

Romans Class 8

Recap Weeks 1-7

Romans: Written to address issues between Jews and Gentiles in Rome
The gospel brings Jew and Gentile together.

The gospel brings righteousness by faith
Jews need it as much as Gentiles
Supercedes the Law
Calls us to live righteous lives
Holy Spirit helps us do that
Jews hardened for a time, “cut off the olive tree” (not all!)
Will be grafted back in if they believe
All this shows the magnificent glory, power, mercy of God
How blessed we are!

Therefore...

“Therefore”: Preceding chapters demand a certain kind of response!

(Rom 12:1) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual^[1] act of worship.

Remember Jew-Gentile issue:

Living sacrifices: instead of animal sacrifices
(sin, guilt, burnt, peace offerings Lev 1-7).

- Sin & guilt offerings: to obtain forgiveness.
 - Jesus did this for us.
- Burnt offerings, peace offerings (fellowship, freewill)
 - Gratitude, showed that Israel belongs to God, and God sustains them by his grace and mercy. Lev 7:11-21
- “Living sacrifices” fit in the latter category

Your life is your freewill offering

- holy: without blemish or defect, set apart, devoted to God
- body: contrast to Greek philosophy
 - body evil, spirit good.
 - Here, body is holy and devoted to God (temple of Holy Spirit)

Spiritual worship / Reasonable service

- Inner, heart – not just outward (contrast to Jews)

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- Jews: not conformed to Jewish customs
- Gentiles: Not conformed to Gentile way of life
- Both: Transformed, new way of thinking

(Rom 12:3) For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

(Rom 12:4) Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function,

(Rom 12:5) so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

part of body:

- It's not all about you!
- Christianity is a team sport! There is no "i" in "team".

(Rom 12:6) We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith.

(Rom 12:7) If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach;

(Rom 12:8) if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

- Your gift does not belong to you.
- Use it for the benefit of the body.
- Family groups!

Notice "one another":

(Rom 12:9) Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

(Rom 12:10) **Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.** [**philostorgoi, philadelphia – love like family**] Honor one another above yourselves.

(Rom 12:11) Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

(Rom 12:12) Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

(Rom 12:13) Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.
(Rom 12:14) Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
(Rom 12:15) Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.
(Rom 12:16) Live in harmony with one another. **[even if you disagree]** Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.

Remember Jew / Gentile, house churches.

- Other congregations in ACOC. Other baptized believers.

It's not about you!

(Rom 12:17) Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.

(Rom 12:18) **If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.** **[even if you disagree. You don't have it all figured out]**

(Rom 12:19) Do not take revenge, my friends, **[you would get it wrong!]** but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord.

(Rom 12:20) On the contrary:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed him;

if he is thirsty, give him something to drink.

In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head."^[5]

(Rom 12:21) Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Roman Government

(Rom 13:1) Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. **The authorities that exist have been established by God.** **[Democrat or Republican]**

(Rom 13:2) Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

(Rom 13:3) For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and he will commend you.

(Rom 13:4) For he is God's servant to do you good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for **he does not bear the sword for nothing.** **[capital punishment]** He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.

(Rom 13:5) Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also **because of conscience.**

(Rom 13:6) This is also why you **pay taxes**, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

(Rom 13:7) Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if

revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor. [[Matt 22:21; tribute](#)]

Remember Jew / Gentile situation

Remember what the Roman authorities had done, and were about to do!

- exiled Jews from Rome
- would put Paul, Peter, others to death in a few years
- Nero was emperor at this time!

([Rom 13:8](#)) Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to **love one another**, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

([Rom 13:9](#)) The commandments, "Do not commit adultery," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet,"^[1] and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

([Rom 13:10](#)) Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

- Helping out the Jews here...

([Rom 13:11](#)) And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed.

([Rom 13:12](#)) The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

([Rom 13:13](#)) Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy.

([Rom 13:14](#)) Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

Get ready for Roman persecution!

Get ready to meet God!

