

BOOK TO THE ROMANS
THE GOSPEL [GOOD NEWS] OF GOD
SALVATION: THE DIVINE METHOD OF DELIVERANCE FROM SIN
X. PRACTICAL DOCTRINES: THE GOSPEL APPLIED
8. THE CHRISTIAN AND DOUBTFUL THINGS

- 1 RECEPTION OF THE WEAKER BROTHER
- 2 DOUBTFUL PRACTICES NOT TO BE JUDGED
- 3 ALL Christians to be judged to the judgment seat of Christ
- 4 Christian responsibility
- 5 Law of Faith regarding doubtful things.
- 6 Doubtful Practices to be tolerated
 - a. **Romans 15:1-33** We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. ³For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."
 - i. 1 Cor. 8:9-13 Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling block to the weak. [10] For if anyone with a weak conscience sees you who have this knowledge eating in an idol's temple, won't he be emboldened to eat what has been sacrificed to idols? [11] So this weak brother, for whom Christ died, is destroyed by your knowledge. [12] When you sin against your brothers in this way and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. [13] Therefore, if what I eat causes my brother to fall into sin, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause him to fall.
 - ii. 1 Cor. 10:23-24 "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible"--but not everything is constructive. [24] Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others.
 - iii. Psalm 69:8-9 I am a stranger to my brothers, [human race], an alien to my own mother's sons; [I am no longer as they are, I am a new creation in Christ] [9] for zeal for your house [Your temple] consumes me, and the insults of those who insult you [God] fall on me.
- 7 Christians are to study Scripture and live in unity
 - a. Romans 15: 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. ⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, ⁶so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For 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 ⁹so that the Gentiles may glorify God for his mercy, as it is written:
 - i. Ephesians. 4:1-3 As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. [2] Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. [3] Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.
 - ii. 2 Tim. 2:15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
 - iii. 2 Tim. 3:16-17 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, [17] so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - iv. Luke 24:44 He said to them, "**This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.**"

- v. John 5:39 **You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,**

(1) **unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus**

- (a) The unity of the church is dependant upon all following Christ Jesus.

(2) **⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us**

- (a) The scripture is alive in the hands of the Holy Spirit.

(i) It is not just a collection of stories.

(ii) It is Spirit and it must be read and spirit understood.

(iii) Christ = ruler

1) John 15:14 You are my friends [followers] if you do what I command

a) Ask yourself this question, "Who is Christ?"

i) If you were a slave, would you have to obey your owner?

ii) If you were a soldier in any army, would you have to obey the person in rank above you?

iii) If you were the subject of a King, would you have to obey his orders?

b) Then why do we think obeying the commands of Jesus, the commands of God are optional?

8 Christian Jews and Gentiles are one in Christ

a. Romans 15:"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing hymns to your name." ¹⁰Again, it says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and sing praises to him, all you peoples." ¹²And 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."

i. 1 Cor. 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

ii. Galatians 3:28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

(1) What is all this praise and rejoicing about?

(a) Christ will RULE OVER YOU!

(i) If Christ can not rule over us today, why do we think He can in the future?

(2) What does it mean to be "one in Christ Jesus"

(a) Hear these verses again.

(i) See my study on "Baptisms"

1) For this verse says, "baptized by one Spirit into one body--"

a) What body?

b) When did the Spirit do this?

XI Paul's parting testimony and admonitions

1 Paul's desire and hope for the Roman church

a. Romans 15:13 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. ¹⁴I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, complete in knowledge and competent to instruct one another.

i. Romans 8:38-39 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.

(1) That you may overflow

(2) In both these verses Paul is convinced, **a primary verb; to convince (by argument, true or false); by analogy to pacify or conciliate (by other fair**

means); reflexive or passive to *assent* (to evidence or authority), to *rely* (by inward certainty) :- agree, assure, believe, have confidence, be (wax) confident, make friend, obey, persuade, trust, yield.

(a) It is like me saying, "I am sure after studying the Book of Romans that all our lives will be changed"

(i) As I write this I know that a large percentage of the church today does not believe what these verses say. Because they do not believe that any man will really act on them.

(3) The Seven things that Paul and I believe are available to every believer today.

(a) That God would fill them with JOY

(b) That God would fill them with PEACE

(c) That FAITH will abound in HOPE

(d) That they have SPIRITUAL POWER

(e) That they were filled with GOODNESS

(f) That they were filled with KNOWLEDGE

(g) That they were capable of ministering in the Kingdom of God.

2 Paul's testimony of his ministry among Gentiles

a. Romans 15: ¹⁵I have written you quite boldly on some points, as if to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶to 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.

i. Romans 11:13 I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry

ii. Three points to fully understand.

