

*30-Day  
Devotional  
Study  
of the  
Book of  
Romans*

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### **How to Use this Book:**

**God's Word is Awesome!** The Lord promises that if we will diligently study the Bible He will use it to increase our faith. Romans 10:17 says: "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."

The first thing you need to do to make this study be everything it can be for you is to **commit yourself to becoming a student of God's Word.** You're going to need to find at least 30 minutes each day to study and to prayer! Don't cop out and say you can't do that! How much time do you spend on the phone each day? How much time watching TV? How much time on the InterNet? You can find 30 minutes for God!

**Next you need to begin each session in prayer, asking God's Holy Spirit to lead you into all truth!** Then read the passage for the day, preferably in the New King James Version of the Bible. Then follow the study guide for that day, which will guide you through this wonderful book.

**You will also want to take a 3x5 Index Card and write the memory verse on it.** Use it throughout the day to help you learn key Bible verses. I can guarantee you you'll never be sorry in the future for Bible verses stored in your mind!

**Then end each time in prayer also,** using the things you've learned that day as a launching pad into praying for all the things going on in your life.

**God bless you as you study God's Word!!!**

**Day 1-            Read Romans 1:1-17**  
**Memorize        1:16**

**What are the 3 things that Paul says about himself in verse 1?**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Can you with confidence call yourself Jesus' slave? Obviously by the use of this word Paul is saying that there is nothing he wouldn't do for Jesus. What does it (or what will it) take for that to be true in your life?

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Paul did not plant the church in Rome. But he had heard wonderful things about their growth in Christ. He had committed to praying for the Christians there "always." If you have never committed to being a "World Christian" pray now to become one. A World Christian is one who loves to hear what God is doing in other parts of the world and who prays for Christians by name as they labor for the advancement of the gospel. Why did Paul (one of the first World Christians) also want to see the Romans? Hint: Look at verses 11-12!

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**Why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel (good news) of Christ?**

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I am often amazed at myself when I don't share the difference Jesus has made in my life. Even though He has saved me and has changed my life and is my best friend, I sometimes worry or am fearful of what others will think about me if I share. Will they reject me? Paul here states the truth: we've got nothing to be ashamed of; we've found the source of eternal life, the fountain of youth, Jesus! The Newsboys ask the question this way: "what are we sneaking around for...?" Their answer (and ours) needs to be what Paul's was: "I'm not ashamed to speak the name of Jesus Christ." Pray with me that we'll be able to share openly with people the difference Jesus makes!

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**Day 2-            Read Romans 1:18-32**  
**Memorize        1:20**

After speaking of the gospel's power to save in verses 16-17 Paul quickly begins his argument about why people need saving. **The Bible teaches that mankind in his lost condition is alienated from God and only subject to his wrath**, a point Paul will develop through chapter 3. In verses 19 and 20 Paul says that everyone on earth knows about God and what's true in two ways, through their conscience and through God's creation.

In verses 21-32 Paul walks his readers through a list of the progression of mankind's sinful behavior. Fill in the blanks below about this "descent" of man:

V.21 Although they knew God, they did not \_\_\_\_\_,  
 nor were \_\_\_\_\_, but they became \_\_\_\_\_ in their  
 thoughts, and their foolish hearts were \_\_\_\_\_

V.22 Professing to be \_\_\_\_\_, they became \_\_\_\_\_

V.23 And changed the glory of the \_\_\_\_\_ God into an image made  
 like \_\_\_\_\_ man

V.24 Therefore God also gave them up to \_\_\_\_\_, to  
 \_\_\_\_\_ their bodies among themselves

V.25 Who exchanged the \_\_\_\_\_ of God for a \_\_\_\_\_, and  
 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ the creature rather than the Creator

V.26 For this reason God gave them up to \_\_\_\_\_

V.28 God gave them over to a \_\_\_\_\_ mind, to do those things which are not  
 \_\_\_\_\_

V.32 Who, knowing the \_\_\_\_\_ judgment of God, that those who  
 practice such things are worthy of \_\_\_\_\_, not only do the same but  
 also \_\_\_\_\_ of those who practice them

When Paul says that "God gave them up" it does not mean that God is giving up on them but simply that God is letting them choose to "do what they want to do" even though he knows they'll be hurt by their own sinful choices. **In effect He is letting them choose their own way instead of His.**

**Did you notice that the entire process started because People wouldn't glorify God for who He is (v.21)?** Take time as you pray today to thank God for who He is, and agree with Him that His ways are right, godly, and true.

**Day 3-            Read Romans 2:1-16**  
**Memorize        2:11**

In chapter 1, verses 21-31, Paul was mostly addressing Gentiles. Gentiles were Non-Jews. In Paul's day it was not uncommon for a Jewish man to say, "God, thank you that I am not a woman, a dog, or a Gentile." This view was very unfortunate because in the Old Testament Law God had made it very clear that they were to treat women and Gentiles well. I don't know about dogs.

The point is that many Jews looked down on Gentiles. You can almost see their glee as Paul calls the Gentiles sinners in chapter 1. You can almost hear them, can't you? "You go Paul, let 'em have it." "Amen, if only they were more like us, those dirty, rotten sinners." But then Paul does something that would not have made those same folks happy. He turns to them and says, "not only are the Gentiles without excuse, but you Jews are without excuse. You're doing the same things they are."

Now don't be mistaken- the Jews Paul is speaking to were incredibly religious. In many ways he's reflecting on his own experience (See Philippians 3:4-6 for Paul's Jewish Background). Many of the Jews thought that having the Old Testament "laws," and going to "temple" and not doing any of the "biggie" sins would make them acceptable to God. They constantly compared themselves with the lost Gentiles and they liked what they saw. They were good people, "right?" God must be proud of them, "right?"

**Sound familiar? Many people who grow up in church today think the same way.**

We compare ourselves with others and we think that we're better than them because we don't do some of the things they do, the "biggies." But in our hearts we often wish we could do some of the same things they are doing. Paul says to the self-righteous Jews, "the Gentiles are doing the "biggies", in your hearts you're thinking about the "biggies," before God you're all inexcusable, you're all lost."

That was quite a blow then to the self-righteous Jews and is quite a blow today to those of us that are still caught up in the game of works. You know the game: the game that says: "if I do more good things than bad things God will love me more. I'll also be able to compare myself with others and look down on them because they're not as good as I am, they don't 'measure up.'" There are several big problems with that game. First, for you to be a winner others have to be losers. Second, even if you're 'winning' you're really losing because there is still a hole in your soul, a place that only God can fill. But worst yet, as we see in verse 16, God's playing a different game altogether, the game of gospel, not the game of works. And the stakes are high. As you pray today, take the time for these truths to settle in. Our goal will be to understand the gospel in a much deeper way at the end of this study.

**Day 4-            Read Romans 2:17-29**  
**Memorize        2:28-29**

To understand where Paul is going with his argument, it will help to see what Jesus said to some of the same people. Read, John 5:39-40, and write those 2 verses here:

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**The Jews were so intent on obeying the law of God that they had forgotten the God of the law.** Searching the scriptures had become an end in itself, a display of pride so that they could say that they knew more or were more obedient than others. Their religious observance was all outward show with no inward reality of a personal walk with God. Paul is very strong in verse 24, essentially saying, “When Gentiles see you guys, they say, ‘if that’s what God is like, we’re not interested.’”

