

UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

SERMON OUTLINES ON THE BOOK OF ROMANS

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TITLE: OVERVIEW OF ROMANS

BIG IDEA:

INSTEAD OF BOASTING ABOUT PRIDEFUL DISTINCTIONS, ALL BELIEVERS (JEW AND GENTILE) NEED TO UNITE IN PROMOTING THE WORLDWIDE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL WHICH REVEALS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

I. (1:1-17) INTRODUCTION -- GOD'S CALLING AND THE EFFICACY OF THE GOSPEL COMPEL ALL BELIEVERS TO JOIN HANDS IN PROMOTING THE GOSPEL WORLDWIDE

II. (1:18-3:20) THERE IS NO ROOM FOR BOASTING (ON THE PART OF JEW OR GENTILE) BECAUSE THE GOSPEL REVEALS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN CONDEMNING ALL BECAUSE ALL HAVE SINNED

III. (3:21-4:25) THERE IS NO ROOM FOR BOASTING BECAUSE GOD'S ONLY PLAN OF SALVATION THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAS BEEN JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH APART FROM WORKS

IV. (5:1-8:39) THERE IS NO ROOM FOR INSECURITY BECAUSE THE RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH APPLY TO ALL BELIEVERS

CHAP. 5 -- CONFIDENCE AND ASSURANCE

CHAP. 6 -- FREEDOM FROM THE DOMINION OF SIN

CHAP. 7 -- FREEDOM FROM THE DOMINION OF THE LAW

CHAP. 8 -- FREEDOM FROM THE DOMINION OF DEATH

V. (9:1-11:36) THERE IS NO ROOM FOR BOASTING BECAUSE GOD'S GREAT PLAN OF SALVATION UNFOLDED THROUGHOUT THE AGES DISPLAYS HIS SOVEREIGN GRACE AND JUDGMENT TO BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES

VI. (12:1-15:33) ALL BELIEVERS MUST HUMBLY SERVE GOD TOGETHER AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS MEMBERS OF THE ONE BODY OF CHRIST IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE WORLDWIDE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL

VII. (16:1-27) CLOSING GREETINGS/WARNINGS -- FELLOWSHIP IN THE LORD BINDS BELIEVERS TOGETHER IN PROMOTING THE GOSPEL WORLDWIDE WHILE GUARDING AGAINST ATTACK AND DECEPTION

"Now to Him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey Him-- to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen."

TEXT: ROMANS 1:1-7

TITLE: GOD'S CALL TO GOSPEL MINISTRY

BIG IDEA:

GOD'S CALL PROMOTES THE GOSPEL --

7 ESSENTIALS OF GOD'S CALL FOR THE APOSTLE PAUL AND FOR YOUR LIFE

1. **Owned by the Master** -- General -- "*a bond-servant of Christ Jesus*"
security that comes from knowing we belong to Christ; leads to dedicated service
2. **Plugged into Gifted Ministry** -- Specific -- "*called as an apostle*"
3. **Dedicated to the Gospel** -- "*set apart for the gospel of God*"
 - a. Promised by God in the OT
 - b. Focused on the person of Jesus Christ
 - 1) Relationship to God the Father = "*His Son*"
 - 2) Relationship to us = "*our Lord*"
 - 3) What we learn about Him by virtue of the incarnation
 - 4) What we learn about Him by virtue of the resurrection
4. **Challenged by Worldwide Vision (:5-6)**
5. **Sourced in God's Love** -- "*to all who are beloved of God in Rome*"
6. **Characterized by Holiness** -- "*called as saints*"
7. **Dependent on God's Resources** -- continual supply of grace & peace

TEXT: ROMANS 1:8-15

TITLE: FULFILLING GOD'S CALLING

BIG IDEA:

FULFILLING GOD'S CALLING COMPELS US TO REACH OUT TO OTHERS TO PRODUCE ABUNDANT GOSPEL FRUIT

1. The Evidence of Gospel Fruit Evokes Thanksgiving (:8)
2. The Prospect of Abundant Gospel Fruit Motivates Us to Reach Out to others (:9-13)
 - a. Reaching out in Concerned Prayer (:9-10)
 - b. Reaching out in Personal Ministry (:11-13)
3. The Obligation of God's Calling Compels Us to Reach Out to Others (:14-15)
 - a. The Obligation extends to all men without partiality (:14)
 - b. The Proper Response is 100% Eagerness to Fulfill God's Calling (:15); the only thing that would hold us back is lack of confidence in the gospel

TEXT: ROMANS 1:16-17

TITLE: GOSPEL CLOUT

BIG IDEA:

THE EFFICACY OF THE GOSPEL INSPIRES BOLDNESS IN PROCLAMATION

(overcomes our feelings of reluctance and inadequacy)

1. Because the Gospel is the Power of God unto Salvation to Everyone Who Believes (both Jew and Gentile) (:16)

- a. The Content of the Gospel Message = Good News (not mixed with any bad)
- b. Its Extreme Power -- we have what people need; it works
- c. Its Goal -- not just temporarily changing lives for the better, but saving a person's life forever
- d. Its Inclusiveness and Exclusiveness

2. Because the Gospel Reveals the Righteousness of God that is Appropriated by Faith Alone (:17)

Answers the question: How can sinful man find favor with?

- a. The Gospel comes to us by Divine Revelation = the source
- b. The connection between Righteousness, Life, and Faith
 - 1) God's righteousness
 - a) Comes to us from God; we won't find it within ourselves
 - b) Perfect righteousness (illustr. of surgeon rejecting a contaminated scalpel -- amount of contamination does not matter)
 - c) Greater than the Righteousness of the Pharisees (Matt. 5:20)
 - d) Exactly what we need
 - 2) Spiritual Life
 - 3) Genuine Faith (unmixed with anything else)
Don't wait to try to understand completely; take advantage and respond to what you know
- c. This Connection is consistent with the OT teaching

TEXT: ROMANS 1:18-23

TITLE: NO EXCUSES

BIG IDEA:

REJECTING WHAT WE NATURALLY KNOW ABOUT GOD LEAVES US WITHOUT EXCUSE AND ALWAYS BRINGS GOD'S WRATH

1. God Always Responds in Wrath Against Those Who Reject His Revealed

Truth (:18) -- God by nature is a God of Wrath

Why should we believe in God's Wrath?

- a. Word usage in the Bible -- wrath, anger, fury (over 400 times)
- b. Biblical examples: Curse at the Fall; child-bearing; Pharaoh; David for his adultery; Annanias; Nebuchad; Babylonian Captiv.;
- c. Why should we believe that wrath is active and real today?
God's Wrath is displayed openly (present tense)
- d. His wrath is directed against those who reject His revealed Truth
- e. Directed against all ungodliness and wickedness
- f. How do we know whether we are in danger of God's Wrath?
Are we suppressing the truth?

2. (What about those who haven't heard about God? How can God ever be angry with them?) **God has Clearly Revealed Himself in Nature**

- a. Illustration of missing cupcake -- "the evidence is all over the little boy's face"
- b. Ps. 53 -- it is a fool who says there is no God
- c. Nature reveals power, orderliness, consistency, faithfulness
- d. Natural revelation sufficient to condemn but not to save --
Specific gospel message about Christ is still needed
Conclusion: God will judge men against the revelation they have

3. Men Are Without Excuse When We Replace His Glorious Truth With Things That are Far Inferior

- a. Don't live up to what we know to be true

- b. Replace glorious revelation about God with things greatly inferior
Real question is not "Does God exist?" but "What have you done with your knowledge of God?"
- c. Examples of modern day idolatry -- we replace what we know we should do with what we want to do

TEXT: ROMANS 1:24-32

TITLE: THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL TO TOTAL DEPRAVITY

BIG IDEA:

A SOCIETY THAT ABANDONS TRUTH (THEIR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GOD) IS IN DANGER OF BEING ABANDONED BY GOD TO GROSS SIN AND IMMORALITY

INTRODUCTION:

Examples of Sodom and Gomorrah; Roman Empire;
what is the present state of decadence in the U.S.?

