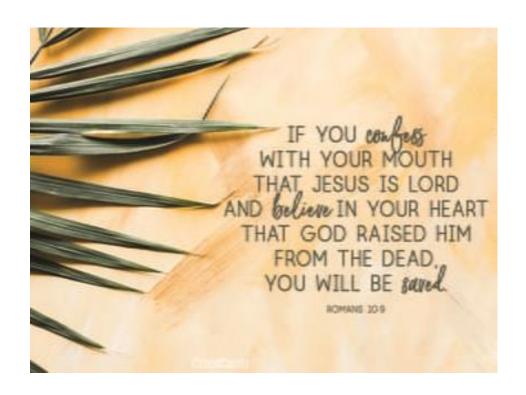
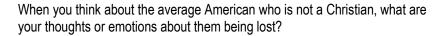
# Romans 9-16 Theology Applied



### February 2022

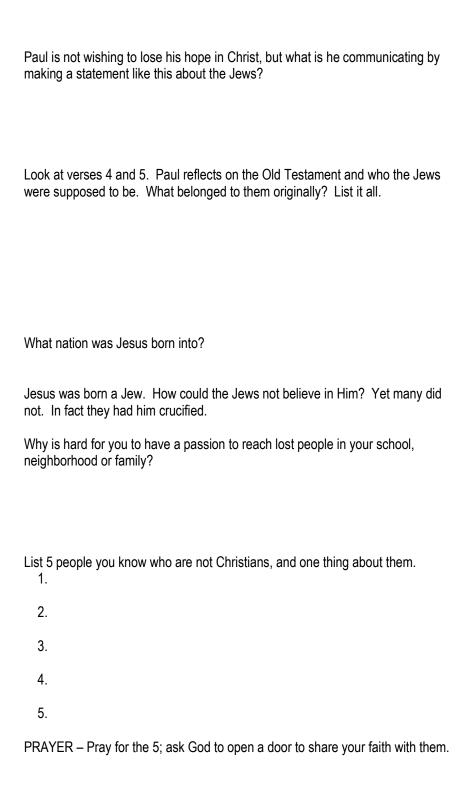


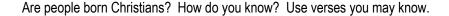
Do you have a passion to reach the lost and tell them about Jesus? Explain.

Many Christians in our county have gotten comfortable in their Christian bubbles of churches, Christian schools, Christian play groups, etc. Many do not even thing of the lost. If anything it is an attitude of, "Oh, them over there." I remember a time in our youth group many years ago when we had some students coming to youth group who were unchurched. They did not know the lingo and they were not shy in sharing their views. I can remember a student from a prominent Christian family one day saying, "Why are they even here?" Sadly this is the attitude of many Christians today when it comes to the lost. The next couple days we are going to get a picture of Paul's passion for his people, the Jews, who were lost and dying in their sin. Ask God to ignite a passion for the lost in your own life as you read His word.

#### Read Romans 9:1-5

What does Paul wish he could do in verses 2 and 3 to see his fellow Jews come to faith in Jesus Christ?



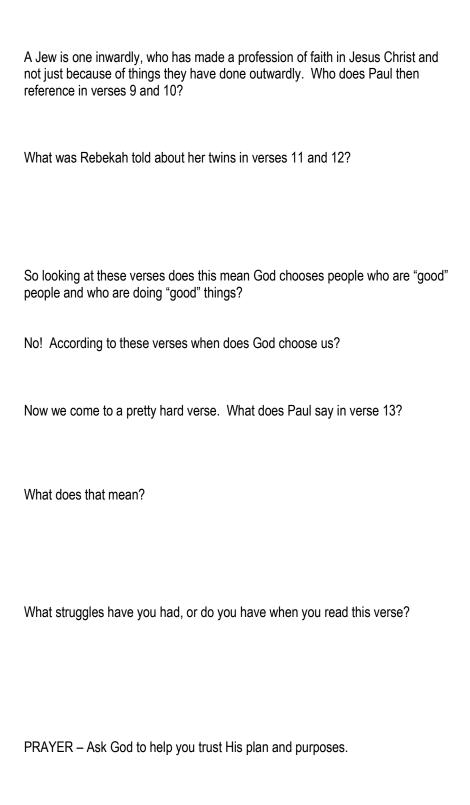


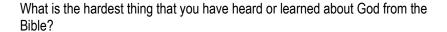
Nobody is born a Christian. John 1 talks about how we are not children of God because somebody said we were, or because we were born a child of God. We are only children of God when God makes us His children. He gives us that right. There are many who believe they are going to heaven because they were born into a Christian family or go to church or because their parents say they are a Christian. Many are heading straight to hell because they believe this. This is the same problem the Jews faced. Many thought, and continue to think they are good because they are Jews. They are God's people. This means they are good. Yet they reject Jesus and do not have a relationship with Him. Let us look at the next part of Romans 9. Ask God to instruct your heart today.

#### Read Romans 9:6-13

How does Paul say to us that just because somebody is a Jew does not mean they are a "real" Jew in verses 6 to 8?

How would you describe a "real" Jew according to what Paul is trying to get at in these verses?





Why is that hard for you?

The hardest thing I have heard about God is that Jesus did not come to die for all people and that his blood was not shed for all people. This was only for his chosen people. That teaching surprised me because I was taught that Jesus died for every single person. I knew if I was to believe this "new" teaching then it would impact how I looked at people who were not Christians. I struggled because I have a sister who is not a Christian. That would mean if she never comes to Christ, that Christ's blood was not shed for her. I struggled with that teaching. In time I came to grips with it as something that is true and found throughout scripture. Today we come to some hard teaching. Ask God to help you wrestle with and understand His truths.

#### Read Romans 9:14-18

Yesterday we ended with Jacob I loved, and Esau I hated. How does Paul follow up with that statement in verse 14? What does he tell us about God?

What two people does Paul then reference in verses 15 and 17?



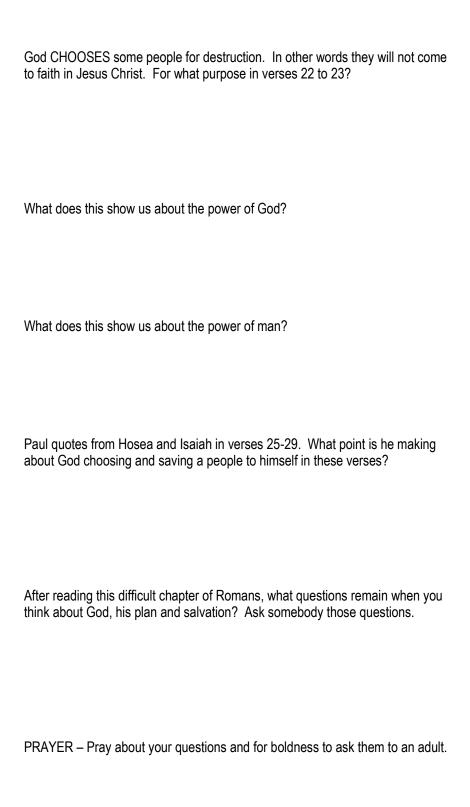
What is a situation when you got in trouble and you cried out, "It's not my fault!"?