A great example of what the Jews were missing was demonstrated by Noah. Turn to Genesis 6:9 and complete this sentence:

“Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah \_\_\_\_\_ with God.”

Noah walked with God. When 2 people walk together, they are talking and pointing out things to each other. That’s how real Noah’s relationship with God was. That’s what God desires with each of us: A personal relationship!

It’s interesting that Paul talks about circumcision next. Circumcision was the sign of God’s covenant with Abraham and the Jews. A boy would be circumcised on the eighth day after his birth. It hurt. He would cry. Over time the Jews began to rely on circumcision as a “proof” that they were “saved.” Unfortunately today some people say that water baptism (which is the sign of God’s covenant with believers) saves. They miss the point just like the Jews did. The point is that outward acts mean nothing if there’s not an inward reality. They’re just a sign, an indicator of a reality. If I read a sign that says that Charlotte is 20 miles away, that sign means nothing if I never see Charlotte. Likewise Circumcision for the Jew and Baptism for the Christian mean nothing if God hasn’t circumcised or baptized the heart and a person has a relationship with God by faith. As you pray today, pray that you’d never be satisfied with only knowing about God but instead that you’d know God!

**Day 5-            Read Romans 3:1-20**  
**Memorize        3:20**

Picture if you will a Jewish person and a Gentile person on opposite ends of a see-saw. At the end of chapter one, the Jewish person was up and looked down on the Gentile person who was down. At the end of chapter two the roles had been reversed, and you can almost see the Gentile Person saying HA-HA to the Jewish person. Just to make sure that people didn't start making fun of Jews and start saying stupid things like the Old Testament is now irrelevant, Paul opens chapter three by speaking highly of the benefits Jews have received and the important role they have played in redemptive history. He also alludes to the fact that God will keep his promises to the Jewish people through Christ because He is the ultimate Promise Keeper! Paul will develop this more later on in our study, so until then don't be thinking bad about the Jews.

**Paul's point is that everyone is a sinner who stands alienated from a holy, sinless God, whether they've grown up religious or pagan.** Paul slams this point home in verses 10-18. Fill in the blanks below and keep in mind, Paul is saying that apart from Jesus these things are true of all of us:

V.10 *None* \_\_\_\_\_, *no, not* \_\_\_\_\_

V.11 *None* who \_\_\_\_\_, *none* who \_\_\_\_\_

V.12 *all* \_\_\_\_\_, *all* become \_\_\_\_\_. *None* \_\_\_\_\_

V.14 mouth is full of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

V.16 \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are in *their* ways

V.17 No \_\_\_\_\_

V.18 No \_\_\_\_\_ of God

Isn't it interesting that one of the most common phrases on t-shirts today is the same phrase we see here in verse 18: "no fear." All around us are people who could care less about God, rules, and respecting others. In the Book of Judges in the Old Testament we are told that "everyone did what was right in their own eyes." But at the same time as people have forgotten God and have made it their life's goal to do whatever they wanted to do, there is a hopelessness, a lost-ness, a lack of peace in their lives that God told us long ago would characterize those who needed God. The only answer is Jesus, as we shall see tomorrow. If you already know Him, thank God for showing you the way. Pray that He will continue to enrich your understanding of Himself as you study His Word!

**Day 6-            Read Romans 3:21-31**  
**Memorize        3:23-24**

**In verses 1-20 of chapter 3, we learned that we are not righteous. In our verses for today we learn who is righteous - God!**

The filmmaker Spike Lee put out a movie a few years ago by the title “Do the right thing.” That movie made such an impact that dozens of speeches in congress the next year urged people to “do the right thing.”

**When we say that God is righteous we are saying that God does the right thing and even more than that- that He *is* the right thing.** When we say that lost man is unrighteous we are saying that occasionally he may do the right thing but he *is not* the right thing. Interestingly, even our idea of the right thing to do is skewed by our own sinfulness. For example, an environmentalist may urge others to “do the right thing” and save baby seals, but many of those same environmentalists could care less about the plight of unborn babies in their mothers wombs. For a pro-choice person, “doing the right thing” may mean protecting the rights of a mother to abort her unborn child, which God’s Word says is a precious life that should not be taken.

Let’s tie the gaining of God’s righteousness in our passage to the word faith. How many times does the word faith appear in verses 21-31: \_\_\_\_\_

In verse 22 what are we told comes to us by faith:  
 The \_\_\_\_\_ of God

In verse 25 we are told that through faith Christ becomes a propitiation by his blood for us. Look up the word propitiate in a dictionary and write a definition here:

\_\_\_\_\_

To help you understand what this means, look up 2 Corinthians 5:21. At the cross Jesus satisfied God the Father’s holy and righteous wrath against our sin- he took it out on Jesus- that’s why Jesus said, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me.” At that moment he bore our sin as a propitiation, satisfying God’s justice. **Or as an inmate would say: “We did the crime, Jesus did the time.”**

That’s what verse 26 means when it says that God is both just (because he did deal with the sin) and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Because of that, as verse 27 says, we can’t boast that God loves us because of anything that we do, but because of His redemption in Christ, which becomes ours when we place our faith and trust in him!

Take a moment to thank God for this incredible truth: when you placed your faith in Christ he forevermore looks at you and sees the righteousness of Christ and you are justified in his sight!

**Day 7-            Read Romans 4:1-12**  
**Memorize        4:3**

In today's verses Paul does what we ought always to do when we have a question about God's truth: he goes back to God's Word and lets the Bible speak for itself and shed light on other scriptures we've been reading. He goes right to examples from the life of Abraham and David. Take a guess here and write down why you think it was so smart for Paul to use Abraham especially as an example:

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**The Jewish leaders in Jesus' day thought very highly of both Abraham and David.**

They used both to represent what they thought was true: that people that do more good things than bad things will be blessed for "keeping the law," and the reason why men like Abe and Dave had been blessed is because they were examples of "good Jewish men." They pointed to them as examples of men who "did the right thing."

In his argument here about how far off base the Jews had become, Paul may have been thinking about the time Jesus argued with some Jewish leaders in John chapter 8. Turn there and read verses 31-36. The Jews thought that because they were "born Jews" God would just love all over them. But don't so many in churches do the same today. They think that because their parents are Christians that they are. They think that because they were baptized as a baby or as a child they are "right with God." Paul is simply drilling home the truth: outward acts mean nothing if there is not an inward change made by placing our faith in Jesus.

Paul goes to the scriptures and shows from Genesis 15:6, which is quoted in Romans 4:3, how Abraham was really saved. Write it here:

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Then he showed that David also rejoiced in what God had done, not so much in what he could do. The word in verse 8, impute, is best understood in banking terms. Not only is our sin not imputed to us after we accept Jesus, but Christ's righteousness is imputed to us instead. Suppose you went to the bank, thinking that you have a negative balance, only to discover that you now have a billion dollars in your account. You know there must be some mistake, so you ask the cashier about this. The cashier then tells you that a kind man became aware of your struggle and made a billion dollar deposit on your behalf and paid any debts that you owe.

