

STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS

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- This is final part of the “**Studies in the Book of Romans**” series. When you finish this course, choose which of the following studies you’d like to continue with: **Survey of the Old Testament, Making Sense of the Bible., the Life of Christ, the book of Acts, Romans, the book of Revelation, The Church of the Bible or a Home Bible Study Curriculum**
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 - * Please read the lesson very carefully and make notes in your notebook. then complete all the test questions at the end of this lesson. **All answers to the test questions are found in the lesson.**
 5. **Send the** test questions back to the address below.. **Please do not send back the entire lesson.** It is yours to keep.
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CHAPTER NINE

Jews Who Still Wanted to be Under the Law of Moses Do Not Have the Promises Christians Have

When we read in the New Testament about the hard time the early Christians had with the Jews, we sometimes wonder, "What does this have to do with us today? There are not many Jews around who are still trying to live under the law of Moses unless we go to the nation of Israel over in the middle East."

1. The writers of the New Testament hit problems with the truth of the gospel when they came up and the main problem they had at first was Jewish Christians trying to impose the law of Moses on the Gentile Christians. That's why Paul teaches so much about the Jews – **because they were not going by the truth.**
2. Another problem they hit hard was the many pagan philosophies that some Christians tried to stick into the church. Paul talked about this when he said in Colossians 2:8, "*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.*"

Check out what we have today in many Protestant and Catholic churches. Some teach that we are to take the Lord's supper on **Saturday** because Saturday was the Old Testament day of worship. Some teach that we should **burn incense** in worship because it's in the Old Testament. Others say that we should **tithe** (pay a tenth) of our income because that's what they did in the Old Testament. Some want us to have **several wives** because that's what happened in the Old Testament. A close study of chapter 9 will help us to see that God's law for us today is the New Testament.

Here are the points Paul makes in chapter 9.

1. He **loved** his fellow kinsmen, the Jews (vv 1-3).
2. The Jews were the **first** ones to receive the revelation of truth from God (vv 4,5).
3. The Jews were the seed of Abraham, but Christians are the **seed of Christ** as Galatians 3:16 teaches, "*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.*"
4. It doesn't matter that a person was born a Jew, of the family of Abraham; but it does matter that we are **of Christ**. "*Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise*" (Galatians 4:28).
5. God is in control and the way he controls the sin and destiny of mankind is through the **gospel** (vv 13-19).
6. We better not **sass** God (vv 20-23).
7. God has called both Jew and Gentile through the **gospel** (v 24) as we learned before from 2 Thessalonians 2:14, "*Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" (v 24).
8. **Christians** are the people of God and the same gospel can save both Jews and Gentiles (vv 25,26).
9. The **seed is the word of God** (Luke 8:11) and it is that seed of the gospel that the Lord of Sabaoth has given (v 29).

NOTE: This is the word "**Sabaoth**" and not "**Sabbath**." The word "Sabaoth" means "a host of armies" and the "**Lord of Sabaoth**" refers to the fact that Jesus Christ is "**King of kings and Lord of lords**" (Revelation 19:16).

10. Gentiles in the first century accepted the gospel **more** than the Jews did (vv 30,31), which was a shame because Jesus came first to the Jews and then also to the Greek (Gentiles) as taught in Romans 1:16. This is also the image pictured in Revelation 7, when only 144,000 were saved from “all the tribes of the children of Israel” (Revelation 7:4).
11. The Jews did not seek God by faith, but by works and it became a stumbling block for them (vv 32,33).

The Old Testament has been **nailed to the cross** as taught in Colossians 2:14, “*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.*” All people everywhere are now subject to the gospel of Christ.

CHAPTER 10

Paul’s Continued Love for his Kinsmen, the Jews

Paul loved his people and wanted them to be saved (v 1) but they had a problem -- they were very devoted to their religion, but it was not according to knowledge (v 2). This devotion is called “zeal” and the word “zeal” means “**devotion.**” Those first century Jews were very devoted to God, but it was not after the gospel. They rejected God’s righteousness and tried to have their own righteousness (v 3). They rejected Christ because he was “the end of the law for righteousness” (v 4).

