

The Epistle of Paul to the **ROMANS**

"The Constitution of the Christian Faith"

**** A study in Doctrine****

**** A study in Practice****

Background : This letter , inspired by the Holy Spirit, was written by the Apostle Paul to the "saints" at Rome around 56-58 A.D. , while Paul was in Corinth on his 3rd missionary journey.

Purpose: This letter is written to instruct believers in 3 general area's:

1. The fundamental doctrines of salvation to strengthen against false doctrine.
2. God's faithfulness in His relationship and dealings with Israel.
3. Practical Christian living in relation to society and government.

About Paul : Background : Philippians 3:4-6 (a Pharisee)

Salvation experience - Acts 9:1-22 (Saul=Paul)

Ministry training - Acts 22:1-4 ; 2 Corinthians 12:1-8 ; Galatians 1:15-19

Qualification for apostleship - called by Christ - Acts 9:3-6

Chapter 12 - A Reasonable Act of Worship

v1 A. The offering up of the sacrifice. (Our whole person).

1. The writer urges us, keeping in mind the mercy that God has shown in His sacrifice for us, to redeem us to Himself. The rational thing to do is to offer to God that which He redeemed to Himself. All that we are, all that we are able to do, and all that we ever hope to become, we owe to the power of God and the love of God that has transformed our lives.
2. The offering must be presented. To give willingly as an act of worship. Exodus 25:2; 35:4,5, 20-29; 36:2-7. Lev 3:1; 22:3.
3. We are a living sacrifice. Our daily life, given over to the use of God, by which we become a channel of His blessing to others.
 - a. This requires us to deny our will, wishes, and carnal desires. Luke 22:42; 1 Cor 6:19,20; 7:23.
 - b. This requires daily surrender to the will of God as revealed in His Word. Matt 16:24,25.

v2 4. The offering must be holy. Lev 22:17-25; 1Pet 1:13-16

5. To be holy, we must decide to separate from the world's way and connect with God's way of thinking.
 - a. Stop conforming to this world (present culture).
 - b. Keep on being transformed (Metamorphous) by the renewing (renovation) of the mind. 2 Cor 3:18; (Transfigured Matt 17:2.)
 - c. The mind is renovated by removing the old patterns of thought, and replacing them with the new and fresh Word of God. 2 Cor 5:17

vv3-8 B. The sacrifice in action.

1. The first step is to understand the purpose, plan, and power of God in us to do His will for His kingdom's sake. We each are simply a member of the body of Christ.
2. God gives to each member the ability to serve the body in a unique way. 1 Cor 12:12-31; Eph 2:8-10; 4:15-17; 1 Pet 4:10,11.

3. Spiritual Gifts and their use for the building up of the body of Christ:
- a. Prophecy - The desire and supernatural ability to speak forth the Word of God, especially warning against sin and its consequences.
 - b. Ministry - The desire and supernatural ability to serve the body of Christ in practical ways. Also referred to as the gift of helps.
 - c. Teaching - The desire and supernatural ability to break down, clarify, and communicate God's Word resulting in spiritual growth.
 - d. Exhortation - The desire and supernatural ability to motivate believers, in a positive way, by challenging, encouraging, and rebuking; to walk in the light. Yielding to exhortation results in a fruitful and obedient life.
 - e. Giving - The desire and supernatural ability to give of one's resources abundantly, sacrificially and cheerfully. This gift from God supplies the necessary funding of the work of God.
 - f. Ruling - The desire and supernatural ability to lead, organize and direct others toward a common goal. Also referred to as the gift of administration. This gift keeps the church organized and focused.
 - g. Mercy - The desire and supernatural ability to care for and encourage those who are sick and hurting.

vv9-21 **C. The motivation and attitude of the sacrifice - LOVE:**

- 1. Let love be without pretense (hiding true feelings).
- 2. Hate (utterly detest) evil, cling to what is good.
- 3. Be affectionate to each other with a brotherly love.
- 4. Honor (to consider precious and valuable) one another.
- 5. Prefer (yield to) one another.
- 6. Do not be slothful (lagging in diligence) in whatever you do.
- 7. Be fervent in spirit. Boiling over with enthusiasm to serve God and each other.
- 8. Rejoice in hope. Our hope is in what God has promised.
- 9. Persevere in tribulation. (under pressure)
- 10. Continue steadfast in prayer.
- 11. Distribute to the necessity of the saints. Give what is needed to fellow believers.
- 12. Given to hospitality - Pursue opportunities and be fond of having guests.
- 13. Bless (speak well of) those who persecute you. Do not speak evil of them.
- 14. Rejoice with those who are rejoicing. Take part in their gladness and blessing.
- 15. Weep with those who are weeping. Take part in their sadness and sympathize.
- 16. Be of the same mind with one another. Do not be high minded.
- 17. Do not repay evil with evil.
- 18. Have regard for honest things in the sight of all men.
- 19. As much as it is possible, be at peace with all men.
- 20. Do not get revenge when you are wronged, let God even things out.
- 21. Feed and give refreshment to your enemy.
- 22. Be not overcome with evil, but you overcome evil with good.