(1) He proclaimed the Gospel of God

(a) See the earlier verses to understand what this is.

(2) That the Gentiles **might become an offering acceptable to God.**

(a) Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

(b) Jeremiah 33:11 the sounds of joy and gladness, the voices of bride and bridegroom, and the voices of those who bring thank offerings to the house of the Lord, saying, "Give thanks to the Lord Almighty, for the Lord is good; his love endures forever."For I will restore the fortunes of the land as they were before,' says the Lord.

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

(d) Philip. 4:18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

(e) Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.

(3) sanctified by the Holy Spirit

(a) Exodus 31:13 "Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the Lord, who makes you holy.

(b) Leviticus 20:8 Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the Lord, who makes you holy.

(c) Leviticus 21:8 Regard them as holy, because they offer up the food of your God. Consider them holy, because I the Lord am holy--I who make you holy.

(d) Leviticus 22:9 "The priests are to keep my requirements so that they do not become guilty and die for treating them with contempt. I am the Lord, who

makes them holy.

(i) When is the Holy Spirit doing this? How does He do it? What did Jesus tell Peter at the Passover Celebration about this?

3 Paul's policy and power - his secret for success

a. Romans 15: ¹⁷Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸I 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-- ¹⁹by 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. ²⁰It 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. ²¹Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."

i. Acts 19:11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul,

ii. "what Christ has accomplished through me" Ten Things

1. Peace	Romans 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
2. Life	Romans 6:11 In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.
3. Eternal Life	Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
4. Thanks for Salvation	Romans 7:25 Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! 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.
5. Boasting	Here - verse 17
6. Victory	1 Cor. 15:57 But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
7. Heirship	Galatians 4:7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.
8. Keeping	Philip. 4:7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
9. God Glorified	1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.
10. Salvation	2 Peter 2:19-20 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity--for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. [20] If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.

iii. A look again at the New Testament program

Preaching the Gospel	Verses 18 - 21
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	Mark 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.
Confirming the Gospel	Mark 16:17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; Mark 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

- (1) In a Bible study I was asked, "What is the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit"
 - (a) The Holy Spirit immediately spoke in to my spirit, "The gift that is needed at that time"
 - (i) In other words, if a person needed the gift of healing to me active it would have been foolish for me to stand in front of them and speak in tongues.
 - (2) Verse 20 is a very similar circumstance.
 - (a) In a Bible Study a person told me after some one was immediately healed, "No one is ever healed in our church service."
 - (i) The Spirit again spoke to me, "Is the Healing Word of God ever spoken and taught in your church service"
 - 1) The answer was no.
 - 2) Then looking at the verse above, God had no Healing Word of God to confirm.
- 4 Paul's desire to visit Rome
- a. Romans 15: ²²This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you. ²³But 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, ²⁴I 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.
 - i. Paul always wanted to go to Rome, but his call was to another part of the world.
 - (1) He fulfilled his commission
 - ii. Now he is on his way to Spain and he is going to make a stop over in Rome.
 - iii. He wants them to have a offering for him so he can complete his mission.
- 5 Paul's ministry to the poor Jews of Jerusalem
- a. Romans 15: ²⁵Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the saints there. ²⁶For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem. ²⁷They 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. ²⁸So 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.
 - i. So here Paul is making two things clear.
 - ii. Those of the Gentiles that God had given the means to help their Christian brothers in Jerusalem, did so.
 - (1) These people were poor because they were Christians. The unbelieving Jews would not give them work. In fact they opposed them.
 - iii. A very clear understanding of giving. Giving is to the POOR AMONG US!!!
- 6 Paul's confidence in the power of the Gospel
- a. Romans 15: ²⁹I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.
 - i. To fully understand this, see the "baptisms"
 - ii. 1 Cor. 12:4-11 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. [5] There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. [6] There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. [7] Now to each one the

- manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. [8] To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, [9] to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, [10] to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. [11] All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.
- iii. Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
 - (1) So with Paul comes the gifts of God.
 - iv. Paul is wanting to fully establish the church.
 - (1) See the way to Gospel was spread above.
 - (a) Acts 1:7-8 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. [8] But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
 - (b) Acts 8:19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."
- 7 Prayer concerning his visit to Jerusalem and Rome
- a. Romans 15:³⁰I 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. ³¹Pray that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea and that my service in Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints there, ³²so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed. ³³The God of peace be with you all. Amen.
 - i. Paul as well as we, no matter how God has blessed us, we still need the prayers of all believers.
 - (1) Paul had GREAT opposition.
 - (a) See the thorn in the flesh teaching.
 - ii. May we all pray one for another.