



KINGDOM POLICIES

PART 3

Forty Daily Devotionals
from Romans and Galatians 1-2
(Based on the NKJV)

Introduction

In the Kingdom Policies devotional series, we will focus on practical applications of the New Testament to everyday life by going through the church letters written by the Apostle Paul. This guide, Kingdom Policies, Part Three, will cover the Book of Romans and the first part of Galatians. In Romans, we will find there is a lot more to be discovered than just the plan of salvation. Paul deals with the believer's everyday walk in society and the relationship we should have with civil authorities, peoples of other ethnic origins, and our own personal, spiritual growth through faith and the power of the Holy Spirit. In Galatians, Paul addresses legalism. Just as legalism affected churches in Paul's day, it is just as much a threat to churches and believers today. Paul will help us see the priority that God places on a personal righteousness that is based on faith in Jesus Christ and His work on the cross.

Daily Reading Schedule

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
1	Romans 1:1-12	12/14/20
2	Romans 1:13-25	12/15/20
3	Romans 1:26-2:6	12/16/20
4	Romans 2:7-16	12/17/20
5	Romans 2:17-29	12/18/20
6	Romans 3:1-12	12/19/20
7	Romans 3:13-23	12/20/20
8	Romans 3:24-4:3	12/21/20
9	Romans 4:4-15	12/22/20
10	Romans 4:16-25	12/23/20
11	Romans 5:1-11	12/24/20
12	Romans 5:12-21	12/25/20
13	Romans 6:1-14	12/26/20
14	Romans 6:15-23	12/27/20
15	Romans 7:1-13	12/28/20
16	Romans 7:14-25	12/29/20
17	Romans 8:1-12	12/30/20
18	Romans 8:13-23	12/31/20
19	Romans 8:24-34	1/1/21
20	Romans 8:35-9:7	1/2/21

Day	Scripture Reading	Date
21	Romans 9:8-18	1/3/21
22	Romans 9:19-29	1/4/21
23	Romans 9:30-10:4	1/5/21
24	Romans 10:5-15	1/6/21
25	Romans 10:16-11:6	1/7/21
26	Romans 11:7-18	1/8/21
27	Romans 11:19-31	1/9/21
28	Romans 11:32-12:5	1/10/21
29	Romans 12:6-16	1/11/21
30	Romans 12:17-13:8	1/12/21
31	Romans 13:9-14:4	1/13/21
32	Romans 14:5-17	1/14/21
33	Romans 14:18-15:6	1/15/21
34	Romans 15:7-19	1/16/21
35	Romans 15:20-33	1/17/21
36	Romans 16:1-15	1/18/21
37	Romans 16:16-27	1/19/21
38	Galatians 1:1-10	1/20/21
39	Galatians 1:11-24	1/21/21
40	Galatians 2:1-10	1/22/21

Day 1: Romans 1:1-12

“Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,” (Romans 1:1-2)

“Called”

Except for Hebrews and 1 John, every letter in the New Testament first introduces the writer, then the recipients, followed by a greeting. Paul first identified himself as a “bondservant” of Christ. This word was used to describe someone who was literally owned by another. Paul gladly identified himself as a servant and did so more than once (See Galatians 1:10 and Titus 1:1.) Then Paul referred to himself as “an apostle” (literally, “sent one”) of the gospel. It is easy to trace the spiritual growth in Paul’s life. He became a *saint* when he met Christ on the road to Damascus. He immediately became a *servant* by asking for directions from God as to what he was to do from that point forward. He eventually became a great *soldier* in the Lord’s Army – reaching the rank of apostle, or ambassador, for Christ. It was his desire that all Christians recognize their calling. He quickly moved from the discussion of his own calling to the calling of the Christians who were residing in Rome and the surrounding areas. They were “called to be saints” (v. 7). It is important to note that the calling of the Christians at Rome was no different from the calling of the great preacher, Paul. Paul did not see their calling as being any less significant than his own – and neither did the Holy Spirit!

