

Bible Thoughts

with
P.H.A.Hopkins

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans

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bible-thoughts.co.uk

study@bible-thoughts.co.uk

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Introduction

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Romans.

WRITER. The Apostle Paul [Rom 1:1](#).

DATE. About A.D. 52. Romans is the sixth in order of time written by Paul, it was written from Corinth while he was on his third visit to that city. [2 Cor 13:1](#). The letter shows that he was hoping to visit Rome very soon followed by a visit to Spain [Rom 15:28](#).

THEME. The message of Romans is "the Gospel of God" [Rom 1:1](#), Paul shows that God is the only one who can meet man's spiritual needs, this is done through His Son Jesus. We are not only saved through Christ, but we also live through His power. [Col 2:6,7](#). Because God has "no respect of persons," He is not only "the God of the Jews," but "the God of the Gentiles also" Rom 2:11-3:29. Therefore, all the world must be guilty [Rom 3:19](#); [Rom 3:23](#). Paul goes on to explain that by God's Grace we can be made right with God.

Chapter 9-11 explain how the promises made to Israel link with the Gospel and inclusion of the Gentiles.

Rom 11:25-27. The key-phrase is "the righteousness of God" [Rom 1:17](#). The Letter, is in eight parts.

I. The introduction [Rom 1:1-17](#) .

II. The whole world is guilty before God, Rom 1:18-3:20.

IV. Being made right with God by faith, Gospel's answer for guilt, Rom 3:21-5:11.

V. Crucifixion with Christ, the resurrection life of Christ, and walking in the Spirit, Rom 5:12-8:13.

VI. What we get as a blessing because of the Gospel. [Rom 8:14-39](#).

VI. A reminder that the Gospel does not remove God's promises from Israel, Rom 9:1-11:36.

VII. Christian life and service, Rom 12:1-15:33.

VIII. Christian love going out to all. [Rom 16:1-27](#).

Chapter 1

1:1-17 Introduction.

1:1-6 Paul and the Message.

v1 Paul introduces himself as a "servant" of Jesus, his personal position, but also as an "Apostle," his official position. Set apart for the Good News of Jesus, [Col 1:15-17](#); [Heb 1:1-3](#) the message was given to him, [2 Cor 5:10](#), the message Paul received is divine in source - "the Gospel of God."

v2 God has promised it from the beginning.

v3 What was the message he had been given by God? It has all to do with His Son Jesus, who is Lord. Jesus was made a perfect man, by a miraculous birth, so that he could take the punishment Man should be taking. [Rom 5:6](#).

v4 Jesus showed completion of this work by rising from the dead, to show He was God's Son. God's power was shown by the action of the Holy Spirit in the resurrection. See v16 'the power of God.'

v5 Because of this we can receive God's Grace as I(Paul) did. God has made me a messenger to the world. [Rom 5:8](#). "According to our faith," is how God deals with our needs, He supplies the way, we just need to trust and believe.

v6,7 You have also been called by Jesus to this Grace of God.

v7,8 Tells us that this letter was for the Romans, who were mainly Gentiles but included a few Jews. They were loved of God, and God called them to be saints, note it was God who was choosing them to be saints. The "Grace of God," involves a love by God for which we did not deserve and He does not expect any return love, [Rom 5:8](#) that is God's grace, and this will give God's peace.

Paul thanks God for them in the name of Jesus and that their faith is told of everywhere in the churches. [Col 2:6,7](#).

v9 He is always praying for them.

v10 He is also praying that he will soon be visiting them.

v14 "I owe God" (debtor), we have an obligation to preach the message, [2 Cor 5:18-20](#).

v15 Paul was "ready," we can all be "willing," but need to be "ready."

v16 "Not ashamed" Paul loved to talk about the Gospel, it was about Jesus Christ. Through Him God's power works, giving salvation to all who believe. [1 Cor 1:18](#); [1 Cor 1:24](#). No wonder Paul was not ashamed.

It is important to note that this "power of God to salvation" is only for those who believe.

v18-3:20 All Men do Wrong things and God's war is against wrong.

v18 "Wrath of God revealed" God cannot accept wrong, evil, this verse tells us that He is angry with wrong things, it comes from the Devil and God's anger is against it. If men prefer to live a life of wrong then they must expect His anger on them. [John 3:36](#); [Rom 6:23](#).

It is worth noting that many preachers talk much about the "love of God" and chose not to mention "God's anger" against wrong. "Love is love" but He is also holy and pure and cannot accept wrong, sin, evil. Note He had to turn away from His Son when

he took on the sins of the world on the cross. [Matt 27:46](#).

v19-21 God has shown Himself through His creation, the invisible things, the created things, Psalm 19:1; His power, so man does not have an excuse. With all this knowledge men and women chose not to give Him the glory or thanks for what they had enjoyed (rain, sun, wind etc.) but thought that they were better. See [Rom 1:32](#).

Man does not need to have heard the Gospel and then turned away from the Gospel to be guilty, God is revealed through all things in the world, so no one will have an excuse, v20.

Cornelius, [Act 10:1ff](#) did not know about salvation through Jesus but knew there was a God and wanted to worship Him.

v22-23 But men and women thought they knew everything, but this action made them fools, in fact they have made their own gods of wood, metal, etc. Note, anything which takes the place of God in our lives means we have made it into a "god."

v24-32 *God gives man up to his evil.*

Worth reading [Gal 6:7](#) before looking at the following.

God gives man up to his evil desires:-

v24 Misuse of their bodies for evil actions.

v25 Worshiped everything and anything, especially themselves, but not God.

v26,27 Gave up natural affection of man & woman for homosexual (man with man) and lesbian (woman with woman) relationships.

v28 God gave them over to their own desires, removed any control of evil powers He may have been using.

v29-32 A list of what people have become, how they are living this life and encourage others. They even know of the judgement of God and death. [Rom 6:23](#).

Note that some of these evil conditions can exist in a religious church or group, "backbiters" means - someone who insults, slanders, 'hurts' or hatred with words. They are also full of pride, boasters, disobedient.

Read [2 Thess 2:7-12](#) to see what happens when God removes His control (Holy Spirit).

Chapter 2

v1-16 *People who Judge others compared with God's Judgement.*

Paul does not say if he is talking about the Jew or the Gentiles. This passage says that God will judge fairly, not considering if the person had been living under the Law of Moses or not.

v1-4 Men want to be judges and says "I cannot be guilty." Because they judge others, then they show how bad they are themselves. How can a man or woman be a judge when he / she is doing exactly the same thing.

Can any of us say we have not done one of the wrong things listed in Romans chapter 1? We even ignore all God's gifts and the way of repentance.

v5-11. God now examines how man behaves and judges him on these actions.

v5-6 All that man has done is to store up anger against God's Holy wishes and His righteousness. Note that it is individual punishment for "every man," v6.

v7 Eternal life is the reward for those who seek God.

v8-9 But those who do not seek God will receive the punishment. Both Jew & Gentile equally.

v10 A contrast with v8,9 "doeth evil" or "worketh good."

v11-14 God treats all equally, whether they have known God's Law or not. Because if you know the law then it will be used to judge you, but those who have not had the law have made their own laws out of what they felt was wrong and right, but in most cases these have become similar to God's law.

v15,16 Men and woman have a conscience, they know good and evil. So God can judge through Jesus and the Gospel.