There are many times when we get in trouble and cry, "It's not my fault!" This is an excuse that goes back to the beginning. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit God said not to eat the blame game started. Adam said it was Eve's fault. Eve said it was the serpent's fault. Nobody wanted to own up to the wrong they committed. We all have said that. What is at the heart of the issue? We do not want to admit that we sin and do what is wrong. We want to be right and have people think of us as good people. It is about image. It is about me. Yesterday we talked about the difficult topic of God hardening hearts that would have no opportunity to repent and softening other hearts who would come to trust and love Jesus. In light of that teaching it leaves some of us to say, "it is not fair", or "it is not their fault they sinned." Today we look at how to handle those objections using the Word of God. Ask God to teach you today.

#### Read Romans 9:19-29

What objection does Paul state in verse 19? What is the person who says this really trying to say?

How does Paul answer the person who says this in verses 20 and 21? What is he saying about God? What is he saying about man?

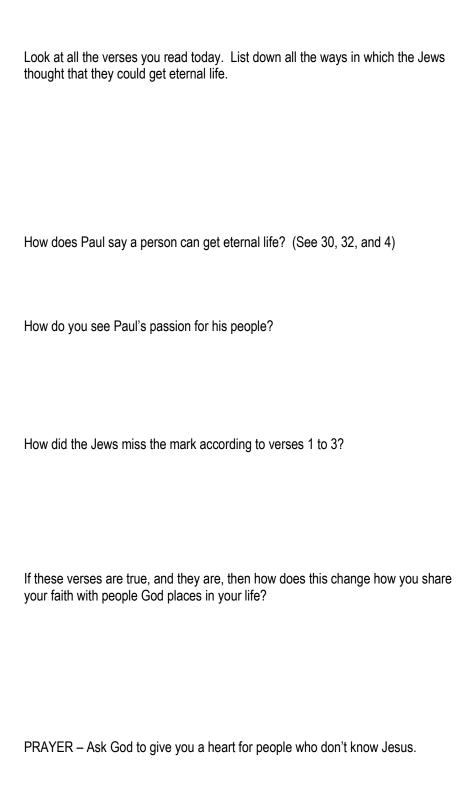


# Day 5 What are wrong ways in which people think that they are getting to heaven? Sum up in one or two sentences how a person gets to heaven. Use a verse if one comes to mind.

We live in a culture that embraces universalism. It means all ways lead to heaven whatever way that is. Many people would say it is narrow-minded to think that only one way can lead to heaven. As Christians, we are narrow-minded in that we believe what John 14:6 says, that Jesus is the only way, truth and life and we cannot get to heaven but through Him. There it is, one way. The Bible is full of verses that address this truth. We either believe the Bible or we do not. Ask God to open your eyes to see His truths as you study them today.

#### Read Romans 9:30-10:4

How does Paul compare the Jews and Gentiles in verses 30-31?



What do you think a person needs to believe in order to go to heaven? Think about this and write down what comes to your mind.

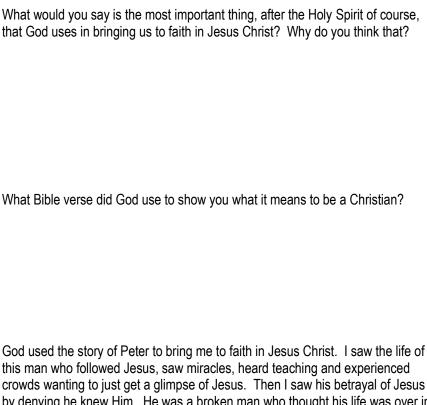
If you went out in the street you would get a whole range of answers from being baptized, going to church, reading your Bible, praying, helping people, becoming a member of the church and the list goes on. If you think about a lot of the answers people give, they have one thing in common, it is about the works that man does. It is not about the work that God does. We have become very man centered in our culture when it comes to salvation. We need to get away from this and get back to the heart of what it means to be saved. It is God working faith in us, not us doing enough to get saved. Today and tomorrow we will see what is most important when it comes to salvation. Ask God to teach you and grow you in your faith today.

#### Read Romans 10:5-13

What two parts of the body are important when it comes to faith according to verse 8?

What is each one's role in the salvation process as seen in verses 9 and 10?

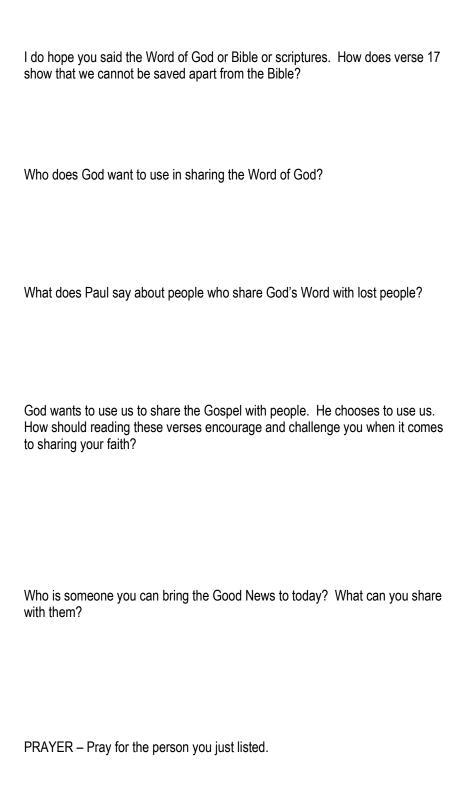


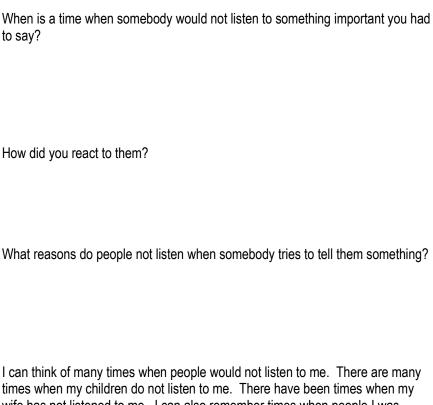


God used the story of Peter to bring me to faith in Jesus Christ. I saw the life of this man who followed Jesus, saw miracles, heard teaching and experienced crowds wanting to just get a glimpse of Jesus. Then I saw his betrayal of Jesus by denying he knew Him. He was a broken man who thought his life was over in a lot of ways. Then Jesus after rising from the dead comes back to Peter and reinstates him. Jesus wanted to use Peter in furthering His kingdom. It was a great story of redemption and grace. I wanted to know Jesus. That was the scriptures that God used in my life. Yesterday we saw that faith is confessing with our mouths and believing with our hearts. That is a key part of coming to faith. Today we look at the other key element. Ask God to give you an understanding heart today.

