but believe and teach any false doctrine. We are not to maintain friendship with them. That means those who have departed from sound doctrine! Paul used very strong words concerning the matter of people who have left sound doctrine OF ANY KIND in Galatians 1:9, *"As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."*

This very same thing is happening in independent Bible believing churches in America today. This is what I would encourage you to watch for. People who do not hold sound doctrine and join your church will begin by trying to make close friends with people. They are generally very outgoing. Be sure of this, if they are false teachers they KNOW your church has a doctrine which is different from their beliefs! Once they make friends, they will begin to share some spiritual things to impress you, concerning how much they know about the Bible. They NEVER TOUCH questionable subjects. THEN, after people who are attracted to them and have become friends with them, they will talk about the possibility of them getting together for a Bible study and fellowship. If they respond positively, they will invite you to come to their house for "a home Bible study." This is ALL done without the pastor knowing anything at all about their plan.

Frist, there should NEVER be a "home Bible study" in the church without first discussing it with the pastor and getting his approval to do so. However, once they entice a person to a "home Bible study," they will slowly and carefully bring up doctrines which your church believes that they disagree with. Then they will slowly try to convince you that the church is wrong, and they are right. They will use Bible scripture OUT OF CONTEXT to try to convince and prove to you that they are right, and the church is wrong. If anyone comes to your church and wants to start a "home Bible study," refuse to do so and immediately meet with your pastor and inform him what is going on!!! Romans 16:20 strongly indicates that Paul is saying that such people are of Satan! "*And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."* PLEASE do not get caught up in such activities as "home Bible study" without your pastor's knowledge and permission!

## CHAPTER TWENTY SEVEN
## PAUL HONORS NINE SPECIAL CO-LABORERS.
## Romans 16:21-23

*"21 Timotheus my workfellow, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you. 22. I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord. 23 Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.*

It appears that these nine people who Paul called by name were all staying in the same home where the letter to the church was being written. He first mentions Timotheus or better known to us as Timothy. Timothy had labored with Paul since Acts 16 when Paul and Barnabas parted ways. Paul traveled to Derbe and Lystra as he began his "second missionary journey." There he met young Timothy and Paul took Timothy with him and referred to him as "*my son in the faith*" (I Timothy 1:2). They had been serving Jesus together for about eight years. No doubt

Timothy had been a great help to Paul. Therefore, Paul included him in the writing of this letter. Then Paul mentions three other men, Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, whom he calls "*my kinsman*." It is not known for sure, but most likely they were Jews and not blood kin. However, they had also joined Paul in his travels and ministry, and he was commending them very highly.

Next, a man named Tertius is mentioned. This is the only time we find his name in the Bible. However, it is apparent that Tertius was doing the literal writing on the book of Romans as Paul dictated it to him. No one really knows the reason that Paul did not write the letter. It may have been that Paul had some type of physical problem such as poor eyesight, or a problem with his hand or arm. The reason is not really important, or God would have told us the problem! Regardless, Paul greatly commended Tertius. Then Paul includes a man named Gaius. Paul said, *"mine host"* which indicates that it was in Gaius' house where Paul, his co-laborers, and the church of Corinth met. Paul then mentions a man by the name of Erastus, who according to Acts 19:22, had been a co-laborer with Paul and Timothy for a number of years. In closing, Paul mentions a man named *"Quartus, a brother."* There is no mention of this man in any other place in scripture. Therefore, we do not know if he was a brother in the flesh or a brother in the Lord, but it makes no difference, which I will later explain!

Please notice that Paul considered all the men as "co-laborers" with him in the ministry of preaching the Gospel, planting churches, and making disciples! This is a very important principle which we need to see and follow. Paul did not once exalt himself nor did he take credit for himself as being a great Christian leader or great church planter. In my opinion, Paul followed the pattern set by our Lord Jesus Christ, which is found in Philippians 2:5-8, *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* I base my opinion on Paul's own words in I Corinthians 11:1 where Paul said, *"Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ"*

This is GREATLY needed in churches and ministries today. More and more we are seeing men in the ministry who "exalt themselves, try to call attention to themselves, and want the credit" of all that has been done. God help us! Let's follow the pattern of Paul, who was following the pattern of God in the flesh, the Lord Jesus Christ, who was "very God of very God," and had every right to "take credit" but did not!

## CHAPTER TWENTY EIGHT
## PAUL'S CLOSING BENEDICTION
## Romans 16:24-27

*"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. 25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: 27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen"*

These closing verses seem to have been written by Paul's own hand. The phrase *"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."* is found in the closing benedictions in several of the books written by Paul, as the human penman. (You can read them in II Thessalonians 3:17-18.)

**The entire purpose of the letter written by Paul to the church at Rome is to establish truth and sound doctrine.**

**If Christians are established in Sound Doctrine, they will be able to lay this "straight edge" of Romans alongside anything that comes along and determine if it is true or false!**