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Depicting the Gentiles | Romans 1 | PowerPoint No. 111

- McGarvey: written by P in the prime of his ministry */P = Paul; R = Romans; Chr. = Christians/*
- Rome's Jewish community was mainly poor
- Claudius [emp] expelled Chr. from R in the 40s ad. Church comprised of Gentile Chr. exclusively until Claudius' death > immediately overturned at death
- Probably written ~56-57ad; dictated to a scribe, Tertius [16:22]; probably delivered by Phoebe [16:1-2]
- Largest city in the world, capital of Roman Emp.; like NYC to USA, London to Great Britain, Tokyo to Japan; political, financial, social hub of the world
- Nero – emperor; end of his reign
- Jews from Rome were at Pentecost [Ac. 2:10]. When fled [8:1-4], they went back home.
- Why placed 1st in epistles? Longest [7100 words]; Paul's masterpiece; logically follows Acts. Acts gives conditions of salvation; Romans gives the grounds. Acts tells you "what" to do; Romans tells you "how."
- P never been to R; written Acts 20:2-3
- Key words:
 - Righteousness – 66x
 - Law – 75x

- Faith, belief, believe – 61x
- Sin, sinner, sinful – 58x
- Death, die, kill – 48x
- Flesh, fleshly, carnal – 30x
- Grace – 25x
- Holy – 24x

1. Prescript – Romans 1:1-7

- First 7 verses are 1 sentence; 93 Greek words
- 1: servant – Greek – slave; more than ½ of population were slaves
- 2: wanted all to know good news of Jesus, firmly rooted in OT scriptures
- 3: focus shifts to Jesus
- 4: Jesus was also fully God
- 5: full circle: back to himself.
- 6: called – same as v. 1 – divinely called
- 7: lovely greeting to them

2. Reason for Writing – Romans 1:8-15

- 8: thanksgiving; whole world – Roman Empire
- 9: P did not limit his prayers to places he had labored
- 10: prosperous journey: lit. good + way
- 11: desired to give some spiritual gift; established: Greek: to fix, make fast
- 12: long to see you because it will help you; helping you helps me
- 13: Ch. 15 explains more what prevented him
- CEV “I want to win followers to Christ in Rome.”
- 14: final reason for writing – had a debt to pay
- 15: eager, even after 30 years of ministry
- Many wanted to visit R as a sightseer; P wants to go as a messenger of God!

3. Thesis Statement – Romans 1:16-17

- 16: power – Gk: dunamis – Eng: dynamite; R empire noted for their power; truly in Gospel

- Salvation – Gk: deliverance
- 17: Hab. 2:4: destruction of Chald.; God would raise them up to punish Judah; Hab. Wonders why God would do this when Chald. Were more wicked. Point: “Righteous man will turn to Me even when things look bad and I will reward him by keeping him safe.”

4. Gentiles Subject to God’s Wrath – Romans 1:18-32

- 18: comprehensive term for all wrongdoing
- 19: 2 ways God revealed Himself: creation [1:20] and conscience [2:21]
- 20: point not to prove that God is but who; paradox: invisible things seen
- 21-22: had known God in the past, suppressed their knowledge = ignorant
- 23: man has built in desire to worship
- 24: He will not stop you if you go away from Him. It breaks His heart but because of His love for you He lets you go.
- 25: lit. the lie
- 26-27: clearest & strongest treatment of homosexuality; passion – always bad in NT
- 28: unbelief a deliberate and calculated act. “If God is not, then nothing is morally wrong.” Fyodor Dostoevsky [1821-1881]
- 29-31: illustrating man’s depravity with a list of 20 sins; not every sin but a list of typical sins
 - Unrighteousness: generic for all wrong
 - Wickedness: generic all evil & harmful
 - Greed: desire for more & more
 - Evil: most generic for all things bad
 - Full of envy: resentment at fortune of others
 - Murder: killing someone else
 - Strife: contention, debate KJV
 - Deceit: lit. bait, for catching
 - Malice: bad + moral in Greek
 - Gossips: whisperers KJV
 - 30: slanderers: assassins of character
 - Haters of God
 - Insolent: overbearing, wantonly violent

- Arrogant: lit. appearing from above [looking down]
- Boastful: wanderer – like a snake oil salesman
- Inventors of evil: new ways to satisfy greed
- Disobedient to parents: unwilling to be persuaded
- 31: w/o understanding: foolish in v. 21; discernment
- Untrustworthy: breaks agreement or covenant
- Unloving: sad world – should be natural like for parents or children
- Unmerciful: ruthless
- 32: ordinance: legal term – what God has deemed as right
- Their downward journey was now complete

Lessons:

1. There is no distinction or differentiation in God's eyes – **ALL** are needing of salvation!
2. There is power in the Gospel of Christ! If we want that power in our lives, we must be obedient.
3. God is clearly seen even in nature; we must not ignore Him.
4. God doesn't sugarcoat sin – it is worthy of death [Romans 6:23]. Thankfully, we can have our sins forgiven!

What About the Jews? | Romans 2 | PowerPoint No. 112

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 1 serves as an introduction, thesis [1:16], and depicts the Gentiles.
- Shift of pronouns: Ch. 1 – they; Ch. 2 - you

1. Jews Exposed – Romans 2:1-11

- 1: Both groups were travelling down same road; Greek word for 'judge' 4x in v. 1
- 2: "we know" presumes all readers agree
- 3: Man: GK: human being. Many Jews thought they would escape Judgment because they simply were Jews.

- 4: God gave Jewish people time to repent instead of immediately placing judgment
- 5: Hardness/stubbornness. Medical term: sclerosis. Arteriosclerosis – hardening arteries
- 6: judgment acc. to our deeds, cf. 2 Cor. 5:10
- 7: seek 3 things; contrast with self-seekers, 8
- 8: lit. demean themselves for gain; wrath & indignation – 2 GK words for ‘anger’
- 9: repeats v. 7-8 in reverse order plus the fate of the wicked
- 10: peace with God and man
- 11: partiality – compound in GK: *face + receive*; lit. *to receive one’s face or someone by their face*

2. Righteous Judgment of God – Romans 2:12-16

- 12: 1st use of “law” in Romans
- 13: hearing not enough, must also do it
- 14: followed same principles of the Law yet they didn’t have the Law. By nature: *don’t kill, steal, commit adultery, etc.*
- 15: C.S. Lewis: “human beings all over the earth have this curious idea that they ought to behave in a certain way, and can not get rid of it”
- 16: who will judge? God through Jesus Christ. My gospel: in a sense, God made it his own.

3. Disobedience of the Jews – Romans 2:17-24

- P addresses fact that Jews considered themselves better than the Gentiles
- 17: if – ei – assuming condition is fulfilled
- 18: not just having but conscious of precepts
- 19,20: descriptions not flattering or inaccurate
- 21,22: “Do you not work on yourself as well?” Steal: GK: kleptó - kleptomaniac
- 23: Jews given many advantages but these assets became liabilities
- 24: Quotes Isaiah 52:5: Gentiles were mocking God because they thought He was unable to protect His people

4. True Circumcision of the Heart – Romans 2:25-29

- Jews: 2 things above all: Law, circumcision
- 25: circumcision: GK: compound *cut + around*
- 26: uncircumcision: GK: lit. “[having] the foreskin” – how shocking to a Jew!
- 27: by living out principles of the Law, it fulfilled one of the aspects of the Law.

