

# **Romans**

**by Zak Saenz**

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# **“To God be the glory”**

*“I dedicate this book to Mark Kronwald and Geoff Volker,  
two men who spent countless hours discipling me in the  
understandings and ways of Christ”*

**Sola Gratia**

**Sola Fide**

**Solus Christus**

**Soli Deo Gloria**

**Sola Scriptura**

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## **Romans**

### **Preface**

This book is not intended to be a exhaustive commentary of the book of Romans but rather a overview of sorts of each chapter within it. What I would say are the key points of each chapter.

My hope is that this can be a tool used as a reference for those who for whatever reason are in need of something they can relate to in this form or even a daily devotional.

My reasoning for choosing the book of Romans is that this book is in many ways a Christianity 101 handbook as well as a graduate level work.

My intent is to keep this as straight forward as possible, keeping it within the written context, and explaining it in a down to earth and understandable way.

## Romans Chapter 1

**Romans 1-6** ~ *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ*

There can be no better way to open this great book of the Bible than what we see here. Paul, the author of Romans, starts off by establishing that he is a servant of Christ Jesus and a apostle. A apostle is one who was chosen specifically and directly by Jesus Himself, and was then sent out by Jesus to do His work.

Paul then goes in to a gospel presentation of sorts, setting the tone for everything that then follows. Paul starts with the lineage of Christ followed by Christ being declared the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead. Paul calls Jesus Lord, Lord being one who is followed and believed in. Paul mentions the receiving of grace and his call to go out to the nations to spread the gospel message as well as bring about obedience and faith to all who would believe.

**Romans 1:16-17** ~ *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

Paul here is holding the gospel up front and center. The gospel does not in any way deter Paul from what he is called to do, really what every believer is called to do, because he understands that within it is the power of God for salvation for all who believe.

The sharing of the Gospel for many and probably most Christians today, has become something that scares them or makes them uncomfortable. Think about that, the thing that saved you now hinders you from doing the same. Faith is supposed to take us above any of these thoughts or feelings, it's suppose to empower us to share it.

**Romans 1:18-20** ~ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*

There would be no need for a Savior if there wasn't something to be saved from. What we are saved from is the fullness of God's wrath upon us as unbelievers. That fullness of His wrath takes place in hell.



Scripture tells us next that no one since the creation of the world until today can give any excuse for not knowing there is a God because God has made everyone aware of it. God's attributes, power, and divine nature are all around us, we see it every day. But even though it is right in front of everyone, peoples ungodliness and unrighteousness suppress in ways who God really is because of their ugliness.

Have you ever heard someone say why would God let that happen? That is the wickedness of man suppressing the love and grace of God. Though it is not God who had done that evil thing, for some reason people like to hold it against God instead of the person who did the evil. That evil is just mankind revealing its nature and its need for a Savior.

**Romans 1:24-25** ~ *Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, 25 because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.*

Worshiping and serving the creature is worshiping and serving the self and others instead of God. God has removed His hand from unbelievers in which then their sinful natures took over to rule them. Scripture says unbelievers are a slave to sin and that they are. They have no ability to do good only bad. Even what appears to be good is contaminated by sin in some way.

The only way this situation can change is for God once again to put His hand upon a person and bring them to salvation. Only then can we be free of the control of sin over our lives.

## Romans Chapter 2

**Roman 2:1-2** ~ *Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. 2 We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things.*

I am sure you have heard another Christian say “don't judge me” or “who are you to judge”. What we need to understand is that there is forms of judgment that Christians are called to put in to action.

If the definition of judgment is a Christian going to hell based upon their actions, then no we are called not to make a determination of this as a individual because God is the only one who knows if a person is a true believer and thus the outcome of a persons final destination.

If the definition of judgment is coming to a conclusion based upon the actions of another who professes to be a believer when they are not acting in a way laid out in scripture, then for sure Christians are called to do this.

Now how it is done is important. It must be done with care and love and never with spite or malice.

**Matthew 18:15-17** ~ *“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. 16 But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17 If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector”.*

Here is clear instruction on confronting a fellow Christian who has sinned against you. There is a right way and wrong way but sin needs to be confronted at times because of the love and concern for a fellow believer.

There is also a progression if that sin is not dealt with one on one. Bring another Christian to help speak to that Christian and finally bring it to the church for their handling of that sin if all else fails.

### **Romans Chapter 3**

**Romans 3:5-8** ~ *But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) 6 By no means! For then how could God judge the world? 7 But if through my lie God's truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? 8 And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.*

In all things Gods righteousness is shown even through sin. Sin, allows Gods righteousness to show in a couple ways.

First, when sin occurs it is in opposition to who God is and it is in contrast to who God is. Sin allows for the righteousness of God to be shown in that contrast and opposition. Whenever there is a opportunity for God's righteousness to be shown, God is glorified.

Second the righteousness of God is revealed through sin in His condemnation of those who have not believed in Christ and repented of their sin. In other words God's sentence or judgment upon the sinful non believer to hell then shows God's righteousness through its manifestation.