This passage teaches how God will deal with those at the judgement who have never heard the Gospel.

v17-3:20 *The wrong things of Man.*

v17-23 The Jew begins to plead "Not guilty" using religion as an excuse for their wrong. They were even saying that because they had the Law they could teach others how to live. But they were the blind leading the blind, teaching others "do not steal" when they were stealing themselves. Not teaching themselves wrong and right. They were even boasting in the law and then dis-honouring God by breaking His Law.

v24 The Jew was also encouraging the non Jew to blaspheme God by the way the Jew was living.

v17-3:8 *The Law and the Jew.*

v25-29 What it means to be a true Jew. Paul shows that a Gentile (the uncircumcised) who observes or keeps the requirements of the law is in God's sight the same as the law keeping Jew (the circumcised). Paul stresses that this Gentile could be a judge of any Jew has not kept the law.

The Jew has the "outward sign" of God's chosen people, (circumcision) but it is the contents and behaviour of their hearts that God will judge. A true 'Jew' is from the inside, their heart, not the "outward sign."

Chapter 3

v1-8 *The sin of the Jew revealed.*

Paul now talks about objections which may come from the Jews.

v1 Is it worth being a Jew? Is it worth being circumcised?

v2 The "Oracles of God" are referring to the direct instructions from God. These must be of advantage to the Jew. See the following for other examples of use, [Acts 7:38](#) [1 Peter 4:11](#); [Heb 5:12](#).

v3 Some will not believe, does this destroy God's faithfulness in promises?

v4 Far from it says Paul. God is true, even though man is a liar. He quotes Psalm 51:4.

v5 Does our bad things bring out God's perfection? Does God do wrong when He punishes us? (Paul says he is speaking from a man's point of view).

v6 How can God punish the world if He cannot judge? God is Holy and must judge.

v7,8 Before, Paul showed that God's righteousness showed up against man's evil and wrong life, now he compares it with human lies. Paul says "if I tell you a lie, it will make people praise God for His truth," he then asks, "so why does God still judge me?"

Should I do wrong things so that good can come?"

In these two statements Paul is saying that God does not need the wrong things (sin) in man to show that He is God.

v9-20 *Both Jew and Gentile are under sin.*

Paul now concludes that what he has said agrees to the Old Testament teaching showing man's sin.

v9 Paul asks further questions, "are Jew's better than the rest?" Or "do we have anything to protect us from God?" Paul answers himself "That cannot be right, we have already proved all have done wrong things, and that must include the Jews."

v10-18 Paul now quotes various Old Testament scriptures. Showing the affect on people.

v10-12 [Psalm 14:1-3](#). No one is good.

v13 [Psalm 5:9](#); [Psalm 140:3](#), affects the throat,tongue,lips.

v14 [Psalm 10:7](#). The mouth.

v15-17 [Isaiah 59:7,8](#). The feet and behaviour.

v18 [Psalm 36:1](#). The eyes.

v19 By the "law" Paul must be referring to the Old Testament generally, to the various previous quotations from the "writings." We have no way of making ourselves right to the standard set by God.

v20 Paul appears to now directly refer to the Mosaic Law. God is perfect and by His Law we are "SIN" Note it is "SIN," not "SINS." Man is sin. The Law shows us what is wrong and right.

v21-31 *How we can be made right with God?*

v21 God's righteousness, (the righteousness given by God not His own perfection) is now visible without the use of the law, just as the prophets said He would. [Matt 5:17](#); [Matt 7:12](#); [Matt 11:13](#); [Matt 22:40](#).

v22-24 This righteousness of God is given to those who trust, have faith in Jesus. Just by believing, any one can be made right. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile in wrong life (sin). All have failed God's standard. Neither is there any difference in the way we can be made right, it is a gift given by God's Grace.

v25-28 *Being made right needs God's rightness.*

This is an action by God through His Son Jesus. It was not forced upon God by an outside force, He chose to do it Himself.

v25 Jesus has been used as a sacrifice (propitiation) to make each one of us acceptable to God, all we have to do now is believe in what Jesus has done. By believing in Jesus he is able to say that we have now been made right (righteous) with God. In God's mercy He had chosen to ignore the wrong life (sin) in the past.

v26 This action shows that God is just, perfect and right in all His actions. This action allows the forgiveness of our wrong (sinful) lives.

v27 Because of this action by God and Jesus we do not have any right to boast, there is no way of living our lives, by obeying the law, good behaviour etc. which can make us right in God, only faith in what He has done, we must accept His gift.

v28 "Works" whether using the law or just personal belief will only produce pride, it is a self centered life, but we are declared right simply by an act of faith, the law is not

involved, it is a personal commitment by each one of us.

v29-31 *Being made right (Justification) problems and answers.*

v29 It is God who makes the statement that we are made right by faith whether Jew or Gentile.

v29,30 Whether we are a Jew who has been circumcised or a Gentile who has not been circumcised, there is no difference because we are made right by FAITH by the ONE GOD.

v31 This act of faith does not destroy the law, because by the law we know what is right and wrong. We have actually proved that the law is right, it proves we were wrong because now we have been made right through faith in God's action and promise.

Chapter 4

Justification Illustrated.

Being made right by faith not works.

Paul's message that we can be made right by faith was not new. Christ is involved in the present state but when we look at the life of Abraham we see that he was made right also by his faith.

v1-5 God's dealing with Abraham.

v1-5 Paul asks a question, "what did our father Abraham find?" If Abraham could be made right by his "works" then he could boast, "look I did it, not God." But scripture tells us that Abraham believed and trusted God and this was credited to him as righteousness. ([Gen 15:6](#)). If we work then we are paid for what we do, not a favour but what is due, but if we do no work then any reward we get must be a gift given by grace.

So we see here that Paul is showing that by constant trust in and commitment to God are the basic requirements to being made right by God.

The Jews could not believe that God would forgive someone just by faith, because they could not accept Christ as the Messiah and His death to pay the price. The Jews just could not see that redemption was possible.

v6-8 David.

David also speaks in his Psalm (Psalm 32:1,2) that righteousness can be credited, put to the account of a man. This man had his sins forgiven, in place of a debt he could not pay, God gives, by grace, righteousness. [Phil 3:9](#)

v9-25 More on Abraham.

Paul now returns to Abraham.

Abraham was made the father of all who believe before God created the rite of circumcision as a sign of His covenant with His people. Abraham was credited with being made right by God before circumcision so circumcision was really a sign to Abraham that he had been made right by God. This means that you do not need circumcision to be made right, in fact Abraham was the father of the circumcised, the Jew, and the uncircumcised, the Gentiles, when they believe.

v12 We must note that Abraham is not really the father of those who only have the

outward sign of circumcision. The Jew had to have Abraham's faith as well as the sign. Just having the legalistic rite carried out did not make them right with God, the heart was also involved.

v13 The promise to Abraham that he would be heir to the world originally only applied to the Jews. [Gen 15:5,6](#); [Gen 22:15-18](#). but Paul has now pointed out that Abraham is also father to those who, through faith, have become right with God.

v14 If we believe that those who follow the law can be made right then faith is destroyed and any promises which need faith are also lost.

v15 The law must produce wrath from God, we are unable to keep God's standard, going on from that, where there is no law there can not be any wrong doing, you cannot break laws which do not exist.

v16 To be able to receive God's promises, given to those who were direct children of Abraham and those who are not Jews but believe as Abraham did, faith and belief is the only answer.

v17-25 God, the Controller of things Dead.