1. (:24-25) Sexual Impurity is God's Judgment for Idolatry

a. How did they abandon truth?

- 1) Exchanged the truth of God for a lie
- 2) Idolatry -- worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator

Illustr: How can we tell whether our focus is on God the Creator and heavenly priorities? What would you do with 2 days alone and no respons. or accountability?

b. How did God judge them?

- 1) Gave them over to the natural outworking of the sinful desires of their lustful hearts
- 2) Life of sexual impurity rather than the beauty of holiness
- 3) Life that is physically degrading

2. (:26-27) Homosexuality is God's Judgment for Worshipping the Human Body

a. How did they abandon the truth?

- 1) Rejected natural sexual relations for unnatural

Illustr: kids messing up the house: "You are acting like animals" -- even animals don't stoop to this level

Illustr: "Mom, who broke the baby?"
the standard always exists for what is natural and what is not

2) Rejected decency for indecency

3) Rejected truth for perversion

b. How does God judge such a society? with homosexuality
"shameful lusts" "inflamed with lust" "indecent acts"
not a legitimate sexual orientation, but an unnatural perversion that
is living proof of God's wrath

3. (:28-32) Unrestrained Total Depravity is God's Judgment for Casting off the Fear of God

a. How did they abandon the truth?
you either value God's light or you ignore it and become your own
guide thru life

b. How did God judge them? Unrestrained total depravity --
a whole smorgasbord of sin stemming from a depraved mind

CONCLUSION:

If we insist on living an immoral life that we know is opposed
by God (or if a society does so), we are in danger of God abandoning us

Illust: looting during heavy snowstorm manifests inner depravity once
restraints are removed

Illust: removing grass from a hillside leads to erosion and a mudslide

Illust: society operates like a Yo-Yo; we drift down and then recover
for awhile; danger is God might cut the string

TEXT: ROMANS 2:1-16

TITLE: GOOD IS NEVER GOOD ENOUGH

BIG IDEA:

EVEN THE BEST MORALIST CANNOT ESCAPE GOD'S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT

1. (:1-4) Apart from Repentance, We stand Condemned by God and By Ourselves with no Escape and no Exemption

Illust: 2 Samuel 12 when Nathan confronts David

- a. We stand condemned by our own standards (:1)
- b. We stand condemned by God who judges us based on the facts (:2)
- c. God's condemnation leaves no room for escape (:3)
Why do people think they will escape from being judged by God?
- d. God's kind providence should not be interpreted as an exemption from condemnation but as an invitation to repentance (:4)

2. (:5-16) We Can Count on God's Final Judgment -- It is Certain and Righteous

- a. There will be a final universal evaluation by God of each of us that will punish the unrepentant

Illust: one piccolo player stops playing and conductor notices (:5,16)

- b. (:6-11) We will get what we deserve because God's judgment is righteous -- based on what we have done with what God has shown us

Illust: we laugh at ridiculous answers to religious survey given to high school students; with laughter is accountability

- c. (:12-15) God's final judgment requires obedience to moral standards that are obvious (not just agreement with those standards)

Key = what have we done with what we know?

TEXT: ROMANS 2:17-29

TITLE: RELIGION NEVER SAVED A SOUL

BIG IDEA:

EVEN THE MOST RELIGIOUS PERSON (DEVOUT JEW) CANNOT ESCAPE GOD'S RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT--TRUE SPIRITUALITY IS MUCH MORE THAN POSSESSING RELIGIOUS PRIVILEGES AND PRACTICING RELIGIOUS RITUALS

1. True Spirituality is much more than Possessing Religious Privileges (:17-24)

- a. Religious Privileges can produce false security if you are trusting in: (:17-20)
 - 1) Special Identity
 - 2) Special Revelation -- possession of Scriptures and discernment
 - 3) Special Ministry -- Jews viewed themselves as spiritual teachers
- b. Religious Privileges mean nothing if your life doesn't measure up (:21-24) -- your life will show whether or not you truly belong to God
 - 1) General principle: you must practice what you preach
 - 2) Three specific examples of law breaking
 - a) Stealing
 - b) Adultery
 - c) Compromising with idols
 - 3) Such law breaking on the part of those who claim to uphold the law especially dishonors God (Is. 52:5)

2. True Spirituality is much more than Practicing Religious Rituals (:25-27)

- a. Religious rituals have no value apart from obedience
- b. People who haven't practiced the rituals may be further ahead spiritually than those who have

3. True Spirituality that pleases God is An Inward Reality Accomplished by the Holy Spirit (:28-29)

What you see outwardly is often deceiving.

- a. Only inward reality validates our spiritual identity
- b. Only inward reality gives significance to religious rites
- c. Inward reality is only accomplished by the Holy Spirit
- d. Only inward reality pleases God

TEXT: ROMANS 3:1-8

TITLE: THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE

BIG IDEA:

**GOD'S CONDEMNATION OF ALL MEN (EVEN THE MOST RELIGIOUS)
DOES NOT CONTRADICT:**

- THE VALUE OF SPIRITUAL PRIVILEGES OR
- THE CONSISTENCY OF GOD'S OWN CHARACTER
(HIS FAITHFULNESS AND JUSTICE)

1. Spiritual Privileges Do Have Value (:1-2)

Question: What advantage is there in being a Jew?

Restated: What value is there in circumcision?

Spiritual identity and religious heritage do not automatically gain God's favor--but that does not mean they are all a big waste.

- a. There are many advantages and benefits--with the most important being possession and knowledge of the Word of God
- b. God has granted spiritual privileges not to promote complacency but to encourage application and outreach to others
"entrusted" -- a stewardship
Revelation (although it carries with it accountability) is a privilege and much preferred above the state of ignorance

2. God's Condemnation of All Men Does Not Contradict the Consistency of His Own Character (:3-8)

- a. He remains Faithful (reliable in performing His promises) :3-4
God remains faithful to His promises to bless the Jews in a special way despite the unbelief and disobedience of some.
Proof text (:4) from Ps.51 where David reminds us that God will always be proved right (when all the facts are in) when He speaks--what He says will prove out to be true
- b. He remains Just (manifesting His righteousness in action) :5-6
Lightning appears brightest when the sky is the darkest;
In the same way God's righteousness looks even better against the backdrop of darker sin.
But that does not make God inconsistent when He judges sin. Sin can never be justified; only condemned.
Every Jew would grant that God is obligated to judge the world.
- c. Restatement and Conclusion (:7-8) final answer to the objectors:

the absurdity of the logical extension of their arguments

- 1) The absurdity of the argument against God's truthfulness
- 2) The absurdity of the argument against God's righteousness
- 3) Conclusion: "Their condemnation is deserved"

TEXT: ROMANS 3:9-20

TITLE: GUILTY AS CHARGED

BIG IDEA:

THE CONCLUSION: UNIVERSAL CORRUPTION LEAVES ALL MEN WITHOUT EXCUSE BEFORE GOD'S CONDEMNATION

The situation is worse than you think so stop trying to earn your salvation because you will never be good enough

1. Everyone (both Jew and Gentile) is in the same boat = Under Sin and the boat is definitely sinking (:9)
2. How Bad is It? Description of Universal Corruption (:10-18)
 - a. Corrupt in Nature (:10-12)
 - b. Corrupt in Speech (:13-14)
 - c. Corrupt in Conduct (:15-17)
 - d. Fundamental problem (:18) no fear of God
3. The law can never save -- It only Convicts men and leaves them Without Excuse Before God's Condemnation (:19-20)

TEXT: ROMANS 3:21-31

TITLE: THE GUTS OF THE GOSPEL

BIG IDEA:

GOD MANIFESTS HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS IN PAYING THE PRICE TO JUSTIFY SINNERS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH--THE GUTS OF THE GOSPEL

1. (:21-26) How Can Corrupt Sinners Ever Have What It Takes?

