

## ROMANS

### Chapter 13:

vs. 1-7 Paul has been speaking about Christian living and overcoming evil by doing what is right. He now begins to speak to the Christians concerning their relationship and attitude towards the government in power. He establishes the fact that all authority and governments are established by God and therefore, are to be obeyed. If one fails to obey the government, they are disobeying God! For this same reason, we are to give to the government, that which is due them. Paul also teaches us the purpose of government. It is there to encourage people to do what is right and to punish those who do wrong. In view of this, one needs to reconsider our attitudes towards our own government as well as our support of revolutionaries who are trying to overthrow their government. Is it proper for a Christian to rebel or encourage others to do so? How about our fighting to abolish certain types of governments? Is that right?

vs. 8-14 Paul moves on now to the topic of love. We are to love one another, for in so doing, we will fulfill the laws of God and also of man. When we love others, we act in their best interests and seek to harm no one. Paul now calls upon the believers to get going and to become the righteous people that God wants them to be. By living for Christ and doing God's will we will then be ready for the Lord's return, which is closer now than ever before.

### COMMENTARY

#### ROMANS 14: vs. 1-23:

Paul now moves on to a problem that was plaguing the early Church. It concerned Christians eating meat that had been previously given as an offering to idols (This meat was accepted by the false priests and then sold second hand at a discounted rate). Some Christians felt that by purchasing this inexpensive meat you were supporting the worship of idols. They would not partake and looked down upon others who did.

Paul instructs them to accept one another and not pass judgement. He explains that it is not our place to judge the conduct of someone else, especially in regard to this area of opinion. The key, is to act according to what you believe (this applies to areas of opinion; in areas where God has spoken, He is to be heeded!). If in these areas of opinion, we act according to our conscience and are living for God, then we are doing nothing wrong. All will then stand before God and give account for our actions (This does not mean that the Christian will stand before God and have all their sins brought back up for review; those sins have been washed away and cleansed by the blood of Christ).

Since God is the one to judge, we are to accept one another without judging. If we are offending someone by our actions and opinions, then we need to adjust so as not to offend them and possibly cause them to fall. If we don't; we are not loving as God wants us to be and are causing our brothers in Christ to fall. We are to seek to build each other up and to help them to grow. Therefore, in matters of opinion, we should keep our opinion to ourselves and act in good conscience towards God.

COMMENTARY

ROMANS 15:

vs. 1-13

Paul continues his discussion on learning to accept one another in love, even when we disagree. Our goal is to build each other up, just as Christ acted in our best interest by dying on the cross. We are to learn to give up "rights" so that others might benefit and grow.

Paul reminds us that all of the Scripture has been given so that we might learn from it and become greater servants for God.

Concerning differences in opinion, Paul shows us that we are to strive to be united in spite of our differences. Together we are to glorify God. This unity is easier to strive for when we realize that God has accepted us as we are; therefore we should be able to accept others as they are. We now share together in a common hope (eternal life) because of Christ and we should allow that hope to motivate us to serve.

vs. 14-22

Paul compliments his hearers on their Christian maturity and ability to teach one another. He then goes on to show how he has served to bring Gentiles to Christ through the working of God's Holy Spirit. Paul went to where others had not, so that these people could here for the first time about Jesus Christ. These efforts to reach these people, had kept him from making it to Rome; where those living there, had already heard the message.

vs. 23-33

Paul was now planning to visit Rome on his way to Spain. In Spain, he was planning to continue to preach and bring people to Christ. His visit in Rome would be for encouragement, to raise support, and to rest before he set out.

He mentions one stop that he had to make first, before he went to Rome. He needed to go to Jerusalem to deliver an offering to the Christians there, who were in need due to a famine in their region. This offering had been gathered by some of the Churches that Paul had helped begin. These people were giving out of love and also out of obligation, for had it not been for the Jews, God's plan of Redemption would not have come about, like it did.

Paul concludes the chapter by asking for prayer on his behalf that his journey might be safe. (As it ended up; Paul arrived in Jerusalem and was arrested by the Jews. He was placed in prison, transferred to Caesarea and finally transferred to Rome to stand trial)

## COMMENTARY

ROMANS 16:

vs. 1-27:

Paul sends greetings to many of the Christians in Rome that Paul had come to know throughout the years of his ministry. He appreciated their efforts and wanted to let others know of their work and service.

It is of interesting note, the number of women who are mentioned who were serving Jesus Christ in significant ways. Many times women are seen as unimportant, as they do not hold places of leadership in the local congregation; yet these women had found great ways to serve the Lord within the parameters that He had given.

Paul warns the Christians to be on guard against false teachers. He tells them to avoid such people. The false teachers are looking only for their own glory and benefit and are not striving to serve the Lord.

He praises them for their faithfulness and encourages them with the reminder that God is in control and will destroy Satan and his forces by the blood of Christ. He reminds them that God, who will help them remain faithful, is the one worthy of the glory and praise forever.

## STUDY GUIDE

### ROMANS 13:

1. What has God established?
2. Who else is a person rebelling against, when they rebel against authority?
3. What is the government, God's servant, supposed to do? (see vs. 4)
4. Why do we pay taxes?
5. What might we owe those who are governing?
6. What is the only debt that we are to allow to remain outstanding?
7. What one rule, sums up the commandments?
8. What does love, not do?
9. Why are we to now wake up from our slumber?
10. What are we to put aside?
11. What are we to put on?
12. What are we not to think about, when we clothe ourselves with Christ?

### BONUS:

1. Explain how this apply to rebellions.
2. Explain how our community would be different if everyone would love their neighbor.
3. What do you think Paul means by, "wake up from your slumber"?

## STUDY GUIDE

### ROMANS 14:

1. How are we to accept those whose faith is weak?
2. Who is able to make us stand before our Master?
3. In verse 5, how does Paul say each one should be, in their own mind?
4. How are we to live, or to die?
5. Why did Christ die and return to life?
6. Where will we all stand?
7. What will every knee and every tongue do, before God?
8. What will each person give to God?
9. What should we make up our mind, not to do to our brother?
10. What is the Kingdom of God, a matter of?
11. What should we make every effort to do?
12. What should we do with our beliefs concerning areas of opinion?

### BONUS:

1. What are ways that Christians judge one another?
2. What are areas of opinion today, that Christians debate about?
3. How should Christians deal with matters of opinion?

## STUDY GUIDE

### ROMANS 15:

1. Why should everyone please his neighbor?
2. For what reason, were the things in the past written about?
3. What 3 things does God give? (see vs. 5)
4. For what purpose does God give unity?
5. What should we do, in order to bring praise to God?
6. Who will the Gentiles hope in?
7. What was Paul convinced of, concerning the Romans?
8. What would Paul venture to speak about?
9. Why did Paul preach where Christ was not known?
10. What had Macedonia and Achaia done?
11. Why did the Gentiles owe help to the Jews?
12. What did Paul hope would happen, when he came to Rome?

### BONUS:

1. How do Christians need to learn to accept one another?
2. What does Macedonia's and Achaia's gift, teach us today?
3. What example do we learn from Paul's desire to see the Christians at Rome?

## STUDY GUIDE

### ROMANS 16:

1. Why did Paul commend Phoebe, to the Christians at Rome?
2. What had Priscilla and Aquilla done?
3. What did Trypena, Tryphosa and Persis have in common?
4. How were they to greet one another?
5. Who were the Christians to watch out for?
6. How are naïve people deceived?
7. What did Paul want them to be wise about?
8. What was the God of peace going to do?
9. Who did the actual writing of this letter?
10. How is God able to establish us?
11. What has now been revealed and made known?
12. Why have these things been made known?

### BONUS:

1. What do we learn about service to Christ/
2. What should be our attitude towards false teachers?
3. How is God given glory?
- 13.