God promised Abraham a number of times that he would be the father of many nations. His last visit was a year before Isaac was born. ([Gen 17:1-5](#)) But Abraham and Sarah his wife were passed the age of having children, Abraham being 100 years old and Sarah, who was 90 years old and therefore was past child bearing age,(v19). Abraham still believed God, giving Him the glory, so God kept His promise with the birth of Isaac. Showing that God has the power to overcome the impossible, to bring life to the dead, and even create things which did not exist, (v17). Because of this faith, God has credited (Imputed) Abraham with righteousness,(v22).

v23-25 This act of faith was not just written for the sake of Abraham but for all who believed in the death and resurrection of Jesus. God handed Jesus over to take the punishment for all of our wrongs (sins, breaking of the Law of God). But then raised Jesus back to life, proving that we could be made right in the eye's of God when we believe and are made right, justified with God, and then given eternal life.

Chapter 5

v1-11 The Result of Justification.

Paul now looks at the blessings available from being made right with God (Justification).

God makes available all that is possible to someone when they are justified, but this does not mean they will know how to use all the resources available. A baby has the ability to become an adult but it takes time.

v1-5 What we have at Present, the benefits .

1) Two themes are given in this chapter "WE HAVE"v1,v2, and "WE SHALL BE" v9,v10.

v1 "Being justified," the original language indicates "Have been," the past. Justification is a single act, it does not grow with time.

2) "We have peace with God," Because of what Jesus has done for us. Note it says "have peace," present. [Eph 2:12-14](#). For us to have peace **WITH** God, Christ took on the agony of death in our place, see Isaiah 53.

See also [John 14:27](#) & [John 16:33](#) for other "Peace."

3) v2 "We have access by faith," [Heb 10:19,20](#); [Eph 3:12](#).

4) "Into His Grace." Even though we are guilty before God, He has done this for us even though we do not deserve it. Because of His Grace we are able to receive the gifts, not for anything we have done. We must humble ourselves when we think about these things. [2 Cor 9:8](#).

5) Standing in God's presence. [Heb 10:19,20](#); [Compare Psalm 1:5](#). A believer can now boldly stand in God's presence.

6) v2 "Rejoice in Glory of God." We shall be like Him. [1 John 3:2](#); [Rom 8:29](#); [Colossians 3:1-4](#); God works in us so we can be glorified with His Son. [Eph 2:10](#).

7) v3-v5 "Glory in Tribulation (testing)" Note it does not say 'in spite of tribulation.' Thank God for your tribulation. [Rom 8:28-29](#); Suffering [Rom 8:17,18](#); [2 Cor 4:17,18](#). God uses trials to make us better in hope and faith and to give glory to God, not be ashamed of Him v5. He then uses us to spread His love in the world. v5

v6-11 *Our Future security.*

The word used for "Love" is "agape," a love that does not expect a response from the one being loved. See v8.

v6-8 Proof of this love is given here.

v9,10 Because we have been justified we are saved from the wrath of God. [John 3:36](#) note the "much more" v9. see also [Rom 8:32](#); [5:12-21](#) *Condemnation verses Justification*.

Paul now looks at the 1st Adam and the last "Adam."

v12 Adam chose to disobey God and sin entered into the world, as a result death also came into the world.

This has passed on to us all in the human race and the world. Good or bad, all will die physically. Only those who are believers and alive at the second coming of the Lord Jesus will not see physical death. [1 Thess 4:13-18](#).

v13-21 Adam sinned by disobeying God. From Adam to Moses death existed for Man. The people of the world carried the 'mark of sin,' but they had no laws, no standard set. God had not set the standard so He will have to judge by how each person lived their life, their conscience. For example, compare Noah's life and relationship with God with the world at the time.

During this time there is no mention of a "sin offering" being made by anyone.

When God gave the 10 commandments He then set the standard, so men knew when they had broken His standard and so sinned, [Rom 2:12-15](#). But having set the standard God then provided a way of payment for wrong lives, atonement.

God's Word does not tell us much about how He will judge those who never heard the message, but [Luke 12:47,48](#) and [Rev 20:11,12](#) gives some indication how He will judge. However, no one can be saved by their works.

From man's point of view this action by God may seem unfair. Some may say "why should I be guilty because of Adam's failure?" Well, examine your life and others you know, do you know anyone who has never done wrong in some way? It is part of our nature because we are born from Adam, physically and spiritually.

There also seems another unfair situation, God decided that only one man has to pay the price for Adam and the worlds wrong - Jesus, is that fair?

The words "reign" (rule as a king) or "reigned" often appear in these verses. "Death Reigned," v14, 17, why? Because Adam's sin reigned, v21. Then "Grace reigns," v21, through the obedience of Jesus to His Father. This act now allows us to reign in life by Jesus, v17.

v18,19 All men are affected by the one disobedience of Adam and the one righteous action by Jesus, a free gift.

v20,21 The Law still has a use, it is still showing us our wrong actions in life, but this allowed God to show more grace, as a believer can ask for forgiveness for failing.

Chapter 6

ch.6 to ch.8. How we are "Set Apart" for God (Sanctified).

The daily walk of the Christian is the subjects of chapters 6,7 and 8.

Romans ch.6 looks at the life of victory and peace. This does not mean we will not have times of testing and trials, but we can come through if we hand it all to the Lord. Paul shows us how God has dealt with the wrongs (sins) of man in ch.1 to ch.5. [Heb 2:9-14](#); [Heb 10:10](#).

Paul ended [Rom 5:20](#) with "Grace will abound" He now asks "Shall we do wrong to our hearts content to get more grace?" God's grace is sufficient to cover any sin but this action will take God for granted. We do not have the right to live just as we want. It is also important to note that Paul is actually using the word sin as "a sinful nature," not individual acts of sins. We have a new life, a new nature through Jesus, we should not want to live our old life, "God forbid" (unthinkable) v2. [2 Peter 1:3,4](#) We still have the old nature but we can let Jesus control it. [Gal 5:17](#).

v3,v4 Identification with Christ into His death and burial. 1 [Cor 12:13](#); [Gal 2:20](#).

v2-11 Why? We are dead to wrong things (sin), before salvation we are controlled by sin, but now we are dead to sin. [Gal 5:1](#); [Gal 3:27](#), part of Christ. This is part of the 'package' which comes with salvation, we do not need to work for it. [1 John 3:9](#); [2 Cor 5:17](#); [Col 1:13](#) Note: we can still do wrong, we still have our old nature, it is still part of us.

Think of the story of Israel leaving Egypt in Exodus, Egypt did not cease to exist, but the Israelites were not now under its control.

v12 - 7:6 Sanctification by grace and legalization.

Paul now tells us to "Let not" v12, "yield" v13, "know" v3,6,9,16.

Some take this chapter to say we are sinless, we must not think we are sinless and perfect, [1 John 1:8](#); [Rom 3:23](#).