#### **Read Romans 10:14-17**

After reading these verses what is the other important element when it comes to salvation?

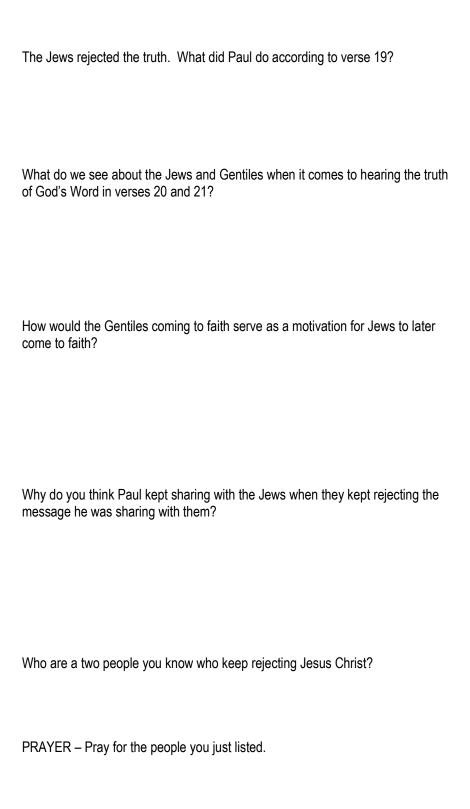


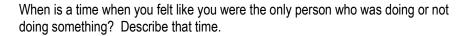


I can think of many times when people would not listen to me. There are many times when my children do not listen to me. There have been times when my wife has not listened to me. I can also remember times when people I was sharing God's Word with did not want to listen to what I had to say. All of them had different reasons for not listening. But they did hear what I had to say even if they did not follow what I was saying. Paul continues to talk about the Jews and how they would not believe the truth that he was sharing with them. Pray God would challenge you to listen to God and his word and that you would apply the truths of his word to your life today.

#### **Read Romans 10:18-21**

What does Paul say about whether the Jews heard the truth in verse 18?



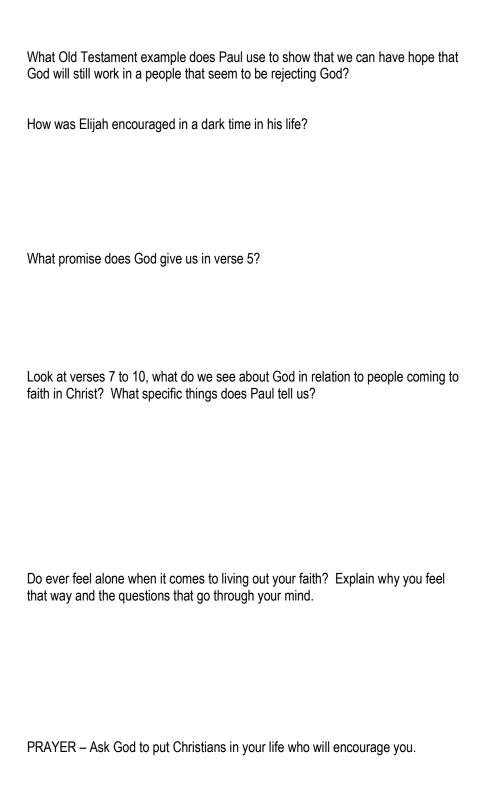


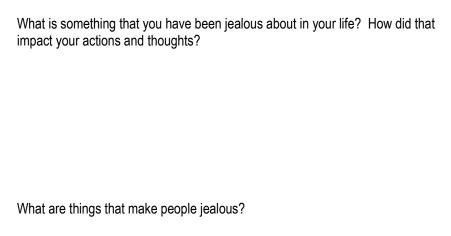
What was or would have been encouraging to find out that you were not the only person?

It was very lonely to be a Christian in high school. I felt like I was the only Christian in my school. It made me quiet regarding my faith and I even compromised my faith in some of the things I would do or say. Just before my senior year God challenged me to step up and be vocal about my faith. I obeyed Him. In my senior year many Christians from my school came forward ready to help lead a Bible club and get involved with Campus Life. It was an exciting year. I was not alone. I was encouraged in my faith. Today we look at how we can be encouraged by the promise that we are not alone when it comes to living out our faith. Ask God to teach you some important truths today.

#### Read Romans 11:1-10

How is Paul an example that God has not rejected his people, the Jews in verses 1 and 2?

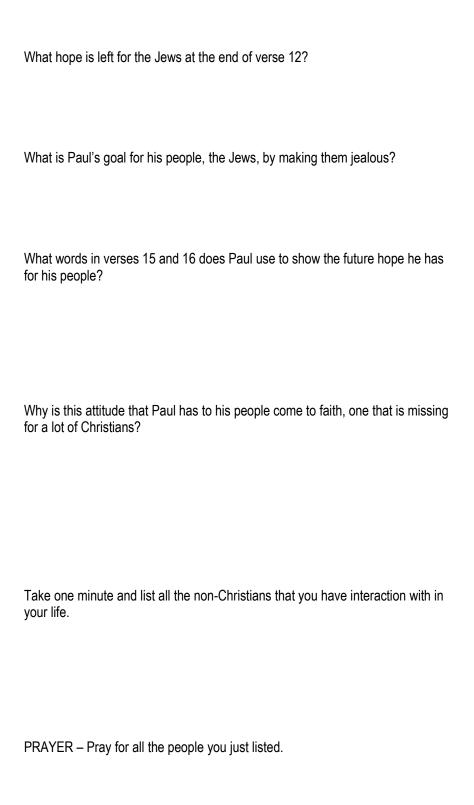


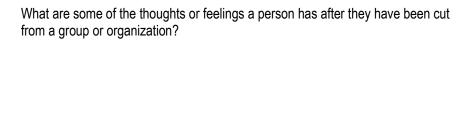


We all get jealous at some point in our lives. We are jealous because people have more money than us. We are jealous that our friend's parents let them date, but our parents won't let us date. We get jealous because others in our youth group can watch certain movies that your parents won't let you watch. Sometimes we even get jealous because we wish we were more like other people. Today we are going to look at the issue of jealousy but as it pertains to salvation. Ask God to teach you His truths today.

