

ROMANS

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ROMANS

I. INTRODUCTION

A. WRITTEN FROM:

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God--

OPENING (AND CLOSING) PARAGRAPH

² the gospel

he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures

³ regarding his Son,

HUMAN NATURE

- who as to his **human nature** was a **descendant of David**, ⁴ and

DIVINE NATURE

- who through the **Spirit** of holiness was declared with power to be the **Son of God** by his resurrection from the dead:

Jesus Christ our Lord.

PURPOSE OF WRITING: OBEDIENCE BY FAITH (see Rom 16:26)

⁵ Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to **call** people from among all the Gentiles to the **obedience that comes from faith**. ⁶ And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

B. WRITTEN TO:

⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints:

C. GREETING

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.

⁹ God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you ¹⁰ in my prayers at all times;

and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

¹¹ I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong-- ¹² that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome.

II. MAIN TOPIC INTRODUCED: RIGHTEOUSNESS (GAINED AND LIVED) BY FAITH...

¹⁶ I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

¹⁷ For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written:

"THE RIGHTEOUS WILL LIVE BY FAITH."

III. THE GOSPEL

A. MAN'S PROBLEM – WRATH OF A REJECTED GOD

¹⁸ The (wrath of God is being revealed) from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness,

1. KNOWLEDGE OF GOD (see JOHN 17:3; LIFE / RELATIONSHIP)

a. OFFERED

¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from **what has been made**, so that men are **without excuse**.

b. REJECTED -- BRINGING ABOUT GOD'S WRATH – PRESENTLY (DOWNWARD SPIRAL)

①

TURNING FROM GOD - MAN DID NOT RESPOND APPROPRIATELY TO GOD

²¹ For although **they knew God**, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the **glory of the immortal God** for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

- ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the **sinful** desires of their hearts
- to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another.

②

TURNING TOWARD WORLD - TO PURSUE CREATED THINGS

²⁵ They exchanged the **truth of God** for a lie, and **worshiped and served created things** rather than the Creator-- who is forever praised. Amen.

- ²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts.
- Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.

③

DARKENING OF THE MIND

²⁸ Furthermore, since they **did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God**,

- he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done.
- ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. ³² Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them. (NIV)

2. **MERCY OF GOD**

a. **OFFERED**

2¹ You, therefore, have **no excuse**, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge the other, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.

DON'T DECIEVE YOURSELF REGARDING YOUR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS

² Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³ So when you, a mere man, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think [**1**] you will escape God's judgment?

GOD'S MERCY GIVES US A CHANCE TO REPENT

⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance?

b. **REJECTED -- BRINGING ABOUT GOD'S WRATH - FUTURE**

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

GOD'S JUDGEMENT IS RIGHTEOUS -- WE WILL BE MEASURED AGAINST GOD HIMSELF

BASIS OF HIS JUDGEMENT - OUR DEEDS

⁶ God "WILL GIVE TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE."

⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality,
he will give eternal life.

⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil,
there will be wrath and anger.

HIS JUDGEMENT DOES NOT DEPEND ON NATIONALITY

⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil:
first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;

¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good:
first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

HIS JUDGEMENT IS WITH OR WITH OUT RELIGION

¹¹ For God does not show favoritism.

¹² All who sin apart from the law
will also perish apart from the law, and
all who sin under the law
will be judged by the law.

¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be **declared righteous**. ¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, ¹⁵ since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their **hearts**, their **consciences** also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them.)

¹⁶ This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

3. RELIGION - DOES NOT BRING ABOUT RIGHTEOUSNESS REQUIRED FOR RELATIONSHIP

¹⁷ Now you, if you call yourself a Jew;

LAW OF GOD (HIS WILL) – MOSES

a. OFFERED

if you rely on the **law** and
brag about your relationship to God;
¹⁸ if you know his will and
approve of what is superior
because you are instructed by the **law**;
¹⁹ if you are convinced that you are
a guide for the blind,
a light for those who are in the dark,
²⁰ an instructor of the foolish,
a teacher of infants,
because you have in the **law** the embodiment of knowledge and
truth--

b. REJECTED

²¹ you, then, who	teach others,	do you not teach yourself?
You who	preach against stealing,	do you steal?
²² You who	say that people should not commit adultery,	do you commit adultery?
You who	abhor idols,	do you rob temples?
²³ You who	brag about the law ,	do you dishonor God by breaking the law ?

²⁴ As it is written: "GOD'S NAME IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU."

COVENANT OF GOD – ABRAHAM

a. OFFERED

²⁵ Circumcision has value
if
you observe the law,

b. REJECTED

but if
you break the **law**,
you have become as though you had not been
circumcised.

THOSE WITHOUT CIRCUMCISION

²⁶ If those who are not circumcised keep the law's requirements, will they not be regarded as [2] though they were circumcised? ²⁷ The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a **lawbreaker**.

TRUE CIRCUMCISION - IS INWARD; NOT EMPTY EXTERNAL OBSERVANCES

²⁸ A man is not a Jew if he is only one **outwardly**, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ No, a man is a Jew if he is one **inwardly**; and **circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God. (NIV)

4. WORD OF GOD

QUESTIONS:

ANSWERS:

a. OFFERED

Q1: 3¹ What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision?

A1: 2 Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.

b. REJECTED

Q2: 3 What if some **did not have faith**? Will their **lack of faith** nullify God's faithfulness?

A2: 4 Not at all! Let God be true, and every man a liar. As it is written: "SO THAT YOU MAY BE PROVED RIGHT WHEN YOU SPEAK AND PREVAIL WHEN YOU JUDGE."

Q3: 5 But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.)

A3: 6 Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world?

Q4: 7 Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" 8 Why not say-- as we are being slanderously reported as saying and as some claim that we say-- "Let us do evil that good may result"?