NOTE: Today, there are a lot of religious people who are very devoted to their churches, even though their churches and preachers teach things that are not in the Bible and these people have “**a zeal, but not according to knowledge.**” Also, there are a lot of religious people in the world today who may know exactly what the Bible says, but have no zeal in their practice of real Christianity.

Which is worse: Zeal without knowledge or knowledge without zeal? They both are not acceptable to God!

The Contrast Between Faith and the Law

Christ ended the law of Moses (v 4) because the gospel is based upon a different thing than the law of Moses was (vv 5-7). The law of Moses was based on **works** and the gospel is based on **faith** in Jesus Christ as the son of God.

Confession of Christ as the Son of God

The gospel is called “the word of faith” (v 8) and based on that faith, people confess the Lord Jesus as a part of their salvation (v 9). I’ve asked a lot of sinners what they should confess when we study this scripture and they usually say, “I confess my sins” and this type of confession is what most churches require the sinner to do before they’re saved.

Well, that’s not exactly the way the Bible teaches this type of confession. Check out Acts 8:36-38 and you’ll find what the Ethiopian eunuch confessed. “*And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.*” The Bible teaches that before a sinner is baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), he confesses Jesus Christ to be the son of God. After he becomes a Christian, then is when he confesses his sins (James 5:16).

The sinner believes in Jesus as the son of God, then confesses Jesus as the son of God and, like the eunuch in Acts 8, the sinner wants to be baptized in order to be saved.

The gospel of Christ goes into a person's heart and produces faith by "*hearing the word of God*" (vv 10-17).

Calling on the Name of the Lord

Verse 13 is quoted from Joel 2:32, which says, "*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call.*"

How does a person call on the name of the Lord? Calling on the name of the Lord is part of a sinner's salvation just like grace, faith, repentance and baptism are. The best explanation of how baptism fits into this calling on the name of the Lord is found in Acts 22:16 where Paul speaks of his own conversion. "*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*" When a believing sinner repents of his sins, confesses Christ as the son of God and is baptized into Christ, that is calling on the name of the Lord! Don't let anyone teach you something different.

Sinners have to hear the gospel preached to them (v 14) and the gospel truth they heard is a beautiful thing (v 15) as also says Isaiah 52:7. But all will not obey the gospel (v 16) as Isaiah 53:1 also taught in the Old Testament.

Why do people not obey the gospel? Because they have faith in something else beside the word of God, from whence faith comes (v 17).

Verse 18 mentions that the gospel sound went into all the earth and Colossians 1:23 also teaches this fact: "*If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven.*"

The gospel going to every creature in the first century, including the Gentiles, made the Jews angry (v 19) and this is Paul's point from Isaiah 65:1,2: "*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. I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts.*"

Remember, the gospel went to the Jews first, then to the Gentiles, but the Jews, as a people, rejected the gospel, whereas the Gentiles did not.

CHAPTER 11

Did God Cast Away the Jews?

No. God loved the Jews and just because his plan was to offer the gospel to both Jew and Gentile did not mean he had forgotten the chosen people. Paul himself was proof of that because he himself was a Jew (v 1). God had planned for salvation to come through the Jews in the person of Jesus and this is the meaning of the word "foreknew" in verse 2.

Now, Paul identifies the Jews who had believed the gospel and obeyed it. He called them “**the remnant**” (v 5) and these people were saved by the grace of God when they faithfully obeyed, but they were not saved by their own works, which they falsely believed would do the job (v 6). As a people they were asleep (v 8), they had trapped themselves (v 9) and they had stumbled at the truth of the gospel through Jesus (v 11).