God's Plan of Salvation--the Gift of His Righteousness

a. God Has Revealed His Plan of Salvation to Us (:21)
the manifestation of the righteousness of God

- 1) Revealed in the Gospel and in the person of Christ
- 2) Revealed Now
- 3) Revealed independently of the principle of law (earning by obeying)
- 4) Revealed in harmony with the testimony of the OT law and Prophets

b. God Will Give His Righteousness to Anyone Who Believes in Jesus Christ (:22)
the appropriation of the righteousness of God

- 1) This righteousness comes from God (we can't try to mix in our works)
- 2) Faith in Jesus Christ is the only requirement
the same plan of salvation applies to all (Jew, Gentile, moralist, most corrupt)

c. This Righteousness is something that All of us Need (:23)

d. This Righteousness is freely given -- Justification (:24)

e. This Righteousness was very costly for Jesus Christ -- Redemption (:24)

f. This Righteousness Satisfied God's Anger -- Propitiation (:25)

g. The Free Gift of This Righteousness Shows Us That God is Just (:25-26)

**2. (:27-31) God's Plan of Salvation Leaves No Room for a Spirit of Pride
(a refutation of 3 prideful responses)**

a. (:27-28) Faith leaves no room for boasting in our own accomplishments

b. (:29-30) The Oneness of God means a universal, common plan of salvation that leaves no room for a spirit of exclusivity

c. (:31) The value of the law leaves no room for a spirit of independent lawlessness--instead, justification by faith should motivate holy living

TEXT: ROMANS 4:1-17A

TITLE: OT ROOTS TO NT TRUTH

BIG IDEA:

JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH APART FROM WORKS HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOD'S UNIVERSAL PLAN OF SALVATION--THE OT EXAMPLE OF ABRAHAM

1. (:1-5) Only Naked Faith Leads to Righteousness Since Any Reliance on Human Achievement Makes Grace Impossible
(the Proof Case of Abraham)

- a. Abraham makes for a good proof case
- b. Human Achievement cannot contribute to salvation by grace thru faith since it leaves room for boasting
- c. The Testimony of the OT is clear
- d. Human Achievement cannot contribute to salvation by grace thru faith since it leaves room for obligation
- e. Only Naked Faith leads to God imputing righteousness to the undeserving

2. (:6-8) Only the Forgiveness of Sins Brings True Happiness Since Even the Best of Us Can Never Atoned for Our Own Failures
(The supporting testimony of David)

- a. David makes for a good supporting witness
- b. Sin is Inevitable and Works are Inadequate
- c. Only the Forgiveness of Sins brings True Happiness

3. (:9-12) Justification Cannot Depend on Religious Rites (Circumcision) Or Be Restricted to Any Special Group (the Jews) Since Faith is God's Universal Plan of Salvation

(Abraham was justified before he was ever circumcised)
(Refutation of doctrine of baptismal regeneration)

4. (:13-17a) Justification Cannot Depend On Obedience to Law Since the Focus of Faith is Always God's Gracious Promises

(Contrast the nature of law with the nature of promise)

TEXT: ROMANS 4:17B-25

TITLE: REAL FAITH: OT AND NT

BIG IDEA:

RECEIVING GOD'S PROMISED BLESSING HAS ALWAYS REQUIRED REAL FAITH—THE KIND OF FAITH THAT LOOKS BEYOND NATURAL OBSTACLES TO FIND STRENGTH IN GOD'S POWER AND FAITHFULNESS

(The illustration of Abraham / the application to us today)

1. Faith Makes Sense Because of Who God Is (:17b) (the Nature of God)

- a. He is the God of Resurrection Power "*gives life to the dead*"
- b. He is the God of Sovereign Faithfulness "*calls things that are not as though they were*"

2. Real Faith Looks Beyond Natural Obstacles -- Believing Against Hope

- a. Obstacles facing Abraham -- God's gracious promise seemed humanly impossible
 - 1) condition of his own body
 - 2) condition of Sarah's body
- b. Obstacles facing us -- a test of faith -- How can a holy God truly justify sinners apart from any merit or works?

important to face the facts and yet not allow our faith to be weakened; how is our faith strengthened?

3. What are the Foundations of Our Faith?

Real Faith Finds Strength in God's Resurrection Power and Sovereign Faithfulness

4. Real Faith Will Always Receive God's Promised Blessing

TEXT: ROMANS 5:1-5

TITLE: CONFIDENT CHRISTIAN LIVING

BIG IDEA:

**IV. (5:1 - 8:39) RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH
CHAPTER 5 -- CONFIDENCE AND ASSURANCE**

**A. (5:1-5) JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH IS THE FOUNTAINHEAD FOR CONFIDENT
CHRISTIAN LIVING**

Context: assuring us that justification by faith is sufficient to carry us through eternity; it will never let us down (the foundation of our salvation will bear the weight of our lives)

1. **We Have Peace With God -- RECONCILIATION** -- a Healed Relationship
objective peace; present possession; a settled reality
God has ceased His hostilities against us!
2. **We Have Access to God's Grace** (signif. of perfect tenses)
(illustr.: victim of AIDS has no hope, nowhere to turn for help)
(illustr: curtain in the temple torn -- Matt.27:51)
3. **We Are Assured of Future Glory so that our Hearts Have Been Set Free to Truly Rejoice** (a bright future that gives us hope in the present)
4. **We Have a New Character That is Being Developed and Discovered thru Suffering**
sufferings don't shake our confidence or produce doubt; instead they reinforce our hope and help us to keep on rejoicing;
we are not yet perfect, but our character bears the evidence of the fruit of the Holy Spirit
5. **We Have God's Loving Spirit Working Within Our Hearts**
the certain hope of future glory will never disappoint us because we already possess within us the evidence of the love of God thru the Holy Spirit

TEXT: ROMANS 5:6-11

TITLE: FREEDOM TO FACE THE FUTURE

BIG IDEA:

B. THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S LOVE FREES US TO FACE THE FUTURE WITH JOYFUL CONFIDENCE

A lesson of reassurance for believers: If Christ demonstrated his love for us in the past, when our condition was awful, how much more will Christ continue to love us into the future, now that our relationship with God is restored. Thus, the certainty of Christ's love frees us to rejoice in the present and face the future with confidence

1. (:6-9a) Christ Died to Show His Love for Us in the Past While We Were Powerless, Undeserving Enemies

a. Description of our Condition Before God

- 1) Powerless, Helpless, Hopeless
- 2) Undeserving -- "*ungodly*" "*sinners*"
- 3) Enemies (v.10) -- sums up our condition

b. Significance of God's Timing -- "*at the right time*"

c. The Awesome Love of Christ to die for such ones

2. (:9b-10) Christ Lives and Will Surely Show His Love For Us in the Future Now that Our Relationship With God Has Been Restored

"*much more*" = the key point of the parallels Paul draws thru the remainder of the chapter

"*the wrath of God*" -- refers to God's final judgment and condemnation of sinners to eternal punishment

3. (:11) Christ's Dying and Living Love For Us Frees Us to Rejoice in the Present

Since Christ has shown His love in the past and assures us of His love in the future, we are now free to rejoice in the present.