- 28: outwardly, in the open
- 29: inwardly, in secret
- Fleshly circumcision: cutting around to remove foreskin
- Spiritual circumcision: cutting out all evil
- Men praise what they can see; God praises what He cannot see – heart circumcision – 1 Samuel 16:7

Lessons:

1. There is coming a great Judgment Day when God will be the Judge. Are you ready for this great day? Don't be shocked on that day!
2. Letting your 'conscience be your guide' can be dangerous. Some people's conscience has been seared with a hot iron – 1 Timothy 4:2. Instead, use God's Word as your guide.
3. Don't try to live a spiritual life on the outside to be seen of others. Rather, we should work on being faithful to God.

A Worldwide Dilemma | Romans 3 | PowerPoint No. 113

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 2 Paul shifts his attention from the Gentiles to the Jews.
- Ch. 3 answers the Jew's objections

1. Answering Objections – Romans 3:1-8

- A] What about God's covenant? 1-2
- 1: "If what you say is true, what is the point of being a Jew?"
- 2: advantage alone ≠ guarantee success
- B] Does this nullify God's faithfulness? 3-4
- 3: play on words: entrusted, believe same
- 4: strongest negative possible in GK
- C] Is God's righteousness being underestimated? 5-6
- 5: showing how ridiculous humans can be when they try to justify their sins

- 6: Jew's unrighteousness enhanced God's righteousness
- D] Are you not confused about God's glory? 7-8
- 7: some don't see this as an objection
- 8: evil is never good; sin is never to be commended
- Paul thought this phrase needed no refutation

2. Both Jew and Gentiles under Sin and Need God's Righteousness – Romans 3:9-20

- 9: previously indicted them, 1:18-3:9
- 10-12: approach called *charaz*, "stringing together of pearls;" proof texts
- 13-14: Ps. 5:9 – tongue; Ps. 140:3 – asps; Ps. 10:7 – mouth full
- 15-17: Isa. 59:7-8; throat, tongues, lips, mouth, feet – sin a fatal illness from head to foot!
- 18: Ps. 36:1; fear – respect and awe
- 9-18 doesn't teach total hereditary depravity
- 19: last mouth to be closed was the Jews
- 20: Divine Law produces a knowledge of sin – it exposed all people as sinners

3. Righteousness Through Faith, for all People – Romans 3:21-31

- 21: manifested: made known; refers to all OT
- 22: faith – key word in text. Leads into 23
- 23: synopsis of 1:18-3:20; fall short – runner behind in race; glory of God – awesome presence
- 24: justified: 'declared righteous' by God; "just if I'd" never sinned
- 25: propitiation – only way of appeasing God's wrath; same word in Lv. 16
- 26: supreme paradox – the just (punish sins) is also the justifier (saving sinner)
- 27: boasting – bragging
- 28: salvation by grace leaves no room for boasting of personal achievement
- 29,30: Jews & Gentiles on equal footing
- If God is the God of the Gentiles also, then it is only natural that they, too, should be included in God's plan for mankind's salvation.
- 31: P knew his critics would accuse him of going against the Law so v. 31 is included
- Nullify – reduce to inactivity

Lessons:

1. We should not do evil just so God's grace can be abundant. (Paul will bring this back up in the 6th chapter.) Instead, we should live a life that is in accordance with God's Word.
2. 3:23 – don't use this frequently quoted verse out of context as a "license to sin." Rather, view it in light of 1 Cor. 10:13 – nothing new; always an escape route.
3. The Blood of Jesus Christ is the only way that we can be forgiven of our sins! There is no other substitute and no other way to have our sins forgiven.

Abraham: the Man of Faith | Romans 4 | PowerPoint 114

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 3 discusses how sin affects the whole world
- Ch. 4 illustrates faith through Abraham

[key: A=Abraham; P=Paul]

1. Abraham's Faith Credited as Righteousness – Romans 4:1-8

- 1: why A? If P could prove that "Father A" was justified on the basis of faith it would help establish his cause
- 2: if anyone could boast it would be A
- 3: present tense 'what does?' Not 'what did?' written 1500 yrs. before, still speaking today
- Genesis 15:6 – not the 1st time A believed
 - 1st time states he believed (1st in Gen.)
 - 1st time in Gen. 'righteousness' refers to A
 - Specifically states justified by his faith [best reason for quoting]
 - Chronologically 14ish yrs. Before A was circumcised
- 4: contrasts law/works and grace/faith
- 5: contrasts with grace/faith
- 6-8: 2nd example: King David; Ps. 32:1-2 – expressing thankfulness for God forgiving him

2. Righteousness Not Dependent on Circumcision – Romans 4:9-12

- 9: can only Jews be forgiven or Gentiles also?

- 10: what circumstances was A in Gen. 15:6? Most Jews probably never considered circumcision was in Ch. 17
- 11: why did God command? A sign, Gen. 17:11
- 12: if you were really A's children then you would do the things A did!

3. The Promise Made Through Faith, Not the Law – Romans 4:13-15

- 13: promise: key word [13, 14, 16, 20]; heir of the world: couldn't be the Law, given at least 430 yrs. later
- 14: faith made empty
- 15: since no one could keep perfectly, in the end all it could bring was wrath

4. Abraham, the Father of All True Believers – Romans 4:16-25

- 16-17: law/works nullify the Promise; grace/faith guarantees it
- 18: 1st use of hope in Romans; most NT book
- 19: considered his body not dead because he believed in God
- 20: A not perfect; grew strong – dunamis
- 21: fully assured – complete + carry
- 22: quotes Gen. 15:6 again
- 23,24: written for our benefit today also
- 25: delivered over: *alongside* + *give*; used also in connection with Jesus' enemies

Lessons:

1. We should live our lives to be like A. He believed and obeyed God even when he didn't have all the details – and he was called the "friend of God." [James 2:24]
2. It does not matter today if we are circumcised or uncircumcised, Jew or Greek today when it comes to obedience to God. If we want to be righteous today, it comes through baptism. Romans 6:3-4
3. We can never work enough to merit our own salvation. Thanks be to God, however, we can be forgiven of our sins! Take advantage of this today!