How sweet would that be?! That's exactly what's happened to you in the spiritual realm through faith in Christ (see also Ephesians 1:3-14). Take the time to praise God for his immense love toward us!

**Day 8-            Read Romans 4:13-25**  
**Memorize        4:25**

Paul continues in today's verses with the point that he wants us all to get: salvation does not come through the way you're born, or a physical act (like circumcision or baptism) or through us being able to obey more than we disobey. It comes through trusting God to keep His promises, and beginning a personal relationship with Him whereby we obey because we want to, not because we have to.

Sometimes my son Will and I play airplane. I lay down, put my feet in Will's stomach area, and then lift him up off the ground. Then I drop him and catch him. Will trusts me to catch him, and so far I have. Will knows that Daddy cares about him and will act in his best interest. Trusting God at its core is an acknowledgment that our God is a Father who knows best what our lives can become if we trust Him and let Him lead us into his will for our lives.

God asked Abraham to believe Him that Sarah, his 90 year old wife, would have a son. From that son (and from the Messiah that would come from his descendants) all the world would be blessed or cursed. Write down here how many 90 year old women you have ever personally known who have had babies?

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**When you think of it, the only way Abraham could have obeyed God for a promise like that was to have faith in Him!**

Can you think of any other times in the life of Abraham that he had to trust God for something that was hard to believe? Write them here:

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HINT: See Genesis 12:1-3; Genesis 22:1-19

Abraham placed his faith in God and continued to have faith in God even when it didn't make sense to and even when he and Sarah had to live with the consequences of trying to do God's will their way! That's what God is calling us to do, because, like Abraham, we are fully convinced (verse 21) that what God has promised us He is able to perform! That kind of "forever faith" is met by God with "imputed" righteousness. That's what verses 22-25 means!

Starting tomorrow we will look even deeper into the change that happened in us when we trusted Christ. For now, thank God for "forever faith."

**Day 9-            Read Romans 5:1-11**  
**Memorize        5:1**

These wonderful verses speak of some of the benefits that we now have because of our new life in Christ. Because we have been justified by faith...fill in the blanks:

- v. 1 We have \_\_\_\_\_ with God
- v. 2. We have \_\_\_\_\_ by faith into this \_\_\_\_\_  
 in which we \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ in hope of the glory of God
- v. 3 we also glory in \_\_\_\_\_, knowing that \_\_\_\_\_  
 produces \_\_\_\_\_,
- v. 4 and perseverance \_\_\_\_\_, and character, \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 5 now hope does not \_\_\_\_\_, because the \_\_\_\_\_  
 of God has been \_\_\_\_\_ out in our hearts by the \_\_\_\_\_  
 who was given to us.

**The reason Paul can say that hope doesn't disappoint is because the Biblical word for hope means certainty.** I hope the Redskins will win the Superbowl every year but get disappointed! Biblical hope is "I know this is true" so I will act accordingly. That's why Paul can say that tribulations (times of trouble) are a good thing, because we grow stronger as we by faith go through them. When you think of it, one of the most powerful witnesses for Christ is how differently Christians react to negative circumstances. Anybody can be up when times are good. But when tough times come and people see our peace, our joy, our hope, our perseverance, our character, then they want to know more about the difference Jesus makes.

Jesus is alive! Notice verse 10 says that we will be saved by His life. The Resurrection of Jesus not only proved that Jesus was who He said He was, but also that he had conquered sin and death and now we don't need to be afraid anymore but instead we have a hope, a certainty, that lost people do not have. This is developed more in I Corinthians 15, but the bottom line is that because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, Christians will also experience life after death with Him! Knowing that floods our hearts with love for him who died for us while we were yet sinners. It also gives us a desire to reconcile others to God because we've been reconciled!

Ask God to help you visualize his love poured out for you (verse 5), and ask him to help you to pour out your love to others!

**Day 10-        Read Romans 5:12-21**  
**Memorize      5:21**

**Most people wrongly believe that people are born good and that the more they discover their genuine inner goodness the better people they'll become.** There are some "Christians" who even deny the reality of "original sin" and look more to Jesus as setting an example that needs to be followed rather than as a Savior who corrected a problem that all of us have.

In our passage for today, Paul makes clear that everyone on earth inherited from Adam a sin nature (because of his sin) that makes all of us sinners subject to God's condemnation and punishment. That's what the term "original sin" means, that because of Adam's original or first sin, we're all sinners. So not only do we choose to sin (Romans 3) but we have inherited a sinful nature (Romans 5) that keeps us from knowing God. Thanks a lot Adam!

But God loved us so much that he sent His Son Jesus to be a kind of second Adam, a perfect, sinless Adam who could die for our sin and who could give us the gift of his righteousness to make it! That's what this passage does, it contrasts for us the first Adam (Adam) with the second Adam (Jesus). Take the time now to list the differences out between the two Adams as given in our passage:

NOTE: Don't get thrown off by verses 13-14: they're just talking about the time between Adam and the 10 Commandments when people still sinned and knew what they were doing was wrong, but didn't have a clear written list of sins.

Things that are true because of the first Adam:

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Things that are true because of the second Adam (Jesus):

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Looking at verse 21, take time to thank God that believers can't out-sin the grace of God! Tomorrow we'll look at our responsibilities in light of this grace- not to sin, but to glorify God because of our freedom in Christ!

**Day 11-        Read Romans 6:1-14**  
**Memorize     6:4**

By now you've been able to tell that the Book of Romans is a systematic laying out of what the gospel is. In chapters 1-3 Paul took extended time to paint everyone on earth as sinners lost and condemned in their sin. In chapters 4-5 he then points to only one way to be freed from sin and be justified in God's sight: justification by faith. As we get to chapter 6-8 Paul is now entering into the area of sanctification.

**Sanctifi-what? Sanctification is the process that happens after we become**

**Christians.** We are blessed with every spiritual blessing after we're saved, but we still have to deal with sin here until the day we go to be with Jesus in Heaven. For example, let's say that Bill Gates ( the computer whiz billionaire) adopted one of the estimated 8 million homeless kids from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Legally the child would become an heir of Bill Gates and have all his riches at their disposal. But the child would still have to wrestle with some patterns of behavior that we're ingrained in his or her thinking. The child who had learned to live as a homeless kid would have to re-learn how to live as a child of the richest man in the world. Sanctification is when Christians let the light of Jesus' Lordship shine on every area of their life.

**Paul begins chapter 6 by anticipating the response his teaching on grace is going to**

**get.** The skeptic is raising his hand and Paul knows the question that's coming: if you teach people that they're saved by God's grace through faith instead of teaching them they have to mix faith and works to be saved, they're going to go out and do whatever they want! Paul's response is very deep- he says, "NOT!" Paul's answer basically is that if we're really saved we can no longer do the things we once did because we no longer are the people we once were!

Then he likens it to baptism- not water baptism but the spiritual baptism that happens whenever someone is really saved. Water baptism is a picture of what happened to us spiritually at conversion. Summarize what Paul says in verses 4- 14 here in your own words:

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A big '80's Christian group, DeGarmo and Key, used to sell concert shirts that said on the back, He died for me, I'll live for Him. In a nutshell that's the message of baptism. Gal. 2:20 says it this way: "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Praise God!

**Day 12-      Read Romans 6:15-23**  
**Memorize      6:23**

One of Bob Dylan's most famous songs used to cry out "you gotta serve somebody." You may recall that in the very first verse of the book of Romans Paul called himself a slave of Jesus Christ. **In this passage Paul says that everybody serves either sin or righteousness.** Let's look at the difference Paul paints. Fill in the blanks:

v. 16    whom you present yourselves \_\_\_\_\_ to obey, you are that one's \_\_\_\_\_ whom you obey, whether sin leading to \_\_\_\_\_, or of obedience leading to \_\_\_\_\_.

v. 17 But God be thanked, that though you were slaves of \_\_\_\_\_, yet you obeyed from the \_\_\_\_\_ that form of doctrine to which you were \_\_\_\_\_.

And having been \_\_\_\_\_ from sin, you became slaves of \_\_\_\_\_.

Look at verses 20-21. **The problem with being a lost sinner is that all you can do is be a lost sinner.** Put another way- lost people act lost because they are lost. They can't do the things of God because they are slaves to their sin. Isn't that interesting! Guys like Dennis Rodman pride themselves on being able to do whatever they want to do, but this passage says that in reality he is a slave to sin and Satan. And the "fruit" of such behavior is not freedom, but death. Dennis even said in his own biography that when he knows its time he'll take a revolver, put it in his mouth, and end his life. Does that sound like a man free and living? No, it sounds like a man dead in sin.

**The person who has given their life to Christ, however, has been made alive with Christ and now can choose to do what God wants instead of what Satan wants.** And the fruit such a person will bear will be holy fruit and everlasting life (see verses 22-23). Now this does not mean that you will be sinless now that you're a Christian. In Romans chapter 7 we will see Paul help us with our struggle with sin. But we are no longer owned by sin the way a non-Christian is, and in Christ we have the victory over sin!

As you pray thank God that He purchased you and that now you are a slave to righteousness!

**Day 13-        Read Romans 7:1-12**  
**Memorize     7:12**

Back in the Big '80's Nancy Reagan led a campaign to try to curb the use of drugs in America. The slogan for the campaign was 'just say no.' Laws always tell us what we're not supposed to do, and then we either go out and do it or wonder what it would be like if we did it. Saying 'just say no' whether its to drugs or alcohol or pre-marital sex or anything often just makes us wonder what it would be like to do those things!

**What Paul is saying in our passage for today is that we all need something and someone to say yes to!** The problem is not with the law itself- check out verse 12. List the three things that verse 12 says is true of God's commands:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Obviously Paul is not 'dissing the law of God, but he is pointing to the obvious truth that all laws are merely reflections of a lawgiver. And when we come to know the heart of a good lawgiver, obeying the laws is no sweat because we understand that the lawgiver simply wants what's best for individuals and the community. Look up and write down here Galatians 3:24:

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**The law can not be an end in itself: it must point us to an intimate relationship with the lawgiver. And once we have that relationship, obedience to the law of God becomes a matter of joy.** For example, when I was in college we used to complain about having an 11 PM curfew. But when I got married my "curfew" came down to something like 5PM, or when work is done! It's not that my wife has to say, "Danny, be home by 5PM." You see, I want to be home at 5PM and spend time with her and my children. What makes the difference between the curfew in college and the "curfew" now- my relationship! The same is true with God- when we come to know his heart, obedience to his laws is a joy not a burden! Thank God today for the joy of knowing Him!

**Day 14-        Read Romans 7:13-25**  
**Memorize     7:20**

**In today's passage we come down to the heart of the struggle between our new desire to serve God and the struggle we have with the sin in our life.** Some Christians believe that this passage is Paul referring back to the days before He knew Christ. To show why they think this fill in the blanks:

- v. 14 We know that the law is spiritual, but I am \_\_\_\_\_, sold under \_\_\_\_\_
- v. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) \_\_\_\_\_ good dwells
- v. 25 O \_\_\_\_\_ man that I am! Who will \_\_\_\_\_ me from this body of \_\_\_\_\_?

Yes, Paul is talking about his struggle with sin here, but I believe he is really talking about a struggle all Christians share battling the sin in their life. Fill in the blanks:

- v. 22 For I \_\_\_\_\_ in the law of God in my \_\_\_\_\_ man
- v. 25 So then, with the \_\_\_\_\_ I myself \_\_\_\_\_ the law of \_\_\_\_\_, but with the \_\_\_\_\_ the law of \_\_\_\_\_.

Because of these verses and the passages before this one and after this one I think it best to understand Paul as a believer struggling with his sin. Interestingly the godliest people I have ever known were also the ones most aware of their own sinfulness. As Christians we need to do what Paul did- Paul knew who he was in Christ, realized that sin was all around him, and that sin was the enemy, not himself!

Its like a little boy who goes over to his granddad's farm. As a little boy a dog would round the corner and always bite the boy on the leg. When the dog would leave the boy would scold his leg for getting bit! Now that the boy is older and the dog shouldn't have any power over him, he still finds himself letting that dog bite him and blaming himself.

NOTE: This illustration comes from Neal Anderson's book "The Bondage Breaker."

That's a stupid illustration, but that's precisely what Christians do- kick themselves instead of the sin in their lives. Instead we should be ready for the sin as Paul was- not questioning our salvation every time we do something sinful, but confessing our sin, glorifying God for His love and salvation, and making the most of every opportunity He brings. This is a hinge moment in the book of Romans. From this point on Paul is not going to give 12 step methods for dealing with sin, but instead urges us to bathe ourselves in the great truths of our salvation and to make the most of every opportunity! Ask Him today to help you to stop kicking yourself around and instead serve your Savior in joyful gladness!

**Day 15-      Read Romans 8:1-17**  
**Memorize    8:1a**

**This is my favorite chapter in all the Bible!** It preaches itself! What I'd like you to do is take the time and write down everything this passage says about Christians (those in Christ Jesus) and those who aren't Christians.

In Christ Jesus:

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Non-Christians:

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Now if you are "in Christ" take the time to thank God and pray through the list of the things He says are true of you because you're a Christian. Look through the list of the things that are true of Non-Christians. Pray for those who need Jesus now, that God will break their chains and bring them to know salvation in Christ Jesus!

**Day 16-        Read Romans 8:18-30**  
**Memorize      8:26**

What a tremendous passage! Paul begins these verses by telling us what the Christian and all creation longs for- the day when we all will be delivered from the very presence of sin, the day we'll be "glorified." Then in the middle of these verses he talks about our present struggle, our "groaning" because of the sin we're dealing with. Then he absolutely blows us away by saying that in the mind of God our "glorification" is not an event that happens in the future, but in fact was an event that he made a reality before the world even began! WOW!

**In verse 18, what does Paul say is not worth comparing to the glory that will be revealed in us?** \_\_\_\_\_

Here God says that our present problems are insignificant when compared to the present and the future we have with God. Pause a little bit here to think about that. Pray that God will overwhelm you with that kind of sense of his presence, his deliverance, that he's bigger than our struggles!

**But don't stop there! Look at verses 26-28 and answer these questions:**

V. 26 Who is helping you in your weakness? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What does the Spirit do when we don't even know how to pray about something?

V. 27 According to what does He pray for us? \_\_\_\_\_

V. 28 What percentage of things work together for our good? \_\_\_\_\_

Those are awesome thoughts! God's Holy Spirit helps us when we're weak, He prays for us when we don't know what to pray, and He makes events work out for the best when we only see the worst! And all according to His purpose. Now draw a line between the words from verses 29-30 with the correct definition of that word in the right hand column:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. Foreknew    | a. To summon to service                              |
| 2. Predestined | b. To vindicate, to excuse, to make right            |
| 3. Called      | c. To make eternally blessed, to shed radiance upon! |
| 4. Justified   | d. To know someone before they know you              |
| 5. Glorified   | e. To declare one's destiny before it happens        |

Answers: 1.d 2.e 3.a 4.b 5.c

Now follow that progression: God knows us before we know Him, He has declared our destiny with Him, He has summoned us to service, He has excused our sin, and he has made us eternally blessed! That is truly more than our pea brains can handle, but a source of never-ending rejoicing for the believer! Praise Him today!

**Day 17-      Read Romans 8:31-39**  
**Memorize      8:31**

This is one of the best passages in the Bible on the eternal security of the believer. Eternal security simply means that because of what Christ has done when a person comes to faith in Christ they are secure forever in their relationship with Christ. At the moment of salvation God begins a work that He promises He will see through to completion (see Phil. 1:6). As we have already seen, this does not mean that “I’m saved so I can do whatever I want to” but “I’m saved so I’ll do whatever God wants me to.” Let’s take a closer look at this truth. Fill in the blanks:

V.31 If \_\_\_\_\_ is for us, \_\_\_\_\_ can be against us?

Obvious Answer: NOONE!

V.32 He who did not spare His own \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_ Him up for us all, how shall he not with Him also \_\_\_\_\_ give us \_\_\_\_\_ things?

Obvious Answer: HE WON’T SPARE ANYTHING, BUT WE WILL BE JOINT-HEIRS WITH JESUS (REMEMBER 8:17?)

V.33 Who shall bring a charge against God’s \_\_\_\_\_? It is God who \_\_\_\_\_?

Obvious Answer: NOONE CAN BRING A CHARGE- BECAUSE ONLY GOD’S OPINION MATTERS- AND HE SAYS HE’S “ELECTED” OR CHOSEN YOU!

Note: Don’t let the word election scare you- we elect a President to enjoy certain privileges (like living in the White House, riding Air Force One, etc...) and to carry on certain responsibilities (representing us before other nations, doing what’s best for people, etc...). This word means that God elected you- He voted for you when noone else would- and only his vote matters! So enjoy the privileges and take up the responsibilities of being His “elect” one.

V.34 Who is he who \_\_\_\_\_? It is \_\_\_\_\_ who died, and furthermore is \_\_\_\_\_, who is even at the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, who also makes \_\_\_\_\_ for us.

Obvious Implication: AFTER YOU BECOME A BELIEVER AND LOOK TO JESUS FOR CONDEMNATION (the only one who has the right to condemn you since He bought you on the cross with His blood) ALL YOU SEE IS HIM PRAYING FOR YOU- WOW!!!

V.35 Who shall \_\_\_\_\_ us from the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ?

Obvious Answer: NOONE CAN! NOTHING CAN! WHY? BECAUSE...

V.37 We are more than \_\_\_\_\_ through Him who loved us!

Why are we more than conquerors? The word here means to over-conquer- we over conquer because Christ did the conquering *for us*. And in His name the victory was won! Take time today to Praise God for the great things He has done for you- all because of His L-O-V-E!

**Day 18-        Read Romans 9:1-13**  
**Memorize     9:2**

**Talk about your major-league switching of gears!!** Obviously Paul in this passage is moving into a different area of his discussion. He begins what will turn into 3 chapters of discussing the similarities and differences between the promises God made to Israel through Christ in the Old Testament (promises He will keep) and promises He is making to the Church through Christ in the New Testament. Hold on- some of this stuff is beyond our ability to completely understand- but God will bless us for studying it and applying what we can to our lives!

First of all, why is Paul, a Jewish Christian, so broken-hearted in verses 2-3?

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What does he essentially say in verse 3 he'd be willing to do if His countrymen could be saved? \_\_\_\_\_

Note: essentially Paul says he'd be willing to go to Hell if it would mean His countrymen the Jews would go to Heaven.

If we are ever going to reach out to others in America and around the world we need to start with the same kind of heart that Paul had- a grieving heart that desperately wants Non-Christians to know Jesus. Pray right now that you'd have that kind of heart toward people that don't know Jesus!

**Now let's draw a line to connect the benefits that the Jewish nation had in its history before Jesus, their Messiah (Christ in the Greek language) came:**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Adoption     | a. The priests and sacrificial system that pointed to Christ        |
| 2. Glory        | b. The physical ancestors of Christ                                 |
| 3. Covenants    | c. The "Presence" of God in the "Holy of Holies" in the Temple      |
| 4. Law          | d. God choosing Israel out of all the world to be His nation        |
| 5. The Service  | e. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the "patriarchs" of Israel            |
| 6. The Promises | f. Binding agreements God made with men                             |
| 7. The Fathers  | g. The rules that were made to point people to their need of Christ |
| 8. The Flesh    | h. The hope of a Christ who would be the perfect servant-leader     |

Answers: 1.d 2.c 3.f 4.g 5.a 6.h 7.e 8.b

There is one thing that holds all these wonderful benefits the Jews had together- they were all meaningless unless God kept His promises! That's what held the people together- God's promises- particularly the promise that he would come and be their ruler. Verses 6-12 basically say that it's not being a physical descendant of Abraham that is important, but being a spiritual descendant of Abraham through faith in God's fulfillment of His promise- Jesus! That's what Paul desperately wanted his fellow Jews to know- that Jesus is the answer! Thank God now that you know Him!

**Day 19-        Read Romans 9:14-33**  
**Memorize     9:33**

**This is one of those passages that raise more questions in our minds than we will be able to have sufficiently answered this side of Heaven. The theme of it is very clear though: God is in complete control.** He is the potter; we are the clay. Many people upon looking at these verses over the years have protested that this would seem to make us like puppets on strings, with God being the puppet-master, controlling our every thought and move. Certainly many of these verses say things like that if they weren't balanced with other verses. Let's fill in the blanks of verses to show this:

V.18 Therefore He has \_\_\_\_\_ on whom He will have \_\_\_\_\_, and whom He \_\_\_\_\_ He \_\_\_\_\_.

V.21 Does not the \_\_\_\_\_ have \_\_\_\_\_ over the \_\_\_\_\_, from the same lump to make one vessel for \_\_\_\_\_ and another for \_\_\_\_\_?