#### **Read Romans 11:11-16**

The Jews rejected Jesus. The Jews rejected the message Paul shared with them about hope in Jesus Christ. What was the result of their rejection according to verses 11 and 12?



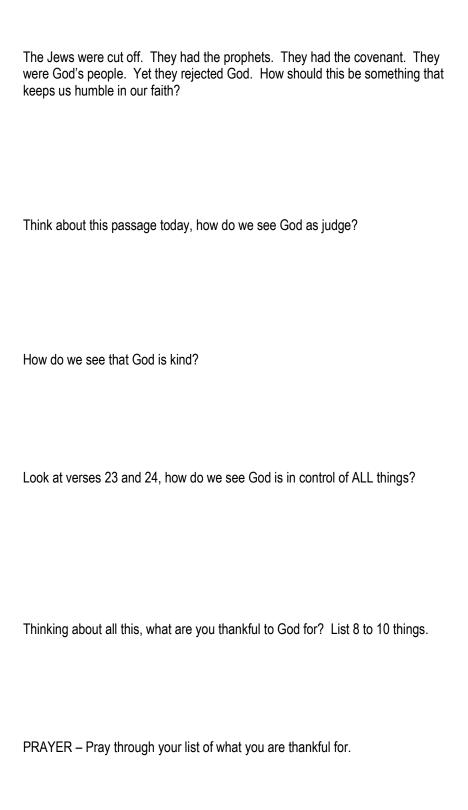


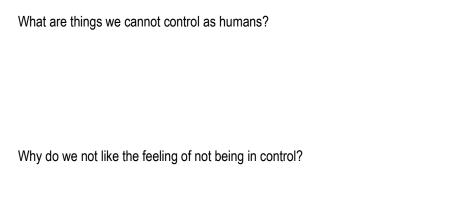
Have you ever been accepted into a group that you were not originally a part of? How did that feel?

I can remember trying out for a play that I really wanted to be in and getting cut. It was discouraging. I really wanted it but could not have it. It makes you doubt your ability. It makes you doubt your self-worth. On the flip side I can remember making the national honor society. There was a ceremony and you got a pin and certain sash at graduation. I was part of a group. I had earned it through hard work but ultimately, I did not choose to be part of that group. I had to be invited. That was a pretty cool experience. It made me feel worthy. Our faith is like being accepted into National Honor Society. It is something we must be invited to be a part of. We cannot invite ourselves. Paul is going to use the picture of farming to share this point with us today. Ask God to teach you today.

#### Read Romans 11:17-24

Paul says we need to be humble about our faith as Christians and not proud. What are his reasons in verses 17 to 21?

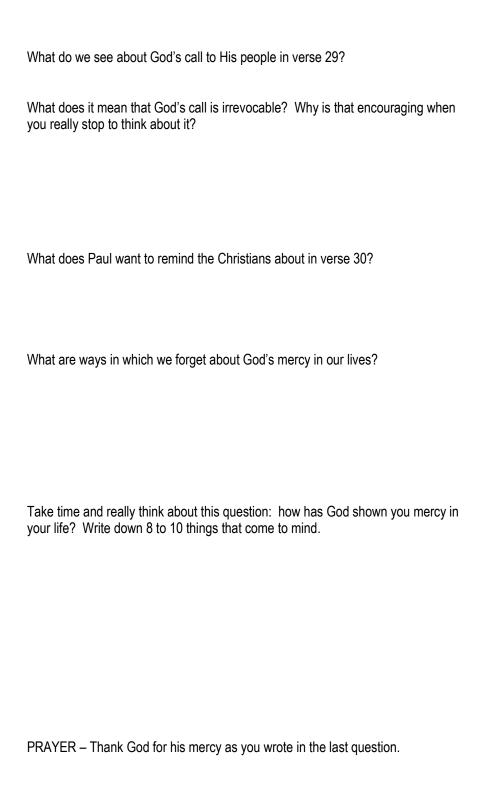




I want to be in control of my life. I want to know that everything will turn out perfectly for my children. I want to know every detail is going to go well at youth group, retreats and other related events. I want to make sure everything in my life is orderly and going well. But what happens when fleas infest my house? What happens when a parent dies suddenly? What happens when an ankle breaks playing basketball? Things are all out of whack and I realize how much I am not in control no matter how much time and effort I put into things. I realize that God is in control and I am not. It is humbling. Ask God to show you who He is as you read his word today.

#### **Read Romans 11:25-32**

We have talked about the Jews being rejected by God. What hope do the Jews have according to verses 25 to 27? How is that our hope too?



When you think about God, what are 3 attributes that mean the most to you?
Next to each one write down why you wrote that attribute.
1.

2.

3.

When it comes to who God is, what are 3 things that most non-Christians would say about God?

1.

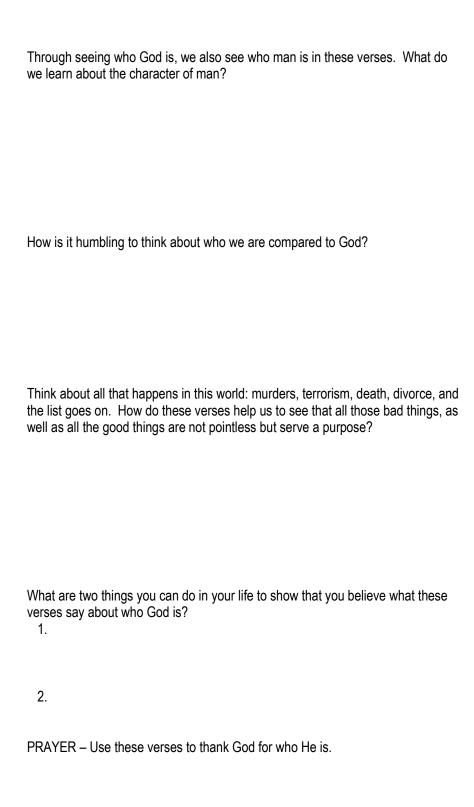
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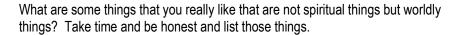
3.

