

Romans Chapter 12 – Teaching Notes

Romans Chapters 1-8 is mostly theology

Chapters 1-3 describe the human condition – all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.

- Secular Man
- Moral Man
- Religious Man

Chapter 4 - Faith

Paul begins to answer the problem: how can a sinful person be made right with God? The solution is FAITH. No human effort can be right before God through WORKS. God has made the way for us to come back to Him through faith in what He did for us in the death, burial and resurrection of His only Son, Jesus Christ. Abraham was the father of faith because he believed God's promises and God declared him RIGHTEOUS

Chapter 5 – Justification

When we come to faith in God's promises we are acquitted of all our sins and declared innocent of all offenses against God. We are freed from the penalty of sin which is death. We are born again and made new creations in Christ Jesus.

Chapter 6 – Sanctification

In this chapter Paul helps us understand the role of the Holy Spirit in working in our new life in Christ to give us power over sin. Sin shall no longer have dominion over us. We move from being slaves to sin and now become servants of God living rightly.

Chapter 7 – Free from the Law

As in a marriage when one partner dies, the surviving partner is allowed to remarry another. In Christ we have died to the law so we can be remarried to GRACE. The law is good and right but it condemns us because we can never live up to these requirements. However, God has provided the solution, Grace, which is freely given to those who believe, i.e. Faith.

Chapter 8 – Our Victory in Christ

- God Foreknew us
- God Predestined us
- God Called us
- God Justified us
- God Glorified us

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus!

Chapters 9-11 – Israel and the Sovereignty of God

These chapters described God's sovereign choice regarding Israel. Their past – Isaac vs Ishmael; Jacob vs Esau, etc. God does what he wants, when he wants, the way he wants and doesn't require our permission. God used Pharaoh to reveal His glory. God chose to reveal himself to the gentiles to make the Jews jealous. God welcomed the Gentiles because they came in faith. The Jews tried to be right with God through their works and fell short.

Faith will bring salvation to those who believe in their heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and confess with their mouth Jesus is Lord. Faith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God. This is available to "all" who call upon the name of the Lord.

God has not rejected His people. God always has a remnant (Elijah and the 7000). God has grafted into the olive tree wild branches (Gentiles) and God will also graft back the original branches (Israel). All Israel will be saved (remnant).

Chapter 12 – Applied Theology

- Moving from Character to Christian Conduct
- Moving from the Inner Man to the Outward Man
- Moving from the Christian Condition to Christian Conduct
- Moving from who the Christian IS to what the Christian DOES
- Moving from the Privileges of Grace to the Precepts of Grace

V 1 Present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice which is your spiritual service of worship. In the Old Covenant a sacrificed animal was offered to God. When it was placed on the altar it became the property of God – the one who offered it no longer had any say. God wants us to place ourselves on the altar as a living (not dead) sacrifice and thereby acknowledge we no longer belong to Him. He can do as He wishes with us.

Note 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 – your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit

V 2 Do not be conformed to this AGE but be transformed by the renewing of your mind
Why? To understand God's will for your life

- To know God's will is good for you – He blesses us
- To know God's will is acceptable - we can agree with Him
- To know God's will is perfect – it cannot be improved upon

V 3 God gives all of us a specific measure of faith – different for each individual. Note: faith and pride are never compatible. Two faith examples in NT – Centurion and Syrophenician Woman -great faith and total humility (I am not worthy).

V 4 – 5 The measure of your faith enables you to be productive in the body of Christ. You are a contributing member through your gifts. When you find your place you will find fulfillment.

Four ways of knowing you are in the right place with the right gift

1. It will be a natural extension of who you already are
2. You will find joy and fulfillment in ministry
3. You will bear fruit
4. You will be affirmed by other

V 6-8 Seven ministry gifts are listed. In all there about 22 mentioned (see I Cor 12)

1. Prophecy
2. Service
3. Teaching
4. Exhortation
5. Giving
6. Leadership
7. Mercy

V 9-21 Love is the fountain for all ministry and the source of the Christian life.

1. Hate evil and love what is good (Ps 45:7)
2. Be devoted to one another and prefer others above yourself – self-centeredness guarantees misery
3. Be diligent vs laziness – spoken strongly against in Proverbs and elsewhere in scripture
4. Hope sustains us through tribulation along with prayer
5. Hospitality and sharing to meet the needs of others
6. Bless those who persecute
7. Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep
8. Be humble and avoid pride – be willing to associate with the lowly
9. Don't return evil with evil
10. Seek peace with others as you are able
11. Vengeance is God's – if you take revenge, God will not; if you don't take revenge, God will.
12. Respond with the opposite spirit toward evil

Chapter 13

Vs 1- 6 Christians and Government

13 Every person must submit to and support the authorities over him. For there can be no authority in the universe except by God's appointment, which means that every authority that exists has been instituted by God. ²So to resist authority is to resist the divine order of God, which results in severe consequences. ³For civil authorities don't intimidate those who are doing good, but those who are doing evil. So do what is right and you'll never need to fear those in authority. They will commend you for your good citizenship.

⁴ Those in authority are God's servants for the good of society. But if you break the law, you have reason to be alarmed, for they are God's agents of punishment to bring criminals to justice. Why do you think they carry weapons? ⁵ You are compelled to obey them, not just to avoid punishment, but because you want to live with a clean conscience.

⁶ This is also the reason you pay your taxes, for governmental authorities are God's officials who oversee these things. ⁷ So it is your duty to pay all the taxes and fees that they require and to respect those who are worthy of respect, honoring them accordingly. (The Passion Bible)

- All Authority is from God
- All Authority is given to Jesus – Matthew 28:18
- Jesus is head over all authority – Colossians 2:10
- If you resist secular authority, you are resisting God and will receive condemnation
- The authority is IT verses a person
- The authorities ordained by God are for the good of society
- The authorities are to punish evil and criminals
- Pay your taxes

So, what if an evil government asks you to violate you Christian faith and conscience?

Jesus and Authority

- John 18:36 – before Pilate
- John 19:11 – Statement to Pilate
- Zachariah 4:6 – God's kingdom is never established through military means/fighting
- Jesus respected the secular rulers authority even when it was used corruptly

Disciples and Authority

- Acts 4:16-20
- Acts 5:28-29

Daniel and Authority

- Daniel 1:8
- Daniel 3:8-18

We are to pray for those in authority and be faithful to God even if it costs us our freedom or life. (I Timothy 2:1-6)

God's Promise in Romans 16:20

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Roman Empire converted to Christ by 312 AD – not by revolution but by prayer, witness, testimony and obeying God amidst great persecution.

Revelation 12:11 – They over came Satan by the

- Blood of the Lamb
- Word of their testimony
- And they loved obeying God greater than they loved their lives.

VS 8-9 The motivation of all the Christian life is Love

- Galatians 5:14 – whole of the law is fulfilled in one statement – love neighbor as self
- John 13: 34 – new commandment – Love one another

VS 11- 14 Living in Anticipation of His Return

- Wake Up and look up and be ready
- Put away the deeds of darkness
- Put on Jesus and make no provision for the flesh