Paul is teaching 'Christian maturity.' The reference to "know" in these verses indicated that we may not understand these basic doctrinal facts. [Eph 1:18,19](#); [Heb 2:1](#), we should not try to imitate Christ, just take what he has made available to us.

v12-23 Set apart and freedom.

Who controls your life now? We have responsibilities.

v12 Our responsibility, note it is "YOU"(ye) not "us," it is a personal action. We must say "no to temptation, yes to Christ."

v13 Paul warns us about how we should live our new life, even how we use our hands and feet and so on, "members as instruments of unrighteousness." We should avoid

doing anything which is wrong. The thoughts and instructions given in v11 and v12 are the answer to the warnings in v13, if Jesus is the centre of your life the rest will follow and you will be victorious.

Who are we giving (yielding) into? We must hand it all to God. He now owns us, He paid the price, through Jesus, for each one of us. [1 Cor 6:13b](#); [Gal 5:16](#); [Rom 12:1](#); [Col 3:1-3](#).

We have the Holy Spirit inside us to help us do this. [Phil 2:13](#). [2 Cor 5:17](#); [Eph 2:10](#); [Col 3:10](#)

Our sin nature is not dead and will be with us until we die physically, so we must keep control of it with God's help. [James 1:14-16](#); [Eph 4:22-24](#); [Matt 16:24](#).

Note that v13 is a giving (yielding) to God, not to some task He has given us, this will come later. Only when we have given into His Will for us will He let us work for Him. v14 The grace of God breaks the power of sin, the power of God is more than able to control our wrong desires and nature.

v15 Paul now asks another question, because we are now under grace and not the law can we ignore the law all together? [Rom 6:1](#). Anyone asking question this does not understand God's Love and Grace for us, a Christian is not under the condemnation due to the Law but is now in liberty from the Law through Christ, this should stop us wanting to do wrong things. If you continue to do wrong things, sin and live a life unworthy of God and you are supposed to be saved, then it shows who your 'master' is, v16. Christ should be our only Lord. Who is your master? [Gal 5:1](#).

We can only serve one master v17-20, freed from wrong and become servants, free willed slaves of things which are right with God (righteousness).

v21,22 We see the different results, or fruits, by serving the two different masters, God or Satan. There are many who say they *believe in* Christ but have never turned their lives over to Him. They appeared to have made a choice for Jesus but their lives show no desire to live godly life afterwards.

v23 Paul reminds us that salvation is a gift through Jesus, there is no other way.

Chapter 7

v1-25 Victory through delivery from the Law.

Romans 7 deals with "We are not under the Law."

The word "Law" appears many times in chapter 7, these are referring to the Old Testament Law.

The wrong way of life (Sinful) and the Law are closely connected [1 Cor 15:56](#).

The Law sets the limits we must not pass, but the Law gives no power to obey the Law, so we can only receive condemnation.

Note how many times "I, me, my, myself" appear in this chapter. It is a "personal chapter," all about 'self.'

The word "law" appears over 18 times in this chapter. v1 seems to conflict with [Rom 6:14](#).

v1-6 The Law and the Christian, we have died to the Law.

v2-6 Paul uses an illustration from the Old Testament to show how a Christian's life relates to the Law.

In a marriage the two people become one, the laws of marriage will control until one of the people die's. The woman represents a person who was born under the condemnation of the Law (*officially said to be unfit for use by the Law*), this is like her first husband. The only way she could escape the marriage law was for her first husband to die. This is a picture of a Christian being made free through the death of Christ, the 'first life' has died and allowed marriage to Christ.

Many people try to become holy in the Christian life by keeping the Law, this is spiritual adultery. We died to the Law with Christ. If it was a "divorce" then the "Old Husband" would still be alive and keep affecting their life. But it was "death," total separation from the Law, now we are raised to a new life, able to put Christ first in every way.

If we want to live our lives in the shadow of the Law then we must live under the condemnation of the Law. When God joined us to Christ He cut us loose from the Law because Jesus has taken the condemnation upon Himself. [Rom 8:1](#).

It is good to note that "we can bring 'fruit' unto God," v4, showing we are not physically dead and that we are still able to work and live for God.

v7-25 The Law and wrong(sin), how to correct errors.

v7-14 Grace and the Law.

v1 Perhaps it may look to you as if sin and the Law are the same thing, this cannot be true. The Law tells us when we have done wrong things (sinned). Paul said that he would not have felt guilty of wanting things (lusting) except the Law said "do not covet (desire or want other peoples property)." Without the Law I was alive but as soon as I heard the Law I came under its condemnation, I died.

The Law does not cause sin, but when we know God's standard, the Law, then because by our nature we do not wish to obey Him we break His Law. The Law shows sin's true nature, disobedience of God.

Our sin nature may be "a sleep" until we hear and know of the Law, then it makes us "wake up" and act, this is why Paul said in v9 "when the commandment came, sin revived and I died."

v14-25 The Law and our nature.

v12 Paul now points out that because of the source of the Law, God, the effect of the law is spiritual. This makes us ask "if the law is spiritual why does it not make a person holy who obey it?" It is not the fault of the Law; it is due to our nature v14, "we are 'carnal' sold under sin."

[1 Cor 2:14](#); [1 Cor 3:1-3](#); [Rom 6:11-13](#); [1 Cor 2:15,16](#).

v15 Paul has found that he is unable to do the right things, the 'new man' is for ever being stopped by the old 'I' [Gal 5:17](#). We died **to** the old nature, it should not still control us, but the old nature has not died, we will have it until we go to be with the Lord. Read [Rom 6:1-10](#), note v11, "is it true for you?" God's law is holy and perfect, v12.

v13 Does this mean that something which is holy, the law, is dangerous. No, sin is doing just what it was meant to do, using the apparent holiness of the law, it cause me to know what was sin and do it.

v18-23 We all still have this wrong (sinful) nature, we do not have the power to win on our own. Just because we are dead to the Law and sin does not mean we will not be

tempted, sin and temptation are still very much alive. Please note that God may test us to make us grow, these **may** appear as temptations but are specially setup just for you by God.

v25 ***Victory through Jesus.***

v24 Paul asks "what's the use?" Note Paul asks "who" not "what" can save me?).

v25 Paul knows the answer, "Jesus can help me" We can have victory through Jesus. This Paul had already explained in Romans 6.

Chapter 8

v1-25 True Sanctification

v1-4 The New Law.

These verses show us a new life, [Col 1:27,29](#); [Col 3:1-3](#) shows this new life principle. Christ lives in us, through the Holy Spirit, to control us. The Holy Spirit is mentioned over 20 times in this chapter, and "I" not mentioned once.

The "law" referred to in these verses is not the Law of Moses but the basic control of the believer by the Holy Spirit. [Phil 2:13](#).

v1 "therefore" refers back to previous chapters, where we have seen that we are all under Gods wrath unless we know Jesus as Saviour, who took God's wrath for us.

"We are in Jesus," there is no condemnation (convict, find guilty, judgement) now, when we stand before God, all He can see is the blood of Jesus covering our sins, we are free from law of sin and death. v2.