Paul also makes the point here that some are saying that he and others are saying that because of this one should sin more so that God's righteousness can be shown more. Paul emphasizes that it in itself is slanderous to believe or say. Christians should never intentionally sin and think any good will come out of it, because it won't.

**Romans 3:9-12** ~ *What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, 10 as it is written:*

*"None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."*

Paul stresses that all people no matter who they are all start off the same, that is that every single person starts off as a sinner in need of a Savior. No one is better than another in anyway, no one brings anything to the table that would give them a leg up on someone else, *"for all have sinned and have fall short of the glory of God."* All are doomed to hell without salvation.

**Romans 3:21-25** ~ *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.*

We have been made righteous, our sins paid for, and once again in God's favor once we become a believer. All this by the gift of grace by God.

Grace is one of the most important parts of Christianity. To not understand what grace is, is to not understand Christianity.

Grace in the context of salvation is that we have done nothing in any way to receive the salvation given us. Nothing, zip, nada, zilch.

This is crucial to understand. If you feel you have done something to gain salvation then you believe in a works based salvation which does not save. It is that simple. Anything that would include the word "I" Then takes you out of grace and puts you in to gaining your own salvation not based upon the work of Christ but instead your works.

I raised my hand, I said a prayer, I went to the altar, I am a good person, all forms of a works based salvation and the rejection of Christ alone for your salvation.

There is this horrible word out there I feel came from Satan himself, and it is the word freewill. Freewill, is the rejection of God, the rejection of Christ, the rejection of the Holy Spirit and the glorification of the self. You are saying I, not God, not Christ, and not the Holy Spirit, but I.

Freewill is a impossibility, no where in scripture is it mentioned or taught. Matter of fact the opposite is taught.

**Romans 6:17-18** ~ *But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

We are in fact slaves to one or the other, always have been and always will be. Thus we have never been free and never will be free.

## Romans Chapter 4

**Romans 4:7-12** ~ *“Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; 8 blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin.”*

*9 Is this blessing then only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? For we say that faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness. 10 How then was it counted to him? Was it before or after he had been circumcised? It was not after, but before he was circumcised. 11 He received the sign of circumcision as a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. The purpose was to make him the father of all who believe without being circumcised, so that righteousness would be counted to them as well, 12 and to make him the father of the circumcised who are not merely circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.*

Abraham is the father of all who have faith. There is a great story in Genesis 15 about God making a promise to Abraham that he and his wife Sarah would have a son. The only problem was that Abraham was getting old, he was about 75 years old and Sarah was 65 years old. So both well beyond what would be considered childbearing age.

But if there is one thing we know, it is that God doesn't do things in the typical way or in the typical time frame we are used to. God does things in a way that brings glory to Himself, so doing things the typical way isn't how God works.

God performs miracles, and when a miracle happens there is no doubt God had to have been in control of it.

There is this saying “God teaches us patience by Him taking His time” and for sure this fits perfectly in Abraham's case because God did not provide Abraham his son Isaac until Abraham was 100 years old. Twenty five years Abraham waited, that is faith time tested.

We today have little patience don't we? Could we wait twenty five years for God to fulfill something for us or would we a few months down the road say well just forget about it out of frustration? I know I struggle with this.

We need to learn from these stories that God has given us. They are there to build us up in every way needed.

There is another great story in Genesis 22 about this great faith of Abraham. In this story God had tested Abraham by having him prove his faith by sacrificing his son on the alter. Of course Abraham did prove himself faithful and just a second before Abraham plunged the knife in to his son, God provided him with a alternative, something else to take the place of his son, a ram or as some would say a scapegoat.

This is a picture of sorts of God providing a way out for all who would believe, a scapegoat named Jesus. God called for a sacrifice or a payment for sin and God also provided the sacrifice, His own Son. If that isn't a picture of love and grace then there isn't one.

Faith is the blessing of the forgiveness of our sin that leads to the application of the righteousness of Jesus being imputed to us. God provides the sacrifice, God imputes righteousness to us, and God provides the faith that is required as well.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** ~ *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Faith is a gift from God we just read. Remember me saying “I” is a work? Well if you in some way generated that faith yourself that would be a “I”. God had to gift faith to us so that it wouldn't be from ourselves, so it wouldn't be a work thus voiding everything that God had accomplished. God did this so that salvation would be by grace alone through faith alone.

The fact is we could not generate faith on our own anyway. Faith is a miracle that only God can provide.

See it is all about trusting in God for everything we need and removing us from the situation. We should know by now if something so important was left to us, we would mess it up every single time. That is what sin and sinners do, mess everything up.

Put yourself away and trust in God.

## **Romans Chapter 5**

**Romans 5:3-5** ~ *Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character; and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.*

Suffering is that one part of Christianity that really is one of the greatest parts, but it is not truly understood or desired in most all believers lives.

See Christianity is about our faith in God, it is about our growth in God, it is about our dependency on God.



The way God has structured the building of our faith, is us growing closer to Him through our dependency on Him. Our dependency on Him, is created by Him bringing us to the point in which we know we are incapable of getting through that situation on our own. Hardship and suffering does just that. So we must rejoice in our suffering always.