(A Bridge) The Blessing of Peace | Romans 5 | PowerPoint 116

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ

- Ch. 4 illustrates faith through Abraham
- Ch. 5 serves as a bridge between a discussion of justification and sanctification

1. Peace of God through Jesus Christ – Romans 5:1-11

- 1: law/works brings frustration & doubt; grace/works results in peace
- 2: Whom – Jesus; access: *to + lead*
- 3: not only do we rejoice in good times but also in tribulations (pressure in GK)
- 4: proven character: trustworthy, dependable
- 5: our hope will never disappoint us; love – agape [unconditional]; supreme ex. 5:6-8
- 6: without strength – helpless
- 7: righteous: trying to live a righteous life; good man: also nice
- 8: NASB “His own love” – unique to God
- 9: much more – 2x in 9, 10; because of God’s grace we don’t get what we deserve [wrath]
- 10: enemies – hate; no complimentary terms
- Reconcile: exchange of hostility for a friendly relationship
- Because Jesus is alive, we know that God accepted His sacrifice and we can therefore be saved.
- 11: boasting not in accomplishments but God
- Atonement: at one ment – friends brought together – through Jesus

2. All-Sufficiency of Christ’s Sacrifice – Romans 5:12-21

- “What we lost in Adam... we more than gain back in Christ.” *J. D. Thomas*
- 12: Adam, head of household, took all blame
- Death – 20x in Romans
- 13: people have always had a law; imputed = credited
- 14: death personified as tyrannical ruler who commands his subjects to die
- 15: different before showing similarities; ‘free gift’ redundant; God’s gift of Jesus reversed effect of Adam’s sin
- 16: *McCord*: judgment = verdict; trillions
- 17: 1] result of gift is “much more” than the result of transgression; 2] [*implied*] we have no choice regarding physical death; 3] [*unexp*] slaves [sinners] trade places with ruler

- 18: does not teach universalism [all ultimately saved]
- 19: both involved option to obey/disobey; Adam: “my will be done; Jesus: “Thy Will..”
- 20: giving the Law caused sin to increase, not decrease, Ch. 7 exp.; grace: super-abounded
- 21: real “life” is being in presence of God; eternal “life’ is in His presence for eternity!

Lessons:

1. Through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ upon the cross, I can be justified (“just if I’ed never sinned). This is offered nowhere else.
2. We do not inherit the sins of our parents. Just because Adam sinned and ushered in sin does not mean we inherit his sin. We are born innocent, in the image of God; sin occurs when we transgress God’s Law.
3. We should be thankful every day for the death of Jesus Christ. Without Him, we would be eternally lost.

Having Died, We Live | Romans 6 | PowerPoint 119

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 5 serves as a bridge between a discussion of justification and sanctification
- Ch. 6 discusses our new life in Christ

1. Grace: Not a License to Sin – Romans 6:1-14

- Holiness KJV / sanctification NASB – happens as a Christian & daily process over a lifetime
- 1: common 1stC attitude; Jude 4
- 2: Phillips: “What a ghastly thought!” like a dead animal with food in front of it
- 3: How and when do we die to sin? Only mention of baptism in letter
- Baptism not regarded as an “optional extra”
- Personal relationship with Christ
 - 3: baptized into Christ = baptized into His Death
 - 4: buried with Him baptism
 - 5: united with Him

- 6: crucified with Him
- 8: died with Christ ... live with Him
- 4: we should act like a new life!
- 5: if=since; united=*with* + *grow*
- 6: old man – GK – before we were Christians
- 7: sin reigned like a king [5:21] but now no longer a reason to bow the knee
- 8: we believe because we were raised to walk
- 9: only Christ was raised to never die again
- 10: He had no sins of His own, He took on ours
- “Once for all: - perpetual validity, not requiring repetition
- 11: consider – accounting term
- 12: emphasis on exhorting – “you”
- 13: instruments – tools; usually trans. weapons, armor in NT
- 14: “You can do that, but you will be in trouble if you do!”

2. Freedom from the Law: Not a License to Sin – Romans 6:15-23

- 15: no longer the slaves of sin but are now slaves of God
- 16: man has a choice, either serve lusts or obey God > Master
- 17: “Faith only” teachers have a hard time with v. 16-17
- 18: freed when they obeyed from the heart, not before!
- 19: using an illustration you are comfortable with so you grasp my teaching
- 20: encourage to continue committing their lives to the Lord – everyday decision
- 21: benefit – fruit; of sin: a guilty conscience, a failure to be what God intends for us to be, alienation from those we love, inability to enjoy blessings of God; worst: spiritual death
- 22: other road ends in eternal life – Mt. 7:14
- 23: one of best-known verses in Romans
- People think wages of sin consist of pleasure, popularity, and success. Paul says not so – death!
- Wages – soldier’s pay – earned at the risk of his body and sweat of his brow [Barclay]
- Sin pays a wage; God gives a gift.

Lessons:

1. God's grace is not a license for us to sin just because we can get forgiven. Doing things this way is contrary to God's plan.
2. When we obey the Gospel, we leave that old life of sin in that watery grave. When we are lifted back out, we should live the rest of our lives in that "newness of life."
3. We deserve to die because of our sins. Thanks be to God Almighty that we do not get what we deserve. We should live our lives where it reflects our appreciation of His sacrifice.

Dead but Joined to Christ | Romans 7 | PowerPoint 122

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 6 discusses our relationship to sin
- Ch. 7 discusses our relationship to the Law
- Law: in each v. 1-14; 35x in context: 7:1-8:4

1. Temporary Nature of the Law – Romans 7:1-6

- P uses marriage to illustrate relationship of Christ & church in 1 Cor. 6:17, 2 Cor. 11:2, Eph. 5:22-23
- 1: Or – joins previous thought; death cancels legal obligations
- 2: married: only time GK word: *under + man*
- 3: married – same word in both instances; some trans. "live with" in 1st – SAME WORD!
- 4: in a sense, Jews were married to the Law
- 5: before we became Christians, we could not bring forth "fruit for God" but only "fruit for death"
- 6: oldness of letter: attempted to be justified under a legal/works system
- Newness of spirit: to do God's Will with joy knowing we have been justified

2. The Goodness of the Law versus the Weakness of Man – Romans 7:7-25

- 7: not equating the law to sin – God forbid!
- 8: Law did not make him covet. Villain is sin! Opportunity – military term – starting point
- 9: P born sinless, learned the Law and knew about sin – he was alive until he reached the age of accountability, then sin came in > died

- 10: death resulted when he failed to keep commandment
- 11: deceived – to beguile thoroughly; proof: Satan deceived P into thinking persecuting v
- 12: holy – given by a holy God
- 13: law given so people could see how “utterly sinful” sin was! God – Gen. 50:19-20
- 14-25 difficult section, frequently misunderstood
- 14: carnal – Latin word for flesh; problem w/ self not the Law
- 15: 3 diff. words: doing; increasing, interchangeable
- 16: Law tells what not to do → do not want to disobey → find myself doing said thing → feel guilty → agree with the Law
- 17: dwells: make one’s home in
- 18: combatting the flesh without the help of God’s Spirit
- 19: did some good, couldn’t do all the good
- 20: similar to v. 20
- 21: evil always present – never alone, 1 Pet. 5:8
- 22: on one hand: a conscientious Jew would and could say this
- 23: other hand: est’d tendency of his mind was to want to do good
- 23: like making a civil war inside himself. Outcome? Becoming a prisoner
- 24: wretched: miserable, distressed, exhausted from trials and troubles; needed a better “Someone” to deliver him
- 25: Coffman: outburst of praise like a stroke of lightning, illuminating the darkness of this ... chapter; futility of spiritual condition w/o Christ

Lessons:

1. Just as the wife is freed from marriage to her husband once he dies, we have been freed from our marriage to the old Law when it died upon the cross, Col. 2:14. We ought to quit trying to live with a dead spouse/Law.
2. The Law reveals what sin is but it does not make us sin. Instead, Satan looks for every opportunity to cause us to sin. Be strong and remain faithful.
3. Without Christ in our lives, we are wretched, lost, and without hope!