What happens if we commit wrong after this? [1 John 1:9](#) tells us what to do. We need to confess all our wrong life (sins) to Him, we are convicted but not condemned.

v2 The Law(Spirit) of God has overcome all other laws.

v3,4 Because of our weak nature the "Law" could not make us right with God, so He sent His Son, as a sinless God/Man, human, so that the demands of the Law - death, could be carried out and we could be made right through the Spirit. [Phil 2:6-8](#); [2 Cor 5:21](#).

v4 We have a new walk, "walking" may be 'slow' and even have stumbles, just like a child learning to walk, we need to learn to give our life over to the Spirit. [Gal 5:16,17](#).

v5-12 New Victory.

The key to this is "in Christ Jesus" v2, but we need to do our part, we need to choose not to let the sins of the world reign in our life, and choose instead to hand it to the Lord. God will do all that is needed once you have handed it to God.

v5-9 People who have the old nature are controlled by their old nature, they are not interested in pleasing God in any way. To be "carnally minded" (of the flesh) is actually against God. [Eph 2:1,2](#). Paul had to address the Corinthians as "carnal believers" [1 Cor 3:1-4](#). though normally a 'carnal person' will be unsaved.

The opposite is true, the born again is under the Spirit, so will want to have interests and habits which are pleasing to God.

v9 This is an important verse, it states that the Holy Spirit lives in the saved person, therefore without the Spirit we are not His.

The Father also lives in the believer through the Holy Spirit, [John 14:20,22,23](#); [John 17:21,23](#).

v10 If Christ be in you the things of the world will not be attractive and gives way to things which are right in the eye's of God (righteousness).

Some people teach that the Holy Spirit comes into a believer after the time of salvation, "a second work of grace," these verse say, "no Spirit, not saved, not a Christian." The Spirit must enter at the time of salvation. However it might be a long time before the Spirit has full control as that depends upon us.

v11 appears to looking to the future resurrection, but it can also be talking of a new life right now, a life he can use to glorify God. [2 Cor 5:17](#).

v12 Our debt to the old life has ended, we owe it nothing.

v13 "Through the Spirit," this shows a definite act of our will by us, a step of faith. What happens if we do not turn our temptations over to the Holy Spirit and so fail and do wrong? see [1 John 2:1](#) for the answer.

v14-18 Tells us that we have been adopted into the family of God, heirs to all He owns. v14 refers to "sons," v16 to "children." The title 'Son's shows a position of grown up, maturity. Children, at the time of Paul's writing, are part of the family, heirs, but are young and do not know all things, they need teaching.

They are "led to be sons of God," v14. This must mean "led to grow up spiritually, to mature" as the Holy Spirit does not lead you to salvation. Note that discipline may be different between a child and a son. God may deal differently to the two different levels of maturity on failure.

v15 We do not have to fear the Law anymore, God has made us free, we can now talk to God the same way as we are able to talk to our earthly fathers. We will obey God because we love, not fear Him. [2 Tim 1:7](#); [1 John 4:18](#).

v16 The Spirit confirms that we are the children of God when it comes in contact with our spirit, what a promise, what an assurance.

v17,v18 "Suffering" does not necessarily mean physical suffering but other types of suffering such as 'shame for Christ's sake' [2 Tim 3:12](#). But what ever we suffer for Him it will lead to victory, glory together. [2 Tim 2:11,12](#).

v18-25 Victory surrounded by problems.

v19-v22 Everything in nature (creature) is being held by corruption, because Man is still under the law of death. v21 tells us that nature will also be delivered from this corruption. This will all change into glory in the future when God sets up the eternal new world for His adopted children.

Even though we have a corruptible body we have the first fruits of the Spirits power in us, [Eph 1:13,14](#). We can have victory even now until He calls us home. [1 Cor 15:51-53](#); [Phil 3:20,21](#).

v26-39 God at work in us.

These verses show how the three persons of the God head (Trinity) are involved in working in our life.

The Holy Spirit intercedes in us v26,27, He knows our limitations, guides us in what we need to pray for and how we ought to pray. Showing us and making sure we seek the Will of God in all we pray for.

Christ intercedes for us v33,34. [1 John 2:1](#); [Heb 4:14-16](#); [Heb 7:24,25](#).

The Father provides for us v28-32. God the Father cares for us, note v28, God gives total victory"we know,"there are no conditions. Consider [1 Cor 10:13](#) [James 4:6-8](#).

v26-27 Power in True Prayer.

v28 Refers to all born again Christians, they have been called for a part of God's plan, that special purpose talked about in v29, to become the image of His Son.

Note that all the actions listed in v28 are in the past tense, this means that in the eye's of God His children are already glorified.

It is difficult for us, who live in time, to understand that God knows the future, before we were born He knew we would choose to follow Him, we are already present in His heart and mind. God can not only see the beginning but the end as well.

v29 "Predestinate," God has a plan for each and He will make sure we reach it, [Phil 1:6](#); [1 John 3:1-3](#).

v30 How God's plan works, to Him it is already finished, nothing is overlooked or lost, [Phil 1:6](#).

v31-34 Assurance.

Paul asks 4 questions, and gives the answers to each.

v31 Who can be against us?

v33 Who shall lay anything to the charge against God's elect? Satan cannot accuse, God has made us right.

v34 Who is he that condemns? Christ has paid the debt, Satan has lost.

v35-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? NOTHING CAN.

v32 God has invested everything in us, He sent His own Son to take the punishment. If He was willing to do this He will make sure it is not wasted in any way. What love has been and is still being shown for us. v34,35,37. Look at [Numbers 23:19](#); [Eph 1:13](#), sealed; [John 10:27-29](#), not lost.

v32 He will provide all things we need.

v36,37 reminds us of what dangerous situations a Christian can be in but v37 tells us that we can be **MORE THAN** conquerors (winners) anything **through** our God.

We should give glory to God for all the testing He sends, it will help us grow more like Christ, as God has planned. We can win anything through God.

v38,39 There is no way we can be lost from God's hand.

Chapter 9

v1-13 God's Purpose in Israel

Paul now turns to the nation of Israel and their response to the coming of Christ. In the past God tended to treat the Jews as a nation and not as individual people, when Jesus came some people believed but the nation as a whole rejected Him. The nation was looking for a Messiah who would be a king to lead them from world powers.

So God has set aside, for a while, the nation of Israel and has gone into the world (the Gentiles) with His offer of love and Grace. God will also set aside the world if they reject Him.

Romans chapter 9 deals with Israel's past and what God has done with the nation.

v1-3 Paul is very sad for his people the Jews. Paul was of the tribe of Benjamin, [Phil 3:5](#). Paul seems to have the same sadness for the Jews as Jesus had, [Matt 23:37](#). Paul's deep concern for their spiritual need must be Spirit controlled, full of love, [Rom 5:5](#); [2 Cor 5:14](#).

9:4,5 *Blessings given to the Jews.*

v4 Adoption. The whole nation, not just those who believed, [Gen 12:3](#). Abraham and his descendants held a special place with God, [Deut 14:2](#). God planned to use this nation to provide the means of salvation for the world through Christ being born and His death.

v4 Glory. The special way God showed Himself to Israel, for example, the Pillar of fire bringing them out of Egypt, Glory filled the temple.

v4 The Covenants, Israel received a number of covenants but four were dependant upon God.