Coming up on the six year mark is my diagnoses of stage four cancer. Let me tell you that cancer will bring you closer to God than most all other things. It is as bad and worse than anyone who hasn't had it can imagine. Eight weeks of chemo treatments once a week and eight weeks of radiation treatments five days a week. I was near deaths door from those treatments twice. Throw on top of that a thirty year battle with Fibromyalgia and I was a train wreck.

The interesting thing is that the Fibro prepared me in some ways for the suffering I was going to go through with the cancer.

The first Sunday back in to the church I was serving at after my diagnoses, the pastor came up to me and asked me how the appointment went. I looked at him and said "I have cancer, stage four". All he could do is look at me in shock not knowing what to say and I looked back at him and said "I can't wait to see how God is going to use this for His glory".

Well I think that response shocked him more than the diagnoses. But the point is I knew that the suffering I was going to face would be for His glory and my endurance. And for sure it was.

**Romans 5:6-10** ~ *For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

*9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.*

The term “*while we were still weak*” is a reference to us being unsaved and incapable of doing anything to save ourselves. While in this condition, Christ died the death that we should have.

But God, no greater two words. When you see them together, it means a miracle is about to take place and that miracle was God showing His love for us even while we were still sinners and rejecting Him, enemies it says. It goes on to say that because of this there is also an assurance of salvation.

**Romans 5:15-17** ~ *But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. 16 And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. 17 For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.*

Here we see a series of three examples of the contrast between Adam and Christ. First through Adam and Adam's sin it brought sin upon mankind, born sinners many would say. But even greater is the grace of God and the free gift of Jesus. Second Adam's sin brought judgment while Christ brought justification. Last Adam's sin brought a spiritual death, while Christ brought grace, righteousness and spiritual life.

The contrast between sin and righteousness is about as large as anything can be because it is the same contrast between Satan and Jesus. Like night and day, just two completely opposite things.

We must also understand that the righteousness that is applied to believers is Christ's righteousness, it is never a righteousness that in any way was derived from us.

## Romans Chapter 6

**Romans 6:6-7** ~ *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For one who has died has been set free from sin.*

**Romans 6:17-18** ~ *But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, 18 and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.*

I mentioned this earlier but we will go through it again because of its great importance in understanding who we are in this relationship with God.

We are the created, the best of His creations. Before we were saved we were sinners enslaved to sin because of Adams sin. We could not escape from this sin and did not want to escape from this sin. We delighted in being sinners and wanted nothing to do with God in any way. We were dead spiritually thus why we wanted nothing to do with a spiritual God. Sin controlled us in every way no matter in thought or in deed, it was our master and we did what it told us to do and we did it gladly.

This was who we were before salvation. It is important for us to let this sink in deeply because not understanding this properly has a adverse affect on how we understand grace. See the better we understand that we were spiritually dead and were incapable of of doing good in any way, incapable of seeking God, had no desire to seek God, and could not ever seek God because of our dead state, the better we understand this the closer we are to understanding grace and its full weight.

Not understanding our presalvation state, and thinking we are more than we are, more powerful, greater ability, more desiring of good, seeking salvation, all these spiritual things. Thinking this, then in our minds lessons the greatness and love of grace itself.

It does this because it injects us in to this process God has ordained when we did nothing at all. God, has done everything for us, it is His miracle not ours.

So then being a slave to sin and then being released from this state of slavery by God, does not mean we are not still slaves. It means that God bought us from the slavery of sin by the payment of the death of His Son on the cross for our sins, and now God is our owner and we are a slave to righteousness.

We need to understand this I feel to fully get a true understanding of where we are now as slaves to righteousness. Presalvation we were 100% sinful. Maybe not as sinful as we could be but still no righteousness at all. Our condition now is a freedom from that complete state of sin to now having a ability to fight against sin through the power of the Holy Spirit given to us upon the point of salvation.

But there are three things we are dealing with now that at times can and will be at odds with one another.

We have a changed heart now which gives us a desire to be righteous and the Holy Spirit who is eagerly moving us forward with this desire constantly.

But we also have a body of sin which is in opposition to this desire and it is constantly working to bring us to sin. Our body of sin lusts for sin, craves it and needs it. This body of sin unfortunately is always in this state, never changing and haunts us for life.

If this isn't bad enough scripture says we have a mind which is being renewed. Being renewed is a mind of transition from a point of always thinking about sin to now moving towards being less sinful and more righteous. The mind as we know is strong, it battles back and forth from sin to righteousness as this transition moves forward. This transition is called sanctification and is a life long process which never completes the transition to full righteousness.

But God, by His grace, looks at us now as righteous because of Christ's payment on the cross for our sins. God is satisfied completely by that payment and no longer sees us as sinners but sees His Son's righteousness which covers us.

That is the miracle of grace. When we understand this then grace is at its peak and is unflawed by the thought of our injection of our sinful self.