TEXT: ROMANS 5:12-21

TITLE: TRIUMPH OF GRACE OVER SIN

BIG IDEA:

C. GRACE TRIUMPHS OVER HUMAN SIN -- OUR SOLIDARITY WITH CHRIST ASSURES OF GOD'S GIFT OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND LIFE EVEN MORE THAN OUR SOLIDARITY WITH ADAM BROUGHT SIN AND DEATH

(The Adam Bomb: the Effects of One Man)

1. (:12-14) Adam's Sin Had Grave Effects Upon Us --

Our solidarity with Adam brought universal sin and death

- a. The invasion of sin into the world thru the one man Adam
- b. The inevitable consequence of death (and condemnation)
- c. The pervasiveness of sin and death (and condemnation v.18)
What is the nature of our Solidarity with Adam? various attempts to explain our link with Adam's sin:
 - 1) Seminal / Genetic View -- stresses our natural, physical, genetic descent from Adam
 - 2) Representative (Federal) View -- Adam acted as our representative

Regardless of whether we view Adam primarily as our representative or as the father of our genetic makeup, etc. we are indeed connected to him. When he sinned, it had a dramatic, unravelling effect upon all of us. In effect, after Adam sinned, what we would choose to do would be completely predictable--all of us would want to choose sin just like Adam. Therefore, because of Adam's sin, in effect we all are sinners by nature and choose to practice sin and deserve to die.

- d. The illustration that proves the point -- What was the situation before the law from the time period from Adam until Moses? (when there was no clear, direct, outward command from God; Eve's sin was not as significant because she derived from man and because she did not get the command directly from God)

2. (:15-17) Christ's Grace Has Greater Effects Upon Us --

The Resulting Righteousness and Life from our Solidarity with Christ are even More Certain in a Much Different Sense

- a. Christ's Grace -- a Free Gift (Illustr.: Queen Eliz. pardoning woman who had sneaked into her quarters to assassinate her)
- b. Righteousness assures us of Reigning in Life
no reason to fear death; we will be everything God wants us to be--not by our own efforts but by God's grace
What does it mean for something to reign or rule? -- (Illustr.: smallpox reigned over early settlers until vaccine discovered)
- c. Christ's Gracious Gift of Righteousness is a Surpassing Gift
- d. Christ's Grace must be Received (v.17)

3. (:18-19) Adam or Christ Will Solely Determine the Effects in Our Future -- our future destiny hinges upon one action from one man

(Illustr.: row of dominoes -- first one falls leads to all the others fall in predictable fashion; in reverse video, if the last fallen domino were to rise upright, so would all the others in that row of faith)

4. (:20-21) The Purpose of God's Law is to Magnify Our Sin and His Surpassing Grace.

Magnify = make sin and grace more abundant and more clear
Why did God give the law (His commandments) if we are unable to keep it?

- a. To provoke our sinful nature to evidence itself more specifically and clearly in defined acts of transgression; to make our sinfulness more abundant and more clear
- b. To provide the opportunity to demonstrate God's surpassing, abundant, victorious grace -- Grace Triumphs Over Sin (the Christian's freedom from the dominion of sin, the law and death are developed in chaps. 6-8)

TEXT: ROMANS 6:1-11

TITLE: GRACE IS NOT LICENSE TO SIN

BIG IDEA:

CHAPTER 6 - GOD'S GRACE: NOT A LICENSE TO SIN BUT FREEDOM TO LIVE A NEW LIFE

THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION AND MOTIVATION FOR HOLY LIVING – FREEDOM FROM THE DOMINION OF SIN

D. (6:1-11) IS GRACE A LICENSE TO SIN SINCE GRACE TRIUMPHS OVER SIN? OUR UNION WITH CHRIST HAS FREED US FROM THE DOMINION OF SIN TO LIVE A NEW LIFE

(looking at remaining in the state of sin in all that we were in our solidarity with Adam)

1. Our Union with Christ in Baptism Proves that We Have Died to the Dominion of Sin in order to Live a New Life (:1-4)

- a. Our Baptism into Christ's Death
- b. Our Baptism into Christ's Burial
- c. Our Baptism into Christ's Resurrection

What is involved in having "died to sin":

- 1) Immunization -- sin can't touch us anymore; our experience refutes this; no need for Romans to teach us to resist sin
- 2) Justification only -- (Haldane's position) -- must be more experiential than this because of v.18
- 3) Emancipation -- Yes, but in what sense? Sin is personified throughout this section (chap.5ff) as reigning as a tyrannical power that commands us absolutely; we have been delivered once for all from the penalty of sin and from its authority to dominate our life and command us

John Owens used to say a pastor has only 2 problems:
persuading unbelievers they are under the dominion of sin
persuading believers they are not under the domin. of sin

2. Our Union with Christ in His Death Guarantees our New Life (:5-10)

- a. Because we have been Freed from the Dominion of Sin (:5-7)

b. Because there is no possibility of Double Jeopardy (:8-10)
when Christ died, He died to the dominion of sin once for all,
and His sacrifice for our sins was accepted by God the Father
who raised Him from the dead so that He now lives forevermore
in new resurrection life

3. Application: Believe it! (:11)

Right Thinking is the Theological Foundation and
Motivation for Holy Living
not trying to persuade yourself that it is true; it IS true!

- a. Dead to the Dominion of Sin (especially its penalty of death)
- b. Living a New Life to God (culminating in eternal resurrection life)
- c. All accomplished thru our Union with Christ

TEXT: ROMANS 6:12-14

TITLE: GRACE MOTIVATES DEDICATED LIVING

BIG IDEA:

E. (6:12-14) APPLICATION: LIVE FOR GOD, NOT FOR SIN -- EXHORTATION AND MOTIVATION TO USE GOD'S GRACE TO RESIST FULFILLING THE DESIRES OF SIN AND TO OFFER OURSELVES TO GOD AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR DOING GOOD

1. (:12-13) The Exhortation that we are to carry out

- a. Resist fulfilling the desires of sin (:12)
 - 1) the Dynamic of Sin -- it is the same for everyone (like a powerful magnetic attraction)
 - 2) When are we vulnerable and likely to yield?
 - 3) What is involved in Resisting?
 - 4) The problem comes not in having inward sinful longings, but in failing to resist so that we end up obeying sin

- b. Offer ourselves to God as an instrument for doing good (:13)
 - 1) Parallel passages (James 4:7; Rom. 12:1)
 - 2) Meaning of "offer" -- put yourself at God's disposal; make yourself available to be used for God's purpose
 - 3) Nature of the offering
 - OT background
 - our entire being
 - all the specific parts of your body (arms, feet, mouth)
 - other NT offerings that we are exhorted to make
 - 4) Instruments of righteousness -- God's will for your life

Transition: not saying in a simplistic sense that this is easy to do

2. (:14) The Motivation that will help us carry out the exhortation

- a. We have been brought to life and are now able to live for God (:13b) -- regenerate; new creation; breath of new life

- b. We are no longer held in bondage to sin (1 Cor. 10:13)

- c. We are not left just to the "mercy of the law"
God's Law -- What it does and doesn't do:
 - 1) It only demands/commands but gives no power to obey (Rom. 2:14-16)
 - 2) It only condemns us -- showing us how badly we've failed but never making us any better (Rom. 3:19-20)

- 3) It doesn't restrict/restrain our fallen nature; it provokes it to sin (Rom. 5:20)
- 4) It can never relieve us from our bondage to sin (and death and condemnation) and free us to obey

d. We are now under the enabling power of God's grace

- 1) provides guidance and gives power to obey
- 2) no possibility of condemnation since our merit or performance is not the issue
- 3) motivates obedience out of love and gratitude rather than stimulating rebellion and sin
- 4) relieves us from the dominion of sin and frees us to obey

(6:11-14) Four areas of personal responsibility for the believer in the process of Sanctification:

- 1) Reckon on our union with Christ -- faith
- 2) Recognize and actively resist sin
- 3) Renounce control of our own life and yield ourselves as an offering to God's will and service
- 4) Rest in God's Grace as the Governing Perspective of our lives

TEXT: ROMANS 6:15-23

TITLE: FREEDOM FROM THE LAW IS NO LICENSE TO SIN

BIG IDEA:

IS GRACE A LICENSE TO SIN SINCE WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER THE LAW BUT UNDER GRACE?