1) Abrahamic Covenant, [Gen 12:1-3](#). A promised land and the coming of the Saviour.

2) Palestinian Covenant, [Deut 30](#): The land.

3) Davidic Covenant [2 Samuel 7](#): The Seed.

4) New Covenant [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#): The Blessings.

Covenants which required the people to do something were:

Mosaic Covenant, the Law, the divine standard, had to be obeyed or suffer the punishment. Note [Gal 3:19](#), "It was added because of transgressions until the Seed should come to whom the promise was made;" Added to the promise until Jesus came.

v4 The Service of God. The sacrifices, allowing the priest to come into the presence of God. All the various sacrifices pointed to the coming Messiah. Note John's reaction, [John 1:29](#).

v4 The Promises.

v5 The Fathers. 4000 years of ancestry, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon all had some affect on the world today.

v5 The blessing of the Christ the Messiah who physically came into the world through their nation.

v6-24 *God's purpose.*

v6 Just because a person is born of Israel, a Jew, does not mean he/she will benefit from the promised blessings. The Jews thought that because they were descendent's of Abraham, they would not be cursed by God, [John 8:36-38](#). This reminds us that your relationship with God does not depend upon your parents. Each person has to seek forgiveness through Christ.

v7-10 Isaac was born as part of God's plan but needed great faith by Abraham, unfortunately he tried to help God's plan along, ([Gen 16:1-16](#)). God had planned for the descendent's to come through Isaac but it was necessary for Abraham to believe before Isaac was born, just like we have to believe for our salvation. v8 Paul points out the difference between those born of the flesh and those born according to the promise. You cannot automatically become children of God.

v10,11 Some Jews might have replied "We are Children of Isaac, so God will not reject us." Paul said that God had already made a choice between Isaac's two sons before they had been born, not based upon the sons behaviour in any way.

v12,13, "The older will be submissive to the younger," Gen 25:23. These verses do not indicate selection for salvation, rather, selection for the role in God's plans, Esau could have sort God's blessing, but he rejected Him. Just as Esau was rejected so God has rejected the Jews and taken the Gentiles during this present time.

v14 Can God be unrighteous because He made a choice which was not the way man

would chose? That's not possible, God always make the correct decision.

v15 God's qualities are shown in this verse. He is sovereign.

This statement came after Israel's sin of the Golden calf, [Ex 33:19](#). God could have destroyed the nation at this point, [Exodus 32:10](#). It was only Moses action which made God spare them. [Exodus 32:11ff](#).

v16 No one has claim on God's mercy. Salvation is offered to all, God will never send anyone to hell, the person has to reject the offer of salvation through Jesus, by this rejection the person sends themselves to hell.

v17 The Pharaoh, which Moses dealt with, was raised up by God to the position of power so that God could show his power to the world. If the man had been in charge of a small village he would have still been against God in his attitude, that would not have changed.

v18 Therefore God is free to choose what to do. If you look at the story in Exodus, Pharaoh hardened his own heart before God affected him, [James 1:13](#). Consider [Rom 1:24-28](#).

v19-24 A question which comes from this is "This does not make sense, why did God still find fault in Pharaoh?" Paul answers "Why do you question God? Does the pot have the right to question the potter who made the 'pot' this shape." The Potter knows why one is made beautiful for show and another for dirty work. The same applies to how God's wrath is poured out. This applies to both Jew and Gentile. v22 "ripe for destruction," Man rejected God in the garden of Eden, He could have destroyed him then but in His mercy provided a way back to Him.

v25,26 Paul quotes from [Hosea 2:23](#), originally to the 10 tribes who had departed from serving God, so they had become like Gentiles in the way God treated them. But God promised He would one day call them His children.

v27,28 Paul now looks at Isaiah's testimony, [Is 10:22,23](#). A small number will be saved, The passage also suggests time may be cut, v28.

v29 God has left a small group who love Him, [Is 1:9](#), if not Israel would have been destroyed.

v30 Because Israel rejected the Gentiles have now been able, by faith, to be made right with God.

v31,32 Because they thought that by keeping the Law, they thought that they would be made right, and did not need Christ, they found Him a "Stumbling Block" and rejected Him. However, it is impossible to fill the requirements of the Law and so it resulted in the rejection of Christ and crucifixion.

Chapter 10

Though Israel, as a nation had rejected God, individuals were seeking Him, Ch. 10 deals with these.

v1-3 Israel did not understand God's righteousness.

v1 Paul is concerned for his people, praying for their salvation.

v2,3 They had much zeal(enthusiasm) for God but had no real knowledge of Him. All were trying to make their own righteousness and not searching for God's righteousness. They had 'stumbled' at the way Jesus had appeared as the 'Christ' and now knew

nothing of God's gifts.

v4-21 *God's righteousness is available.*

v4,5 What Christ is and who will gain by this? Christ is the end of the law. The Jews were proud of keeping the Law, so saw no need to receive the gift of God through Jesus. By His death and resurrection Jesus came to fulfil the purpose of the Law, [1 Cor 1:30](#). He became righteousness to all who believe. [Rom 3:25,26](#).

v5 The Jew tried to live by the law and make himself righteous, but it was impossible. v6-8 Shows the finished work of Christ, we do not need to seek anyone to stand before God for us, all we need to do is accept the offer, the gift of salvation.

v9,10,13 lists the things required for real salvation. :

v9 **Believe:** It must be from the heart. Note we have to believe that not only did He died for us but that God raised Him again, [Rom 4:24,25](#). Resurrection is proof that Christ completed the work and sin can be taken away.

v9 **Confess:** We need to show that we believe in what Jesus has done, confess, admit that He is Lord of our life.

Salvation is more than forgiveness, it is a new life, [Eph 2:1,5,6](#); [1 John 5:12](#); [2 Peter 1:3](#). If all we received was forgiveness when we believed then we would still die. No, we need a life which is victorious over sin. Confession with the mouth and not believe in your heart does not lead to salvation.

v13,14 **Call:** All can be saved, just call, anyone can do it, v12. Note v13 says "call on Lord." We must admit He is Lord.

His workmanship, [Eph 2:10](#); Our Life [Col 3:4](#); [John 14:6](#). Salvation is [Col 1:27](#).

v14-21 *Our Responsibility.*

v14,15 How shall they call on the Lord if not told? We need to live a life which makes other desire the Lord. [1 Peter 3:15](#); [2 Cor 5:18,20](#).

How shall they hear unless we tell them?

How shall they hear without a Preacher?

How shall they preach unless sent?

Have you been called to take the message of salvation? God has chosen to use His children to take the message of salvation to the world.

v17 A very important statement. Explains how one gets faith. God always works by faith, [Rom 1:17](#); [Gal 3:11](#); [Heb 10:38](#).

Do others see Christ in us? Do we allow God to work through us?

v18-21 Israel had been given the messengers of God, they had heard the message from God, why had they not taken any notice?

Paul asks "why was this? Did they not listen?" Paul response is "No, they listened alright." Paul quotes Psalm 19:4.

Paul asks a second question. "Did they not know? Not understand?"

No, they had been told and knew, starting with Moses."

The answer is that they just did not want to hear or know, so God turned to the Gentile nations, who were listening and seeking Him.