A4: Their condemnation is deserved.

CONCLUSION - RIGHTEOUSNESS BEFORE GOD BY US FULFILLING THE LAW... IS IMPOSSIBLE

Q5: 9 What shall we conclude then? Are we any better?

A5: Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are **all under sin**.
10 As it is written:

"THERE IS NO ONE RIGHTEOUS,
NOT EVEN ONE;

11 THERE IS NO ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS,
NO ONE WHO SEEKS GOD.

12 ALL HAVE TURNED AWAY,
THEY HAVE TOGETHER BECOME
WORTHLESS;

THERE IS NO ONE WHO DOES GOOD,
NOT EVEN ONE."

13 "THEIR THROATS ARE OPEN GRAVES;
THEIR TONGUES PRACTICE DECEIT."

"THE POISON OF VIPERS IS ON THEIR LIPS."

14 "THEIR MOUTHS ARE FULL OF CURSING
AND BITTERNESS."

15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD;

16 RUIN AND MISERY MARK THEIR WAYS,

17 AND THE WAY OF PEACE THEY DO NOT KNOW."

18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE
THEIR EYES."

19 Now we know that **whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law**, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. 20 Therefore **no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law**; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

B. GOD'S SOLUTION: ONE LAST OFFER – GOD OFFERS HIMSELF (HIS COMPASSION, LOVE AND GRACE)

... MAIN TOPIC PICKED BACK UP – JESUS CHRIST INTRODUCED AS PART OF GOSPEL

²¹ But now a (**righteousness from God**, apart from law, has been made known,) to which the Law and the Prophets testify.

²² This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

PROMISE 1 – SAVED BY JESUS CHRIST'S DEATH

- **OVERCOMING PENALTY AND POWER OF SIN**
- **JUSTIFIED (RECONCILED) BY FAITH (see 3:24, 26, 28, 30, 5:1)**
- **GIVEN RIGHTEOUS STANDING BEFORE GOD TO BE BROUGHT BACK NEAR TO HIM**

1. GOD TAKES HIS WRATH OUT ON JESUS – WHO TAKES THE PENALTY IN OUR PLACE

There is no difference, ²³ for **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God**, ²⁴ and are **justified freely** by his grace **through the redemption** that came by Christ Jesus.

²⁵ God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

He did this to demonstrate his justice, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished--

²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his justice at the present time, so as to be just and **the one who justifies** those who have faith in Jesus.

2. FAITH BASED RIGHTEOUSNESS – BY FAITH ALONE, IN CHRIST ALONE

a.) DROPPING CHARGES AGAINST US IS A GIFT RECEIVED ONLY BY HIS PROMISE ALONE

²⁷ Where, then, is boasting?

It is excluded.

On what principle?

On that of observing the law?

No, but on that of faith. ²⁸ For we maintain **[3]** that a man is **justified by faith** apart from observing the law.

²⁹ Is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too,

³⁰ since there is only one **God**,

who **will justify**

the circumcised

the uncircumcised

by faith and

through that same **faith**.

b.) **FAITH IS NOT A NEW CONCEPT –**

IT IS OUR TRUST IN HIS PROMISES THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED RIGHTEOUS

³¹ Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law. (NIV)

1.) **FAITH IN GOD WAS CONSIDERED AS RIGHTEOUSNESS EVEN IN THE OLDEN DAYS**

FATHER ABRAHAM

4¹ What then shall we say that **Abraham**, our forefather, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by **works**, he had something to boast about-- but not before God. ³ What does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS **CREDITED [4]** TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS." ⁴ Now when a man works, his wages are not **credited [5]** to him as a gift, but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the man who does not work but *trusts God who justifies* the wicked, his *faith is credited [6]* as righteousness.

KING DAVID

⁶ **David** says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the man to whom God credits [7] righteousness apart from works:

⁷ "BLESSED ARE THEY WHOSE TRANSGRESSIONS ARE FORGIVEN, WHOSE SINS ARE COVERED. ⁸ BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NEVER **COUNT [10]** AGAINST HIM."

2.) **FAITH IN GOD MAKES US RIGHT BEFORE HIM APART FROM OUR OWN STRIVINGS**

EVEN BEFORE ABRAHAM'S CIRCUMCISION – WHEN JEWISH RELIGION BEGAN

⁹ Is this blessedness only for the **circumcised**, or also for the uncircumcised?

We have been saying that Abraham's faith was **credited [11]** to him as righteousness.

¹⁰ Under what circumstances was it **credited [12]**? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! ¹¹ And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be **credited [13]** to them. ¹² And he is also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also walk in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

EVEN BEFORE MOSE'S LAW – WHICH IS A WORKS BASED RIGHTEOUSNESS

¹³ It was not through **law** that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.

¹⁴ For if those who live by law are heirs, faith has no value and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring-- not only to those who are of the law but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

¹⁷ As it is written: "I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed-- the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.

3.) **PROCESS OF FAITH - STARTS WITH A PROMISE... THEN TRUSTING HIM FOR IT
(WHEN GOD'S UNSEEN PROMISE IS BELIEVED AND ACTED UPON,
THE PROMISE WILL THEN BE ACCOMPLISHED)**

¹⁸ **Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed** and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, "SO SHALL YOUR OFFSPRING BE."

¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith,

he **faced the fact** that his body was as good as dead-- since he was about a hundred years old-- and that Sarah's womb was also dead. ²⁰ **Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise** of God,

but

was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

²¹ being **fully (p)ersuaded that God had (p)ower to do [(p)erform] what he had (p)romised.**

²² This is why "IT WAS **CREDITED [14]** TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."