The Jews who refused to accept Jesus as their Christ fell and their fall brought the riches of heaven to the entire world (v 12). The Jews were holy because they were God’s chosen people (v 16), but they were broken off by their unbelief in Jesus so that the Gentiles could be grafted in, like a wild olive tree is grafted into a tame one (v 17).

But, the Gentiles could not hate the Jews (v 18,19) because the lesson of the Jews’ unbelief was to be a lesson for the Gentiles (v 20). **God does not reject any person who obeys the gospel, no matter what race they are (v 21).**

“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off” (v 22).

And the Gentiles could not be proud that the Jews fell (v 23-25). What does he mean in verses 26-28 when he says, *“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, for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins. As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers’ sakes.”*

1. The only way a person is an enemy of the gospel is if he doesn’t believe the gospel and refuses to obey it.
2. All Israel would be saved if they accepted Jesus as their deliverer and obeyed him.
3. **Anybody today, Jew, Gentile, Catholic, Muslim or Protestant, will be an enemy of God if Jesus and his gospel are not accepted and obeyed.**

Paul uses Israel (the Jews) and passages from the Old Testament to teach us some great lessons about how to be right in God’s sight.

1. To reject the new covenant (the New Testament) is to reject Jesus as the son of God (vv 26,27). The New Testament teaches us of Jesus, his salvation and his church where the saved ones live. Some people say, “Jesus, yes; the church, no!” and they mean that they want a relationships with Jesus, but they don’t want to have anything to do with some church. **When a person has a relationship with Jesus, he has a relationship with the church of Jesus, but not with a church that has been established by man.**
2. The Jews rejected God’s son, Jesus, but Gentiles should be thankful because the Jews’ rejection allowed the Gentiles to become full-fledged children of God by faithful obedience (vv 30-32).
3. God’s mind is unknown except through what he has revealed in the Bible (vv 33,34). Think about this: if you want to know what somebody thinks, you ask him and he tells you. **If we want to know what God thinks about any given subject, we check out his answers which he has given in the Bible!**

4. God doesn't come down from heaven and whisper in our ears; he has caused about 40 men over the space of some 4,000 years to write down what he thinks. We listen to the Bible and we listen to God.

CHAPTER 12

Our Living Sacrifice to God

Chapters one through eleven talk about God's plan to save all man, Jew and Gentile. He now turns his attention, beginning in chapter 12 and going through the end of the book, to what it means to be a Christian and how to live the Christian life.

Under the Old Testament, animal sacrifices were given by the Jews because that's what God told them to do. But, under the New Testament, Hebrews 10:11 says, "*And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can **never** take away sins.*" Jesus is our sacrifice and when we practice what Jesus has taught, then we offer our lives as sacrifices to God as Hebrews 13:16 says, "*And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.*"

Here's how we become a sacrifice and live a sacrificial life.

1. "*How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3,4)*" When we are baptized into Christ, we sacrifice the sin of our lives and come out of the water a new creature. If we have never been baptized into Christ, we're still in our sins. "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*" (2 Corinthians 5:17).
2. We then "*present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God*" (v 1), which means we dedicate ourselves to God, then Paul tells us how to be dedicated unto God in the next few verses.
 - a. We put the word of God into our minds (v 2).
 - b. We don't think highly of ourselves, but are humble in God's sight (v 3)
 - c. We do what we can do for God, not what somebody else does (v 4)
 - d. We are one in the church, the body of Christ and not divided (v 5)
 - e. When we preach, encourage or minister, we do it because we're dedicated to God (vv 6-8).
 - f. We love God and man with an honest heart and stop doing evil things (v 9)
 - g. We are efficient in our dealings with God and man because we serve God through Jesus (v 11).
 - h. We are happy people, patient people and prayerful people (v 12)
 - i. We help the poor, especially the poor Christians (v 13) as we are taught in Galatians 6:10, "*As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*"
 - j. We do not hit back at someone who hurts us (v 14).
 - k. We love each other so much that when one is happy, we all are happy and when one is sad, we are all sad (v 15).
 - l. "*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment*" (1 Corinthians 1:10).