Prayer Emphasis: Consider your own personal calling to live for Christ. **Surrender** your life to Him and **follow** Him faithfully. **Kingdom Policy Number Eighty-One** in God’s divine manual is: *Our Christian calling involves a new **life** and not the turning over of a new **leaf**.*

Day 2: Romans 1:13-25

“I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise. So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also.” (Romans 1:14-15)

A Personal Obligation

Paul believed he was a “debtor” and, therefore, personally obligated to share the gospel with all people. The word translated “barbarians” in our first focus verse is translated “non-Greeks” in the NIV and some other versions. Any Greek believers that might have been residing at Rome, and listening to this letter, probably would have shouted out a strong “Amen!” to that statement because they believed that all the other people of the world were unlearned, uncultured, and ignorant. Notice that Paul was not just “willing” to preach the gospel to Gentiles, but that he was “ready” (or eager) to do so (v. 15). The importance Paul placed on the “gospel” is evidenced by the fact that he used that word repeatedly in the opening chapter of this letter. (Take a moment to review the first 16 verses and mark them.) Paul believed the gospel was “the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes” and that it revealed the pathway to the righteousness God had provided for all that would come to Him in faith (v. 16). What Paul said in Romans 1:16-17 is pretty much the theme of the entire book. Paul leaves no one with an excuse for not coming to Christ. He stated that the creation itself was enough to reveal the existence of a Creator to all men. However, just as it is today, many chose to deny God and to reject the relationship that was so graciously offered to them.

Prayer Emphasis: Ask God to give you a burden for those who do not yet know Christ. **Pray** for the salvation of your friends and family members. **Speak** of Christ at every opportunity. **Kingdom Policy Number Eighty-Two:** *Do not leave any unpaid spiritual debts behind when this life is over.*

Day 3: Romans 1:26-2:6

“For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another...” (Romans 1:26-27)

The Exchange

In the last verse of yesterday’s reading, we read where people “exchanged the truth of God for the lie” (1:25). Today’s Scripture includes a second exchange that some people made. Both men and women were seeking sexual pleasures in ways that God described as not “natural.” Sadly, many Christians stop reading and start judging and condemning when they come to these two verses. However, this specific exchange is not the only one mentioned in these verses. If we continue to read, we see there were many other exchanges being made by the people of that day. First, and foremost, they chose not “to retain God in their knowledge” (v. 28). The list of bad exchanges continues in verse 29 and includes such things as “unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness” just to name a few. In verse 30, “disobedient to parents” is found among the awful sins included in this listing. I am *not* trying to soften the words of Romans 1:26-27 here. However, I *am* trying to say that our sin is also on this list of bad exchanges that rob people of the joy that comes from the life that is fully committed to Christ. It is time that we cease to see only the bad things that *they* do and pay some attention to the bad things that *we* do.

Prayer Emphasis: Ask God to reveal any bad exchanges that you have made so that you can repent and honor God in your daily walk. **Read** again the words found in Romans 2:3. **Kingdom Policy Number Eighty-Three:** *All sin is dishonoring to God and ultimately leads to judgment.*

Day 4: Romans 2:7-16

“In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ...” (Romans 2:16)

The “Secrets”

These verses do not contradict the clear teaching that salvation is a gift of God and not the result of works. Paul never wavered from teaching that salvation is a result of placing one’s faith in what Jesus did on the cross and not in the good works that we do in our lives. However, Paul is clear here that good works are not a result of one’s natural birth but, rather, the fruit that is lived out in the life that has experienced a supernatural birth. This new birth is available to all who will place their faith in Christ. Verse 11 repeats a constant theme of the Bible: God shows no favoritism. Both Jew and Gentile alike can know Him and live in His divine power and presence. Many people may try to live life in a way that will cause them to appear to have this new birth, but God knows the heart! He alone can see into the secret motivations for our actions. He alone knows whether our good works are a result of our relationship with Him or our desire to appear righteous to others. He sees the frustrations of those who try repeatedly to walk the straight and narrow path without first walking the path to the cross. Only a true, personal relationship with Jesus Christ can lead to genuine, heart-felt living for the honor and glory of God.

Prayer Emphasis: Check your motivations today. **Be sure** that your life is being lived for God’s glory and not simply to be seen of men. **Kingdom Policy Number Eighty-Four:** *God not only knows **what** we do, but He also knows **why** we do it.*

Day 5: Romans 2:17-29

“For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.” (Romans 2:25)

“You...You...You!”