PROMISE 2 – SAVED BY JESUS CHRIST'S LIFE

- INTRODUCING JESUS' RESURRECTION INTO THE DISCUSSION
- PRODUCING RIGHTEOUS CONDUCT BEFORE MEN

1. JESUS RAISED TO LIFE – TO RETURN TO GOD THE FATHER AND RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

²³ The words "IT WAS CREDITED [15] TO HIM" were written not for him alone,

²⁴ but also

for us, to whom God will credit [16] righteousness—
for us who *believe in him who raised Jesus* our Lord from the dead.

²⁵ He

EVENT

was delivered over to **death**
was raised to **life**

CAUSAL CONDITION

for our sins and
for our justification. (NIV)

2. PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT THEN GIVEN TO US FROM THE FATHER

^{5:1} Therefore, **since we have been justified [1]** through faith,

NOW WE ARE CHILDREN – LIVING IN HIS GRACE, IN PEACE AND HOPE

we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.

HOPE OF GLORY IS RESTORED (see Romans 3:23, Hebrews 11:1)

And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.

HOPE IN SUFFERING

³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;
⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.

HIS HOLY SPIRIT GIVEN US FILLS OUR HEART WITH HIS LOVE AND POWER

(see Romans 2:29, Colossians 2:11)

[⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has **poured out his love** into our hearts **by the Holy Spirit**, whom he has given us.]

AS HIS ENEMIES, HIS LOVE WAS WILLING TO SAVE US THROUGH HIS DEATH

⁶ You see, at just the right time, **when we were still powerless, Christ died** for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: **While we were still sinners, Christ died** for us.

NOW AS HIS CHILDREN, HE IS WILLING TO SAVE US MORE THROUGH HIS LIFE

⁹ **Since we have now been justified - [2]** by his blood,
how **much more**

shall we be **saved from God's wrath** through him!

¹⁰ For if,

when we were God's *enemies*,

we were *reconciled* to him through the death of his Son,

how **much more**,

having been **reconciled**,

shall we be **saved through his life!**

¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

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**PROMISE 3 – CHILDREN OF GOD, US, INCLUDED IN CHRIST
– SON OF GOD v. SIN PRINCIPLE**

➤ **BORN 'IN ADAM' – AS A CHILDREN OF ADAM, SIN THROUGH UNRIGHTEOUSNESS REIGNS IN DEATH**

WHERE DID UNRIGHTEOUSNESS GET STARTED -- ALIVE TO SIN

¹² Therefore,

just as (A→)

sin entered the world through one man, and

HOW COME WE DIE -- DEAD TO GOD

death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned --

WHAT WAS IT LIKE BEFORE THE 10 COMMANDMENTS CAME

SIN WAS ALWAYS THERE

¹³ for before the law was given, sin was in the world. But sin is not taken into account when there is no law (B→).

AND SIN'S RESULT WAS ALWAYS IN EFFECT

¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned

from the time of Adam to the time of Moses,

even over those who did not sin by breaking a command,

AS 'IN ADAM' (HUMAN NATURE), SO ALSO NOW 'IN CHRIST' (DIVINE NATURE)

A LITTLE BIT THE SAME

as did Adam, who was a pattern of the one to come.

BUT A LOT DIFFERENT – EVERYTHING ADAM DID, JESUS HAS UNDONE

¹⁵ But the gift is **not** like the trespass.

THE TWO ACTS ARE DIFFERENT

For if the many died by the trespass of the one man,

how much more

did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many!

AND THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE ACTS ARE ALSO DIFFERENT

¹⁶ Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man's sin:

SHORT-TERM

The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification.

LONG-TERM

¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more

will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

> **RE-CREATED 'IN CHRIST' – AS CHILD OF GOD, GRACE THROUGH RIGHTEOUSNESS REIGNS IN LIFE**

WE ARE ALL PARTAKERS OF ANOTHER MAN'S ACTIONS

¹⁸ Consequently, just as
 the result of one trespass
 was condemnation for all men,
 so also
 the result of one act of righteousness
 was justification that brings life for all men.

¹⁹ For just as
 through the disobedience of the one man
 the many were made sinners,
 so also
 through the obedience of the one man
 the many will be made righteous.

GRACE REIGNS -- OVER SIN AND LAW

UNDER LAW -- ONCE THE 10 COMMANDMENTS CAME

²⁰ (→B) The law was added so that the trespass might increase.

UNDER GRACE - CHARGE NOT ONLY DROPPED, BUT MAN ALSO GIVEN A GIFT

But where **sin** increased, **grace** increased all the more(BB→),

²¹ so that,

just as (→A)

sin reigned in death,

so also

grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (NIV)

BEING INCLUDED IN CHRIST, WE ARE GIVEN HIS LIFE

6¹ What shall we say, then? **Shall we go on sinning** so (→BB) that grace may increase? ² **By no means!**

GOD'S PROMISE/WORK (UNSEEN)**> DEAD TO SIN -- FREED FROM ALL WE ARE IN ADAM THAT WAS PUT TO DEATH**

We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

³ Or don't you know that all of us who were **baptized into Christ** Jesus were baptized **into his death?** ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death

in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵ If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection.

⁶ For we know that **our old self was crucified** with him so that the **body of sin [25] might be done away with,**

that we **should no longer be slaves to sin** -- ⁷ because anyone who has **died** has been **freed from sin.**

> ALIVE TO GOD -- IN CHRIST WE CAN BE NEW

⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

MAN'S RESPONSE TO SON OF GOD – REPENTANCE**- FAITH BASED ACTION POSSESSING WHAT HE HAS GIVEN US**

¹¹ In the same way,

FAITH IN GOD'S (UNSEEN) PROMISE – WHO WE CAN BE IN CHRIST

①

SET OUR MIND ON OUR NEWNESS OF LIFE IN HIM

count [17] yourselves

dead to sin

but

alive to God in Christ Jesus.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOD'S PROMISE - POSSESS OUR NEW LIFE

②

TURN FROM HUMAN NATURE – SET SIN AND DEATH ASIDE

¹² Therefore

do not

let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires.

¹³ **Do not**

offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness,

③

TURN TO DIVINE NATURE – EMBRACE LIFE AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

(see Numbers 21:6-9)

but rather

offer yourselves

to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and

offer the parts of your body

to him as instruments of righteousness.

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PROMISE 4 – SPIRIT OF GOD INCLUDED IN US, HIS CHILDREN
 – LAW OF LIFE (INTERNAL) v. LAW OF DEATH (EXTERNAL)

¹⁴ For **sin shall not be your master**,
 because you are
not under law, but
under grace (CC→).

> **GRACE IS NOT SAYING WE ARE FREE FROM SERVING A GOD OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

GRACE IS NOT GIVING US A LICENSE TO LIVE LAWLESSLY IN SIN

¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are (**→CC**) not under law but under grace?

OUR VERY OWN SUBMISSION DETERMINES THE MASTER WE HAVE CHOSEN TO SERVE

By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that **when you offer yourselves** to someone **to obey** him as slaves, you are **slaves to the one whom you obey**

-- whether you are slaves
to sin, which leads to death, or
to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

¹⁷ But thanks be to God that,
 - though you used to be slaves to **sin**,
 - you wholeheartedly **obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted**. ¹⁸ You have been **set free from sin** and have **become slaves to righteousness (FF→)**.

¹⁹ I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves.

OTHERWISE, LIVING LAWLESSLY ... SIN WOULD STILL BE OUR MASTER

TURN FROM SIN TO GOD

Just **as you used to offer** the parts of your body in slavery
 to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness,
so now offer them in slavery
to righteousness leading to holiness.

TURN FROM DEATH TO LIFE

²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹
 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of?
 Those things result in death!

²² But now that you have been (**→FF**) **set free from sin** and have become **slaves to God**, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

²³ For the **wages of sin** **is death**,
 but the **gift of God** **is eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)

- **RATHER, GRACE OFFERS A DIFFERENT WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT IS BY FAITH
(INSTEAD OF A RIGHTEOUSNESS BY THE LAW BY SELF)**

DEAD TO LAW – RELEASED FROM ONE FORM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (BY THE LAW)

7¹ Do you not know, brothers-- for I am speaking to men who know the law-- that the law has authority over a man only as long as he lives?

WHEN ANOTHER DIES TO THE LAW, WE CAN DIE TO IT AS WELL, THOUGH WE LIVE

² For example,

by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. ³ So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man.

⁴ So, my brothers, you also **died to the law (GG→)** through the body of Christ,

ALIVE TO GOD -- JOINED TO ANOTHER RIGHTEOUSNESS (HIS HOLY SPIRIT AND POWER)

that you might **belong to another**, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we **might bear fruit to God**.

BEFORE

⁵ For when we were controlled by the **sinful** nature, the **sinful passions** aroused by the law were at work in our bodies, so that we bore fruit for death.

AFTER -- WE NEED HIM, SO WE CAN DO HIS WILL

⁶ But now, by **dying to what once bound us**, we have been **released from the law** so that we **serve in the new way of the Spirit**, and not in the old way of the written code.

(see Zechariah 4:6 – ‘NOT BY MIGHT OR BY POWER, BUT BY MY SPIRIT’, SAYSTHE LORD’)

➤ **IN ADAM – UNABLE TO FULFILL RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW (GOD'S WILL)**

THE LAW IS GOOD... BUT... IT DOES NOT HELP US DO IT

⁷ What shall we say, then? Is the law (of flesh) sin?

Certainly not! Indeed I would not have known what **sin** was except through the law.

For I would not have known what coveting really was if the law had not said, "DO NOT COVET." ⁸ But **sin**, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, produced in me every kind of covetous desire.

THE POWER OF SIN IS IN THE LAW

For apart from law, **sin** is dead. ⁹ Once I was alive apart from law; but when the commandment came, **sin** sprang to life and I died. ¹⁰ I found that the very commandment that was intended to bring life actually brought death. ¹¹ For **sin**, seizing the opportunity afforded by the commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment **put me to death**.

¹² So then, the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous and good (JJ→).

SIN WORKS THROUGH US – AND IS STRONGER THAN US, ON OUR OWN

¹³ Did that which is (**→JJ**) good, then, become death to me?

By no means!

But in order that **sin** might be recognized as **sin**, it produced death in me through what was good, so that through the commandment **sin** might become utterly **sinful**.

SOMETHING IS REALLY, REALLY, TERRIBLY WRONG

¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, **sold as a slave to sin (KK→)**.

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good.

¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but
it is **sin living in me**.

¹⁸ I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my **sinful** nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do-- this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do,

it is no longer I who do it, but
it is **sin living in me (EE→)** that does it.

SIN WINS THE FIGHT -- APART FROM GOD, MAN IS SLAVE TO SIN

²¹ So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law;

²³ but I see another law at work in the members of my body, **waging war against the law of my mind and making me a (→KK) prisoner** of the law of **sin (DD→)** at work within my members.

²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this **body of death**? ²⁵
Thanks be to **God-- through Jesus** Christ our Lord!

I AM POWERLESS OVER SIN -- ON MY OWN APART FROM GOD

So then, **I myself**

in my mind am a slave to God's law, but

in the **sinful** nature **a slave to the law of sin**. (NIV)

➤ **IN GOD'S SPIRIT – ABLE TO FULFILL THE RIGHTEOUS REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW, ONCE YOU WANT TO**

OUR FOUNDATION - UNSEEN POWER / WORK OF GOD

GOD PROMISE THAT SIN IS CONDEMNED IN US AND WE ARE SET US FREE FROM ITS POWER

8¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are **in Christ Jesus**, ² because through Christ Jesus **the law of the Spirit of life set me (→DD) free from the law of (the flesh) sin and death.**

³ For **what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he (→EE) CONDEMNED SIN in sinful man,**

⁴ in order that **the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us,** who do not **live** according to the **sinful nature** but **(1) according to the Spirit (LL→).**

(SIN'S POWER IS BROKEN – SIN CAN ONLY MAKE SUGGESTIONS, BUT LACKS POWER

**WE CAN STILL CHOSE TO FOLLOW SIN'S SUGGESTION,
HOWEVER, YOU CAN ACTUALLY BE DONE WITH SIN WHEN YOU WANT TO BE DONE WITH IT)**

MAN'S RESPONSE TO THE SPIRIT OF GOD – REPENTANCE

**– ACTING ON FAITH IN WHO WE ARE, TO POSSESS THE DIVINE NATURE HE HAS GIVEN US
('BECOMING WHO WE ALREADY ARE' , BY FAITH IN POWER OF GOD)**

IN CHRIST WE HAVE POWER TO MAKE CHOICES WE NEVER HAD BEFORE

① RENEW YOUR MIND – SETTING IT ON WHAT PLEASES GOD...

⁵ Those who live according to the **sinful nature** have their minds **set** on what that nature **desires**; but those who (→LL) **live in accordance with the Spirit** **have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.**

⁶ The mind of **sinful man** is death, but the mind controlled **(2)** by the Spirit is **life and peace**;

GOD'S WILL CAN NOT BE DONE ON OUR OWN (A BURDENSOME DEFEAT)

⁷ the **sinful mind** is hostile to God. It does not **submit** to God's law, nor can it do so.

⁸ Those **controlled** by the **sinful [68]** nature cannot please God.

... THEN SUBMIT TO GOD'S WILL HAVING FAITH IN THE POWER OF HIS SPIRIT

② **DIVINE NATURE – POSSES THE LIFE THE SPIRIT HAS GIVEN YOU**
TURN TO VICTORY (PRESENCE OF POSITIVE)
(HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS LIFE TO OUR SPIRIT AND MORTAL BODY)

LIFE ONLY COMES FROM THE SPIRIT OF LIFE GIVING IT TO US (A VICTORY)

⁹ You, however, are **controlled** not by the **sinful** nature but **(3) by the Spirit**, if the **Spirit of God lives in you**.

And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

¹⁰ But if **Christ is in you**,
 your **body is dead** because of **sin**, yet
 your **spirit is alive** because of righteousness.

¹¹ And if **the Spirit of him** who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you,
he who raised Christ from the dead **will also give life (MM→) to your mortal bodies** through **his Spirit, who lives in you**.

③ **HUMAN NATURE – LEAVE IT BEHIND AND OVERCOME THE DEFEATED THE ENEMY**
TURN FROM DEFEAT (REMOVAL OF NEGATIVE)
(HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS DEATH TO SINFUL ACTS OF SIN PRINCIPLE)

(DO WHAT GOD HAS ALREADY DONE – CONDEMN SIN OF ADAM TO DEATH, FORSAKE ADAM'S FOOLISH WAYS)

¹² Therefore, brothers, **we have an obligation—**
 but it is not to the **sinful** nature, to **live according to** it.

¹³ For if you live according to the **sinful** nature, you will die;
 but if **(4) by the Spirit** you **put to death the misdeeds of the body**,
 you will (→MM) **live**,

¹⁴ because those **who are led** by the Spirit of God **are sons** of God.

¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that **we are God's children**.

HOPE OF SUFFERING AND GLORY (see Romans 5:2-3)

¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ,

- if indeed we share in his **sufferings**
- in order that we may also share in his **glory**.

¹⁸ I consider^[18] that our present **sufferings** are not worth comparing with the **glory** that will be revealed in us.

SHARING IN HIS SUFFERINGS

CREATION GROANS

¹⁹ The **creation** waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been **groaning** as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

WE GROAN

²³ Not only so, but **we ourselves**, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, **groan** inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

GOD GROANS

²⁶ In the same way, the **Spirit** helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the **Spirit himself intercedes for us** with **groans** that words cannot express. ²⁷ And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints **in accordance with God's will**.

SHARING IN HIS GLORY

GLORY OF GOD

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

LOVE OF GOD

³¹ What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

³² He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all-- how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?
It is God who justifies.

³⁴ Who is he that condemns?

Christ Jesus, who died-- more than that, who was raised to life-- **is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us**. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

³⁶ As it is written:

"FOR YOUR SAKE WE FACE DEATH ALL DAY LONG;
WE ARE CONSIDERED **[19]** AS SHEEP TO BE SLAUGHTERED."

³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

³⁸ For

I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (NIV)

PROMISE 5 – GOD THE FATHER'S PROMISE OF MERCY
– GOD THE FATHER (HIS MERCY) v. MAN'S MIGHT AND POWER

PAUL'S CONCERN ABOUT ISRAEL'S GENERAL REJECTION OF GOD'S NEW COVENANT

9¹ I speak the truth in Christ-- I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit-- ² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race,

⁴ the people of Israel.

Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. ⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, *who is God over all, forever praised!* Amen.

GOD'S WORD IS EFFECTIVE FOR ALL OTHER CHILDREN WHO TRUST THE PROMISE

⁶ It is not as though God's word had failed.

NOT ALL OF JACOB'S DESCENDENTS ARE CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE
(BEING GOD'S CHILD IS NOT A MATTER OF HEREDITY OR NATIONALITY)

For not all who are descended **from** Israel **are** Israel.

EXAMPLE FROM JACOB'S (ISRAEL) FOREFATHERS:

NOT ALL OF ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS ARE CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE

⁷ Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children.

ISHMAEL WAS ABRAHAM'S SON,
BUT NOT A CHILD OF THE PROMISE

On the contrary,

"IT IS THROUGH ISAAC THAT YOUR OFFSPRING WILL BE RECKONED."

⁸ In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded [20] as Abraham's offspring.

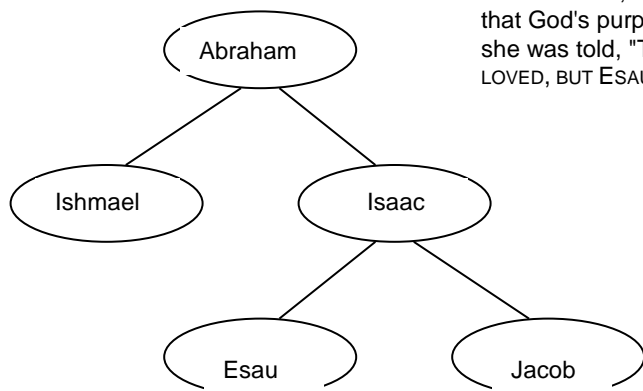
⁹ For this was how the promise was stated:

"AT THE APPOINTED TIME I WILL RETURN, AND SARAH WILL HAVE A SON."

NOT ALL OF ISAAC'S DESCENDANTS ARE CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE

ESAU WAS ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANT,
BUT NOT A CHILD OF THE PROMISE

¹⁰ Not only that, but Rebekah's children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. ¹¹ Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad-- in order that God's purpose in election might stand: ¹² not by works but by him who calls-- she was told, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER." ¹³ Just as it is written: "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."



GOD INCLUDES CHILDREN ACCORDING TO HIS MERCY -- NOT MAN'S NATIONALITY

¹⁴ What then shall we say? Is God unjust?

Not at all! ¹⁵ For he says to Moses,

"I WILL HAVE **MERCY** ON WHOM I HAVE **MERCY**, AND
I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."

¹⁶ **It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's **mercy**.**

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh:

"I RAISED YOU UP FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE, THAT I MIGHT DISPLAY MY POWER IN YOU AND THAT MY NAME MIGHT BE PROCLAIMED IN ALL THE EARTH."

¹⁸ Therefore

God has **mercy** on whom he wants to have **mercy**, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

¹⁹ One of you will say to me:

"Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?"

²⁰ But who are you, O man, to talk back to God?

"SHALL WHAT IS FORMED SAY TO HIM WHO FORMED IT, 'WHY DID YOU MAKE ME LIKE THIS?'"

²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

²² What if

God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath-- prepared for destruction?

²³ What if

he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his **mercy**, whom he prepared in advance for glory-- ²⁴ even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?

GOD'S CHILDREN WILL COME FROM MANY NATIONS

SOME GENTILES WILL BE INCLUDED

²⁵ As he says in Hosea:

"I WILL CALL THEM 'MY PEOPLE' WHO ARE NOT MY PEOPLE; AND I WILL CALL HER 'MY LOVED ONE' WHO IS NOT MY LOVED ONE,"

²⁶ and,

"IT WILL HAPPEN THAT IN THE VERY PLACE WHERE IT WAS SAID TO THEM, 'YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE,' THEY WILL BE CALLED 'SONS OF THE LIVING GOD.'"

SOME ISRAELITES WILL BE EXCLUDED

- NOT ALL ISRAELITES ARE CHILDREN OF PROMISE

²⁷ Isaiah cries out concerning Israel:

"THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE ISRAELITES BE LIKE THE SAND BY THE SEA, ONLY THE REMNANT WILL BE SAVED. ²⁸ FOR THE LORD WILL CARRY OUT HIS SENTENCE ON EARTH WITH SPEED AND FINALITY."

²⁹ It is just as Isaiah said previously:

"UNLESS THE LORD ALMIGHTY HAD LEFT US DESCENDANTS, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE GOMORRAH."

RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IS NOT ATTAINED BY POWER, OR BY MIGHT, OF MAN – BY THE LAW

³⁰ What then shall we say?

That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a **righteousness that is by faith**;

³¹ but Israel, who **pursued a law of righteousness**, has not attained it.

³² Why not?

Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the "STUMBLING STONE."

³³ As it is written:

"SEE, I LAY IN ZION A STONE THAT CAUSES MEN TO STUMBLE AND A ROCK THAT MAKES THEM FALL, AND THE ONE WHO TRUSTS IN HIM WILL NEVER BE PUT TO SHAME." (NIV)

10¹ Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.

² For I can testify about them that they are **zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge**. ³ Since they did not know the righteousness that comes from God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness.

⁴ Christ is the end of the law

so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

⁵ Moses describes in this way the **righteousness that is by the law**:

"THE MAN WHO DOES THESE THINGS WILL LIVE BY THEM."

RATHER THAN TRUST IN OUR OWN WORKS, TRUST IN THE WORKS OF A POWERFUL AND MIGHTY GOD

⁶ But the **righteousness that is by faith** says:

"DO NOT SAY IN YOUR HEART, 'WHO WILL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN?'"
(that is, to bring Christ down)

⁷ "OR 'WHO WILL DESCEND INTO THE DEEP?'"

(that is, to bring Christ up from the dead).

⁸ But what does it say?

"THE WORD IS NEAR YOU; IT IS IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART,"
that is,

the word of faith we are proclaiming:

⁹ That if you

confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and
believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.

¹⁰ For

it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and
it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

¹¹ As the Scripture says,

"ANYONE WHO TRUSTS IN HIM WILL NEVER BE PUT TO SHAME."

¹² For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile

-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,

¹³ for,

"EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

¹⁴ How, then, can they **call** on the one they have not believed in?

And how can they **believe** in the one of whom they have not heard?

And how can they **hear** without someone preaching to them?

¹⁵ And how can they **preach** unless they are sent?