GRACE HAS FREED US FROM BEING SLAVES TO SIN AND NOW HAS MADE US SLAVES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

(looking at individual acts of sin)

(Images in chaps 6-7: baptism, offering, slavery, marriage)

1. Sin Should No Longer Be An Option for the Believer Because We are Now Slaves of God's Righteousness (:15-18)

- a. The bottom line answer -- unrighteous living is forbidden (:15)
- b. A principle for reflection -- Whom you obey indicates to whom you are a slave (to whom you belong) (:16)
"my sheep hear my voice and they follow Me" John 8:34
- c. The thankful reality of believers: we are now slaves of righteousness (:17-18) -- note passives in vs.18
obedience is the accent (emphasis) of our life

2. Slaves of Sin Yield No Fruit Except Shame and Death, But Slaves of God's righteousness Bear Fruit, Leading Us to Holiness and Life Eternal (:19-23)

- a. Purpose of using the illustration of slavery: our basic human nature is weak and needs concrete human illustrations to better grasp the truths of God (:19a)
- b. An exhortation: we are to use our bodies in a new way (:19b)
- c. Explanation of the inconsistency of continuing to choose to act ungodly: when we were under the dominion of sin it was understandable (but still not right) that we chose to live in sin; but now things are different (:20)

(Illustr.: a disturbance at a jail is no big deal since we expect criminals might act that way)

- d. Learning from the past: reflect on our past choices of sin before we trusted Christ -- How did they benefit us? (:21)

- 1) They have no benefit
- 2) They bring only shame (Illustr.: overhead projector for displaying our past life of sin)
- 3) They lead to death (separation from what is good, worthwhile)

e. Reflecting upon the present (:22)

- 1) we have been set free from sin's dominion
- 2) we have now become enslaved to God and His righteousness
- 3) as slaves of God's righteousness there is much benefit:
 - a) we will bear fruit (if no changed life, then no union with Christ)
 - b) we are maturing in personal holiness
 - c) at the end of our journey in holiness is life eternal (:23)
 - 1)) eternal not just in duration but in quality of life it is supreme
 - 2)) this eternal life is not a result of righteous obedience, but a free gift
 - 3)) God's free gift of eternal life is granted to those who are in Christ

TEXT: ROMANS 7:1-6

TITLE: A NEW WAY TO LIVE

BIG IDEA:

CHAPTER 7 -- FREEDOM FROM THE DOMINION OF THE LAW

G. (7:1-6) WE CAN SERVE GOD IN A NEW WAY THROUGH THE SPIRIT SINCE WE HAVE DIED TO THE CLAIMS OF THE LAW AND ARE NOW MARRIED TO CHRIST

1. The Liberating Principle of Death -- Death Releases Us From the Claims of the Law (:1-3)
2. Our Death to the Law & Our Remarriage to Christ -- We have died to the Law Through Christ Who Has Given Us a New and Fruitful Marriage (:4)
 - a. We died to the law
 - 1) died to the claims of the law -- what does this mean?
 - a) the law claims/demands perfection from us -- we died to those demands
 - b) the law says we are guilty -- we died to this verdict
 - c) the law condemns us
 - 2) How did we die to the law? through the body of Christ
 - b. We became married to Christ
 - 1) this is a personal relationship (not primarily rules)
 - 2) this is a fruitful relationship
3. Our Old Marriage to the Law -- What it Did
Our Old Marriage to the Law Aroused Sinful Desires That Produced Fruit Leading to Death (:5)
4. Our New Marriage to Christ -- What it Does
Our Death to the Law Frees Us to Serve God In a New Way Through the Spirit (:6)
 - a. We have been brought to life and are now able to live for God
 - b. Dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit is the key to freedom
 - c. Serving God will result from this new marriage relat. to Christ

TEXT: ROMANS 7:7-13

TITLE: DON'T BLAME GOD

BIG IDEA:

H. (7:7-13) ALL THE BLAME FOR SIN AND DEATH FALLS ON OUR SINFUL NATURE, NOT ON GOD'S LAW WHICH REMAINS GOOD

1. (:7-8) God's Law Benefits Us By Exposing and Provoking Our Sinful Nature
 - a. Exposing our sinful nature (Illustr: microscope shows us realm of reality that otherwise we could not see)
 - b. Provoking our sinful nature (Illustr: 2 magnets with opposite polarity)
2. (:9-11) Our Sinful Nature Uses the Law as An Opportunity to Deceive Us Into Sin and Death
 - a. The Aim of Sin is to Deceive (Satan as deceiver, Angel of Light)
 - b. How does sin deceive us?
 - c. Death reigns as a result
3. (:12) Regardless of Human Abuse, God's Divine Law Remains Good
4. (:13) The Blame for our Death Falls Not on the Law, But on the Awfulness of our Sinful Nature -- Which the Law Exposes

TEXT: ROMANS 7:14-25

TITLE: WRESTLING WITH SIN

BIG IDEA:

I. (7:14-25) THE HOPE AND STRUGGLE OF BEING CHRISTIAN -- THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE WITH SIN INVOLVING TENSION, CONFUSION AND CONTRADICTION BUT WITH THE SURE HOPE OF COMPLETE DELIVERANCE THROUGH CHRIST

1. The Christian Life is a Constant Struggle Between Two Opposing

Natures -- the old persisting sin nature and the new inner man

a) Not speaking about the universal Human Struggle here; this struggle only applies to Christians (therefore, the presence of the struggle itself should be an encouragement)

b) Illustr: cutting off head of chicken, yet it acts very much alive

2. The Christian's Struggle Involves Tension, Confusion, and Contradiction

a) Tension -- "prone to wander Lord I feel it"

b) Confusion

c) Contradiction -- all Christians are living contradictions

3. Nevertheless, the Christian Lives with a Sure Sense of Hope for Complete Deliverance Through Christ

TEXT: ROMANS 8:1-4

TITLE: NO CONDEMNATION

BIG IDEA:

CHAPTER 8 -- FREEDOM FROM THE DOMINION OF DEATH / ETERNAL SECURITY

J. (8:1-4) IN CHRIST THERE IS NO CONDEMNATION BUT FREEDOM TO LIVE A NEW LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BY THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT

1. (:1-2) In Christ, We are No Longer Condemned (under the controlling power of Sin and Death); Instead We Are Freed Thru Christ's Life-giving Spirit
2. (:3) God Sent His Own Son to do what the Law Couldn't -- overcome our sin by condemning it in Himself
3. (:4) God's Intent (in freeing us from Condemnation) is to have Us Live Righteous Lives Through the Power of His Spirit

TEXT: ROMANS 8:5-13

TITLE: *THE MIND OF CHRIST*

BIG IDEA:

K. (8:5-13) OUR HUMAN MINDS NATURALLY FIGHT AGAINST GOD; HOWEVER, GOD GAVE US HIS SPIRIT TO LEAD US INTO RESURRECTED LIFE, NOW AND HEREAFTER

1. The Mind's Struggle Against God --
The human mind naturally fights against God, but in a losing battle (:5-8).
2. The Assurance of New Life --
However, God's Spirit is leading each believer into new resurrection life now and hereafter (:9-11).
3. The Obligation to Submit to God's Spirit --
We are obligated to submit ourselves to God's Spirit who will help us die daily to our sin (:12-13).