The characteristic of God that impacts us the most is a lot of times dependent on our life experiences, our upbringing and church experiences. It is always good to step back and think, "Who is God?" There are many attributes in scripture that describe God. Today Paul takes a break in his letter to give us a mini hymn that focuses on the character of God. Ask God to grow you in your faith today.

#### Read Romans 11:33-36

List all the things that we are told about who God is in these verses.





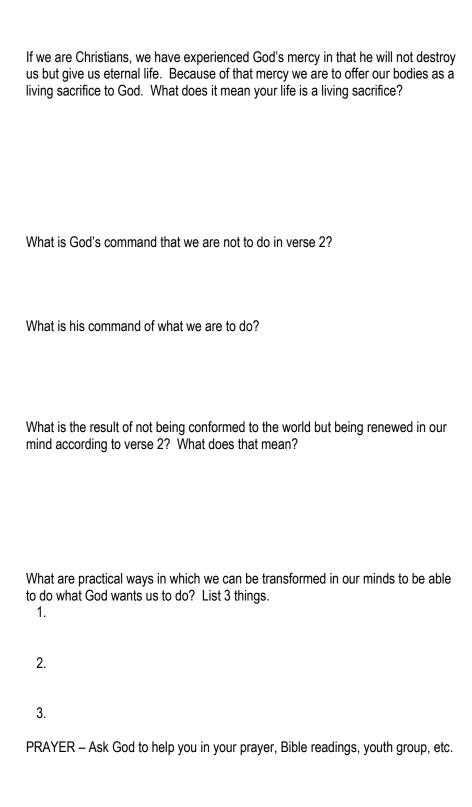
Now circle the things you just listed that if you thought about it, probably do not bring honor to God. What are the biggest struggles for you in not living like the world and trying to get what the world has to offer?

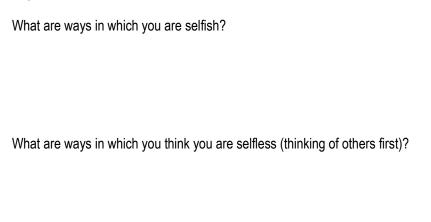
It is hard to be in the world but to not be of the world. It is hard because we see all the world has to offer. We see money. We see cars. We see nice big houses. We see people. God, we do not see. It becomes a struggle to live for God when we cannot see him or talk to Him face to face. Paul knew that as he wrote his letter to the Romans. God knew that would be a struggle we continue to have today. Ask God to teach you his truths as it pertains to this issue today.

#### Read Romans 12:1-2

Summarize these two verses in your own words.

Write down what you think the most important words or phrases are and next to each one, why that word or phrase is important.



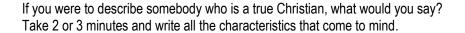


Since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, we are all selfish, prideful people who only live for themselves. We start to deal with this struggle when we come to faith in Jesus Christ. But the struggle never ends. As long as we are in our human bodies on earth, we will struggle with pride and selfishness. We will want to be first. Why when you announce food at a youth event do the junior high guys sprint to the front of the line? Why do a group of junior or senior high girls talk only with each other and not anybody else? Why does a person decide they only want to do fun events and not service projects or mission's trips? At the heart of all these issues is selfishness and not thinking of others first. Ask God to challenge that attitude in you as you read today's scriptures.

#### Read Romans 12:3-8

What is the challenge from Paul in verse 3? How can we think of others first?

What picture does Paul want to give us in verses 4 and 5?
How does this picture of the body help us in not thinking about only ourselves, but the other Christians God has placed in our lives?
What gifts does Paul give us in verses 6 to 8? Next to each gift write down what he says about that gift.
By listing these gifts, what is Paul saying about the Body of Christ?
When you think of the gifts listed, which gift is yours? How have you used your spiritual gift to serve the Lord and not yourself?
PRAYER – Thank God for His spiritual gifts; ask him to help you to use your gifts to serve him and not yourself.

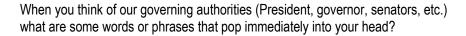


This can be a big list. There is a lot we can say. Then as we look at the list, we think to ourselves, "Does that describe me? Am I really a Christian if I am not doing those things?" That is the good and bad thing about making lists. But this is what Paul does in our verses for study today. He makes a list of the marks of a true Christian. Ask God to help you see these attributes in your own life as you strive to live for Him.

#### Read Romans 12:9-21

Write down all the marks of a true Christian that Paul lists for us in these verses.

What are some observations as you look at this list?
Pick 3 marks of a Christian you feel you show in your life and next to it write down how you show it.  1.
2.
3.
Now pick 2 marks that you feel you struggle with as a Christian. Next to that mark write down how you struggle.  1.
2.
In writing a list like this do you think Paul is saying we have to be "perfect" to be Christians? What is he saying to us?
PRAYER – Ask God to help you live for Him in all areas of your life. Pray through the marks that are listed in this passage.

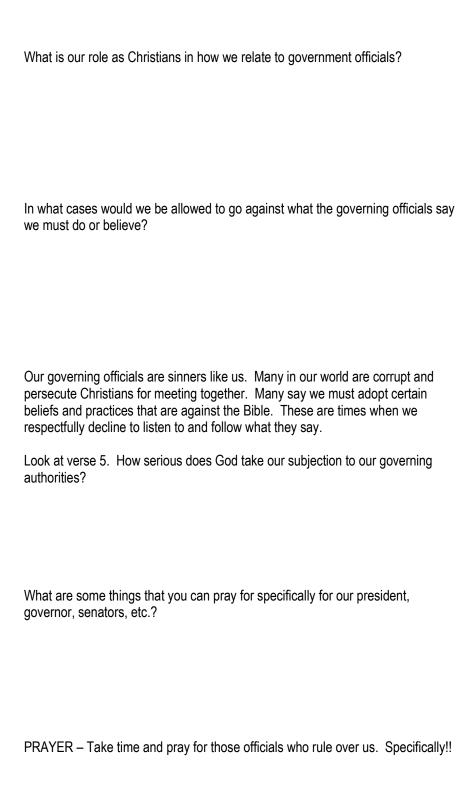


What are the reasons it is hard for us as Christians to submit to our government and its officials?

We struggle as Christians with the attitude of submission to the governing officials who are over us. Why? We do not agree with the things they believe regarding abortion, same sex rights, health care, illegal aliens, etc. What do we usually do when we do not agree with these officials? We often put them down, say we will never listen to them, call them horrible people, wonder why inept people have been put in positions of authority and of course there are many other negative comments. What would you say if I said when you say these things and think these things that you are sinning as a Christian? You would argue with me and rationalize why you are right in saying and believing what you are saying and believing. I know. I have had those discussions with Christians in my life. Ask God to make clear to you His truths.