As it is written,

"HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS!"

GOD'S PEOPLE REJECT GOD'S WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT IS BY FAITH

¹⁶ But not all the Israelites accepted the good news.
For Isaiah says,
"LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR MESSAGE?"

¹⁷ Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

EVEN THOUGH THEY HEAR THE MESSAGE

¹⁸ But I ask: Did they not hear?
Of course they did:
"THEIR VOICE HAS GONE OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH,
THEIR WORDS TO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD."

SOME ARE NOT OBEDIENT TO GOD'S WAY

¹⁹ Again I ask: Did Israel not understand?
First, Moses says,
"I WILL MAKE YOU ENVIOUS BY THOSE WHO ARE NOT A NATION;
I WILL MAKE YOU ANGRY BY A NATION THAT HAS NO UNDERSTANDING."
²⁰ And Isaiah boldly says,
"I WAS FOUND BY THOSE WHO DID NOT SEEK ME;
I REVEALED MYSELF TO THOSE WHO DID NOT ASK FOR ME."
²¹ But concerning Israel he says,
"ALL DAY LONG I HAVE HELD OUT MY HANDS TO A DISOBEDIENT AND OBSTINATE PEOPLE."
(NIV)

IT IS NOT GOD WHO REJECTS HIS PEOPLE (see Leviticus :)

11:¹ I ask then: Did God reject his people?
By no means!
I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew.

GOD IS ALWAYS AT WORK SAVING ALL WHOEVER WILL COME TO HIM

IN THE PAST

Don't you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah-- how he appealed to God against Israel:

³ "LORD, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS AND TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS; I AM THE ONLY ONE LEFT, AND THEY ARE TRYING TO KILL ME"?

⁴ And what was God's answer to him?
"I HAVE RESERVED FOR MYSELF SEVEN THOUSAND WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL."

IN THE PRESENT

⁵ So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. ⁶ And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

⁷ What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened,

⁸ as it is written:
"GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES SO THAT THEY COULD NOT SEE AND EARS SO THAT THEY COULD NOT HEAR, TO THIS VERY DAY."

⁹ And David says:
"MAY THEIR TABLE
BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP, A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION FOR THEM.

¹⁰ MAY THEIR EYES
BE DARKENED SO THEY CANNOT SEE, AND THEIR BACKS BE BENT FOREVER."

GOD'S MERCY STILL WAITS TO ACCEPT HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE THAT CHOOSE HIS WAY

¹¹ Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?

Not at all!

SALVATION OFFERED TO OTHER NATIONS MAY BENEFIT ISRAEL

Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.

¹² But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!

¹³ I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry ¹⁴ in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.

¹⁵ For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

¹⁶ If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

PROMISE OF JUDGEMENT (WARNING) TO UNREPENTENT GENTILES

¹⁷ If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, ¹⁸ do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹ You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in."

²⁰ Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

²² Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.

PROMISE OF RESTORATION TO A REPENTANT ISRAEL

²³ And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

GOD WILL DRAW ISRAEL BACK TO HIMSELF AFTER SOME TIME

²⁵ I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.

²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved,
as it is written:

"THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION; HE WILL TURN GODLESSNESS AWAY FROM JACOB. ²⁷ AND THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS."

EVEN THOUGH THEY REJECT GOD'S WAY OF ACCEPTANCE BY HIS MERCY ...

²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned,

they are enemies on your account; but

... GOD WILL ALWAYS STILL LOVE THEM, WANTS THEM, AND WANTS TO BE THEIR GOD

as far as election is concerned,

they are loved on account of the patriarchs,

²⁹ for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

CONCLUSION

GOD'S WAY OF ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING RIGHTEOUSNESS RESTS ONLY ON HIS MERCY

GENTILES

³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received **mercy** as a result of their disobedience,

ISRAELITES

³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive **mercy** as a result of God's **mercy** to you.

ALL MEN IN ADAM NEED TO RECEIVE HIS MERCY IN CHRIST

³² **For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have **mercy** on them all.**

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

³⁴ "WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD? OR WHO HAS BEEN HIS COUNSELOR?"

³⁵ "WHO HAS EVER GIVEN TO GOD, THAT GOD SHOULD REPAY HIM?"

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (NIV)

MAN'S RESPONSE TO GOD THE FATHER – REPENTANCE

– FAITH BASED ACTION ENTRUSTING OUR LIFE TO THE FATHER

12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's **mercy**,

①

COME TO THE FATHER OF MERCY (TURN TO)

to **offer your bodies** as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing **to God**-- this is your spiritual act of worship.

②

LEAVE BEHIND THE PATTERNS OF SOCIETY (TURN FROM)

² **Do not conform** any longer **to** the **pattern of this world**, but

③

RENEW YOUR MIND – SETTING YOUR MIND ON THE MERCY OF GOD THE FATHER

be transformed by the **renewing of your mind**.

BASED ON THE PROMISE (UNSEEN) THAT...

Then

you will be able to test and approve what **God's will** is—
his good, pleasing and perfect **will**.

C. **MAN'S RESPONSE – ACTS OF FAITH EXPRESSED THROUGH LOVE IN RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS**

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you:

a.) **LIVE IN UNITY ...ACCEPTING DIFFERENCES**

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.

OUR SAMENESS (SIMILARITIES)

⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

OUR SEPERATENESS (DIFFERENCES)

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.

⁷ If it is serving, let him serve;

if it is teaching, let him teach;

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.

b.) **... THROUGH LOVE ... THAT IS SACRIFICIAL**

⁹ Love must be sincere.

EXAMPLES

Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.

¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.

Honor one another above yourselves.

¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.

¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

¹³ Share with God's people who are in need.

Practice hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another.

Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position.

Do not be conceited.

¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. ¹⁸

If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.