Those are compelling verses, but as always in scripture they need to be balanced with other verses that clearly show our need to choose to follow God. Fill in the blanks of two of the best known.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever \_\_\_\_\_ on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

\_\_\_\_\_ for yourselves this day whom you will \_\_\_\_\_...as for me and my house we will \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord. Joshua 24:15

**So which is it- Do we choose God or does he choose us?** Many people have been so confused by the difference in the two that they have chosen to believe one set of the verses and disbelieve the other set of verses. Those who say its all about our choice usually believe that since you chose God one day you may choose to un-choose God, and so you can never really be certain in this life that you are really saved, because it came down to your decision. On the other extreme are those that say that since it's really God's choice of you than no-one should really bother to witness or become a missionary because you may be witnessing to someone God didn't choose. Are you confused yet?

**There is another way to look at it.** There are some things we can understand in the scriptures and other things we can't understand. Yet even though I can't understand some things I trust that there's a reason that God wants me to know it so I try to find out what that is. I don't understand that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit make up one Triune God, and yet I have come to appreciate through further Bible study the role each member of the Trinity plays in my life. So here's what I know from scripture about this current dilemma:  
 -Continued on next page-

When I received Christ as my Savior and Lord he saved me and made me a child of God forever. That's the human level, and I understand that. But there's also a divine level that I can't understand until I get to Heaven. And that from the scriptures is that somehow before this world even began (let alone my own birth) God chose me and set me apart to bear fruit for Him (See John 15:16). I can't understand that, and indeed that has caused many to stop and ask many questions before God. But though God never really tells me how, he does let me in on why he wants me to know.

**He wants me to know for several reasons he states in the scriptures:**

1. **So I won't boast in my own ability to be smart enough to receive Him but rather in His wonderful grace in saving me.** I won't say "Boy everybody else sure is stupid for not accepting Him," but rather witness to them (as God commands) and pray for their salvation (as God commands)
2. **When I witness to someone and they get saved I won't be tempted to say, "look what I did"** and boast in me and my slick presentation but I will say "look what God did" and boast in His saving power
3. **When someone is truly saved we can trust God that over time they will bear fruit because they really are saved-** because God did it and when God saves somebody you see it in their lives!
4. **In our own lives we know we're saved and eternally secure** not because we trust in our own fickle selves and whether we "meant it enough" when we prayed but because God has saved us and others see Christ in us.

Now the fact that both are true at the same time (I choose Christ who somehow chose me first) is seen in John 1:12-13. Fill in the blanks:

John 1:12-13 But as many as \_\_\_\_\_ Him, to them He gave the right to become \_\_\_\_\_ of God, to those who \_\_\_\_\_ in His name: who were born, not of \_\_\_\_\_ (who their parents were), nor of the will of the \_\_\_\_\_ (how hard we could work to earn it), nor of the \_\_\_\_\_ of man (how sincere we can be), but of \_\_\_\_\_.

WHEW! We made it through! Mind-blowing stuff Hunh?! Take time to praise God that He is in complete control, *and* that He saves desperate sinners who turn to Him, as verse 33 says it, "whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." And this is true whether you're a Jew or a Gentile!

**Day 20-        Read Romans 10:1-13**  
**Memorize     10:9**

Today Paul continues his argument about the nation of Israel and the question of how Jews were to be saved now that their Messiah, their Christ, the Lord Jesus, had come. If you remember His argument from yesterday (and who could forget it!) He argued that God can do whatever he wants. If He wants to reject both Jews and Gentiles or accept both Jews and Gentiles He can do whatever He wants!

Looking at verse one, what is Paul's desire for Israel?

\_\_\_\_\_

According to Verse three, what has been the main thing keeping the Jews from seeing their need for Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

**Now before we get all over the Jews for having self-righteousness instead of Christ-righteousness, we need to remember that we too basically get caught up in that kind of game.** We sometimes compare ourselves with others and put them down to make ourselves look better. Have you ever said, "I don't see how anybody could *be like that*, or do *that*?" If you have, you may be caught up in the self-righteousness game, not the Christ-righteousness life!

Read this quote from a "dignified woman" when she heard the gospel preached by George Whitefield that everybody is a sinner who needs Jesus: "It is monstrous to be told that you have a heart as sinful as the common wretches that crawl upon the earth. This is highly offensive and insulting, ....so much at variance with high rank and good breeding." Ouch- guys, whether you like it or not, that's sometimes our attitude. What the Bible makes clear though, is, that there will be many people of "high rank and good breeding" in Hell because they trusted in their own righteousness instead of Christ's.

That's why today's passage is so important! Fill in the blanks below:

V. 9 If you \_\_\_\_\_ with your mouth the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in your \_\_\_\_\_ that God \_\_\_\_\_ Him from the dead, you will be \_\_\_\_\_.

V.10 For with the \_\_\_\_\_ one believes unto \_\_\_\_\_ (His, not mine!) and with the mouth \_\_\_\_\_ is made unto \_\_\_\_\_.

V.11 For the scripture says, \_\_\_\_\_ believes on Him will not be put to \_\_\_\_\_

If today's study has revealed to you a spirit of self-righteousness in your life, repent!

**Day 21-        Read Romans 10:14-21**  
**Memorize     10:17**

Yesterday Paul taught us that “whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved.” Today he begins by asking 4 questions that should move all of us who love Jesus more than anything to ask what we are doing to answer those questions. Let’s take the time to write out the 4 questions he asks in verses 14-15:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

The answer to all those questions is simple: “they can’t.”

Paul leads us all into the natural conclusion with his next quote from Isaiah 52:7. **Do you want to have beautiful feet?** Then let them take you to people who haven’t heard the gospel and share the “good news” with them! Earlier in this study we talked about being World Christians, Christians who are fulfilling the Great Commission of Jesus at home and around the world. We do this when we are actively engaged in being witnesses around the world for Him. Pray now that you’ll say yes when God calls you to share Jesus with whoever, whenever, and wherever.

Interestingly enough, one of the lame things people say is “Well, what about the heathen in Africa whose never heard of the Lord?” The answer is that all around the world they are hearing of Him and committing their life to Him! The real question is why the person whose making that lame excuse won’t trust Jesus! Maybe God wants them (or you, or me) to take the gospel to them!

There are two other things in our passage. First, look at verse 17. Do you want your faith to grow? Keep on studying God’s Word!!! **I have never seen a person with a strong faith who didn’t have a heart to know what God had said to him or her in the Bible!** It’s God speaking to us! His love letter! Read it! Let it sink in!

Secondly, look at verse 18-21. Paul’s point here keeps us on track with our study- the gospel of the love of Jesus *had* been shared with the Israelites and they had rejected His righteousness and His plan for their lives in favor of their own self-righteousness and their own plan for their lives. Let’s pray that we will let God rule in our own hearts, *obeying* the gospel (v. 16).

**Day 22-        Read Romans 11:1-36**  
**Memorize      11:29**

I have obviously given you a lot to cover in today's reading. That's because these verses can be easily summarized under one heading: God is the ultimate Promise Keeper! Write the memory verse for today below (v.29):

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One of the things they make clear to us when we get a driver's license is that if we don't do the right things when we're driving our licenses will be revoked- or taken away. What God says is that those who are truly his people have a calling and gifts that can't be taken back or revoked! What a privilege! What responsibility!

Now under that umbrella, knowing that God keeps His promises, and the other things we have learned so far in our study of Romans, **chapter 11 becomes a summary of important doctrinal points Paul has taught us**. Match the verses with the point made:

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. Verses 1-2a  | a. God can and will save all from within spiritual Israel even as He now is saving Gentiles                         |
| 2. Verses 2b-10 | b. Every physical Jew who has ever lived has not been right with God, only the spiritual "remnant"                  |
| 3. Verses 11-15 | c. There are some things about God we will never be able to figure out-but He doesn't owe us an explanation anyway! |
| 4. Verses 16-22 | d. God has not cast away His people!  |
| 5. Verses 23-32 | f. Gentiles shouldn't boast that they're in tight with God and that Jews can't be!                                  |
| 6. Verses 33-36 | e. Physical Israel's current rejection of God is an opportunity for Gentiles to be saved!                           |

Note: When I use the terms Physical and Spiritual Israel I'm trying to capture what Paul already told us in Romans 2:28-29, that being physically born a Jew meant nothing if there was not an inward, spiritual knowledge of Him in the heart .

Answers: 1.b 2.d 3.f 4.e 5.a 6.c

Now before we go onto tomorrow's devotion that begins to speak of our responsibilities because we know Jesus: Some important conclusions need to be drawn. First, There is a bright and glorious future for Believers. Secondly, there will somehow be a bright and glorious future for Israel. Finally, all of this will come to pass through Jesus Christ and not apart from Him. He is so worthy of your praise. Take time to thank Him for making provision for sinners like us to be saved! Sing as they do in Revelation 7:10, "salvation belongs to our God."

**Day 23-            Read Romans 12:1-8**  
**Memorize        12:1-2**

Paul has spent the first 12 chapters, or 75% of the book of Romans, telling us about how great our salvation is because of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus for our sins. Now in this last 25% of the book, he's going to encourage us to be living sacrifices for God!

**Knowing that he died for you, you're to pledge yourself to live for Him!** Tell Him that right now- Write it on the line below: Lord Jesus, you died for me, I'll live for you:

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Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Okay, now that you've made that pledge, we need to dig a little deeper on what it means to be a living sacrifice for God. First, He wants us to be holy. Look up in a dictionary the word holy and write the definition here:

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You should have gotten something like "shrubs with branches of usu." Oh no, that's *holly!*. The dictionary I looked in defined holy as "worthy of absolute devotion." In the Old Testament sacrifices usually died for the cause- I'd call that absolute devotion!

**Well, in a way, God is also calling us to die.** We need to die to doing things our way and live to doing things God's way. We need to be "set apart" for Him. He doesn't want us to remove ourselves from the world (like monks or something) but instead to live in this world like He would if He was still here. In a way He is right here- Jesus' Holy Spirit is inside us and helps us live by God's Word instead of by the world's ways of doing things.

That's where verse 2 comes in- in the Phillips translation it says "don't let the world squeeze you into its mold." Instead of thinking and acting like people who don't know Jesus, in faith we need to always be asking the question, "what would Jesus do?" and then, well, doing it! **But its important to remember that in two very real ways we are not alone as we obey Him.**

**First, He promised that He would be with us wherever we go.** He's the one that's tapping you on the shoulder when you feel like doing something wrong, or encouraging your spirit when you do something right. Or sometimes He's the one shouting, "DON'T DO THAT!!!" **Secondly, the church, the body of Christ is supposed to be there for you too.** Sometimes its nice to have a Christian friend tap you on the shoulder when you're about to do something wrong, or encouraging you when you do something right. Or to have a friend shout "DON'T DO THAT!!! That's why you need to use your gifts (like the ones mentioned in verses 3-8) and let others in the church use theirs. When this is happening, it's a beautiful thing! Ask God to help you do your part in the body as a "living sacrifice."

**Day 24-        Read Romans 12:9-21**  
**Memorize     12:9**

**Now since we have been asking Jesus to help us do what He would do, let's use today's verses as a checklist of sorts. Put a smiley-face in the blanks by the things you're doing well, and put a frowny-face by the ones you're not doing so well!**

Let love be w/o hypocrisy (Do you love only when you get something in return?)\_\_\_\_  
 Do you hate what is evil? (For example, do you love any lousy TV shows) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you cling to what is good?\_\_\_\_\_   
 Are you kind to one another with brotherly love (is there anyone you 'dis'?) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you in honor give preference to one another (or do you say "I'm the man!")\_\_\_\_  
 Do you lag in diligence (are you a lazy bum?) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you fervent in spirit (or can you take or leave Jesus?) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you serve the Lord? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you rejoice in hope? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you patient in tribulation (or do you respond like everybody else?) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you continue steadfastly in prayer? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you give to meet the needs of other saints?\_\_\_\_\_   
 Are you given to hospitality? Or when people come over do you hide the chips) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you bless those who curse you? (or do you bless them out?) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you rejoice with those who rejoice (GIRLS- Are you happy when your friend finds a boyfriend?) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you mourn with those who mourn? (I'm not sure a smiley-face goes here)\_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you associate with those that aren't in the "in-crowd"? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are you wise in your own opinion? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you repay people evil for evil? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you have regard for good things? (Like Veggie Tales)\_\_\_\_\_   
 Do you live peaceably with all people? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Do you avenge yourself when you're hurt? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you love your enemies? (There's a tough one, but it's the heart of Christianity!  
 Remember, "when we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son"  
 –Romans 5:10)\_\_\_\_\_

**Now keep in mind after reviewing this list that its not just hard to live the Christian life, its impossible! We're never to get caught up in doing these things to earn God's love, but humbly to let God speak through His Holy Spirit to us about each of these areas because of the love He's already shown us. And wouldn't you love to live in a nation where the people applied those things? A City? A Church? A Home? Than it starts with you- let it!**

**Day 25-        Read Romans 13:1-14**  
**Memorize     13:1**

V. 1 Who has established and appointed government authorities? \_\_\_\_\_.

This does not mean that all governments are good or godly, just that God has allowed rulers to come to power, and as we saw with Pharaoh and Nebuchadnezzar, he can remove them anytime He sees fit!

V. 2 If we resist the authority, who are we ultimately resisting? \_\_\_\_\_.

This does not mean that believers have to obey unjust laws. For instance, the Hebrew maids in Egypt rejected a law that said they had to kill newborn male babies (Exodus 1). Peter and John went on talking about Jesus everywhere they went in Public even though they were told not to by the rulers (Acts 5:22-32). Their response was that “we ought to obey God rather than man.” But we are in sin, for instance if the law says to drive 25 MPH in a school zone and we’re going 55 MPH. We’re not just breaking the law, we’re sinning against God!

V. 3-4 Do we need to fear the authorities if we’re doing what’s right?  
 \_\_\_\_\_.

V. 5 For Christians, what is a motivator beyond simply obeying the law because you don’t want to experience wrath? \_\_\_\_\_.

A good conscience is important because Christians know that even when authorities can’t see us break the law God is there and He knows, and we want to honor Him by living upright lives.

Note that in this passage that the authorities are called ministers who our taxes help take care of for our good! That’s why we give them their due! Now it is tempting to remind them, though, as the Country Music song goes, that if 10% is good enough for Jesus, it ought to be good enough for Uncle Sam!

In verses 8-14 Paul reminds us to exemplify the giving love of Christ toward our neighbor, and to make no room in our lives for the greedy lust that puts ourselves before others! What if we all lived like that! It starts with me and you! Say yes, God, I’ll put on Jesus (v.14).



V.13 Therefore let us not \_\_\_\_\_ one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a \_\_\_\_\_ or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

**Sometimes we need to avoid doing something we don't have any problem doing simply because it might cause another brother to stumble.** Getting back to the food issue, verse 15 says you are no longer walking in love if someone is grieved because you're eating it, even though verse 14 says nothing is unclean by itself.

V.19-20 Therefore let us \_\_\_\_\_ the things which make for \_\_\_\_\_ and the things by which one may \_\_\_\_\_ another. Do not \_\_\_\_\_ the work of \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of food.

**We need to make sure that we keep first things first, helping people grow up in Christ!**

**There is another thing that needs to be said here, though. Most of the time these truths are turned completely on their heads by people in churches.** The main point Paul is making is that people that have known Jesus for some time should be incredibly sensitive to the tender faith that has begun in new believers. We should be sensitive to the fact that we are like parents helping newborn babies grow to maturity. But many times in churches older Christians get upset with newer believers for not understanding "how we do things here." I have heard these very verses turned on their head to tell newer believers that they are not to offend what in reality should be "stronger brothers." **The weaker brother principle is given so stronger brothers will point weaker brothers to the things that matter.** That's how it should be used, not as an excuse for "older brothers" to tell "younger brothers" that the Christian music they're listening to is wrong!

V. the Kingdom of God is not \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ (or listening to Christian Rock Music), but \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_.

**Commit yourself now to looking out always for "weaker brothers."**

**Day 27-      Read Romans 15:1-21**  
**Memorize    15:1**

By now you have seen that Paul was a master of taking an argument, first applying it to individuals, and then applying it to groups and illustrating both with examples from the Old Testament. In 15:4 he says that the things that were written before were “for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Then he prays in verse 5 that they be like-minded. What he’s talking about is that Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians, despite their vast cultural differences, would be one in Christ Jesus. **Just as individuals need to receive one another in the faith, so do groups of believers.** So Paul’s plea in today’s verses is that Gentile Christians and Jewish Christians receive one another.

That needs to be our heart today as we all try to cross racial barriers, cultural barriers, and other barriers with the gospel of Christ. Name some of the barriers that need to come down in our world today and in the body of Christ:

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Now let me ask you to do something: for the things you listed above, write down below what you are doing to make the situation better, or admit that something you’re doing, or not doing, is making the situation worse.

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**Paul gave his life to crossing the artificial barriers that had been erected between people. As we close today, commit yourself to doing the same for the glory of God and for the integrity of the gospel.**

**Day 28-        Read Romans 15:22-33**  
**Memorize     15:30**

As Paul begins to wind down his letter to the Christians at Rome, we again see his desire to visit them that he displayed in Romans chapter 1. As he speaks of coming to them, he makes mention of **two of the greatest things Christians can do for other believers - give to meet their needs and pray.** That's what we'll look at today.

Fill in the blanks:

V. 26-27 For it pleased those from \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to make a certain contribution for the poor among the \_\_\_\_\_ who are in \_\_\_\_\_ ... For if the Gentiles have been \_\_\_\_\_ of their \_\_\_\_\_ things, their \_\_\_\_\_ is also to \_\_\_\_\_ to them in \_\_\_\_\_ things.

A certain amount of background is needed here. The first church was in Jerusalem. From there the gospel spread to Antioch and from Antioch to other cities, including the two mentioned here. Now most of the time today the churches that are the "mother churches" have more money, more members, more resources, etc... But in the early church, a wave of trouble spread over Jerusalem that really left it with very little money and other resources. So one of the things that Paul talked to people about on his missionary journeys was giving money to help the poor saints in Jerusalem that had a major part in the early spread of the gospel.

**We too need to be looking for ways to bless churches with the resources the Lord has given us.** Amazingly enough, one of the areas that needs help the most is right back over there in the Middle East where the gospel spread early on but now many Christians are persecuted and Islam has become the dominant religion. But not only do we need to be willing to go and be missionaries and give financially to spread the gospel and help with hunger relief around the world, we need to strive together (v.30) with Christian Workers in prayer.

One of the neat things about going to both a Christian College and a Seminary was that I got to meet numerous people who are now around the world serving God. I get many of their prayer letters and see the faithful work they do, and they almost always speak of the number one thing they need being prayer. **If we are going to become World Christians we must become prayer warriors for God's work and God's Workers.** Pray now by name for those you know who are serving around the world. Ask God to help you become a sacrificial giver to His worldwide mission movement!

**Day 29-        Read Romans 16:1-16**  
**Memorize     16:16**

**In this part of his letter Paul personalizes his letter by extending greetings to the Christians in Rome. Match the person and the description of them:**

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. Phoebe               | a. Countrymen and fellow prisoners     |
| 2. Priscilla and Aquila | b. Chosen in the Lord                  |
| 3. Epaphroditus         | c. My beloved in the Lord              |
| 4. Mary                 | d. A helper of many and of myself also |
| 5. Andronicus and Junia | e. The firstfruits of Achaia to Christ |
| 6. Amplias              | f. Risked their necks for my life      |
| 7. Apelles              | g. Labored much in the Lord            |
| 8. Rufus                | h. Approved in Christ                  |
| 9. Persis               | i. Labored much for us                 |

Answers: 1.d 2.f 3.e 4.i 5.a 6.c 7.h 8.b 9.g

No wonder Paul wanted to go to Rome! Some of the best people he had worked with other places were there! Here's a question: if Paul had worked with you, what would be a short description he would make about you?

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**Think about that one a little bit- you are right now carving out a legacy for yourself- Determine now that you want to be remembered to others as a godly, faithful person who made a big splash in the world for Jesus! You can do it by faith in Him!**

One more thing for fun- which one of these names would make the best name for a child of yours? If I have twins I think I'll name them Tryphena and Tryphosa!

**Day 30-        Read Romans 16:17-27**  
**Memorize      16:27**

**As we come to the close of this wonderful book Paul gives us a warning that we shouldn't take lightly. The fact of the matter is that many advocate ideas in the name of Jesus Christ that are heresy- that deny the faith that was given to us in the scriptures. Paul here tells Christians to identify them and avoid them.**

After Paul some would deny that Jesus is fully God. Avoid them (see Romans 9:5)

Some would deny that Jesus was fully man. Avoid them (see John 1)

Some would deny that all are sinners. Avoid them (see Romans 1-3)

Some would deny the death of Christ for sins. Avoid them (see Romans 5)

Some would deny the Resurrection of Jesus. Avoid them (see Romans 6)

Some would deny that the Holy Spirit indwells believers. Avoid them (see Romans 8)

Some would deny that God keeps His promises. Avoid them (see Romans 9-11)

Some would deny the necessity of daily living for Jesus. Avoid them (see R. 12-15)

As we close this study take time to thank God for all He is and for all He has become to you- commit yourself to the ongoing study of God's Word and to becoming everything He wants you to be.

**V. 27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.**

That's worth saying again...

**V. 27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.**

And again...

**V. 27 to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.**

You get the idea...