God alone, is a powerful thing that can release us and put the full weight on God for all our needs. This is when God is glorified most, when we need Him always.

## Romans Chapter 7

**Romans 7:4** ~ *Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.*

We already talked about being a slave to sin or a slave to righteousness. The law which is used to bind and enslave us to that sin was fulfilled perfectly and completely by Christ. This again so that we could be a slave to another, that being righteousness.

Many who profess to be believers think that's it, all done once we become believers. But the fact is that's just the beginning. We are saved for a purpose. We are saved to bear good fruit for God.

**Ephesians 2:10** ~ *For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.*

God has prepared good works for us before we were even believers, before we were even born, in preparation for when that time came and we would believe.

I can't tell you how many times I have heard people say I don't know what I am supposed to do as a believer, what has God prepared for me?

Well, we know for sure that every Christian is supposed to learn scripture, share the gospel message, teach others scripture and love one another. If that isn't a good start I'm not sure what is.

I can tell you I was discipled for about three years, taught by two Godly men filled with biblical knowledge. This was the preparation to do good works. Every Christian needs to go through a discipleship process.

Unfortunately this is not as common as it should be. This is also why Christianity has so many problems today.

Once you have fulfilled the biblical process, then what you will probably find is God will let you know what it is you are supposed to do next.

But to send a person to do the work unprepared makes no sense at all, and God is a God of good sense.

**Romans 7:15-19** ~ *For I do not understand my own actions.*

*For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.*

*18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.*

Our sinful flesh, the changed heart, the renewing of our mind and the battle between them all within us. The Apostle Paul here in these verses is trying to explain the very thing all Christians go through throughout their life. We know what we should do but we tend to do the things we shouldn't do even though we don't want to do them.

Sanctification is a frustrating thing to go through. It is the never ending process of maturing as a Christian.

Living a life of failures is not necessarily a bad thing. We want to do everything possible to do all we are commanded to do in scripture and not do the things we are commanded not to do. But failure is a part of life, it is a expected part of life.

See when we fail it reminds us that Jesus was the only one who was and is perfect and no other person ever was or will be. Our failures then should draw us closer to God and our need for Him. It should draw us closer to needing to be reminded daily of the gospel. Our failure is proof that we still need Jesus every single day.

I love it when a nonbeliever says that Christians are hypocrites. I always agree with them. I tell them now your getting it, see it is our daily failures in life that is the reason we need Christ. Our awareness of this is something nonbelievers don't have.

Being a Christian is never about being perfect or sinless. Again that is why God sent Christ, because He knew it was impossible for us.

Sin does though grieve us, it humbles us, it motivates us to do better, it builds us up, it makes us more aware of the holiness of God, it reminds us of grace and that the grace given to us is also the grace we should extend to others.

## **Romans Chapter 8**

**Romans 8:1** ~ *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*

There are no better words to hear than these no matter if you are a non-believer or a believer. For the one, the hope is that it will lead to salvation. For the other, it is a constant reminder of everything our loving God has done for us.

Remove these words and it all comes crashing down. It is the point of it all. There is nothing to share, nothing to talk about, nothing to hope for, there really would just be emptiness.



**Romans 8:5-6** ~ *For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.*

As we had just read, being a Christian is never a perfect thing. But as Christians we can no longer live a life like a non-believer. We are called to strive to live a life like Christ no matter how impossible it is.

If one does not have a desire to leave the sinful life behind, then there is a chance they were not saved to begin with.

See being a believer means that God has instilled His power in us through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's job is to draw us away from the old way and closer to the new way. The Spirit is our strength and that strength is not generated from us. Thus the reason why progression will always happen even if slow.

God is not a failure, which means when we are saved we can not fail. The road of life as a believer is not a straight line upward, but rather at times two steps forward and one step back. It could also be two steps forward, three steps back and four steps forward. You get the picture.

But in all this, it is of the utmost importance for us to focus on God and focus on Christ. There is this saying it goes "the farther we are away from God the closer we are to Sin and the closer we are to God the farther we are away from Sin". Words to live by.

**Romans 8:18** ~ *For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.*

Life at times can be extremely difficult, and especially being a Christian. Think about all the sickness, pain, and hunger there is in the world. We here in this country have it pretty good. Our poorest people would be among the richest in many other countries, but yet we do suffer greatly at times.

We have another contrast here, the sufferings of this world to the glory of heaven. And what this is telling us is that even the greatest sufferings here on earth, as we look back from heaven, will be so insignificant compared to being in heaven that it's not even worth thinking about.

Now I know many of you are saying that's easy to say but when you are in the midst of that suffering it is difficult, and I know it is.

I think the hope from this verse is stay heaven focused and remember this is not our home. We will be in a better place and yes it will all be worth it.

**Romans 8:26-27** ~ *Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.*

This verse is very important and corrective for us. I know many will attribute this to tongues but it is in no way talking about tongues.

We need to understand that God has instilled the Holy Spirit within us from the exact point of salvation on. The Spirit helps us in our times of weakness and when things are really bad the Spirit intercedes for us and communicates our needs to God. This is not audible, we don't speak or utter anything because there is no need to, the Spirit within us and God are connected and communicating. God does not need us to utter one sound as if we are in some way important and God depends on us to tell Him our needs. God knows our needs before we even know that we need anything.

Again this is just simple communication between the Spirit and God, we do not need to try and inject ourselves in to it.

**Romans 8:28-30** ~ *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

If we look at any book in the Bible the one thing that is very clear is God is always in control bringing His will to fruition. Now we don't usually know what God is doing and how He is going to do it. It really isn't for us to know, that is God's business.

But look at the story of Joseph, you know the guy with a coat of many colors Joseph. Near the end of his story when his brothers approach him, unaware that he is Joseph, he tells them what you meant for evil God meant for good. That is exactly how it works.

God sets His will in to motion, again it's God's plan we need not know what or why. We being sinful people as Joseph's brothers were, are acting something out, God's will compels us to do it. How we perceive what and why we are doing it doesn't always line up with why God is willing it to happen. That is why Joseph says what you meant for evil God meant for good. That is God working out all things.

This last verse, verse 30, is one of the most amazing verses I feel in scripture. Why it is is because it tells us that God is sovereign and in complete control of His plan for His creation. The last thing we would ever want is a God who was not in control.

It starts off "*And those whom He predestined*", That scares a lot of people. Why I don't know but it does. Being predestined is not a scary thing but rather it is grace in action. Without God's grace in predestination there would be no salvation at all. Scripture is clear that we are enemies of God, unwilling and unwanted to come to faith. Scripture says no one seeks Him and if that is the case then God must show His grace and inject Himself in to the situation and change our heart so we want nothing else but to believe.

Predestined or predetermined means it happened before mankind was even created. That is why there is a book of life and why everyone who is in it will be saved. That is why it is called being saved or salvation. That implies someone saved us and we did not save ourselves.

So really the entire verse is God's will unfolding, we are predestined, we are called, we are justified and we are glorified all by God's hand. If you notice no where within this outline of a believer's life is us doing anything.

Nowhere does it say and then Zak raised his hand and said a prayer. It doesn't because that is not part of the process. Our confession of belief or acceptance happens after God's saving work through the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:31** ~ *What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*

**Romans 8:35** ~ *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?*

There is not a more powerful person or force than God. Nothing even comes close to being as mighty as He is. Knowing this, there is nothing or no one that can come against us to change God's plan for us.

There is nothing or no one who can separate us from the love of Christ, meaning even a loss of salvation which would be the ultimate separation.

No one and nothing which means we are not even capable of causing anything to disrupt God's plan for us.

**Romans 8:37-39** ~ *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

If for some reason you still haven't gotten it, God finishes off this chapter with saying the same thing all over again. God knows we have hard heads at times and He wants to insure us that He is God and there is nothing that He has created, which is everything, that can affect His will for our lives. It is His guarantee.

## Romans Chapter 9

Paul sets the tone of chapter nine by continuing his dialog about the process of salvation and now talks specifically about Israel. He starts off talking about his sorrow for the Israelites, his kinsman as he calls them. His sorrow is for their lack of faith in Christ as their savior. He goes on to talk about who true Israel is and that not all are true Israel but only those who have faith in God's promise as did Abraham the father of faith.

And in these next very important verses it will now set the tone for the rest of the chapter.

**Romans 9:11-12** ~ *though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— 12 she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”*

In these times order was important and in their culture the younger always served the older. It was a sign of respect for the eldest. But God turns things around here and chooses the younger brother over the older. It says before they were even born or had done anything to warrant God picking one over the other based upon any works they would do.

We see this word “election” which is another word for predestined. We will see words like these throughout the New Testament.

This chapter of Romans was vital in the Reformation away from the Catholic Church in the 1500's because it along with other parts of scripture showed that the Catholic Church was wrong about their role in salvation. These verses show that it was God and God alone that is responsible for salvation and not the church and not man.

**Romans 9:14-18** ~ *What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show my power in you, and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." 18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.*

Whenever these terms predestined and election come up in scripture one of the first things people say is that this can't be true because it is unfair. But God has an answer for that. He says *"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."*

See God is the center of everything, He is the creator and everything else is the created. Man has twisted this understanding severely over time and has put himself at the center of everything instead of God. Mankind does not deserve anything from God. But God says it is His decision alone of what happens, He is sovereign over all.

See grace is God choosing who is saved as I had mentioned earlier rather than letting every single person go to hell which is what everyone deserves and what is fair. So we don't want fair we want grace. God chooses not based upon anything a person will do or say, this way it cuts out works as a reason.

**Romans 9:19-21** ~ *You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" 20 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" 21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?*

Another question about election that usually comes up is, if God chooses who will be saved and who will not be saved, why then does God still hold us accountable because no one can resist what God wills to happen. The reply from God is “*But who are you, O man, to answer back to God?*”

**Romans 9:22-23** ~ *What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—*

God does give us an answer here as to why. God gives a contrast for us to look at. God is showing the saved that He is being patient with those who will not be saved, in order that the saved will see His glory through this and by seeing His mercy on us by this. This contrast between the saved and the unsaved should bring about a humility in the saved and a understanding of mercy and grace. If everyone was saved we wouldn't know the full magnitude of what we have in salvation.

**Romans 9:30-32** ~ *What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works.*

To be clear works based salvation is anything you have to do or say to be saved, anything that includes your input in any way.

So why is it then that today there are so many self professing Christians that believe in a works based salvation? Most all will actually say they don't, but when you ask how they were saved the first thing that comes out of their mouth is “I”.



“I”, that nasty word that should never come out of a Christians mouth unless they are confessing their sin. That is all that word is good for, because that is all a person on his own can do is sin.

God is responsible for all that is righteous and pure. God through the Holy Spirit does His will through us and we do our best to corrupt it if anything.

Paul states here that Israel did not receive righteousness because they thought they could obtain it by their works. The term righteousness here is a reference to salvation. All Jews that live by their works in hope to be saved will not be.

All of the New Testament now proclaims that faith alone saves us. And that faith Ephesians 2:8 says, “is not from ourselves but it is a gift of God not by works so no one can boast.”

At times it may seem like I have already said or covered something but the one thing we will see throughout scripture is God repeating Himself. He does this because He knows we are hard headed and needs to say important things more than once.

All people now no matter who you are, will be saved by this process and this process alone. Have faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and savior, repent and be baptized. That begins the journey and the hard work that needs to follow. Believing is never the end of what we need to do as believers but the beginning.

## Romans Chapter 10

**Romans 10:5-6** ~ *So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. 6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.*

**God chose a remnant of Israel by grace just as He has with everyone else, no difference. And God says if it were any other way, then it would not be saved by grace but saved by works.**

**Romans 10:9-13** ~ *because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. 11 For the Scripture says, "Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. 13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

You did not believe and then God gave you a new heart, but rather God gave you a new heart and then you believed. Once God does this you will call on Christ and confess that He is Lord.

We will see several variations of what we call the gospel message throughout scripture. Some mention baptism and some not. But the reality is salvation has already been had before we say and do anything. Remember it is not what we do or say that saves us because those are works. The purpose of anything we say or do after the point of salvation is really for everyone else as well as God. We are fulfilling what we are called to do and the hope is that God will be working on someone who isn't saved that is witnessing this.

**Romans 10:14-17** ~ *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? 15 And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" 16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" 17 So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.*

One thing we know for sure is that the Christian is a part of Gods process of salvation but not in any way a cause of it. We are called to go out and preach the gospel to the nations. That is every single one of us. Those whom God predestined and called are waiting for us to share the gospel with them, and they will hear it either by us or by someone else.

Some will ask, well if people are predestined to salvation why do we need to do anything at all? The answer is because God told us to.

## **Romans Chapter 11**

**Romans 11:1-2** ~ *I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.*

Has God rejected Israel? Of course not, God doesn't reject anyone, we all reject Him which is why He injected Himself in to the process with grace.

We see the word "foreknew" here and we will see it in other places. People will try to twist this word in to meaning God foresees what we will do as far as salvation goes and that somehow is what predestination is.

This is completely wrong. When we see this word “foreknew” what we find is that in every circumstance it says God foreknew us, or another way to say it is God knew us beforehand. Never does it say God knew what we would do.

**Ephesians 1:4** ~ *even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.*

This verse does a great job of saying this exactly. See we need to bring in other portions of scripture to get a clear picture at times. The fact is scripture defines scripture. I don't, you don't, no one does but scripture. The answers are there, God defines what He means.

**Romans 11:17-20** ~ *But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, 18 do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. 19 Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” 20 That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear.*

If we are grafted in, did we by any means of our own graft ourselves in to the tree? No! Of course not, how is a branch going to remove itself from one tree and graft itself in to another? It can't. The arbor is the one who does this or rather God.

There are some conflicting beliefs about who is represented by the tree that the branches are grafted in to. To me it seems obvious. Some say it is Israel. That makes no sense to me being it is clear that the removed branches represent Israel.

As far as the other branches being grafted in, it seems clear that those people are those who are saved by grace through faith, primarily the gentiles. If we are all saved the same way now, it for sure would be a mix of Jew and gentile. Again it would be those saved by grace through faith.

So if Israel is broken off, and those of faith are grafted in, then the tree can only be God. You could make a argument for Christ as well but in either case one of the two.

**Romans 11:25** ~ *Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*

**Romans 11:28-31** ~ *As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30 For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.*

God still does have a more complete plan for Israel down the road, He will save them through grace by faith just as the gentiles. But no indication of all or when.

## Romans Chapter 12

**Romans 12:1-2** ~ *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

One of the difficulties for me teaching on Romans is, that I want to teach on almost every verse because it is so packed full of important stuff. I have taught Romans many times over 20yrs both in Bible studies and preaching through it while a pastor in Phoenix. But again my goal is not to make this a exhaustive work, so I will refrain.

There is so much that is involved with presenting ourselves as a living sacrifice. First we must as believers start with of course the self. There is a reason why being discipled is so important when becoming a Christian. It is the working on the self part that then brings us to begin on working outwardly. It seems though this crucial step is being foregone these days. The attitude of I don't need anybody or I know better than anybody or unfortunately because this has been going on for some time, there is nobody.

Discipleship is the first step after becoming a believer. I was fortunate to have two great men disciple me, both of which I have dedicated this book to for their eagerness to fulfill God's calling for them. They both have discipled countless men over their years and I was fortunate to have them both in my life. I have followed in their foot steps in this regard and have dedicated my life to doing the same.

If we are going to be transformed by the renewing of our minds and not be conformed to this world, then being discipled is an important first step. If not, the likelihood of us then discipling another becomes far less, the cascading affect comes to a end. So if you haven't taken this important step please do, then look to disciple another. And it doesn't matter what point you are at as a Christian, if you are a pastor that hasn't been discipled humble yourself and find someone to disciple you.

**Romans 12:3-8** ~ *3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Humility as a believer and especially as a Christian leader is of the utmost importance, not only for the self, but it also goes a long way when nurturing others. It is one of the greatest traits a believer can have.

Christians when driven by the Holy Spirit want to put their gifts to use, they are excited and eager to. We do not want to squelch that in a believer but rather instead encourage it and help find them direction and clarity on it. We are all a part of the body of Christ, and in recognizing this everyone has their function within the body. If it is biblical we should be welcoming it.

We have seen over the decades the growing of the para-church. The para-church being those who have gifts but the church instead of nurturing them rejected them, which then left that individual who is driven by the Holy Spirit to seek using that gift outside the church instead of under its umbrella where it belongs. That leaves the church many times in a place where people wonder why it is the church isn't producing fruit outside its walls.

There are many great para-church organizations that God is moving within. I have personally started several over the decades. When it is God's will it will happen from inside the church or outside the church. Either way God will be glorified.

The measure of faith mentioned here is not the same as the faith which brings one to salvation. This is a post salvation portion of faith for the believer. It is interesting to think that God didn't give all believers the same amount of faith to start. But that was God's way I feel to have people interact with each other which is a huge part of Christianity.

**Romans 12:18** ~ *If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."*

If possible it says. That means that there possibly may be times when it is not possible to live peaceably. God works in strange ways. I can remember more than one time when God worked greatly through another person not being peaceable with me, and that situation then leading to God working through it. I did what I had to do because peace was not there and aggression was, and I handled it and God did work through it.

Now it is up to us to try and be peaceable, again when it is up to us it says. We know it isn't always up to us though.



This world is becoming more aggressive, and we have an obligation to protect our loved ones and friends if we can. There is nothing wrong with this Biblically. Just do what you have to do for the right reasons.

God says do not avenge yourselves but leave it to the wrath of God. If we or our loved ones are not in immediate harm or once the situation is over, do not seek revenge. God's wrath on that person will far outdo anything you could do to them.

I know at times this is not easy to do, it is for sure not easy for me to do. I have always been a get the situation handled kind of guy before I became a believer. It was just how I was brought up. My family was made up of Italian hot heads and we took care of business when needed. I also was a bouncer for several years during the early eighty's and where I grew up on the East Coast fighting was just what you did on the weekends.

But seriously as Christians there are other ways at times of changing a situation from bad to not so bad. It really is a sign of strength to logically defuse a situation rather than to just go at it with a person.

Peace can take practice to move ourselves from past instantaneous responses of aggression to a more civil and Christ like response.

But even Christ had to fashion a whip to take care of business once. But Christ works by righteousness and we do not.

## Romans Chapter 13

**Romans 13:8-10** ~ 8 *Owe no one anything, except to love each other; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9 For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." 10 Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.*

Love, that one thing that conquers everything else, at least it is supposed to. But if taken to heart as it should be, our part in every situation will be covered through love.

We are not responsible for the actions and thoughts that others have towards us. If we are true to love, those who know us best will confirm who we are. At times the heart of another is bitter, and the hope is that showing love for them even in this situation, that God will use that love to soften them.

If we are true to love, then it becomes almost impossible to do anything out of who we are called to be. And as love seems to be dwindling away in this world, the hope is that our love will then shine even brighter than ever.

**Romans 13:11-14** ~ *11 Besides this you know the time, that the hour has come for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed. 12 The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. 13 Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.*

In Revelation 3 God tells us to wake up, and that the church in Laodicea is lukewarm. I fear most churches today are in this state as are most of the people in these churches.

Here in Romans God tells us again to wake up because before we know it our time may come. The reality is, at anytime our time here on earth may end and we will be held to account for our lives here. Were we loyal servants doing what God calls us to or did we squander our time here and serve ourselves? Be ready Christian.

## **Romans Chapter 14**

**Romans 14:1-4** ~ *As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.*

It is always important to identify the context of all scripture we are reading. Context tells us so much about how we then are to go about understanding that piece of scripture.

Things such as who is the scripture written to, why was it written and is there any historical importance in understanding it. Things such as these are crucial in not coming to a false understanding of it.

The reality is scripture only means one thing, that is what God intended the meaning of that piece of scripture to be. If we misunderstand the meaning it does us no good. Something I hear on occasion is someone saying “this is what this verse means to me”. Well the better thing to come to a conclusion on is what does it mean to God, because that is the only thing that matters.

Now knowing scripture only has one meaning, that meaning can be used in countless situations. But we have to keep the integrity of scriptures meaning at all times.

So these verses start off with dealing with a person who is weak in their faith, one who has a misunderstanding about scripture in some way. It stresses not to quarrel over opinions with them and for good reason, this person isn't well versed so it makes no point to quarrel.

What makes better sense is to understand this can be a great teaching moment. Don't argue but rather open scripture and help that weaker person by teaching them truth.

We have this “do not judge” type verse in here as well a lot. This verse clearly distinguishes judgment as saying one who is saved or not saved which is represented by the “stands or falls” wording, and that it is God's job to do this. What it doesn't say is, do not point out untruths or sin, and that is how the weak in faith like to use it so they are not corrected.

**Romans 14:13-15** ~ *Therefore let us not pass judgment on one another any longer, but rather decide never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of a brother.*

*14 I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. 15 For if your brother is grieved by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. By what you eat, do not destroy the one for whom Christ died.*

We are still within the same context, that being dealing with a weaker person of faith. This “stumbling block” wording is also taken out of context and used incorrectly a lot.

One of the ways I see it misused a lot is that a person tries to get you to adhere to their misunderstanding of scripture by shoving these two words at you hoping you will comply to their wrong belief.

As well that same person usually implies that it is a sin to do whatever they are misunderstanding and no matter if you are doing it in front of them or at home you are still in some way a stumbling block to them.

The reality is they are a stumbling block to themselves. Their weak faith continually trips them up. They are usually taught this weakness by a pastor who is just as weak.

Now if someone does have a biblical reason like a weakness for certain foods that makes them overweight, or alcohol (which is not unbiblical by the way), or something of this nature of course we should abstain in front of them.

Verse 14 says, *“nothing is unclean in itself, but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean”* so clearly it says that person only thinks it is unclean. The importance of this is a person shouldn't do something they think is sin even if they are wrong about it. Better safe than sorry, and that is understandable.

But should we leave that person with weak faith in this condition? No, of course not. Approach the subject again with love and concern when correcting and teaching.

These people will also usually say that correcting them and teaching them is judgmental in some way. It can be a battle but if that person is unwilling to look at Gods word and would rather argue and judge you then there is no point in proceeded. God has not opened their heart to this yet.

## Romans Chapter 15

**Romans 15:1-2** ~ *We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. 2 Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.*

Chapter 15 carries over from what was being said in 14 and continues the conversation, for the one who is stronger it says, “*bear with the failings of the weak*”. That means the stronger needs to show patience to the weaker. God has not built them up to that stronger persons level yet, just as there is always someone stronger to that stronger person. We are to be patient and build them up, teach them.

**Romans 14:15-16** ~ *I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another. 15 But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.*

Paul brings us to a close of this chapter by tying up both chapters fourteen and fifteen. Paul says to them that they are filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

That is the point, that is the context, that is why we are to be patient with the weak. It is about reproducing Christians in order to reproduce Christians.

The church has failed so badly with this. The Church is supposed to prepare people for being able to prepare other people. We are called to make disciples, that is a person who has been instructed in all things pertaining to God and Christ in order so that they are able to do the same.

If we as individuals and as churches don't get back to this very basic but most important part of Christianity, that is being disciplined in order to disciple another, if we don't get back to this Christianity will continue to decline in this country.

This problem has become generational unfortunately. But it must come to a end in this generation.

## **Romans Chapter 16**

**Romans Chapter 16:17-18** ~ *I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine that you have been taught; avoid them. 18 For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.*

Paul leaves us with this important message to finalize Romans which is, do not be deceived by being naive. Yet this is the state of the majority of the church today.

The lack of strength, the lack of faith, the lack of scriptural knowledge, the lack servitude to Christ. These things have gotten the church to the exact place Paul had warned us about.

It is almost as if Paul was giving us a look in to the future, in to our time, because the church has fallen to doctrine contrary to that which Paul was taught. The church has fallen to smooth talk and flattery by those who serve their own appetites.

As I mentioned in the preface, I wanted to start with Romans because it was like a Christianity 101 course. The reality is, that is exactly why Paul wrote Romans to begin with, of course by the will of God. The Roman Christians had no previous formal instruction, so Paul was writing this as a foundational starting point to insure that these Christians in Rome started off on the right foot.

Yet this Biblical book is one of the most hated by much of Christianity today because it challenges so many false beliefs.

My hope is, that by Gods grace, the book of Romans will have a resurgence of dedicated Christians seeking out it's truths in order for our faith to be revived and restored.

I pray that in some way that this little book reignites just a few followers to start this revival off for the glory of God.

And again, to God be the glory!