¹⁹ Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written:

"IT IS MINE TO AVENGE; I WILL REPAY," SAYS THE LORD.

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."

²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (NIV)

SUBMISSION

13¹ 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. 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. 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. 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. He is God's servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience. ⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing.

LOVING OTHERS FULFILLS ALL REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW

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.

⁸ Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for he who loves his fellowman has fulfilled the law.

⁹ The commandments,

"DO NOT COMMIT ADULTERY," "DO NOT MURDER," "DO NOT STEAL," "DO NOT COVET," AND WHATEVER OTHER COMMANDMENT THERE MAY BE,

are summed up in this one rule:

"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

¹⁰ Love does no harm to its neighbor.

Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

WALK IN LIGHT OF YOUR DIVINE NATURE IN CHRIST

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. 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.

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.

¹⁴ Rather,
 clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and
 do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature. (NIV)

HANDLE DIFFERENCES GRACIOUSLY

14:1 **Accept** him whose faith is weak, **without** passing judgment on **disputable matters**.

DO NOT LOOK DOWN ON ANOTHER

² One man's faith allows him to eat everything, but another man, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. ³ The man who eats everything must not look down on him who does not, and the man who does not eat everything must not condemn the man who does, for God has accepted him.

DO NOT JUDGE

⁴ Who are you to judge someone else's servant?

To his own master he stands or falls. And he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

⁵ One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶ He who regards one day as special, does so to the Lord. He who eats meat, eats to the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who abstains, does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God.

⁷ For none of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone.

⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

⁹ For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ You, then, why do you judge your brother? Or why do you look down on your brother? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat.

¹¹ It is written:

"AS SURELY AS I LIVE," SAYS THE LORD, "EVERY KNEE WILL BOW BEFORE ME; EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS TO GOD."

¹² So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

¹³ Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another.

DO NOT INTERFERE WITH BROTHER

Instead,

make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.

¹⁴ As one who is in the Lord Jesus, I am fully convinced that no food is unclean in itself. But

if anyone regards [21] something as unclean, then for him it is unclean. ¹⁵ If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love.

Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died.

¹⁶ Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil.

¹⁷ For **the kingdom of God** is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of **righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,**

¹⁸ because anyone who **serves Christ** in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.

PURSUE PEACE AND EDIFICATION

¹⁹ Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification. ²⁰ Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a man to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. ²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or to do anything else that will cause your brother to fall.

PRAY ABOUT DIFFERENCES

²² So **whatever you believe** about these things **keep between yourself and God**.

Blessed is the man who does not condemn himself by what he approves. ²³ But the man who has doubts is condemned if he eats, because his eating is not from faith; and **everything that does not come from faith is sin**. (NIV)

BEAR OTHERS FAILINGS

15¹ We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and

DO NOT SEEK TO PLEASE OURSELVES

not to please ourselves. ² Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

³ For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written:

"THE INSULTS OF THOSE WHO INSULT YOU HAVE FALLEN ON ME."

⁴ For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

IN FAITH: EXPECT GOD'S GIFTS OF ENDURANCE, ENCOURAGEMENT, AND UNITY

⁵ May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO PRAISE HIM TOGETHER

⁷ Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises made to the patriarchs ⁹ so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy,

as it is written:

"THEREFORE I WILL PRAISE YOU AMONG THE GENTILES; I WILL SING HYMNS TO YOUR NAME."

¹⁰ Again, it says,

"REJOICE, O GENTILES, WITH HIS PEOPLE."

¹¹ And again,

"PRAISE THE LORD, ALL YOU GENTILES, AND SING PRAISES TO HIM, ALL YOU PEOPLES."

¹² And again, Isaiah says,

"THE ROOT OF JESSE WILL SPRING UP, ONE WHO WILL ARISE TO RULE OVER THE NATIONS; THE GENTILES WILL HOPE IN HIM."

BY FAITH: RECEIVE GOD'S GIFTS OF JOY, PEACE, AND AN EXPECTANT HEART

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace

as you trust in him,

so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. (see Rom 5:5)

¹⁴ I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

IV. FAREWELL

A. FUTURE PLANS TO VISIT

¹⁵ I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁷ Therefore

I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸ I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done-- ¹⁹ by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit.

So

from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. ²⁰ It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.

²¹ Rather, as it is written:

"Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."

²² This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

²³ But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to see you, ²⁴ I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to visit you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while.

²⁵ Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the saints there. ²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. ²⁷ They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings.

²⁸ So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this fruit, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. ²⁹ I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ. ³⁰ I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. ³¹ Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, ³² so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. ³³ The God of peace be with you all. Amen. (NIV)

B. FAREWELL GREETINGS

16:¹ I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant of the church in Cenchrea. ² I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been a great help to many people, including me.

³ Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus. ⁴ They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.

⁵ Greet also the church that meets at their house.

Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia.

⁶ Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you.

⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junias, my relatives who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was.

⁸ Greet Ampliatus, whom I love in the Lord.

⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys.

¹⁰ Greet Apelles, tested and approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus.

¹¹ Greet Herodion, my relative.

Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

¹² Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord.

Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord.

¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too.

¹⁴ Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brothers with them.

¹⁵ Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the saints with them.

¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss.

All the churches of Christ send greetings.

¹⁷ I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery they deceive the minds of naive people.

¹⁹ Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.

²⁰ The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

²¹ Timothy, my fellow worker, sends his greetings to you, as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, my relatives.

²² I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter, greet you in the Lord.

²³ Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy, sends you his greetings.

Erastus, who is the city's director of public works, and our brother Quartus send you their greetings. ^[24]

V. CONCLUSION - REMINDS US OF HIS PURPOSE IN WRITING: OBEDIENCE BY FAITH (see Rom 1:1-5)

CLOSING (AND OPENING) PARAGRAPH

²⁵ 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 ages past,

²⁶ 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** --

²⁷ to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen. (NIV)