#### Read Romans 13:1-7

What does Paul say about ALL governing officials in these seven verses?



## Day 18 What are ways you show another person that you love them?

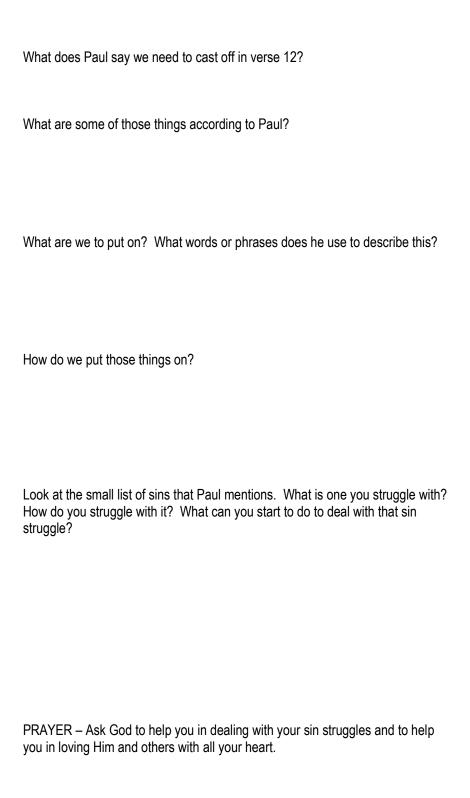
What are ways you show God that you love Him?

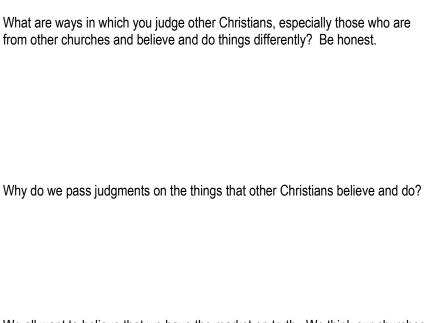
Love is not about assumptions. We should never just assume somebody knows we love them. That is not enough. Love must be seen. Love must be heard. You show love through your actions. You show love through saying, "I love you." What if the only time I told my wife I loved her was on the altar when we got married? What would that do to our relationship? It would not be very good. "But I told her I loved her 15 years ago when we go married." That is not enough. She needs to hear it regularly. She needs to see it regularly. A good relationship needs that. Let us see what Paul has to say regarding this issue today in Romans. Ask God to teach you His word.

#### Read Romans 13:8-14

What is the "greatest" commandment according to verse 9?

How does that sum up all the other commandments?

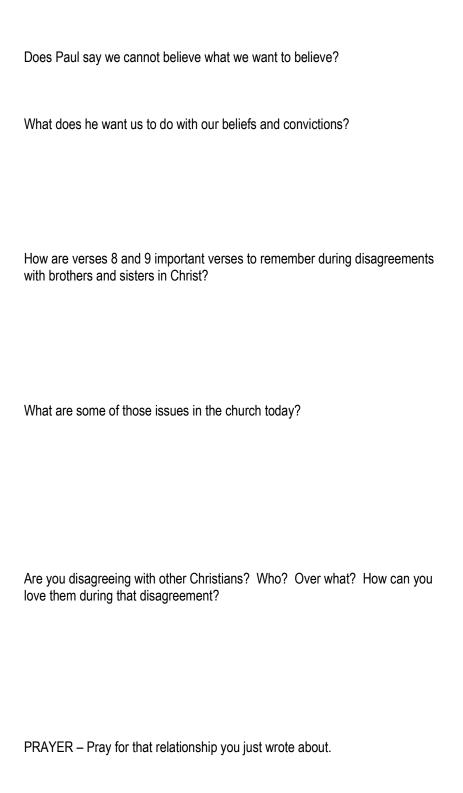




We all want to believe that we have the market on truth. We think our churches beliefs and practices are the only right ones. Those who believe differently than us we think of as "lesser" Christians, disobedient or sinful. We can be harsh in how we treat our brothers and sisters in Christ. In the Reformation Zwingli died in battle because Luther would not send support to him. Why? They differed over their views on the Lord's Supper. Now it is important to stand up for what we believe and to have passion in that belief. But that should not be something that keeps us from loving our brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to love each other. Let's look at that today. Ask God to apply His word to your heart.

#### Read Romans 14:1-9

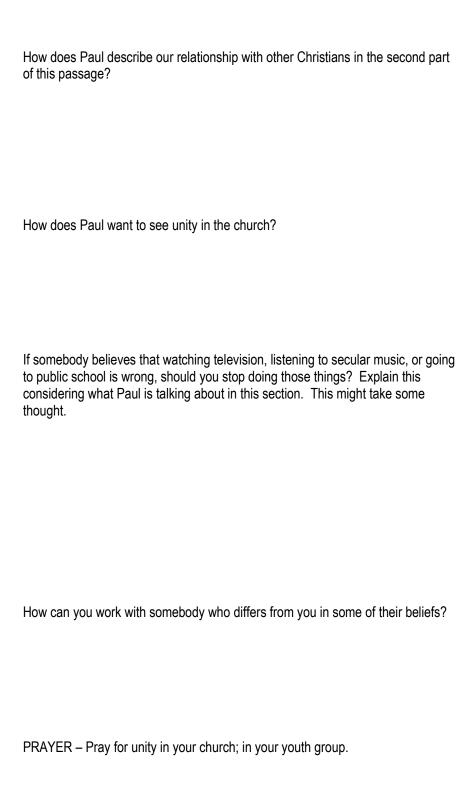
What were the issues that were creating an unloving atmosphere in the church in Rome? List them below.

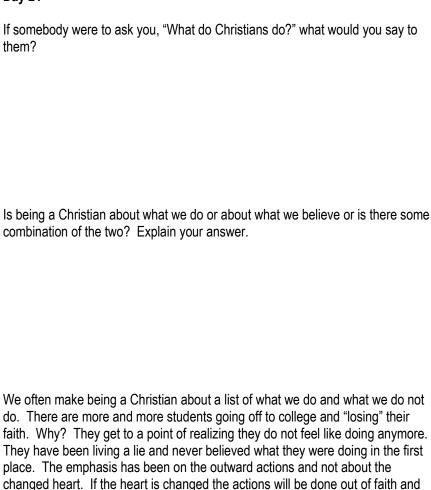


# Day 20 How has someone caused you to sin in your life? How have you caused someone else to sin? Yesterday we looked at how we should not guarrel over our opinions but that in all we do we are to live for the Lord with all our lives. That is not easy, especially when we think we are right. Today we are going to take that thought a little further. In what ways do we need to watch what we do so we do not cause other people to sin or go against their own consciences? Ask God to each you and grow you in your faith today. **Read Romans 14:10-16**

How does Paul caution us in how we judge others in verses 10-12?