TEXT: ROMANS 8:14-17

TITLE: ASSURANCE FROM WITHIN

BIG IDEA:

L. (8:14-17) OUR HEAVENLY FATHER GAVE US HIS SPIRIT TO REASSURE US OF OUR PRIVILEGED FAMILY RELATIONSHIP AND GLORIOUS INHERITANCE

(SONS AND HEIRS -- THE INDWELLING SPIRIT ASSURES US OF OUR IDENTITY AND INHERITANCE IN THE FAMILY OF GOD)

1. (:14-15) We Are Now Adopted As God's Very Own Children
 - a. God has forgotten our past and accepted us into His family
 - b. Qualification -- not Universalism, but those led by the Spirit
 - c. Benefits of this new family relationship
2. (:16) We have Been Given the Holy Spirit Within To Reassure Us Regarding Our Identity and Inheritance
3. (:17) As God's Children We are Guaranteed to Receive a Glorious Inheritance Through Christ

TEXT: ROMANS 8:18-25

TITLE: PERSPECTIVE TOWARDS SUFFERING

BIG IDEA:

M. (8:18-25) WE CAN PATIENTLY ENDURE SUFFERINGS BECAUSE OF OUR SURE HOPE THAT THEY WILL END IN A FAR SURPASSING GLORY

1. Introductory Statement –

We need to reckon our share in sufferings to be insignificant compared to our share in glory (:18)

2. The Fractured Creation –

Our dying world shows its desperate need to be delivered (:19-22)

3. God's Fractured Children –

With hope and patience we also yearn for our full deliverance (:23-25)

TEXT: ROMANS 8:18-25

TITLE: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS

BIG IDEA:

**N. (8:26-27) THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS US IN OUR WEAKNESS --
AS WE ATTEMPT TO OVERCOME THE PROBLEMS OF THIS LIFE, THE HOLY
SPIRIT TRANSLATES OUR PRAYERS INTO ASKING FOR THE EXACT THINGS
THAT WILL HELP US BEST**

**THE COMPASSIONATE INTERCESSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS
KEEP US ON TRACK AS WE ENDURE THE SUFFERINGS OF THIS LIFE ON OUR
WAY TO GLORY**

**1. (:26a) The Holy Spirit Helps Us Right Now in Our Weakness
and Suffering**

- a. Our weakness and suffering is very real and very painful
- b. Our best resource in this life is the person of the H.S.
- c. The Holy Spirit is our "together/instead of" Helper

**2. (:26b) We Do Not Know How/What to Ask God For, But the
Holy Spirit Intercedes For Us**

(the contrast between our helplessness and confusion vs.
the compassionate intercession of the Holy Spirit)

**3. (:27) We Can Be Certain the Holy Spirit Will Ask God For
the Exact Things That We Need, and We Will Receive Them**

The Harmony between God the Father and God the Holy Spirit
(between the mind of God and the mind of the Spirit; between
the will of God and the will of the Spirit; between the love of
God and the love of the Spirit for us; between the desire of
both to see Christ glorified in us) ensures that His Compassionate

Intercession will keep us on track (since His help is totally
consistent with the will of God)

TEXT: ROMANS 8:28-30

TITLE: THE UNBREAKABLE CHAIN OF SALVATION

BIG IDEA:

O. (8:28-30) GOD'S UNBREAKABLE CHAIN OF SALVATION PROVIDES ETERNAL SECURITY AND THE ASSURANCE THAT GOD IS WORKING ALL THINGS TOGETHER FOR OUR GOOD

1. He ForeKnew Us -- Election

God has had special loving thoughts toward us from eternity past

2. He Predestined Us --

God has determined a special goal for us that includes eternity future

3. He Called Us --

God's effectual call has successfully drawn us into His wonderful eternal plan

4. He Justified Us --

God has declared us worthy (righteous) even though we were not

5. He Glorified Us --

God tells us that our sharing in Christ's glory is certain

TEXT: ROMANS 8:31-39

TITLE: FOREVER CONNECTED

BIG IDEA:

P. (8:31-39) NO MATTER WHAT WE FACE, THERE IS NOTHING STRONG ENOUGH TO CUT US OFF FROM THE LOVE OF GOD

1. (:31-32) Nothing Can Defeat Us Since God is On Our Side

- a. Respond in Confidence
- b. Trust the Power of God
- c. Rest in the Unchanging Eternal Love of God

2. (:33-34) Nothing Can Condemn Us Since God is On Our Side

- a. Remember who we are = the elect of God
- b. For us the possibility of final guilt and condemnation does not exist
- c. We have God the Father on our side -- His work in justifying us
- d. We have God the Son on our side -- His fourfold ministry:
 - 1) Christ died for us
 - 2) He was raised
 - 3) He is at the right hand of God
 - 4) He intercedes for us

3. (:35-39) Nothing Can Separate Us From God's Love

- a. (:35-36) Don't let suffering catch you by surprise
- b. (:37) Suffering actually magnifies our victory
- c. (:38-39) The strongest power imaginable can never separate us from God's love

TEXT: ROMANS 9:1-13

TITLE: ISRAEL'S FAILURE CANNOT COMPROMISE GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

BIG IDEA:

V. (9:1 - 11:34) THERE IS NO ROOM FOR BOASTING BECAUSE GOD'S GREAT PLAN OF SALVATION UNFOLDED THROUGHOUT THE AGES DISPLAYS HIS SOVEREIGN GRACE AND JUDGEMENT TO BOTH JEWS AND GENTILES.

A. (9:1-13) THE SAD FAILURE OF THE NATION ISRAEL DOES NOT CONTRADICT THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IN CHOOSING THE RECIPIENTS OF HIS GRACIOUS PROMISES

1. (:1-5) Israel Sadly Failed to Take Advantage of Their Spiritual Opportunity
2. (:6-9) God Has Not Failed In His Plan to Save His Chosen People
3. (:10-13) Whom God Saves Depends Completely on God

TEXT: ROMANS 9:14-24

TITLE: GOD'S INALIENABLE RIGHTS

BIG IDEA:

**B. (9:14-24) GOD'S INALIENABLE RIGHTS --
WE HAVE NO BUSINESS QUESTIONING GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICE IN
SALVATION
(EXERCISING HIS RIGHT TO SELECTIVELY FORGIVE SOME BUT TO CONDEMN
MANY)**

1. (:14-18) Is God Unjust?
Election Is Consistent With the Divine Character.

God is always just, but salvation is mainly an issue of God's right to exercise selective mercy.

2. (:19-21) Can Man still be held Accountable?
Election Is Consistent With Human Responsibility.

As God's creation, who are we to question God's inalienable right to shape us as he sees fit!

3. (:22-24) Why Does God Delay in Showing His Wrath?
God's Patience Serves to Give Opportunity for the Magnifying of His Selective Mercy

TEXT: ROMANS 9:25-33

TITLE: GRAFTED IN

BIG IDEA:

C. (9:25-33) AS THE OT PROPHETS PROMISED, GOD HAS CHOSEN TO SOVEREIGNLY SAVE MANY GENTILES THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST, BUT EXCLUDE THE VAST MAJORITY OF JEWS.

1. (:25-26) **God Includes the Gentiles** (quote from Hosea)
God has chosen to include many Gentiles who had no previous ancestral relationship to God.
2. (:27-29) **God Excludes the Jews** (quotes from Isaiah)
God is now only saving a small remnant of Jews.
3. (:30-33) **Faith in Christ is the Key to Acceptance or Rejection**

TEXT: ROMANS 10:1-13

TITLE: *THE SIMPLICITY OF SALVATION*

BIG IDEA:

D. (10:1-13) SALVATION IS EASY -- WHOEVER TRUSTS IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS AND NOT IN HIS OWN WILL BE SAVED.

1. (:1-4) Sadly, Israel did not accept the righteousness of Christ, but tried very hard to earn their salvation.
2. (:5-6) Salvation demands perfect obedience so faith does not try to add to what Christ has done for us.
3. (:7-10) Salvation is right in your lap -- simply trust and confess Jesus as Lord.
4. (:11-13) Salvation is for anyone who will believe.

TEXT: ROMANS 10:14-21

TITLE: *THE AVAILABILITY OF SALVATION*

BIG IDEA:

E. (10:14-21) SALVATION IS AVAILABLE -- GOD SENT THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION TO THE WORLD; THE GENTILES RECEIVED IT, BUT ISRAEL STUBBORNLY REJECTED IT.