- m. This is what it means to “**be of the same mind**” (v 16) – to teach the **same doctrine**, to have the **same opinions**.
- n. He reminds us again in verse 17 that we are not to hit back when someone hurts us.
- o. By doing these things with our lives dedicated to God, we can have peace in our hearts and this is the only way to have peace (v 18).
- p. Paul comes back again to the subject of hitting back on someone when we’re hurt in verse 19. You and I know that this is the way sinful people react toward one another. You slap me; I’ll slap you back. Christians don’t do this kind of evil thing and God will take vengeance on Christians who do. Besides that, everything is going to come out in the judgment day, so let’s leave judging up to God.
- q. We treat our enemies well instead of treating them evil and overcome their evil with the good way we act (vv 20,21)

If Christians really get serious about doing these things, the world will be a better place in which to live and churches won’t have fussing and fighting in their midst.

CHAPTER 13

The Christian and the Government

Now Paul brings this vengeance thing home by discussing how Christians are to behave as citizens and what he teaches should make us stop and do a lot of thinking about how we behave ourselves in our world. Be prepared, as we discuss these things, to be surprised and also be prepared to do some changing.

Did you know that New Testament Christians are citizens in two kingdoms? We are citizens of our earthly country (Americans are from America; Japanese are from Japan), but Christians are also citizens of the heavenly kingdom. Up to this point in Romans, Paul has been telling us how to live as citizens of the kingdom of heaven, the church, but in this chapter he tells Christians how to live as citizens of their earthly kingdoms. **Our spiritual citizenship in the kingdom of heaven leads to our salvation in heaven and our citizenship in our earthly country is for our physical well being.**

Why Should Christians be Subject to Civil Governments?

The “higher powers” of verse 1 is another phrase meaning civil rulers and authorities and Paul gives Christians three reasons we must obey them.

1. **The idea of man governing man is ordained of God, which means God has appointed it to be so.** That doesn’t mean that every law passed by civil government is according to God’s law, but it means that the principle Christians obey is the idea that **man can govern man**. German and Russian Christians in World War 2 could not agree with the cruelties of Hitler and Stalin, but they were still Germans and Russians. God does not approve of any immorality, dishonest or cruelty civil governments may commit; he only approves the principle of man governing man.
2. **Christians obey the civil government in order to avoid being punished.** These governments exist to make evildoers afraid and not to make good people afraid (vv 3,4). As long as Christians do right and live right, the government should be our friend, not our enemy. Throughout history, many governments killed Christians simply because they were law-abiding citizens. Again, we repeat, that **government actions may not be right but the idea of man governing man comes from heaven.**

3. **Christians should obey the government for conscience sake** as we're taught in verse 5, but what does it mean to "obey for conscience sake?" The word "conscience" comes from a word meaning "a knowing within" and that's what our consciences are – it is the voice of right and wrong that's within us. Our consciences are the products of our education. If a person has been taught it's right to steal, he'll not feel guilty about doing so. If a person has been taught that it's okay to lie, he'll not feel guilty when he lies. Why? Because his conscience doesn't hurt him because it hasn't been taught properly. It's just the right thing for a Christian to obey the laws of the land.

Let your conscience be your guide, but let your conscience be guided by the Bible!

In other places Paul teaches, "*Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates*" (Titus 3:1) and that prayers should be made "*for kings and all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty*" (1 Timothy 2:2). Peter adds his voice when he says in 1 Peter 2:13-16, "*Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme, or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.*"

Remember this: **The fact that a Christian does not like a law or that we may think it discriminates against us does not give us the right to go break it.** A Christian must always obey the law of God first and then must obey the civil law even though we do not consider it to be fair. This is a straightforward, and maybe hard, teaching but it's the truth.

A Christian Must Pay Taxes

Ouch. This is really a hard saying, but verses 6 & 7 teach, "*For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.*" "Custom" and "tribute" is the Bible way of saying "**pay your taxes**" as Jesus taught his followers to do in Matthew 22:21, "*Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.*"

One scripture (Acts 5:29) sums up a lot: "**We ought to obey God rather than men.**"

The Government Has a Right to Use Capital Punishment

What's "capital punishment?" It's when a government takes the life of an evildoer who has taken the life of someone else or for treason.

The Bible teaches that the government has the right to punish evildoers who break the law. But, sometimes a lawbreaker becomes a Christian while in prison and part of his repentance toward God is that he dedicates himself to never break the law again after he gets out. With Jesus on his side and a new heart, he can do that very thing. But sometimes a person kills another person and is punished by the government with death. That's capital punishment. He can still become a Christian and go to heaven at his time of death, but he has to pay the price for his horrible crime while he was serving the devil. One of the most horrible murderers in the history of America was Jeffrey Dahmer, a man who not only killed for pleasure but ate some of his victims. That's awful, but Jeffrey Dahmer became a Christian in prison and made his life right in God's sight.

One of Jeffrey Dahmer's fellow inmates killed him and he couldn't serve out his entire life sentence, but, all things being equal, he died as a Christian. This brings up another point. The sixth of the ten commandments says, "**Thou shalt not kill**" (Exodus 20:13). Another way to read this in the original Hebrew language is "**Thou shalt do no murder.**" Did the state have the right to condemn people like Jeffrey Dahmer to be killed? Yes, it did, because murderers take the life of another person. Capital punishment was true even back in Genesis 9:6 when God said to Noah, "*Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.*" It's tragic that a human being would do murder, but it is even more tragic when they are not punished for their awful crime.

Can a Christian Serve in the Military?

Today, people in military service who do not want to take a gun and kill are called "conscientious objectors." In our government, such a course of action is a matter of choice. But, does the Bible require that a Christian not be in the military? Think about this: Verses 3 and 4 say, "*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. 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.*" A soldier in a just cause is a minister of God and if a Christian can't serve in the military, he can't be a minister of God. So, a Christian can serve in the military.

CHAPTER 14 The Truth, Opinions and Conscience

The fact of the matter is that there are strong Christians and there are weak Christians. The strong Christians know the Bible, they know how to obey it and they know how to apply it to their lives. The weak Christians may know some Bible, but they either don't know how to apply it to their lives or they try to apply those teachings in ways that are not according to the Bible. That's the problem Paul now puts his attention to discussing.

Those that are weak in the faith (v 1) are those Christians who don't have a strong enough Bible knowledge to really practice their Christianity. **Strong Christians are not to doubt these weak brethren or judge their beliefs, but to accept them as brothers in Christ.**

Strong Christians believe we can eat all things, but weak Christians believe we can only eat herbs (v 2). What does this mean? The Jews (Leviticus 11) were taught that there were unclean and clean meats. They could eat the clean, but not the unclean. Many Jews became Christians in the first century, but they brought some of their old diet habits along with them. There's nothing wrong with having different diet habits, but these Jews were making their diet habits a part of the gospel and Paul is telling them that's not right. He's also telling strong Christians that they were not to judge those weak Christians' souls (vv 3,4). This sort of thinking even extended to certain days (v 5) like Passover.

We may have an opinion about something, but we cannot bind it on someone else.

Do we have a similar situation in religious thought today? Surely we do. Some people say Christmas is the exact day of Christ's birth when there is absolutely nothing in the Bible about the day on which Christ was born. Some people say that Christians can't eat pork and must worship God on Saturday instead of Sunday. Some people say Christians can't eat meat on certain days. Some say Christians can't even eat meat at all. Let's see what Paul teaches about this sort of thinking:

1. *“Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind”* (v 5).
2. There’s no harm in certain diet habits or days (v 6) as long as that person doesn’t make other Christians believe the way they do.
3. We belong to Jesus and that’s what’s important (vv 7,8)
4. We can’t judge our brother because we ourselves will be judged by Jesus (v 10) when every knee shall bow before Christ and we give an account of ourselves (vv 11,12)
5. Judging someone else makes them stumble (v 13)
6. Some people have a conscience problem with some things (v 14) and Christians should be patient with people who believe this way (v 15).
7. The important things of the Lord are not physical, but spiritual (vv 17,18)
8. All Christians are to have peace among ourselves (v 19).
9. Nothing is worth destroying peace in the kingdom/church (v 20), and sometimes maybe even strong Christians have to give a little (v 21).
10. Our faith is personal (v 22)
11. Our doubts (personal opinions) can be respected but not bound as truth (v 23).

Now, then, let’s look at another part of this problem. **Paul is not discussing things of gospel truth; he is discussing things of opinion.** There is room in the church for opinions, but there is no room for false doctrines!

When we think about the Lord’s church being united, we again think of 1 Corinthians 1:10 which teaches, *“Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be **no divisions among you**; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the **same mind and in the same judgment.**”*

When we teach just what the Bible says about salvation, names to call ourselves, worship, local church organization and knowledge, we will be united and opinions cannot be substituted for truth.

CHAPTER 15 Some Hard Things About Being a Christian

Paul teaches us that a Christian is one who has **trusted God** (faith), **turned from his sins** (repentance), **confessed** with his mouth that Jesus is the son of God (Acts 8:37) and been **baptized** into Christ (Romans 6:3,4 and also in Galatians 3:27). All of these things must be done by a sinner to be saved because these are what the Bible teaches us to do as our response to the grace of God. As we have seen, Christians are to live the Christian life if we want to go to heaven when we die.

Chapter 15 contains some strong teachings that many Christians find hard to put into practice. Why? Because too many people live just for themselves with no consideration for others. Paul shoots that devilish notion down here in this next-to-last chapter of Romans.

He teaches:

- † Strong Christians must keep in mind the weakness of other Christians who are not as strong (v 1) and not to please himself, but to remember others (v 2)
- † Even Christ, the all-powerful son of God, didn’t do what he wanted, but what he was told to do (John 12:48-50; Psalm 69:9)
- † The Old Testament exists for our learning and not our law (v 4)

- † Christians are to glorify God, being kind to one another and be in fellowship with one another (vv 5-7)
- † Christ was a Jew, but his work was to be for both Jew and Gentile (vv 8-12)
- † God will bless his children (v 13)

NOTE: What is the power of the Holy Spirit? Romans 1:16 says, *“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.”* The Holy Spirit works through the power that is in the Gospel.

- † Christians cannot have the grace of God (v 15) if they are hateful to one another (v 14)
- † Preachers must preach exactly what the Bible teaches (v 18)
- † The Holy Spirit did signs and wonders to confirm the gospel being preached (v 19)

NOTE: Hebrews 2:1-4 teaches, *“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him, God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”* The “word spoken by angels” was the **Old Testament** and the “so great salvation” is the **New Testament**. God gave his approval to the teachings of the New Testament by the miracles done by the Holy Spirit.

Remember: There is no new truth being sent from heaven, so there are no miracles being done today to confirm truth.

- † Paul preached in places where Jesus was unknown (v 20) and his many travels hindered him from going to Rome (v 22)
- † Paul’s next destination was Spain (v 24), but he had to go to Jerusalem first to take the money he had collected for the poor saints there (1 Corinthians 16:1-3), which thing he did in Acts 15:3
- † Gentile churches gave the money for Jewish Christians (v 26) and this was another reason that the gospel went to all the world (vv 27-29)
- † Paul wanted their prayers because there were many Jews in Judea that hated him (vv 30-32)

CHAPTER 16

Paul Says Good-bye to Many Friends

The church is made up of people and Paul was always very careful to remember those faithful Christians he had converted on his travels or whom he had met. Some of these people are mentioned in other places in the New Testament, but most of them are not. We can learn some lessons from a few that Paul mentions.