Glorified with Christ | Romans 8 | PowerPoint 123

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 7 discusses our relationship to the Law
- Ch. 8 discusses our freedom in Christ
- Ch. 7 ends in darkness; Ch. 8 comes into light

1. No Condemnation in Christ – Romans 8:1-4

- 1-4 ends discussion started in 7:1
- 1: condemnation: courtroom incl. both sentence and execution; is – present tense; God is not looking for a reason to condemn 36
- 2: with God’s help, sin no longer has reign
- 3: Law not weak but the material it had to work with (flesh) was weak. Spurgeon: “God found a way to condemn sin w/o condemning me!”
- 4: requirement: a concrete expression of righteousness – singular – fulfilled in the way we live our lives

2. Contest Between the Flesh & the Spirit – Romans 8:5-13

- 5: “As a man thinks, so is he...” Pro. 23:7
- 6: death: spiritual; life: associated with peace
- 7: hostile: hating and opposing another
- 8: trying to live a fleshly life solely w/o God
- 9: 3rd person > 2nd; what God has done; you
- 10: ...is doing; if = since; mortal: die; spirit: live
- 11: ...will do; same God, same power
- 12: obligation: same as debtor, 1:4
- 13: “brethren” – it is possible for a Christian to ignore the Spirit and live according to the flesh and die.

3. Sons of God – Romans 8:14-17

- 14: emphasis on being led by Word of God

- 15: father – common GK word; Abba: Aramaic word for father, child’s word for “father,” like “papa,” “daddy.” Most Jews did not use this personal term when addressing God but Jesus did – Mark 14:36
- 16: we can know!
- 17: JC received inheritance by right; us by grace

4. The Christian’s Hope of Glory – Romans 8:18-25

- 18: importance insight in Scripture
- 19: anxious: wait w/ head, eyes fixed to point on horizon expecting Jesus Christ to come
- 20,21: result of Adam’s sin? Futility – GK – void of reason; world not left without hope!
- 22: groaning – like an earthquake; continues until the Lord returns. Pain not meaningless pain (childbirth) > new life
- 23: groan within ourselves, 2 Cor. 5:2; eagerly – standing on tiptoe
- 24: hope: longing to be set free from present pain
- 25: confidence in these privileges being ours

5. The Christian’s Help from the Spirit – Romans 8:26-27

- 26: our: Paul included
- Help: *A. T. Robertson*: like two people carrying a log
- Intercedes: pleading on the behalf of another
- 27: our prayer actually reaches God’s ears – how lovely a thought!

6. God’s Promise of His Providence – Romans 8:28-30

- 28: working, good or bad, ultimately for their benefit – only for His Children
- 29,30: foreknew: *know + before*; man has freewill. Much not known about God’s foreknowledge – but all we know is true!
- Predetermined to be in the image of God; sin broke this image.
- Firstborn: favored position.

7. No Separation from the Love of God – Romans 8:31-39

- 31: how to reconcile previous verses
- 32: spare: Gen. 22:12 – what Abr. Was willing to do to Isaac, God did with Jesus
- 33,34: elect: picked out, chosen; condemns: pronounce a sentence after determination of guilt

- 35: implied answer: “No one!” Tribulation: pressure (grapes); distress: narrow place, backed in corner; outward afflictions, inward distress
- 35: persecution: pressed, animal by hunter
- Famine: lack of food; financial consequences that come from following Christ
- Nakedness: lack of clothing
- Peril: general word for danger
- Sword: violent death & execution
- 36: Ps. 44:11 – those who follow the Lord can expect mistreatment
- 37: more than conquerors – God’s grace enables us to win battle against great odds
- 38,39: fully convinced; 10 things:
- **Death** most formidable foe in some’s eyes; some have a harder time facing **life** than death
- **Angels**: messengers; **principalities**: first in authority – no spiritual force
- **Things present & to come**: some overwhelmed w/ things of today, others worry over tomorrow
- **Powers**: spiritual forces (1 Cor. 15:24; Eph. 1:21) human rulers who tyrannize Christians
- **Height & Depth** – most obscure
- **Any other created thing** – catchall, “et cetera”
- This beautiful passage does not teach the impossibility of one falling away and to teach this robs the passage of its beauty.

Lessons:

1. Since there is no condemnation in Christ, we need to quit feeling guilty about past sins. Once we are forgiven, they are held against us no more. Church sign: Trying to bring up past sins is like sending a letter to my old house – I don’t live there anymore.
2. We have been adopted as sons by God. Because of this, we should act like it and do actions that please our Father.
3. Make sure we are on God’s side. He does not take one side or the other because He does not change, Mal. 3:6. Remember: “God plus one is a majority.”

Justified by Faith Reconciled with the Promises Made to Israel – Part 1 | Romans 9 | PowerPoint 124

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later

- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
 - Ch. 1-8 viewed as “Doctrinal” & Ch. 9-16 viewed as “Practical”
1. Paul’s Sorrow for Unbelieving Jews – Romans 9:1-5
 - 1: standing in the presence of the Godhead to hold him accountable
 - 2: the fact that Jews rejected Jesus caused P sorrow and grief
 - 3: accused – *anathema* – a person excluded from God’s people and under sentence of damnation [Douglas J. Moo]
 - 4,5: switch from Jews to Israelites; gives list of Jewish blessings
 - Adoption – emphasis on God chose us!
 - P considered the possession of the oracles (revelation of God) as the Jews’ greatest possession
 2. God’s Sovereignty – Romans 9:6-13
 - 6: thesis for Ch. 9-11 > P a friend, not a foe
 - 7: not enough to be a physical descendant of A; A had many children yet only one chosen
 - 8: children of the flesh: Ishmael (Arabs), Isaac [Esau] Edomites; Keturah’s (Midianites, etc.)
 - 9: God’s choices are always right
 - 10-12: younger over older [10x in Scripture]
 - 13: Malachi 1:2-3; hate – love less
 3. The Futility of Blaming God – Romans 9:14-29
 - God’s choices are consistent with His practice [14-18], person [19-21], and purpose [22-29]
 - 14: “was it fair to reject the unbelieving Jews and accept believing Gentiles?” [yes]
 - 15: Ex. 33:19; “I will decide who will receive My mercy & compassion.”
 - 16: man doing all he can to win the race; doesn’t depend on man but God.
 - 17: between plagues 6 [boils] & 7 [locusts] > message to Pharaoh, Ex. P:16
 - 18: God always accepted some and rejected some
 - 19: objector not a Jew
 - 20,21: contrast man & God; potter & clay: Isa. 29:16; 45:9; 64:8; Jer. 18:6; the clay has no right to argue with the potter
 - 22-24 one sentence in Greek

- 22: power of God demonstrated – 1:18; “Does this not demonstrate how fair God is?”
 - 23,24: God was patient with the lost to show how abundantly “rich” His mercy could be
 - 25,26: Hosea 2:23, 1:10; backsliding Jews; it is possible for those who are not God’s people to become God’s people
 - 27,28: Gen. 22:17; Isa. 10:22-23; remnant key word
 - Sad – only a few would be saved
 - Glad: some would be saved
 - 29: Isa. 1:9 – period of peril for Judah & Jerusalem; Assyrians invaded the land
4. Salvation by Faith, Not by Works – Romans 9:30-33
- Who is to blame for God’s rejecting most of the Jews?
 - 30: shift: God’s sovereignty to man’s responsibility; pursue: GK: *earnest striving*
 - 31: Jews were striving to actively attain righteousness > NASB “did not arrive” at their destination
 - 32: Jews insulted when Gospel was preached; an insinuation that they were sinners in need of salvation; stumbling: GK: *to strike against*
 - 33: Isa. 28:16 combines with Isa. 8:14; offense: GK: scandal, scandalous; not be disappointed: GK: lit. being put to shame on the day of Judgment when one is rejected by the Lord – Mt. 10:32-33

Lessons:

1. Even though chapter nine deals with a problem that is not occurring today, it still presents Biblical truths that we can learn from – John 8:32; Romans 15:4.
2. God has always been fair in His decision-making process. We should be thankful for this – it means He always makes righteous judgments.
3. There is no one to blame for our approval or disapproval in God’s eyes but ourselves. God has given us our standards by which we will be judged – John 12:48.

Justified by Faith Reconciled with the Promises Made to Israel – Part 2 | Romans 10 | PowerPoint 126

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ

- Ch. 9 begins a discussion showing how Israel had the ability to be justified in a sense. Ch. 10 continues that thought with a plea.

1. Paul's Desire for the Jews' Salvation – Romans 10:1-4

- 1: Brethren – Chr.; Them – Jews. Phillips: “From the bottom of my heart.” Are we the same?
- 2: testify: bear witness on the basis of first-hand knowledge; zeal: zēlos: to boil, be hot
- 3: favorite hymn of many: “I Did it My Way”
- 4: end: termination; McCord: goal

2. Faith as the Basis for Salvation – Romans 10:5-13

- 5: cannot attain righteousness by law-keeping; shall live – will find life, Lev. 18:5
- 6-8: Abyss: bottomless; Heaven – highest; almost duplicates Deut. 30:11-14; don't have to do superhuman tasks, ascend high or low, to find righteousness
- 9: [1] praying for Israel's salvation; [9] how to be saved. Fact: God raised Jesus from dead.
- 10: in natural & chron. order; same purpose: to be saved, justified; does not teach 'faith only'
- 11: back to Isa. 28:16
- 12: 3:22 no distinction on basis for need of salvation. Here, no distinction on basis of salvation.
- 13: call: invoke Name for help; Joel 2:32; Peter: Ac. 2:22 then commands baptism, 38

3. The Need for Preaching to Produce Faith – Romans 10:14-17

- God's plan for creating faith in people's hearts; since it is God's plan, it is perfect.
- 14,15a: implied answer: “*they can't!*”

1. Divine commission: preach > sent?

2. Preaching the Gospel: hear w/o preacher? [Herald in GK, not just in pulpit]

3. Hearing w/ understanding & acceptance: believe in not heard?

P wrote in a day when many didn't read. Hear, hearing, heard – GK – acoustic

4. Response in obedient faith: call on Him not believed?

5. Calling on the name of the Lord

- 15b: Isa. 52:7: bringing good news of release from Babylonian captivity
- 16: they: Jews: did not hear all the good news; heed: *heart* + *under*: submission & obedience
- 17: perfect plan – what messed it up? The Jews themselves

4. The Jews' Rejection of the Message – Romans 10:18-21

- 18: P knew Jews had a difficulty accepting it was their fault. Objection №1: not heard; Ps. 19:4 – Jews given the opportunity to obey.
- 19: №2: not really understand; should have known and understood > all foretold in Scripture
- 20: Isa. 65:1: rebellious Israel: Gentiles allowed Gospel message to touch their hearts
- 21: what was the problem? Stubborn Jews; Isa. 65:2 – nation of Israel's story was one of unbelief & disobedience
- NASB: obstinate
- Any hope for the Jews? God wraps His loving arms around them in Ch. 11

Lessons:

1. We should be like Paul and desire for all to be saved. A daily question should be: "Am I doing something that will bring others to Christ today?"
2. God's plan of saving man is perfect. When we preach, we need to preach the same perfect plan. Doing so will get us the same results.
3. If we fully present the Gospel to someone and they don't obey, it is only their fault. They cannot blame their failure in this life on anyone but themselves.

Justified by Faith Reconciled with Faithfulness of God | Romans 11 | PowerPoint 127

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 10 poses question: "Had God no longer any interest in those who had once been His covenant people?" Ch. 11 answers question.

1. The Jews Not Rejected by God – Romans 11:1-6

- 1: Ps. 94:14 quoted; rejected by and large but kept small remnant; proof: Paul an Israelite
- 2-3: most Jews had not met God's qualifications
- 4: not the end of the story – 1 Kings 19:18; 7,000 (20,000? women/children); 3,000 Pentecost
- 5-6: remnant: GK: that which is left; remnant always saved: Noah, Sodom & Gomorrah, Jews returning from captivity

2. The Hardening of the Jews – Romans 11:7-10

- 7: hardened: to make hard/render insensitive, God hardens heart of those that already have
- 8: proof: Deut. 29:4 plus Isa. 29:10
- 9-10: Ps. 69:22-23 – David asking God to take action against the Jews

3. Jewish Rejection & Gentile Reception – Romans 11:11-16

- Theme of rest of chapter: God was extending to them the opportunity to repent and turn to Him
- 11: NIV: “beyond recovery” added; good result of falling: salvation to Gentiles, Jews jealous, want to come back
- 12: fulfillment: fulfilling God’s purpose
- 13-14: specifically to Gentile Christians through end of Ch.; no reason for pride as Jewish rejection was not final
- 15: Jewish rejection provided a time for Gentile preaching
- 16: 2 metaphors: 1] ceremonial illustration: lump holy [dough from first fruits offered to God]; 2] agricultural illustration