Chapter 11

God wanted a special people which He could use to show, to reveal Himself to the world, but the Jews had not taken the message to the world as God had wanted, in fact

they wanted to keep it to themselves. Paul had been questioned when he had taken the message to the Gentiles, [Act 15](#). The Jews had failed in their task and worship, so God had set them aside for a while and was now taking the message directly to the Gentiles.

However the Jewish nation will be restored in God's programme, this is what Romans 11 is about.

v1 Paul asks a question, has God rejected His people?

Paul now shows that:

1) there is a present election (group) showing they are not set aside v1-10.

2) There will be a future turning back, v11-24.

3) There will be a final salvation of Israel, v25-32.

There are many passages and stories in the Bible which show just how determined God is to keep His chosen nation and people, e.g., [Jeremiah 31](#).

If you look at the history of the Jewish nation they have been scattered, persecuted, murdered. Nations have done their best to destroy them yet still they exist. This goes back to [Gen 12:2](#), the original covenant, God promised a nation, if they ceased to exist God has failed.

God knew how Israel, as a nation, would reject Him, but also that many individuals would still seek Him.

v1-5 Paul reminds us of the story of Elijah where even under those conditions God still had people who loved Him, and still now there is "a remnant (small group) who by grace" are mine, [1 Kings 19:8-18](#). There is now neither Jew or Gentile under Christ so these Jewish believers have become part of the Bride of Christ, [Eph 2:14-18](#).

v1 Reminds us that the Jewish nation are "still His people." There are some people who believe that the Jews have been replaced as God's chosen people, that the Church will inherit Israel's promises, scripture does not agree with this. v5-7; [Rom 11:25,26](#); [Zechariah 13:8,9](#). What is happening to the Jewish nation in the world does not show this either, since 1948 the nation has returned to the promised land, not because of a turning to Christ but because they wanted their land as God promised.

Result of unbelief.

v7-11 A turning away from the truth. They rejected God's Son, so God 'set them aside' to work with the Gentiles.

v11 [Rom 11:25](#); [John 1:11-13](#). Because the Jews rejected Jesus and crucified him salvation was offered to all the world.

v11,12,15. Make Jews jealous. When Israel sees what God is doing with and through the Gentiles who are seeking Him they will turn to Him. Does your life reflect the Love of God?

v15-21 Paul uses an olive tree as an example to send a warning to the Gentile believers. Because of the rejection of the Jews, the Gentile believers (wild olives v17) have become grafted into the main tree, but they must not become arrogant (think they are more important than they are) towards the natural branches (the Jew), Look at [John 15:1-5](#) Israel is still the 'root.'

The Gentile believer has now been given the task of spreading the Gospel, do not fail. Note v20,21 they were 'set aside' because of unbelief, be careful we do not fail the same way. Read what Jesus said about the churches in [Revelation Chapter 3](#), especial-

ly the Laodicean church which is thought to represent the church of today, [Rev 3:14-22](#). *"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot;"*

v22 God's severity against Israel. God has done this, He allowed the temple to be destroyed so stopping them worshiping and then scattered the nation around the world until 1948.

v23,v24 If they believe, then God will graft them back into His 'root' and they will become very fruitful.

v25-32 Blindness of Israel is for a period, "for the time of the Gentiles," [Luke 21:24-28](#) but they will be restored at the return of Christ, ([Deut 30:3-8](#)). This is all future, but the return of Christ could be today!!

v33-36 This is a wonderful prayer of thanks to God for what He has done.

v33 Who knows the mind of God? Who helps guide Him?

v35 Who gets more from God than he gives to God?

v36 Glory to God by everything.

Chapter 12

v1,2 Our relationship to God.

Once we understand the truths of the previous chapters of Romans and we take on these truths in our life, then our spiritual life should become an outflow of service for God. When Christ enters our lives He tries to make us more like Him. [Phil 2:12,13](#); [Heb 13:21](#).

Paul is speaking to believers as he calls them "brethren," only believers can do the actions given in the following chapter.

Paul calls us to give our bodies, our life, our all to the service of God.

v1 "Present your bodies" 'present' means yield, give up, hand over, a **continuous action** rather than a **once only** action, the believer is to give all his/her abilities, desires, actions to God, they do this because they have been set apart for God (consecrated).

This is not our old nature bodies, no, it is the newly purchase by Christ body, in which the Holy Spirit lives, [1 Cor 6:19,20](#). If we do not do this then we are actually keeping stolen property, Jesus has already paid for it and your 'body' belongs to Him.

Why does God ask this of us? God is omnipresent (everywhere) but He needs our bodies, all of our life to show, to reveal Himself on earth.

"A living sacrifice" is a 'conflict,' because 'a sacrifice' means death, God wants our bodies, dead to sin but alive to God. It has also got to be 'acceptable,' nothing less than total, complete surrender (handing over), [Rom 5:1-6](#); [2 Cor 5:14,15](#). We cannot serve two master. Note also we will all one day have to give an 'account' for our actions (the way we lived). [2 Cor 5:9-11](#).

It is to be a "holy sacrifice" v1, a complete break with the past. God only.

A "reasonable service." It is expected of us.

v2 "Not conformed to this world," This is a continuous action, do not let the world shape you as it wants. The world does not want believers, [John 15:19](#). The world hates things of God, [John 17:14](#); [1 John 3:1-3](#); [Col 3:1-3](#).

v2 It is not possible to know the Will of God until you present yourself in total surrender. If we do this then He will reveal His Will for us, a step at a time, as He knows we

need it. [Rom 8:28,29](#).

v3-21 *Our relationship with others.*

v3-6 Paul starts this section with a reminder that we have each been given different gifts, this has been done as God has seen our faith increase, He then knows that we are able to use these gifts for His glory and not our self. v3b also shows that 'Faith' is a gift from God.

God has given us different gifts as the 'Body (the church) of Christ' needs, [Eph 4:11-13](#); [1 Cor 12:4-7](#). Unfortunately, many believers seek to get advantages or power from the Gifts God has given, misusing them. Paul tells us to not to forget the gifts are a gift of Grace from God, [1 Cor 12:11](#). Remember we will all have to explain our use of our gifts, [2 Cor 5:9,10](#).

v6-8 *The Gifts.*

In this chapter 7 gifts of grace are mentioned.

v6 Prophecy: This is not for telling the future but the presentation of God's truth to the people.

v7 Ministry: administration of the churches work.

v7 Teaching: Making God's Word understandable to others.

v8 Exhortation: encourage, help the believers.

v8 Giving: God will give some of His people the ability to make money, so allowing them to help in the expenses of the ministry.

v8 Ruling: A people who God gives this gift to are given a position of authority, but must not mis-use this position, their responsibility is to guide and encourage the work of the Lord.

v8 Mercy: Some people have the ability to give sympathy, help to those in sorrow.

v9-16 *Love for Believers.*

Paul now takes time to show how we should relate to those in the family of God.

v9 Abhor evil: have a horror of all things evil, [Rom 13:14](#); [2 Tim 2:22](#).

v9 Do good things:

v10 Love the family of God as if brothers and sisters.

v10 honour others: let others have the credit.