He mentions **Phebe**, a “servant of the church which is at Cenchrea.” (v 1) The word “servant” here is the same word that is translated “deacon” in 1 Timothy 3:8 and many teach that Phebe was a “deaconess.” Some churches today even have “deaconesses” as part of their staff. 1 Timothy 3:12 says, *“Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.”* Phebe could not have held the “office of deacon” (1 Timothy 3:10) because she could not be the “husband of one wife!” Christian women have their place in serving God, but it is not in a position of public spiritual leadership, an “office.”

He mentions **Priscilla** and **Aquila**, a husband and wife team that was valuable in the preaching of the gospel. In Acts 18:2,3 we learn that they were of the same craft as Paul (tentmakers) and that they had been run out of Rome by Emperor Claudius. During their work with Paul, they had even put their lives on the line because of their love for Jesus and for Paul (v 4). Since Paul said that the church also met in their house (v 5), that means they were back in Rome at the time of the writing of the book of Romans.

Andronicus and **Junia** (v 7) **Herodion**, **Lucius**, **Jason** and **Sosipater** (v 11) are the only people in the New Testament that are mentioned as being related to Paul. He calls them “my kinsmen” and Andronicus and Junia must also have been in prison with him. Sometimes it’s hard to convert people to Christ from our own families, and even the brothers of Jesus, **James**, **Joses**, **Simon** and **Judas**, did not believe in their brother until after his resurrection.

Paul calls several of these people “beloved” and that doesn’t mean any kind of physical attraction. The original word means “**my dearest friend.**”

Some commentators say “**Tryphena**” and “**Tryphosa**” (v 12) were twins, but that can’t be proven from this text. We need to watch out what commentators say because their books contain what they think about certain things. Commentaries are valuable, but are not the word of God.

In our language, “salute” would mean to “say hey to!” Verse 16 reads, “*Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.*”

Paul takes a side trip from mentioning folks to warn them about false teachers.

- When someone **divides the church** with false doctrine, they are to be marked (v 17)
- People who divide the church do not serve Jesus (v 18a)
- People who divide the church are smooth talkers, but are exactly what Jesus talked about in Matthew 7:15, “*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.*”
- The only way false teachers can be fought against is by the word of God and by faithful Christians living lives of obedience (v 19)

“And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen” (v 20). We do not know exactly what Paul meant by “shortly”. He may have been talking about their persecution, which would be over soon. What we do know is that Satan’s power **never lasts long** and is **never as strong as God’s power, the gospel**. Let’s remember that.

Timotheus (v 21) was Paul’s “son in the faith” (along with Titus), to whom Paul wrote two books, 1 and 2 Timothy.

Verse 22 says that Romans was written by a man named **Tertius** and this is the only time in the New Testament his name is mentioned. Tertius was the one to whom Paul dictated Romans and he served as Paul’s secretary at this time.

Erastus is mentioned as being the chamberlain of the city (v 23). Erastus is also mentioned in Acts 19:22 and 2 Timothy 4:20. 2 Timothy is the last book written by Paul, so Erastus was with Paul even to the end of his life. A chamberlain is an old word for “**treasurer.**”

And thus comes to an end the book of Romans, one of the greatest books ever written by any human being. We close as did Paul:

“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, 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: To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.”

THIS CONCLUDES
THE STUDY OF ROMANS

PLEASE DO THE TEST QUESTIONS
ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES
AND RETURN FOR GRADING

PLEASE DO NOT SEND THE WHOLE LESSON BACK

**TEST QUESTIONS
STUDIES IN ROMANS
PART 2**

YOUR NAME:

YOUR ADDRESS:

CITY/STATE/ZIP

WHERE DO YOU GO TO CHURCH?

Fill in the blanks

1. 2 Thessalonians 2:14, "Whereunto he _____ you by our _____ to the obtaining of the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ."
2. Colossians 2:14, "Blotting out the _____ of ordinances that was against us, which was _____ to us and took it out of the way, _____ it to his _____."
3. Acts 22:16, "And now, why _____ thou? _____ and be _____, and wash away thy _____, calling on the _____ of the Lord."
4. The gospel of _____ goes into a person's _____ and produces _____ by "hearing the word of God" (Romans 10:17).
5. Romans 11:22, "Behold, therefore the _____ and _____ of God; on them which _____, severity; but toward thee, _____, if thou _____ in his goodness; otherwise thou also shalt be _____ off."
6. When a person has a relationship with _____, he has a relationship with the _____ of Jesus, but not with a church that has been established by _____.
7. If Christians really get serious about living the Christian life, the _____ will be a better place in which to live and _____ won't have _____ and fighting in their midst.
8. Matthew 22:21, "Render therefore unto _____ the things that are Caesar's, but unto _____ the things that are God's."
9. 1 Corinthians 1:10, "Now I beseech you, brethren, in the _____ of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same _____, and that there be no _____ among you; but that ye be _____ joined together in the same _____ and in the same _____."

10. Matthew 7:15, "Beware of _____ prophets, which come to you in sheep's _____, but inwardly they are ravening _____."

Multiple choice (Circle the correct answer)

1. Before a sinner is baptized, he confesses **A** Christ as the son of God **B** His sins **C** Christ as the son of man
2. After the gospel went to both Jews and Gentiles, the Jews **A** Obeyed God everyone **B** Rejected the gospel **C** Stopped being Jews
3. If we want to know what God thinks about anything, we **A** Close our eyes and pray **B** Look for the answers in the Bible **C** Have no answer
4. Christians are citizens of how many kingdoms? **A** One **B** Two **C** Three
5. Aquila and Priscilla **A** Were early Christians **B** Two of Paul's companions **C** Both of these
6. Which is worse? **A** Knowledge without zeal **B** Zeal without knowledge **C** Both are not good
7. Punishing a murderer is called **A** Capital punishment **B** Suicide **C** Homicide

True false (Check the correct answer)

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|---|-----------------|
| 1. The seed is the word of God | T _____ F _____ |
| 2. Christians today take the Lord's supper on Saturday | T _____ F _____ |
| 3. Christ nailed the Old Testament to the cross | T _____ F _____ |
| 4. Paul did not love the Jews | T _____ F _____ |
| 5. Faith is produced in our hearts by hearing the word of God | T _____ F _____ |
| 6. Being baptized is also another way of calling on the name of the Lord | T _____ F _____ |
| 7. The gospel went to Gentiles first before the Jews | T _____ F _____ |
| 8. A person who has a relationship with Jesus has a relationship with Jesus' church | T _____ F _____ |
| 9. A person who has a true relationship with Jesus has a relationship with a church made by man | T _____ F _____ |
| 10. All people who want to be saved must hear, believe and obey the gospel | T _____ F _____ |
| 11. Christians do not have to pay taxes to the government | T _____ F _____ |
| 12. Christians have the right to break the law | T _____ F _____ |
| 13. When a Christian is hurt, he can hurt somebody back | T _____ F _____ |
| 14. Christians obey the civil government in order to avoid being punished | T _____ F _____ |
| 15. We ought to obey God rather than men | T _____ F _____ |
| 16. A Christian can be a soldier in a just cause | T _____ F _____ |
| 17. Christians cannot eat meat on Friday | T _____ F _____ |
| 18. A Christian who hates another Christian still has the grace of God | T _____ F _____ |
| 19. There is no new truth being sent from heaven because we have the Bible | T _____ F _____ |
| 20. Phebe was a deaconness | T _____ F _____ |
| 21. People who divide the church do not serve Jesus | T _____ F _____ |
| 22. Timothy and Titus were Paul's "sons in the faith" | T _____ F _____ |
| 23. False teachers are fought against by the word of God | T _____ F _____ |
| 24. Paul never mentioned anyone in his letters who was related to him | T _____ F _____ |
| 25. "The churches of Christ salute you" | T _____ F _____ |