4. The Jews Grafted Back In – Romans 11:17-24

- Gentiles had no reason to feel proud – they did not deserve what God had done for them
- 17: olive tree: foliage seen everywhere around Med. Sea; oil for cooking, medicinal benefits; grafting: joining 2 types of plants; wild trees hardier; would graft branch from cultivated [Sm.] one to make wild stronger > more olives, Lg.; Jews: broken off branches; you – Gentiles
- 18: application: don’t be arrogant; by grace, God grafted
- 19: some Gentiles thought Jews were broken off in order to make room > not true
- 20: GK: mind not high things
- 21: P issues a warning: God not ‘spare’ them
- 22: Emphasis on saving faith having “from the heart obedience”
- 23,24: “if” – free moral agents with the ability to choose; Gentiles had no right to be arrogant; situation could easily be reversed

5. Jewish Rejection Not Irreversible – Romans 11:25-32

- 25,26a: fulness not a ref. to full of Gentiles; does not teach Pre-Millennialism; Jews might be moved to accept Christ
- 26b,27: Isa. 59:20-21 – to Zion, foretold Deliverer would bring Israel back
- 28,29: Jewish mob killed Jesus; God’s choice – choosing Israel to be the nation through whom He would fulfill plan

- 30,31: Mercy – 4x in 30-32
- 32: Shut up: McCord: God imprisoned everyone in disobedience; does not teach universal salvation

6. Doxology: the Mercy of God – Romans 11:33-36

- Should be read aloud – several times
- 33: rare glimpse into the minds & methods of God; so deep: cannot comprehend; Isa. 55:8-9
- 34: Isa. 40:13: Counsellor: Advisor [McCord]; praise prompted by what we do not know about God [Morris]; [1] cannot know everything about God
- 35: [2] can never put God in our debt; Job. 41:11
- 36: [3] know God is marvelous beyond Words
- Difficult section, Chapters 9-11, ends on a note of confidence

Lessons:

1. Just as the Jews were not rejected by God, today we are not rejected by God. Instead, people turn their backs on God and things then go awry.
2. Today, both Jews and Gentiles have been grafted together in Christ in the Church. We are not groups but a unified group.
3. There are some things we will never know about God on this side of eternity. If we have the ability to ask questions on the other side it will be irrelevant. Instead of getting bent out of shape over what we don't know, focus on what we do know. 2 Peter 1:3.

Christian Living – Part 1 | Romans 12 | PowerPoint 128

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 11 illustrates how Jews & Gentiles fit into the Church
- Ch. 12 & 13 outline Christian living in 5 points
- Ch. 1-8: comments concerning salvation
- Ch. 9-11: deal with the “Jewish” problem
- Ch. 12-16: practical application of all P said
- R. C. Bell: early chapters the ‘root’ and latter chapters are the ‘fruit.’

- J.D. Thomas: “You will not find a better summary of the Christian life anywhere in the Bible!” [said in a Bible class, 1955]

1. Attitude Toward God – Romans 12:1-2

- If we do v. 1-2, we will have little difficulty doing 12:3-16:27
- 1: begins with an urge [call to one’s side]
- Living sacrifice – more meaningful to 1stC Chr.
- Present: to place beside
- Your bodies: not an animal sacrifice
- Living: OT sacrifices were dead
- Holy: set apart
- Sacrifice: OT rendered obsolete by Christ’s sc.
- Acceptable to God: well pleasing, approved
- Reasonable: for all God has done for us
- 2: world: age
- Negative: don’t be like this world
- Positive: renewing your mind; metamorphosis

2. Attitude Toward Brethren – Romans 12:3-13

- 3-8 Need for Humility; 9-13 ... Brotherly Love
- 3: grace given – apostleship; play on words: form of ‘think’ 4x here; given us a standard
- 4,5: familiar illustration of a body
- 6-8: some extraordinary, some ordinary
- Prophesying: prophet [spokesman for another]
- Gift of serving: ministry
- ... Teaching: to give instruction
- ... Exhorting: calling another
- ... Giving: to share, liberally with simplicity
- ... Leading: to stand before
- ... Showing Mercy: to feel sympathy with

- 9: love: agape: seeking the best; hate: Amos 5:15; cling: to glue, cement
- 10: philia: warm affection; storge: family
- 11: NCV: do not be lazy but work hard
- 12: 3 qualities of agape love for sunshine/shadow:
 - 1] Rejoicing [8:18] always a reason to hope
 - 2] Persevering – tribulation is pressure in GK
 - 3] Devoted – to persist, hold fast
- 13: 2 ways brotherly love can be expressed – needs and hospitality, whether we've met them or not!

3. Attitude Towards Enemies – Romans 12:14-21

- More on enemies, a little on fellow Chr. 15-16
- 14: bless: good word; sympathetic; not impossible – Jesus did this on the cross
- 15: showcases closeness of the Lord's church; Christian is sympathetic
- 16: equal kindness; high things: congregation mostly poor people, no reason for looking down on some; must be humble
- 17: non-retaliation is the most distinctive mark of a Christian [Moo]. No exceptions; respect: do what is ethically good.
- 18: comprehensive: all men. Key: 'if possible'
- 19: 1st time since 1:17 'beloved;' 2 contrasts: 1] never pay back evil [7] – God's job; 2] never pay back vengeance – God's job
- 19: how? 1] Natural consequences [7]; meted out in human conflicts [18]; on the day of wrath [2:5-6]
- 20: what can we do? Hurt him more; treat same way; ignore & have nothing to do with him; love and serve him. Coals: a way to restart their fire or by dropping on the enemy's head over the wall
- 21: overcome: GK: victory
- Ask God to bless our enemies and try to live at peace with them.

Lessons:

1. We as Christians should not look like, act like, think like, or behave like the world. We should, instead, be like Christ.

2. The Christian's life of service is full of emotions – good and bad. We should live this chapter to know how to appropriately respond to every situation.
3. There will be some people where it seems almost impossible to get along with. We must make it our goal, to the best of our ability, to live peaceably striving for that “peace that passes all understanding.” Phil. 4:4

Christian Living – Part 2 | Romans 13 | PowerPoint 129

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 12 & 13 outline Christian living in 5 points
- 12: Attitude Toward God, Brethren, Enemies

1. Attitude Towards Government – Romans 13:1-7

- 1: Authority: right to exercise power; established: to place in order; God allows and uses
- Rule: as long as a local/state/nat'l law does not violate God's directives, obey it! Illogical? Obey it! Inconsistent? Obey it! Show favoritism? Obey it!
- 2: resists: *against + arranged*. Why obey? 1] He instituted; 2] opposers rec. condemnation
- 3: as a rule, even bad gov'ts like good citizens. Fear: terror; phobos: phobia
- 4: minister: servant, 12:7; Ch. 12 emphasizes we don't need to take vengeance & one way this is accomplished is through public courts; sword: can include capital punishment
- 5: not simply because it is the safest thing to do, it is the right thing to do.
- 6-7 regarding what good citizenship entails
- 6: By not paying our taxes, we are not only cheating the gov't, we are also disobeying God!
- 7: all: civil authorities, from SM to LG; tax: 'tribute' paid by a subjugated nation; custom: paid for public ends. Pay your taxes. Respect your officials.