v11 Not slothful: do all your work with all your power. Do not think "it does not matter as it is only for the church."

v11 Fervent in spirit: Let the Holy Spirit make us 'boiling over with enthusiasm' for the task He has given us.

v11 Serving the Lord: Love for what He has done for us.

v12 Rejoicing in hope: Fix our thoughts on our future joy with Jesus.

v12 Patient in tribulation: Press on for Christ's sake when under tribulation or persecution, [1 Cor 10:13](#).

v12 Instant in Prayer: Make it a habit of Praying, [Eph 6:18](#).

v13 Giving to others: Sharing with others. [Heb 13:2](#).

v14 Bless those who want to hurt us.

v15 Share the joys and grief's of others.

v16 Live in harmony, be of one mind, do not think highly of ourselves. See [Phil 2:5-8](#).

v17-21 *Love for unbelievers.*

v17 Repay no evil: do not return evil for evil.

v17 Be honest: make sure our actions are not harmful to God in anyway.

v18 Live in peace with others: However we must not sacrifice the truth of God just to live in peace.

v19 Seek no revenge: Let the Lord punish or repay those who mistreat us.

v20 Our life not help the enemies: The world should see a very different person in a believer, not just a Sunday believer or full of the desires for the world.

v21 Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, win against evil with kindness.

Chapter 13

v1-14 Government and your Neighbour.

v1-3 Tells us that all governments and people in power are put there by God. Note [John 19:10,11](#). Since all ruling authority has been permitted or created by God, those who fight the authorities are actually fighting God.

However, we must think about submitting or obeying, it is possible for a believer to be in a position where they cannot obey a government but can submit to the authority.

"We must obey God rather than man," see [Acts 4:18](#); [Acts 5:18-20](#); [Acts 5:38-42](#).

v4 Indicates that capital punishment is intended by God. Capital punishment was first commanded by God in [Genesis 9:6](#).

v6 The paying of taxes to the government is God ordained.

v7 We are to honour those in high position, even though they may have a bad character, we must respect the office because it is of God.

Paul now turns to our neighbour's.

v8-10 "Owe no man anything" Some people believe that this tells us never to borrow money, however, other people feel that if a person borrows a certain amount and then commits to make regular payment as promised, he does not owe the lender as long as he/she makes the payments. Excessive borrowing, so you cannot repay must be wrong. This has to be a personal decision, it must be done in love.

How can loving someone fulfil the law? v9,10 gives the answer, All the Laws as given to Moses are dependant upon a person who has love for their neighbour, you will not do the bad things listed if you have love. The fruit of the Spirit will be visible in our lives, [Gal 5:22,23](#). Note that love is also the "law of Christ"v10.

v11-14 The return of the Lord.

Paul reminds us of how we should be living knowing that the Lord can return at any time, "now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed." Are we ready for His return? We shall all have to stand before Him and give an account of our lives for Him, [2 Cor 5:10](#).

Time is going fast, put on the Jesus, His likeness and using His armour of light to defend us go out into the world with the message of salvation.

Chapter 14

14:1 - 16:27 Doubtful things.

Paul looks at a number of problems of doubtful things a believer may meet.

Paul talks about "weaker brethren" v1 and later in ch. 15:1 "stronger brethren." Who are these people and how should they treat each other?

v1 Who are the weak? Not someone who sins, because they appear to be very sensitive to Christian behaviour. This person is also weak in faith v1, he has not been able to take in the truth's Paul has been talking about in the previous chapters.

v2-6 Paul did not want the church to fall into arguments so in these verses he said that 'what to eat,' which 'days' are special, treatment of servants, All these Paul said are between the Lord and the person, as the scriptures do not say either is wrong. However, we should not do anything which might cause another Christian to have problems.

In Paul's time some of the meat sold in the markets had already been offered to idols in the temples, there would be nothing wrong with the meat but some believers might feel it wrong to eat this meat. A "weak" Christian might have problems with this if he saw another Christian eating the meat.

Who are the "strong" believers? Not just those who understood all Paul had been teaching, no it is the believer who see's themselves as God sees them. Think of Paul in [Rom 7:18,24](#), then how God sees him through Jesus [Col 2:9,10](#); [Phil 4:13](#); [John 15:7](#); [Eph 6:10ff](#).

We must not pass judgement on another believer, a 'strong' believer must help the 'weak,' the 'weaker' learn of the stronger. We are all part of the same body of Christ, [1 Cor 12:13](#).

v7,9 What ever we do must always be for the Glory of the Lord.

v10-14 Again we are reminded that one day we all will have to explain our actions before the Lord, [1 Cor 4:5](#).

v13-21 Behaviour with any other believer, possibly even non believers. We should always do things which give glory to God and build up the other believers. v18,19. [1 Cor 10:31](#).

v22,23 Do not do anything for which you have any doubts about doing it.

Chapter 15

v1-7 'Doubtful things' continued from chapter 14.

v1 Make sure that if you are strong in the faith you help those who are having problems, do not do this for our own gain.

v2 Make everyone happy by your actions and the way you live, to make them grow in the Lord.

v3 We should use Christ as an example, even Christ was not in any way self centred, He did everything to help people and in obedience to His Father.

v4 All scripture is written for us to learn by, this tells us that the Old Testament as well as the New Testament scriptures are there for our learning.

The Old Testament looks at God and His people.

v5-7 May God help us live in peace together, using Christ as the example. That we may be together in all our worship of God our Father. The oneness of the church is important in the worship.

v7-13 All one in Christ.

We must receive each other, Jew or Gentile as one, just as Christ has taken us into His body.

v8-12 Christ proved to the Jews that God's promises were true, as a result, by allowing the non Jew to be one in Christ it has helped the Jew bring Glory to God.

v13 Paul ends with a prayer, the Christian should be looking forward in hope for the future.

v14-16 Paul knew that the Roman church was strong and full of the goodness, however, Paul felt that because of his position in the ministry of Christ to the Gentiles, he should remind them of certain truths.

v17-21 Spiritual proof of Paul's ministry.

His aim was to preach Christ anywhere, as God lead him.

v22-29 Paul was planning his future missionary journeys, to Jerusalem, then he planned to visiting the church in Rome on his way to Spain.

Paul had received finance from Macedonia and Achaia for the brothers in Jerusalem, v25,26. He looked upon this collection as a spiritual thanks for Israel's sharing of the Gospel with the Gentiles. v27

v29-32 Paul felt that he would be coming with all the blessing of Christ. He did come with the blessing, but not the way he expected, he was to come as a prisoner.

Paul asked for prayer.

1) For his safety from the problem Jews who hated him.

2) For the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem, that they would accept the gifts he was bringing in love, as the gifts were from non Jews.

3) That I may soon come to you in joy.

v33 May God give you peace.

Chapter 16

This chapter contains personal greetings and requests for his fellow labourers in the ministry. It shows great tenderness for these co-workers in Christ.

He sent greetings from those who were with him, some of these seemed to have risked their own lives for him, v3,4.

v17-19 A severe warnings from Paul. Avoid anyone who makes divisions (causes break up) in a church. Avoid any who teach a different doctrine to what you have been told. These people are doing it for themselves, not the Lord.

v24-27 Paul ends his letter with a wonderful prayer of thanks and Glory to God.