



# Epistle to The Romans



## Lesson 18, Romans 12, What About Us?

In the first part of Romans, we dealt in-depth with the problem of sin, the doctrine of salvation (justification), and looked in-depth at the subject of faith. Then we focused on the nation of Israel for three chapters, realizing that God is not done with Israel and how it is vitally important in our Biblical understanding to get the proper perspective on Israel.

### Romans Outline

|  |              |                       |
|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Chapters 1 - 8</b>  | <b>FAITH</b> | <i>Doctrinal</i>      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1-3 Sin (the most complete diagnosis)</li> <li>- 4-5 Salvation</li> <li>- 6-8 Sanctification</li> </ul> |              |                       |
| <b>Chapters 9 - 11</b>   | <b>HOPE</b>  | <i>Dispensational</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 9 Israel - Past</li> <li>- 10 Israel - Present</li> <li>- 11 Israel - Future</li> </ul>                 |              |                       |
| <b>Chapters 12 - 16</b>  | <b>LOVE</b>  | <i>Practical</i>      |

Now in this chapter we move into our final section of Romans, the practical section, where we look at the gospel of peace, about how we are to stand in the battle, how we are to walk in our life and how we are to run in the race.

Therefore, in this section of Romans, we will start answering the “So What” question: What has all this to do with you and me?

### Shifting Gears

Justification ►► Sanctification ►► Glorification

Under “sanctification” we were dealing with Christian character and in this section, we will be dealing with the part of character the surrounds the Christian’s outward conduct.

We are moving from the inner man to the outer man. Before we looked at the condition of the Christian, now it is the consecration of the Christian. Before, it was who the Christian is and now it is what he does. We have discussed the privileges of grace, now we consider the precepts of grace.



### Read Romans 12 Verse 1

Paul’s use of “Therefore...” implies that this is a response to all the foregoing teaching. The Greek word for “...mercies” is translated “compassion” in 2 Cor 1:3, Phil 2:1, Col 3:12, and translated “mercy” in Heb 10:28. God’s compassion has been described in detail in the first 11 chapters of Romans.

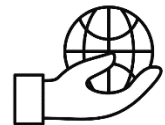
The word “...present” means to “yield” or let go of (Rom 6:13, 16, 19). “...your bodies” is a temple of the Holy Spirit and he is indwelling that temple (1 Cor 6:19-20).

“Living sacrifice” (in contrast to the OT sacrifices). Christians are believer- priests, identified with the great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ (cf. Heb 7:23-28; 1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6). A believer’s offering of his total life as a sacrifice to God is therefore a sacred service.

What Paul is suggesting represents a complete change in lifestyle, involving both a negative and a positive aspect (Cf. Gen 2:24: leaving as well as cleaving...).

### **Read Romans 12 Verse 2**

Paul is asking us to “Stop being conformed to this [age],” or the world in which we live. The word “Conformed” means to be pressed into a mold. Are we being pressed into a mold? Absolutely! We are being barraged with messages both day and night. Modern media has placed incredible technology in Satan’s hands. The export of depravity is unprecedented. It is astonishing to see what our entertainment media is doing to influence the entire world.



Modern media advertising exploits the basest of man’s desires and is basically programmed covetousness. The underlying presuppositions of the entertainment industry is anti-godly with messages that range from subtle (most dangerous) to overt. The messages are designed to tear down the established institutions established by God, i.e...marriage, family, faith, etc... (we will talk more about this in the next chapter).

Paul’s phrase “...keep on being transformed” is present tense. passive voice, imperative Mood, in other words, it is a continuous command. Not once and for all, but ongoing.

The Greek word for “...transformed” is where we get the English word “metamorphosis,” which is a total change from inside out (cf. 2 Cor 3:18). The key to this change is the “mind” which is the control center of one’s attitudes, thoughts, feelings, and actions.



*That ye put off concerning the former conversation [manner of life] the oldman [self], which is [being] corrupt[ed] according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; Ephesians 4:22-23*

Again, continuous action; passive voice meaning, “And constantly allow the spirit of your mind to be renewed.” Once more this is a moment by moment activity.

*And that ye put on the new man [self], which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4:24*

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience*

*of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6*

Who does the pulling down? \_\_\_\_\_. You have an evil thought, don't get upset, it is the nature of man, however, take that thought captive right there on the spot. Lustful, covetous, and random inappropriate thoughts tempt us, it is not a sin if we deal with it.

## **Responsibilities from Gifts**

There are really only two world views:

- 1) We're product of random chance, some cosmic accident, with no destiny;
- 2) We're the result of a deliberate and purposeful Creation...

And every answer to every question in life will derive from our world view: Who am I? Where did I come from? Where am I going? To whom am I accountable?

We live in a world that pushes conformity or consensus thinking. The world teaches you can believe what you like as long as you leave your convictions outside of the meeting room. A denial of truth. Nothing is more poignant an example than the current world thinking on genders (transgenderism) and the resulting destruction of those who stand against it.



The pursuit of truth used to be the highest calling of mankind, even in the secular world. Today we live in a culture that denies the existence of truth. "Relationships" rather than truth. That is formula for disaster.

*Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Ephesians 2:2*

Who is the prince of the power of the air? \_\_\_\_\_

*We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one. 1 John 5:19 (nas)*

Each Christian needs to be keenly aware of who is the God of this age (world). In order for us to stand against this, we need to be aware of the armor of God, which we will briefly look at.

## **Our Armory: Ephesians 6**

### **Our Warfare**

*For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Ephesians 6:12*

Ephesians 6 is not talking about unregenerate congressmen or senators or some metaphoric representations of evil. On the contrary, the Greek is quite implicit. We are talking about ranks of angelic beings. Your warfare is spiritual and is against several layers of fallen angels. This is far more dangerous than what many Christians believe.



### **Daniel 10: A Glimpse of the Dark Side**

Daniel decides to fast for 21 days. An angel is dispatched (sent) to Daniel at the start of his fast. After 21 days the angel arrives but explains to Daniel that he was held up for 21 days by some creature called “The Prince of the Kingdom of Persia.” It wasn’t until archangel, Michael, intervenes and helps the first angel that he was able to get through. The angel then gave Daniel the subsequent vision (Chapters 11 & 12). The angel then tells Daniel that he (the angel) will then have to go a fight with “The Prince of the Power of Greece.” We could infer from scripture that Satan has powerful fallen angels assigned to earthly empires. We don’t grasp what goes on behind the scenes since the fall of Adam. To get another glimpse let’s look at 2 Kings.

*Then the king of Syria warred against Israel, and took counsel with his servants, saying, In such and such a place shall be my camp. And the man of God sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice. Therefore the heart of the king of Syria was sore troubled for this thing; and he called his servants, and said unto them, Will ye not shew me which of us is for the king of Israel? And one of his servants said, None, my lord, O king: but Elisha, the prophet that is in Israel, telleth the king of Israel the words that thou speakest in thy bedchamber. And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. 2 Kings 6:8-17*

### **Our Imperative**

*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.*  
Ephesians 6:10

Pau’s words are in an **Imperative Mood**: This is a command, not an option. It is also in the **Present Tense**; meaning be continually strong. And in the **Passive Voice** so You receive the action. In other words, Focus is on the problem-solver, not the problem.

*Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.* Ephesians 6:11

In reality it is not the Republicans or Democrats that are at work here. There are spiritual forces behind the scenes that are pulling at the strings. Also, you are already on enemy turf (1 John 5:19).

Be completely armed before the battle begins...

*Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.. Ephesians 6:13*

### **Seven Elements of Armor**

*Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; Ephesians 6:14-18*

- 1) Girded with Truth
- 2) Breastplate of Righteousness
- 3) Feet shod with preparation
- 4) Shield of Faith
- 5) Helmet of Salvation
- 6) Sword of the Spirit
- 7) Prayer - Our Heavy Artillery



### **Read Romans 12 Verse 3**

Paul's interesting introduction to spiritual gifts. First is the need for humility! It is an invariable sign of spiritual maturity. It begins with understanding grace... It's all from Him.

The "proud look" heads the list of the "Big 7" things that God hates (Prov 6:16-19).

### **Body Life**

Self-esteem? Prov 11:2: *When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.*

If you do have something that you are proud of just remember that it is something that God gave you. Paul emphasized that human pride is wrong (cf. Rom 3:27; 11:18, 20) partly because all natural abilities and spiritual gifts are from God.

Every believer has a measure of faith that is perfect for the plan He has for each of us (1 Tim 3:6; 5:22; Prov 16:18, 19; 29:23; Jn 3:27; Mt 20:25-28).

"It's amazing what can be accomplished when you don't care who gets the credit." ~ Ronald Reagan

### ***Read Romans 12 Verse 4***

We all need each other. When you don't exercise your spiritual gift, you are disenfranchising the Body (Cf. 1 Cor 12:12-27; Eph 4:11- 12, 15-16). We all have different gifts: "not all have the same function" (cf. 1 Cor 12:4).

### ***Read Romans 12 Verses 5 & 6***

One's "prophesying" is to be done "according to the proportion of faith": A better translation would be "in agreement to the faith." The word prophesying is not used here in the context of future revelation, instead it means communicating God's message, to strengthen, encourage, and comfort (1 Cor 14:3) and is to be in right relationship to the body of truth already revealed through the word. If not, there is a problem.

### ***Read Romans 12 Verses 6 & 7 & 8***

Spiritual gifts don't eliminate the need for preparation. In verse 8 "Exhortation" means comfort or encouragement. Contributing to people's needs is to be done with generosity, not skimpily (2 Cor 8:2; 9:11,13). Remember "God loveth a cheerful giver," (2 Cor 9:7) and giving comes in different forms. The word "cheerful" comes from the Greek word that means hilarious.

### ***Seven Gifts (not all inclusive)***

- Prophets, Teachers, Administration (listed in 1 Cor 12:28).
- Prophets and Pastor-Teachers (listed in Eph 4:11).
- Administering and Serving (listed in 1 Peter 4:10-11).

Whatever one's gift, he should exercise it faithfully as a stewardship from God. A danger with "gifts:" don't seek experiences, seek God, and seek Him in His Word. We are to be fruit-inspectors, not gift-inspectors

### ***Read Romans 12 Verse 9***

In the KJV the word dissimulation mean unfeigned, undisguised, sincere, without hypocrisy. Also used of love (2 Cor 6:6; 1 Peter 1:22); of faith (1 Tim 1:5; 2 Tim 1:5); of wisdom (James 3:17). Sincere: "without wax"; speaking of a common way to hide cracks, defects. Love here is 'Agape' love which is the signature of the Holy Spirit's presence (Phil 4:8-9).

### ***Read Romans 12 Verse 10***

The Greek word for love here is a philadelphia which means brotherly love. "Honor" here means to respect someone on a true evaluation of their worth. It is not flattery.

Philippians 2:4: *Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

These exhortations are at the end of this epistle: they rely on the foundation that has been set: they can only be produced by the Holy Spirit. They cannot be produced in the flesh.

### **Read Romans 12 Verse 11**

Slothful here means sluggish, backward. “*Not lagging behind in diligence*” (nas). Diligence is essential in any serious endeavor. It is what separates winner and losers. Apply this to study of God’s word as well. Don’t just read it and accept someone’s viewpoint, dig into it. Be like the Bereans and check it out for yourself. Joshua 1:8: “...then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” It doesn’t happen by itself.

### **The Secret of Success**

*This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.* Joshua 1:8



True success is perseverance in the Word of God.

### **Read Romans 12 Verse 12**

Hope is prophetic awareness and it is the goal of maturity (Cf. Rom 5:4; 8:20-25). Being “...patient in” means “persevering in” tribulation. This is not referring to the great tribulation but instead persecution. Christ promised us all persecution and tribulation (trouble). May the lessons in life not be wasted. The phrase “...instant in prayer” means faithful in or devoted to prayer. All great men of faith were devoted to prayer. If Jesus needed to pray, then what about us?

### **Read Romans 12 Verse 13**

In this verse “Distributing” is different than the “giving” of v.8 it means “contributing to fellow believers” or entering into the fellowship of other’s needs as our opportunity to help. A “...fellowship” in the Greek is *koinoneo* which means, 1) to come into communion or fellowship with, to become a sharer, be made a partner; 2) to enter into fellowship, join one’s self to an associate, make one’s self a sharer or partner; a fiduciary (cf. Prov 19:17; Lk 6:38). This attitude characterized the Jerusalem church (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32, 34-37). This concern also motivated the church in Antioch (Acts 11:27- 30) and the Apostle Paul (1 Cor 16:1-4; 2 Cor 8-9; Rom 15:25-27) to give to the church in Jerusalem. Remember,

*Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares* (Hebrews 13:2).

### **Read Romans 12 Verse 14**

This can only be done in the Spirit, rarely in the flesh (Mt 5: 44-47; Lk 23:34). Paul probably also remembered Stephen (Acts 7:59-60).

**Read Romans 12 Verse15:** Envy has no place in this. Enter into the fellowship of others, just don't act like Job's friends.

**Read Romans 12 Verse16:** No class distinctions in the Body of Christ.

**Read Romans 12 Verse 17:** Ethics don't come automatically to man, it takes training, commitment, and discipline. A most serious lack in the Body of Christ today (1 Cor 9:19-23).

**Read Romans 12 Verse18 & 19**

Verse 19 in the nas, niv: *"Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord."* (Deut 32:35; cf. Heb 10:30.)

David's refusal to kill Saul on two occasions when it seemed that God had delivered Saul into David's hands is a classic Biblical example of this principle.

**Read Romans 12 Verse20**

Quotation from Proverbs 25:21-22. The coals on the head may refer to a ritual in Egypt in which a person showed his repentance by carrying a pan of burning charcoal on his head. The concept here is that helping rather than cursing an enemy may cause him to be ashamed and penitent.

**Read Romans 12 Verse21**

*I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.* John 15:5

Branches look like the vine; but it is the sap from the vine that produces the fruit...

## Next Session

We have four chapters (lessons) left. For next lesson read Romans 13. Paul talks about four basic Divine institutions. 1) Freedom of Choice; 2) Marriage; 3) Family; 4) Government. It is interesting to note that the culture we live in is launching an organized deliberate attack on God's institutions.

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## BIBLE SCAVENGER HUNT

Use your Bible to fill in all of these blanks.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The last book of the Bible _____          | <input type="checkbox"/> The last word in the Bible _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The book after Daniel _____               | <input type="checkbox"/> The first book named for a woman _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The first book of the New Testament _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> The 20th book of the Bible _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The first word in the Bible _____         | <input type="checkbox"/> The 2nd book named for a woman _____   |

Answers: Revelation, Hosea, Matthew, In, Amen, Ruth, Proverbs, Esther