1. (:14-17) Salvation Depends On Missionary Outreach.
2. (:18-20) Israel should have Accepted the Message of Salvation and the Inclusion of the Gentiles.
3. (:21) Sadly, Israel Stubbornly Rejected God's Repeated Offer of Salvation.

TEXT: ROMANS 11:1-10

TITLE: ISRAEL: DOWN BUT NOT OUT

BIG IDEA:

F. GOD'S REJECTION OF THE NATION ISRAEL HAS NEVER BEEN COMPLETE; WHEN HARDENING THEM IN THEIR UNBELIEF HE HAS ALWAYS PRESERVED AT LEAST A SMALL REMNANT.

1. (:1-6) God Did Not Reject Israel Altogether -- A Remnant of Jews Chosen by Grace Are Still Being Saved
 - a. Paul's own conversion is proof
 - b. Proof from God's foreknowledge
 - c. Proof from Elijah and the 7000
2. (:7-10) Israel Stubbornly Resisted God's Ways, So God Deadened Their Senses to Spiritual Truth

TEXT: ROMANS 11:11-24

TITLE: ISRAEL'S LOSS = GENTILES' GAIN

BIG IDEA:

G. (11:11-24) ISRAEL'S REJECTION BROUGHT SALVATION TO THE GENTILES AND WILL ULTIMATELY RESULT IN ISRAEL'S ACCEPTANCE.

1. (:11-12) Israel's Loss Has Become Gain for the Gentiles
2. (:13-16) Israel's Acceptance Will Ultimately Follow
3. (:17-21) There is no room for Pride or Boasting but rather for Fear of the Lord
4. (:22-24) God is Able to Display Both Kindness and Severity so we should never Presume against God's Kindness or Write Others Off Based on God's Severity

TEXT: ROMANS 11:25-32

TITLE: ISRAEL'S FINAL DESTINY

BIG IDEA:

**H. GOD'S REJECTION OF THE NATION ISRAEL IS NOT FINAL;
ALL ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED AFTER THE "FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES".**

TEXT: ROMANS 11:33-36

TITLE: *GIVE GOD CREDIT*

BIG IDEA:

**I. GOD'S GREAT PLAN OF SALVATION DESERVES OUR PRAISE
BECAUSE IT DISPLAYS GOD'S GREAT WISDOM.**

1. God's Plan Allows No Room for Human Pride.
2. God's Plan Displays His Mercy.
3. God's Plan Includes People From Every Nation.
4. God's Plan Displays His Faithfulness.
5. God's Plan Gives God All the Credit.
6. God's Plan Gives Him the Glory Forever.

TEXT: ROMANS 12:1-8

TITLE: SERVING THE BODY

BIG IDEA:

VI. (12:1 - 15:33) ALL BELIEVERS MUST HUMBLY SERVE GOD TOGETHER AND LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS MEMBERS OF THE ONE BODY OF CHRIST

A. (12:1-8) WE ARE CALLED TO SERVE GOD THROUGH SERVING IN HIS BODY.

1. Serving God -- Offering ourselves as Living Sacrifices Pleases God and Enables us to Experience His Perfect Will

- a. Our motivation -- God's mercy
- b. We are to be consecrated
- c. We are to be living sacrifices
- d. We are to be transformed
- e. The results
 - 1) we please God
 - 2) we experience God's will in and thru our life

2. Serving In His Body -- As members of the same body we are called to Serve God by Doing Our Part Wholeheartedly

- a. The attitude we serve with:
 - 1) humility
 - 2) faith
- b. The body we serve in
 - 1) we are united -- one body in Christ
 - 2) we have different gifts/strengths
- c. The gifts we serve with
 - 1) the source
 - 2) your special contribution
 - 3) your wholehearted use

TEXT: ROMANS 12:9-13

TITLE: *SINCERE LOVE*

BIG IDEA:

B. (12:9-13) WE ARE TO SERVE GOD BY SHOWING SINCERE LOVE THAT IS SEEN AND NOT JUST SPOKEN

1. (:9b) Am I Pursuing Holiness?
2. (:10) Am I Preferring Others
3. (:11) Am I Passionate in Service?
4. (:12) Am I Persevering in Affliction?
5. (:13) Am I Providing for the Needs of Others?

TEXT: ROMANS 12:14-21

TITLE: OVERCOME EVIL WITH GOD

BIG IDEA:

C. (12:14-21) WE ARE TO SERVE GOD BY NOT BEING OVERCOME BY EVIL, BUT BY OVERCOMING EVIL WITH GOOD --

7 WAYS TO FIGHT YOUR ENEMIES

1. (:14) Determine to bring your enemy good not harm
 2. (:15) Show concern for your enemy's gains and losses
 3. (:16) Do not allow yourself to think you are better
 4. (:17) Do not allow another's evil to determine your response
 5. (:18) Always try to maintain an atmosphere of peace
 6. (:19) Let God "worry" about repaying evil
 7. (:20) Give your enemy what he needs not what he deserves
- Summary (:21) In fighting your enemy, overcome evil with good

TEXT: ROMANS 13:1-7

TITLE: SUBMISSION TO CIVIL AUTHORITY

BIG IDEA:

D. (13:1-7) WE ARE TO SERVE GOD BY SUBMITTING TO THE CIVIL GOVERNMENT, RECOGNIZING THAT ITS POWER AND AUTHORITY ARE FROM GOD

1. General Rule: As a General Rule, We are to Submit to Those in Authority Over Us; Why?
 - a. Resisting the authority = rebellion against God
 - b. To avoid hurting ourselves
 - c. To free us up to live with a clear conscience
2. Purpose of Authority: Authorities Have Been Placed Over Us for Our Benefit
 - a. To reinforce what is right
 - b. To punish what is wrong
3. Examples of Submission: Submitting to Government Authority Includes Paying Our Taxes and Paying Due Respect to Those In Charge

TEXT: ROMANS 13:8-14

TITLE: *LOVE FULFILLS EVERY COMMAND*

BIG IDEA:

E. (13:8-14) WE ARE TO SERVE GOD BY LOVING ONE ANOTHER -- LOVE FULFILLS EVERY LAST COMMAND OF GOD AND SEIZES LIFE'S FADING OPPORTUNITIES --

THE TIME TO SHOW LOVE IS NOW!

1. Love Fulfills Every Command of God (:8-10)
2. Love Seizes Life's Fading Opportunities (:11-14)

TEXT: ROMANS 14:1-12

TITLE: PIETY ALLOWS FOR VARIETY

BIG IDEA:

F. WE ARE TO SERVE GOD BY ALLOWING FELLOW-BELIEVERS THE FREEDOM TO BELIEVE DIFFERENTLY, DESPITE OUR DIFFERENCE OF OPINION

1. We Must Accept Fellow-Believers Despite Our Differences of Opinion (:1-3)

- a. Problem -- strong in faith vs. weak
- b. Specific cultural example
- c. Our Attitude = spirit of acceptance
 - 1) weak has tendency to condemn
 - 2) strong has tendency to despise or look with contempt
- d. Reason = God has accepted him

2. We Must Allow Fellow-Believers the Freedom to be Accountable to God and Not to Us (:4-12)

TEXT: ROMANS 14:13-23

TITLE: LOVE OVER LIBERTY

BIG IDEA:

G. IN ISSUES OF PERSONAL CONVICTION, LOVE MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER LIBERTY TO PROMOTE PEACE AND PREVENT STUMBLING BLOCKS

1. Love Replaces Judgment with Brotherly Sensitivity (:13)
2. Love Does Not Allow its Liberty to Be a Stumbling Block (:14-18)
3. Love Sacrifices Liberty For Peace and Edification (:19-21)
4. Love Does Not Pressure Or Compromise In Areas of Personal Conviction (:22-23)