How should these verses help in keeping us humble before God?

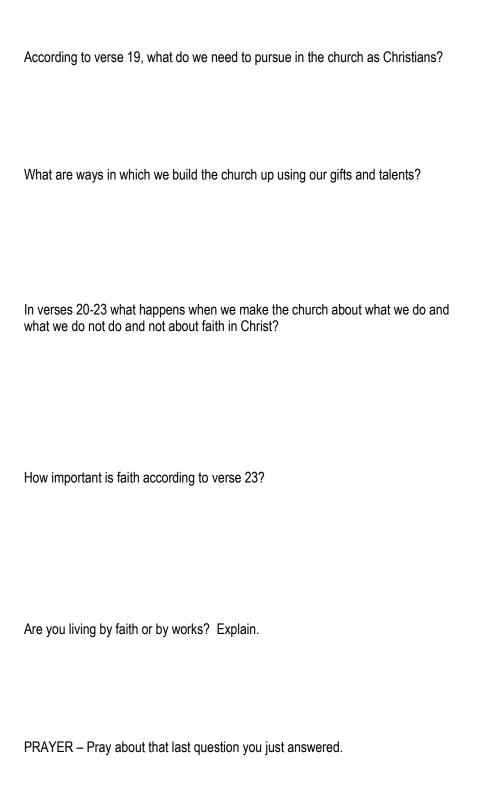


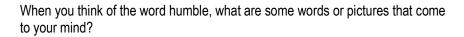


## Read Romans 14:17-23

Right off the bat, what does Paul say the kingdom is about in verse 17?

will be long lasting. Ask God to teach you from the Bible today.



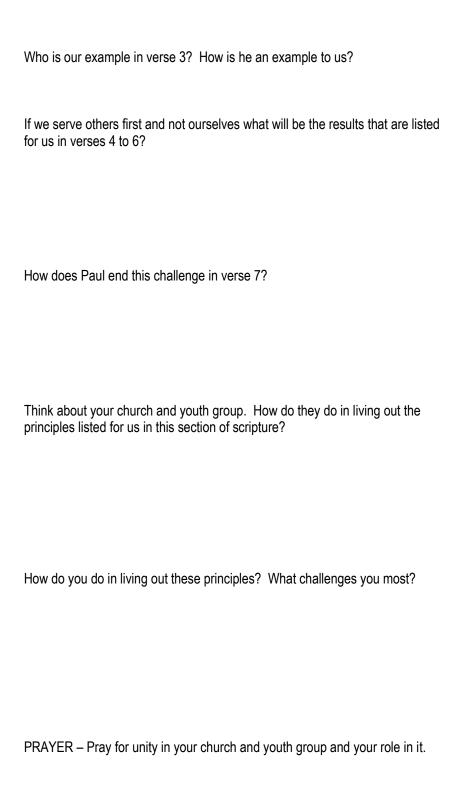


How is humbleness a key to unity in the church?

If we all are honest, we want to see unity in the church. Unity is hard to achieve. It means we need to be willing to give up things we want to do or see happen to let others do the things they want to do. This is hard for so many people who see themselves as the center of everything. This is a key to unity though. I learned this lesson early in ministry. In the beginning I would decide what we were going to study and what events we would do, and I often was frustrated by the lack of participation in the studies and our events. Then I let my teen leadership and adult team decide what we would study for the year and what we would do. It was amazing to see almost everybody get into youth group. I had to set aside my desires and put the team first. It was a hard but good lesson for me. Pray God will reveal his truths to you today.

#### Read Romans 15:1-7

What challenge does Paul give us in verses 1 and 2?



# Day 23 What ar

What are some things that you take hope in?

Why do people want hope?

I step back and think of all the things that I take hope in. I hope that my children will grow up and serve the Lord no matter where He places them. I hope that I will grow old with my wife and that we will stay faithful to each other. I hope that God uses me in wonderful ways in the work of the ministry. I place my hope in the work that Christ did for me on the cross, securing my salvation by his work and not by anything I do. As you do this devotion today, ask yourself, "Is my hope in Jesus Christ?" Pray God will instruct your heart today.

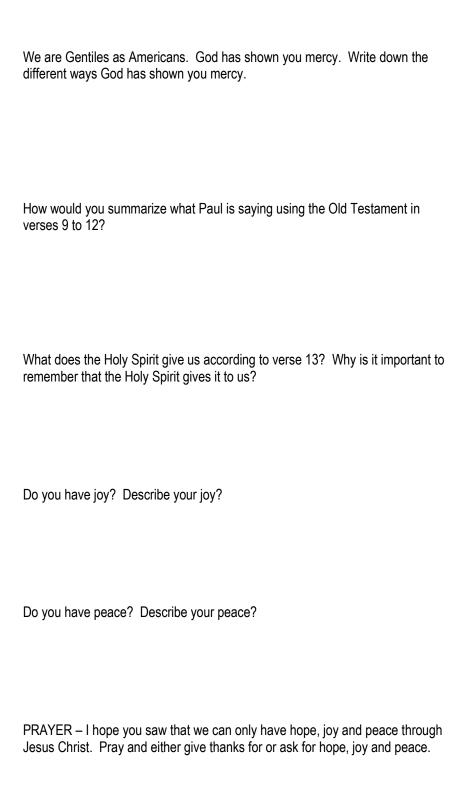
#### Read Romans 15:8-13

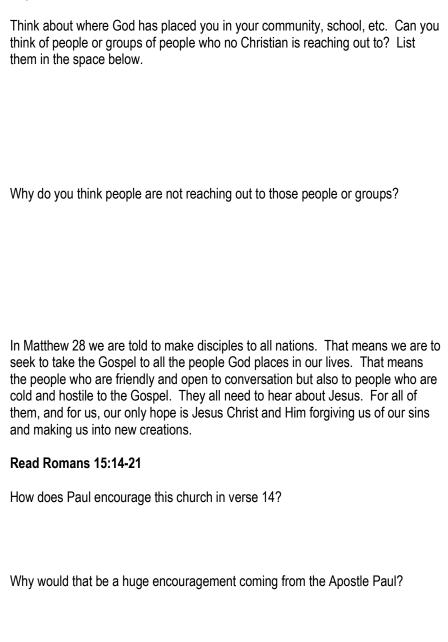
What are 3 reasons Christ become a servant according to verses 8 and 9?

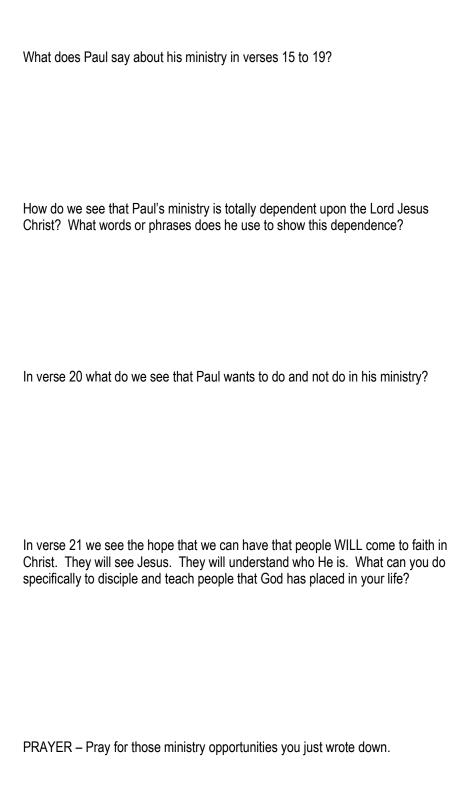
1.

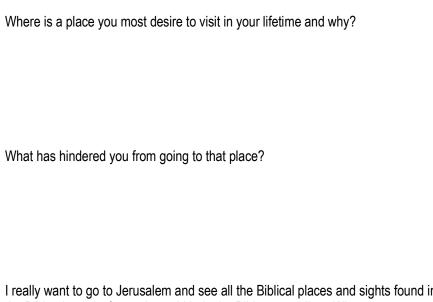
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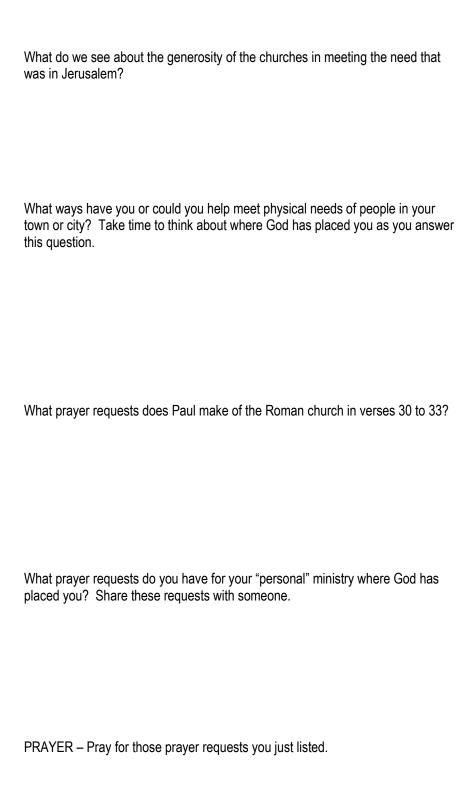




I really want to go to Jerusalem and see all the Biblical places and sights found in the Bible. In a lot of ways it would help the Bible come alive. What an awesome experience that would be. Here is the problem. It is very expensive trip to make. It is in a part of the world that is unstable and violent. These are a couple of big reasons why I cannot make that trip. I still hope to one day. Paul has written a great letter to the Roman church. As the letter ends, he tells them that he really wants to go to them and see them and spend time with them. It is on his "bucket list." That is what we come to today in Romans. Ask God to give you a heart to understand His word today.

#### Read Romans 15:22-33

How do you see that Paul loved the Roman Christians in verses 22 to 24? What words and phrases does he use to show this?



I want you to take a moment and write down 5 people that God has used in your
life to encourage and challenge you in your faith. Next to their name write down
one way in which God has used them in your life.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

It is neat to think about all the people God has used in our lives. He has used parents, teachers, youth leaders, pastors, friends, authors of books and the list goes on. The problem is that we often do not think about all those people God has placed in our lives. We take those people for granted. Before you even read the scripture today, take some time and give thanks to God for the people you listed above and pray for them. Ask God to teach and instruct you today.

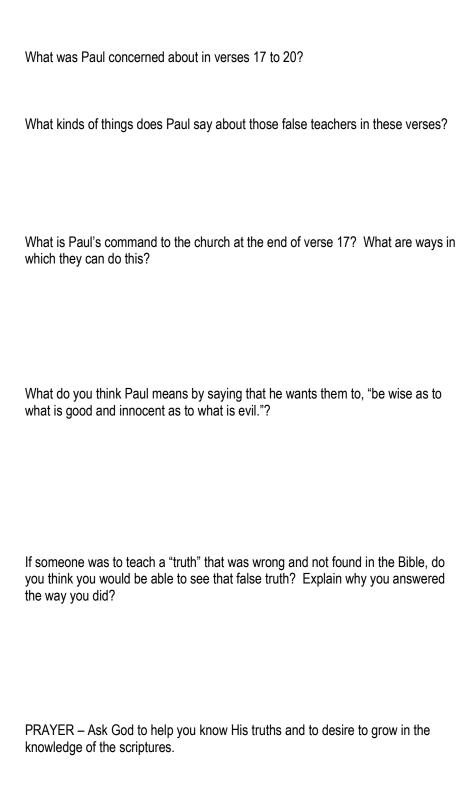
#### Read Romans 16:1-23

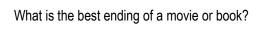
In verses 1 to 16 Paul gives us a list of people who have been helpful and encouraging in his ministry. What are two encouraging things you read about people in these verses?

1

2.

Was Paul a "Lone Ranger" or was he someone who valued the idea of team?





What made that ending so good?

I really liked the movie *The Sixth Sense*. It was a movie about a child psychiatrist who is shot in the beginning of the movie by a boy that he was not able to help. We then see him meet another young boy who is deeply troubled. He really wants to help this boy through his struggles with friends, family, school and of course the fact that he sees dead people. By the end of the movie the twist happens, you realize that the psychiatrist was dead, and the boy had to learn he had a gift to help dead people deal with their death. Woah! The whole movie you thought it was the other way around and you did not know he was dead. That made the move great. Paul has written a book to the Romans that challenged the churches theology, their outreach, and their everyday living. And now he concludes the book of Romans. Ask God to impress upon you His word today.

#### Read Romans 16:25-27

After reading this doxology, what do you sense Paul wanted to communicate to the Roman church?