2. Attitude Toward Neighbors – Romans 13:8-10

- 8: owe nothing to anyone: 'don't fail to do what I just told you to do!'; Ps. 37:21: wicked borrows and does not pay back. NASB; love: a debt we never can pay
- 9: commands 7, 6, 8, 10; neighbors: GK: near, lit. one who is nearby
- 10: not: since love is the fulfilling of the Law, we have no more need for God's Laws

3. A Summary – Romans 13:11-14

- 11: analogy of a parent walking a child and giving him instructions for the day
- do this: backwards & forewords
- no specific 'time' to 'wake up' – it is always NOW
- Salvation: ultimate when JC returns; need to wake up – Christ could come anytime! This fact was always on the minds of the 1stC Chr.
- 12: time to wake up and get ready! After wake, now what? Deeds of darkness: sinful acts
- Phillips: “Fling away the things men do in the dark.”
- 13: as in the day: live our lives openly, unashamed to be examined by all
- 6 examples of deeds of darkness
- Carousing: excessing feasting; NIV orgies
- Sexual promiscuity: 'bed' euphemism for sexual intercourse
- Sensuality: excess, absence of restraint
- Strife: contention
- Jealousy: cannot be content with what you have
- 14: how to avoid 'deeds of darkness'? 2; 1+1-
- 1] urged to put on the Lord JC – cf. 6:3-4
- 2] make no provision [forethought] for the flesh in regard to lusts
- 11-14: God's wake-up call for lethargic Chr.
- Since the Lord can come at any time, we each ought to ask ourselves: am I ready for Him to come?

Lessons:

1. We, as Christians, are to always respect the gov't, even if we don't like the person/people. Paul didn't like all his rulers, yet he was respectful before them, Ac. 22-28.
2. It is imperative that we conduct ourselves with regards to our neighbors. We should always treat them the way that we desire to be treated, Mt. 7:12.
3. Don't be asleep in life so to speak. We should always be awake and ready to meet Jesus Christ. If you are not ready for Christ to return – get ready and stay ready today!

Accepting One Another | Romans 14 | PowerPoint 130

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 12 & 13 outline Christian living in 5 points
- Attitude Toward God, Brethren, Enemies, Government, Neighbors

1. Accepting One Another in Liberty – Romans 14:1-12

- Not: what should we do if we disagree but when. 1-4 eating meat; 5-9 special days.
- 1: the faith: may be in reference to being lacking in the Scripture or a strong personal conviction regarding this subject. *Don't invite the weaker in just to pass judgment on him.*
- 2: not talking about health reasons. G unaware offered to idols; NLT sensitive conscience
- 3: regard w/ contempt: to despise utterly, lit. to treat another as nobody. Judge: determine
- 4: household servant; servant of Lord will stand
- 5: G also had special days. J kept Sabbath all their lives, now 'just another day,' hard; Roper: "if Mon-Sat are not 'holy days' to us, it is unlikely Sun will be."
- 6: doing it for the Lord's benefit, not his own. Some may eat meat, others veg. only, both give God thanks for the food.
- 7-8: cannot isolate ourselves from the rest of humanity; everything we do is before God
- 9: since the Lord has accepted a bro. as His own, why are you judging him?
- 10: who are you to judge? P: Ac. 18:12 Gallio
- 11: Isa. 45: a time will come when everyone will bow before God
- 12: we don't give accounts to others but to God & if we are guilty of judging, we will have to give account for that – Matt. 7:12

2. Accepting One Another in Love – Romans 14:13-18

- Many congregational disputes are often petty in categories of procedure [how should we carry this out?], precedent [ever done this before?], prestige [who will get credit?]
- 13: don't judge one another anymore but judge this rather – ourselves. Obstacle: dash his foot; stumbling block: scandal, scandalous
- 14: "absolutely no doubt in my mind." If conscience tells you it is wrong, to you it is.
- 15: why put stumbling block? No longer walking in love. Flaunting freedom might drive away weaker brother

- 16: spoken evil of: lit. be blasphemed. Concerned with affecting the cause of Christ. Will it help/hinder the growth of the church?
- 17: church is not eating a meal but it is a concern for all!
- 18: “in this way” sums 1-17; serving Christ by behaving as Christ directed – we will be acceptable to God.

3. Accepting One Another in Peace – Romans 14:19-23

- 19: then: therefore in GK v. 16; pursue: active. What? Things which make for peace and build others up, for strong & weak. Key
- 20: tear down: to loose, dissolve, sever, break, demolish, emp. by adding ‘completely’. NIV ‘all food is clean’
- 21: not good to do anything by which brother stumbles. 1 Cor. 8:13 – never eat meat again
- 22: happy: blessed, Matt. 5:3-11. God showers blessings on those who are more concerned about bro/sis in Christ than themselves.
- 23: essential not to violate conscience; not proposing “let your conscience be your guide,” authority = Bible. Conscience: cannot make a wrong thing right, can make right wrong

Lessons:

1. We have many liberties as Christians. However, we cannot do whatever we want to do. We should refrain at all times to not try to offend our brethren.
2. Sometimes when there are disagreements over things in the church, it is over petty things. We should always be concerned with doing what God has commanded in His Word, our final authority. Period.
3. We cannot always let our conscience be our guides. Some people have let their conscience be seared with a hot iron, 1 Tim. 4:2. A conscience can be retrained.

Christian Unity and Paul’s Gentile Ministry | Romans 15 | PowerPoint 131

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 14 discusses what to do when [not if] Christians disagree: accepting one another in liberty, love, and peace.

1. Accepting One Another in Unity – Romans 15:1-13

- 1: now: continues Ch. 14. Strong give up things for the weak. P identifies as stronger.
- 2: neighbor: weak brother; good: spiritual friend; edification: building up in 14:19
- 3: why not be selfish? JC not selfish; Ps. 69:9
- 4: from OT we learn lesson of perseverance
- 5: same mind: agreements on nonessential issues. How? Acc'd to teachings of JC
- 6: why important? To praise God. Antagonism in the hearts of worshippers destroys worship
- 7: now urged to accept one another; JC accepted all to demonstrate God's mercy
- 8: acceptance of J&G. J: ministry to show that God's promises are true
- 9: G: Qt. 4 OT texts to show this was always God's intentions to bring G in; 1] Ps. 18:49
- 10: 2] DT. 32:43; G nations rejoicing w/ Israel
- 11: 3] Ps. 117:1; all people urged to praise
- 12: 4] Isa. 61:10; Israelites to rule over & bless Gentiles
- 13: urging readers to get their priorities straight; abound: to be in abundance, to be extremely rich

2. Paul's Ministry to the Gentiles – Romans 15:14-33

- Previous success: from Jerusalem to Illyricum 14-21; future plans to go to Spain 22-29; desire to come to Rome & the contribution for Jerusalem 30-33
- 14: full of goodness: does not mean sinless
- 15,16: wonderful statement; boldly: dare, presume; Rome political heart of Gentile world – fitting to impact that city
- 17: always determined to give God the glory
- 18: God accomplished a lot through Paul; obedience brought about by words of Paul
- 19: power of the spirit: acknowledgment it was the HS enabling Paul to do miracles. Accomplished goal end of 3rd journey; probably boundaries; Illyricum: R province in Adriatic Sea, Macedonia to N, incl. Dalmatia
- 20,21: aspired: love [philos] and honor; Isa. 52:15; the world needs many Pauls to preach
- 22: Lord had prevented P from going to R
- 23: these regions: b/t Jerusalem & Illyricum; places to preach there; longing: strong desire
- 24: Paul's base was Antioch; Spain, Rome long ways away. Paul looking for assistance.