TEXT: ROMANS 15:1-6

TITLE: SPIRITUAL SUPERGLUE

BIG IDEA:

H. THE STRONG AND THE WEAK GLORIFY GOD WHEN HELD TOGETHER BY DIVINE ENCOURAGEMENT

1. The Strong are Obligated to Encourage the Weak (:1-5a)

- a. How can we encourage the weak?
 - 1) by bearing with their failings (:1a)
 - 2) by preferring them (not living for self) (:1-2)
 - 3) by building up our neighbor
 - 4) by reflecting upon the example of Christ (:3a)
 - He did not please Himself
 - He came to please God (to do His will -- Heb. 10:7)
 - He willingly endured others' shortcomings (Ps.69:9)
- b. Where do we get strength to be patient and encourage?
 - 1) we draw our strength from Scripture (:4)
 - 2) ultimately we draw our strength from God (:5a)

2. Encouraging One Another in the Spirit of Unity Brings Glory to God (:5b-6)

- a. The apostle's desire = the SPIRIT OF UNITY
 - 1) Definition
 - 2) Context for unity
 - 3) How is unity displayed?
 - 4) Where do we see the example to be patient with the weaknesses of others? patient endurance of Christ - Ps.69:9
- b. What is the Result of encouraging one another in the Spirit of Unity?
 - 1) it is pleasing to God
 - 2) it gives glory to God

TEXT: ROMANS 15:7-13

TITLE: SPIRITUAL SUPERGLUE – PART 2

BIG IDEA:

I. THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST BRINGS GLORY TO GOD BY UNITING BELIEVERS TOGETHER IN PRAISE AND HOPE

1. Christ's Ministry was to Receive Us with Open Arms; so we must be "open armed" toward one another (:7)
2. Christ's ministry was Intended to Bring God Praise from 2 Different Groups -- Jews and Gentiles
 - a. Christ's ministry would bring praise from Jews.
Why? ... for God's FAITHFULNESS
 - b. Christ's ministry would bring praise from Gentiles.
Why? ... for God's MERCY
3. Christ's Ministry was to have all Believers, Jews and Gentiles, Praising God Together (:9-12)
4. Christ's Ministry Has Also Given Us Believers a Spirit of Hope (:13)

TEXT: ROMANS 15:14-16

TITLE: *GRACE FUELS A MINISTRY OF SHEPHERDING*

BIG IDEA:

J. HAVING GOD'S GRACE (GOODNESS & KNOWLEDGE) ENABLES US TO HAVE A MINISTRY OF NURTURE

1. The Power for Ministry -- Flows from the Grace of God
2. The Tools for Ministry -- a Kind Heart and the Knowledge of God
3. The Goal of Ministry -- to Nurture Others in Their Relat. to God
4. The Hope (Promise) of Ministry -- God's Grace is In Us and It Is Sufficient

TEXT: ROMANS 15:17-21

TITLE: GIVE CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

BIG IDEA:

K. WHEN WE PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST, HE BUILDS HIS CHURCH THROUGH US AND DESERVES CREDIT FOR ANY SUCCESS

1. The Credit for Accomplishing Church Growth -- Our Accomplishments
Give Us the Opportunity to Give Credit to Christ (:17)
2. The Agents for Accomplishing Church Growth -- It is Christ's
Spirit Using What We Say & Do that Accomplishes Church Growth
(:18-19)
3. The Method for Accomplishing Church Growth -- The Method for
Accomplishing Church Growth is the Hearing and Telling of the
Good News (:20-21)

TEXT: ROMANS 15:22-29

TITLE: PRACTICAL FELLOWSHIP

BIG IDEA:

L. SPIRITUAL MINISTRY LAYS THE FOUNDATION FOR ONGOING FELLOWSHIP THAT RESPONDS TO MATERIAL NEEDS AND PROMOTES THE EXTENSION OF THE GOSPEL

1. The Example of Mutual Fellowship Between the Jews in Jerusalem and the Gentiles in Macedonia and Achaia
2. The Anticipation of the Blessing from Mutual Fellowship Between Paul and the Romans

TEXT: ROMANS 15:30-32

TITLE: PRAYER PARTNERS

BIG IDEA:

M. SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY DEPENDS ON INTERCESSORY PRAYER

1. We Need Others to Support Our Ministry With Their Prayers (:30)
 - a. The Motivation for Intercessory prayer
 - b. The Effort involved -- "strive"
 - c. The Partnership -- "together with me"
2. We Need Intercessory Prayer to Protect Us From Opposition and to Prevent Us From Being Misunderstood (:31)
3. We Anticipate the Relief of Fellowship Together with our Prayer Supporters After the Hard Struggles Required for Successful Ministry (:32)

Benediction (:33) The presence of the God of Peace is needed to keep the bond of unity and fellowship among believers

TEXT: ROMANS 16:1-5A

TITLE: HELP THE HELPERS

BIG IDEA:

**VII. (16:1-27) CLOSING GREETINGS/WARNINGS
FELLOWSHIP IN THE LORD BINDS BELIEVERS TOGETHER IN PROMOTING
THE GOSPEL WORLDWIDE WHILE GUARDING AGAINST ATTACK AND
DECEPTION**

**A. THE CHURCH SHOULD COMMEND, ASSIST, AND THANK FELLOW-
CHRISTIANS WHO ARE COMMITTED TO SERVING OTHERS**

**1. The Church Should Commend & Assist Fellow-Christians Who Are
Ministering to Others (:1-2)**

- a. The church's business is to minister to others
- b. The church should commend fellow-Christians who are helping others
- c. The church should assist fellow-Christians who are helping others

**2. The Church Should Thank Fellow-Christians Who Are Committed
to Ministering to Others (:3-5a)**

- a. Ministering to others is a matter of personal commitment
- b. Fellow-Christians who've shown a commitment to ministering should be personally thanked

TEXT: ROMANS 16:5B-16

TITLE: BLESSED BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

BIG IDEA:

B. FELLOWSHIP IN THE LORD BINDS BELIEVERS TOGETHER IN PRECIOUS RELATIONSHIPS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY, AND SACRIFICIAL SERVICE

1. Spiritual Postcards -- Expressing Love and Affection;
Fellowship in the Lord Binds Believers Together in Precious Relationships
2. Wartime Medals of Honor -- Expressing Praise for a Job Well Done;
Fellowship in the Lord Binds Believers Together in Sacrificial Service
3. Letters of Commendation -- Expressing Hope for Continued Unity in the Context of New Opportunities for Ministry;
Fellowship in the Lord Binds Believers of All Backgrounds Together in New Opportunities for Ministry

TEXT: ROMANS 16:17-20

TITLE: 4 SAFEGUARDS AGAINST TROUBLEMAKERS

BIG IDEA:

C. GUARD FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANITY AGAINST THE ATTACKS AND DECEPTION OF SELF-CENTERED TROUBLEMAKERS –

4 SAFEGUARDS:

1. CAUTION -- Keep Your Distance

Keep away from those who divide us from fellow Christians and cause us to stumble from fundamental Christianity

2. DISCERNMENT -- What You See Is Not Always What You Get

An uncorrupted heart can be deceived by the sound of something good

3. CAREFUL OBEDIENCE -- Look Carefully Before You Leap

Discern first, obey second (rather than blind obedience)

4. PERSEVERANCE IN HOPE -- Hang in There, Satan's Party Will Soon Be Over

Though Satan's aim is to divide and destroy our Christianity, God's aim is to soon destroy Satan to bring us peace

TEXT: ROMANS 16:21-27

TITLE: *THE SOLID ROCK*

BIG IDEA:

D. GOD IS ABLE TO BUILD A UNIVERSAL AND STABLE CHURCH THROUGH MAKING KNOWN THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

1. God is ABLE
2. to Build a STABLE Church
3. to Build a UNIVERSAL Church
4. THROUGH MAKING KNOWN THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST