

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 04 Sept.....Romans 1:1-17..... Good News To Tell
- 2) 11 Sept.....Romans 1:18-3:26..... Good News to Hear
- 3) 18 Sept.....Romans 3:27-4:25..... Good News to Believe
- 4) 25 Sept.....Romans 5:1-21..... It's All About Grace
- 5) 02 Oct.....Romans 6:1-23..... It's All About New Life
- 6) 09 Oct.....Romans 7:1-25..... It's All About Victory
- 7) 16 Oct.....Romans 8:1-39..... It's All About Certainty
- 8) 23 Oct.....Romans 9:1-11:36..... It's All About God's Plan
- 9) 30 Oct.....Romans 12:1-21..... Does Your Life Please God**
- 10) 06 Nov.....Romans 13:1-14..... Can You Be Counted On
- 11) 13 Nov.....Romans 14:1-12..... Do You Respect Others
- 12) 20 Nov.....Romans 14:13-23..... Do You Strive for Peace with Others
- 13) 27 Nov.....Romans 15:1—16:27..... Does Your Life Speak Well of God?

INTRODUCTION

- Paul makes a lot of proverbial statements in this chapter of how it takes effort on our part to please God – both mental and physical
- In fact, as we will see, God expects us to take the following **mental actions**: Be transformed by renewing our minds; think soberly of ourselves; don't be lazy; get off our high horse
- ...and to take the following **physical actions**: Be kind to one another; use our God-given gifts; pray continuously; live peaceably where possible; feed our enemies; and master evil in our lives
- But, if salvation is by Grace alone (no works), why do we have to work so hard after receiving eternal life? Can't we just coast?

| Passage | Comments |
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| Romans 12:1-2 | <p>Are We Eternity-Focused?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Our reasonable/logical service for God is to use all of our God-given abilities and faculties for His Glory - What would this look like on a daily basis at home, at work, around others, or when no one else is around? • v2. Discerning the will of God begins with our minds. - How do we keep from conforming to this world? - How do we renew our minds?Phil 4:6-8 |
| 12:3-8 | <p>Do We Have Complementary or Competitive Gifts? Solitary or Showy Gifts? Singular or Multiple Gifts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v3. What would happen if we did not exercise sound judgment as we meander through life, or we thought too highly of ourselves with our God-given gifts? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Would our life be more stable or discombobulated? ♦ Would we have stable relationships & friendships ♦ Could we blame others for the decisions we make? • vv4-8. These 8 gifts of service (grace, prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, rules, mercy) are not an exhaustive list also see 1Cor 12 and Eph 4:11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Be careful about seeing these gifts as something miraculously given at the moment of salvation ♦ We are all commanded to exhort, to show mercy, to minister, to be gracious, and to give to one another ♦ Yet, not many should be teachers/rulers over others due to stricter accountability James 3:1 |
| Points to Ponder | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If these gifts were miraculously awarded at the moment of salvation, then we should be able to immediately allow new believers to become Pastors/Elders, S/S Teachers, Deacons, and Ministry leaders without a period of time to "prove" them see 1Tim 3:10 • Even non-believers can be great teachers, givers, etc • Rather see these gifts as abilities believers learn to exhibit as they mature in Christ 2Pet 3:18 • See S/S lessons from 1Corinthians 12-14 and Ephesians 4a for more points to ponder |

| Passage | Comments |
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| 12:9-10 | <p>Real Agape Love is Self-sacrificing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v9. Hypocrisy – “play actor” – insincere. Our agape love for others should be sincere <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How should we “abhor evil” around us? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do we turn off the TV when bad stuff comes on? ♦ How should we cling to what is good? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do we support godly ministries? • v10. How can we outdo one another in showing honor? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Try to encourage, not criticize; praise, not curse |
| 12:11-20 More proverbial sayings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don't be slothful/lazy • Rejoice always • When the going gets rough, keep going • Be devoted to praying • Be diligent, hard working • Give to other saints • Be hospitable to friends, family & strangers • Bless/pray/help those who hurt you • Be happy for those who win in life • Be compassionate with those who hurt in life • Don't be snooty or snotty • Don't seek revenge • Respect other people's property and time • Strive to get along with everyone • Feed your enemy |
| 12:12c | <p>Don't Underestimate the Power of Prayer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be Devoted to Praying – make it a priority, plan it out each day, watch with anticipation Psalms 5:3 • God can do anything He wants but He loves to accomplish His will for us by answering our prayers • We actually short-change ourselves when we fail to pray thoughtfully, diligently and unceasingly |
| 12:16a | <p>Be of the Same Mind with One Another</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The early Roman church was composed of masters & slaves, rich & poor. There was no such thing as a middle class, so they had to work against typical human tendency to 'whoever has the gold, rules' |
| 12:21 | <p>Overcome Evil with Good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To return evil for evil and good for good is human • To return evil for good is barbaric • To return good for evil is godly |

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Faith expresses itself through obedience of God's word.....James 2
- And people know we are Christians by the love we show to each other and to the world..... John 13:34-35

NEXT WEEK: Romans 13. If tyrannical nations such as China, eastern-bloc countries, and all Muslim nations would only read this chapter they would see the need to promote Christianity within their borders, since Christians are commanded to obey the good laws of the land and to seek the welfare of their country