- 25,26: in Corinth, just across Adriatic Sea; collecting funds to go to Jerusalem
- 27: G Chr. wanted to contribute and obligated to do; 26,27 should be read in context of 7-13
- 28: P so involved in taking funds to Jerusalem that once it was done, he could not wait to go to Rome; Spaniards were among the most influential men in Roman empire
- 29: he believed their time together would be a blessing
- 30: beseech: implore, beg; strive: agonize
- 31,32: as far as we know, each answer 'yes.' Not always as expected. Service in Jerusalem: contribution; desired protection from non-believers; delivered from: preserve from
- 33: peace: GK equivalent of Shalom

Lessons:

1. It is of our utmost importance to strive for unity. Christ spent the night before He was killed praying for unity. There is just one – Ephesians 4:4-6 – stop trying to make it two *plus*.
2. We should be ready at all times to give to those in need. Sometimes this entails giving of our funds; sometimes it requires out time, talents, or resources.
3. God answers the prayers of His faithful children. As we saw in the final verses of the chapter, God answered Paul's prayer requests but it might not always be in the way that we always expect.

Paul's Greeting and Final Doxology | Romans 16 | PowerPoint 132

- Paul has not been to R when he writes, in Acts 20:2-3. He makes it there ~4yrs later
- Church comprised of Jewish Christians & Gentile Christians – clash of cultures now one in Christ
- Ch. 15 highlighted Paul's Gentile ministry
- Ch. 16 closes Paul's masterpiece and ends with final encouragement

1. Commendation of Phoebe – Romans 16:1-2

- One can never have too many friends. Paul lists 35 in Ch. 16.
- Sister: seldom used GK term
- 1st time church [*ekklēsia*] used in Romans, 5x in Ch..
- Cenchrea: Eastern seaport for Corinth, 6-7mi E of Corinth; Phoebe probably carried letter
- Helper – only here in NT

2. Greetings to Roman Christians – Romans 16:3-16

- More likely to name individuals he knew in a town he'd never been. Tempting to skip over names – very rewarding study.
- 3-5a: probably first sent by Priscilla & Aquilla. 1st met in Corinth, Ac. 18:1-3, after expelled from R, followed P's trips, few steps behind. When? Maybe Ephesus, Ac. 19; if they didn't, P prob. would've died. 1st of 3 home churches in Ch.
- 5b: Epaenetus: 1st fruits of Achaia (Corinth there); maybe taught by P in Eph, by P&A, 1 of rebaptized in Ac. 19
- 6: Mary: common name, at least 6 in NT
- 7: Andronicus & Junias: could be male & female, husband & wife; kinsmen: family relationship; baptized into Christ before Paul
- 8: Ampliatius: common Roman name. neb "my dear friend in the fellowship of the Lord."
- 9: Urbanus: kin to 'urban,' one of the city. Stachys: head or ear [of grain], from the farm? Hayseed?
- 10a: Apelles: approved, successfully met test
- 10b-11: some connection to imperial house; Aristobulus: possibly the brother of Herod Agrippa I; household of Narcissus: Bruce: identified w/ Tiberius Claudius Narcissus, wealthy freedman of Emperor Tiberius; all of the household was greeted, incl. slaves; Herodian: Herod family. Possibly the Gospel has reached the Herod family.
- 12: 3 females; sisters, maybe twins: Tryphaena & Tryphosa. Root: luxurious, live divinely; greet delicate & dainty: contrary to names worked to the point of exhaustion; Persis, possibly aged, has worked
- 13: Rufus: Simon the Cyrene (carried JC's cross) identified as the father of Alexander & Rufus, MK. 15:21 (wrote to Romans), like a mother to Paul
- 14: house church members?
- 15: house church members?
- 16: Kiss: common greeting in those days
- "of Christ" – belonging to Christ

3. Warning about Dissension – Romans 16:17-20a

- Abrupt change – Tertius might have paused to read what was written; Paul had a few more things to add before he finished
- 17: beg, beseech, plead, urge; Ch. 14,15 encouraged them to accept fellow Chr., now tells them to turn away from some; division: dissensions; offenses: hindrances; mark & avoid: formal withdrawal might be included

- 18: teachers of error not concerned about glorifying Jesus or edifying people; unsuspecting: innocent, guileless; NIV naïve
- 19: did not have in mind R Chr. as easily deceived. Innocent: unmixed, pure
- 20a: crush: total defeat; reminder of promise in Gen. 3:15; Satan behind smooth talkers

4. Greetings from Coworkers – Romans 16:20b-24

- 20b: if we follow P's admonitions regarding error, we will have victory & grace
- 21: Chr. in Corinth to Chr. in Rome; dictating letter in the home of Gaius while others listened; Timothy, young man converted by P; Lucius, could be Dr. Luke (Gentile, Col. 4:10, 11, 14); kinsman – maybe all Jews. If this is true, not Luke.
- 22: only scribe of Paul to ass a note. Paul dictated all letters
- 23: Gaus baptized by Paul in Corinth, 1 Cor. 1:14; Erastus, treasurer, dir. of public works; Quartus, fourth. Maybe younger brother of Tertius, third; could be slaves/former, numbering was a common practice. Would've been well known in Rome
- 24: simple closing

5. Final Doxology – Romans 16:25-27

- Maybe written by Paul
- 25-26: God is able to establish us; my gospel: committed to Paul; mystery: unknown in the past but now revealed; nations is also the GK word for Gentiles.
- 27: in all he did, Paul wanted to glorify God. Barclay: "Long argument in the letter to the Romans comes to an end in a song of praise."

Lessons:

1. It is a true blessing to have many faithful friends in the Gospel. Christian friends make the best friends. Let us work together with our friends in the Kingdom.
2. It is of utmost importance to "mark those that cause divisions and offenses and avoid them." This is not always easy to do and sometimes it involves severing friendships. However, it must be done.
3. There are many blessings to being a Christian. One of them is having brothers and sisters all over the world; it brings us great joy to know we are not alone in this battle for the right.

Legend for Abbreviations:

P = Paul; A = Abraham; JC = Jesus Christ; R = Rome/Romans; J = Jew(s)/Jewish; G = Gentile(s); Chr. = Christian(s); GK = Greek

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Material consulted for notes: *The Holy Bible, Truth for Today Commentary, Romans 1-7, Romans 8-16*, David L. Roper; *Romans* by James Burton Coffman; *Romans* by David Lipscomb and J. W. Shepherd, and others briefly used.

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