I am sure this section of Paul’s letter was welcomed by a few hearty “Amen!” Paul spoke directly to the Jews and listed several things that they believed to be true about their nation. They believed that they trusted in God’s law and had a right relationship with Him. They believed that they knew His will. They had been instructed in the law. They believed themselves to be guides to the blind and a light to those who were in darkness. They saw themselves as able instructors and teachers of the laws of God. Because of this, they saw themselves as being approved of God simply because of who they were. However, God’s Spirit desired that they take a hard look at their own lives before they tried to tell others how to live. Notice that verses 21, 22, and 23 all begin with “you.” By doing this, God was admonishing them to take a hard look at their own lives. Circumcision was an outward sign of the personal, inward covenant that God made with Israel. However, the Jews came to believe that such physical acts as circumcision were guarantees of their spiritual relationship with God. Paul wanted these readers, Jew and Gentile alike, to see that true spirituality was not attained through good works.

Prayer Emphasis: Examine your life daily. **Live** for the glory of God! **Kingdom Policy Number Eighty-Five:** *Look to the motivations of your heart and not the works of your hands to see where you really stand with God.*

Day 6: Romans 3:1-12

“As it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no, not one; there is none who understands; there is none who seeks after God. They have all turned aside...’” (Romans 3:10-12)

Our Greatest Advantage

This chapter begins with a very important question. Paul asked his readers what advantage there was in being born a Jew. He answered his own question in verse two when he concluded that there was “much” advantage to the Jews. He then listed the first, and greatest, advantage available to God’s people. They had been entrusted with the “oracles of God” (v. 2). Later, beginning in chapter nine, Paul would speak of other advantages, but he elaborated on this one here in this section. He wanted them to understand that this great *advantage* brought with it a great *responsibility*! God’s law can bring us to only one conclusion: No one nation or race of people has an exclusive right to a relationship with God! Notice the phrase, “As it is written” in verse 10. It is followed by a collection of quotations from the Old Testament. Take a moment to circle the words “none” or “not one” in verses 10-12. Then circle the word “all” and realize that our name could be written in those spaces! This truth links us with every other sinner in the world. We are “together” with them in the sense that we are powerless to save ourselves.

Prayer Emphasis: Commit to the daily reading of God’s Word. **Ask** Him to reveal Himself to you as you read every paragraph and turn every page. **Live** out your faith in ways that will **reveal Him** to those that you connect with along life’s way. **Kingdom Policy Number Eighty-Six:** *Having and obeying God’s Word is the greatest advantage that we have today.*

Day 7: Romans 3:13-23

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

“All Have Sinned”

We should be reminded that it was the Holy Spirit who inspired these words and who brought these phrases from the Old Testament to Paul’s mind as he was writing. In this, we see the wisdom in letting God’s Word speak to the hearts of those to whom we witness. We may be tempted to think that condemning sin will bring conviction, but we should be continually reminded that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to bring conviction. The root of all sin is found in verse 18. When “there is no fear” (reverential respect) for God, then there is no inward reason to live out a life that brings praise to Him. We are reminded that the righteousness of God is given to us because of our faith being placed in Jesus Christ and not because of any good deeds done on our part. In God’s eyes, we have all sinned and fallen far short of His glory. There is a strong temptation to compare ourselves to others, but it is against God’s own Son that we will all be measured. When we read about Jesus, and all His love, kindness, generosity, humility, and holiness, we should remind ourselves that He was an illustration of all that God meant for us to be. When we compare ourselves to Him, we can clearly see we have fallen short of God’s intentions for our lives.

Prayer Emphasis: Avoid the temptation to compare yourself to others. **Remind** yourself that God’s divine standard is the perfect life lived by His only begotten Son. **Humble** yourself before Him and thank Him for your salvation! **Kingdom Policy Number Eighty-Seven:** *We all fall short of the divine standard set for us by Christ Jesus.*

Day 8: Romans 3:24-4:3

“Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.” (Romans 3:24-25)

“Justified!”

Just as surely as all people are sinners, all people who believe on Jesus for salvation are justified freely by God’s grace through the redemption that was purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. Paul used this verb “justified” 22 times in his letter to the Romans. It is a word that clearly indicated that one had been declared to be righteous or innocent. It does not imply that the evidence of one’s own life has *proven* them to be innocent. However, it does declare the sacrifice of God’s own Son has paid our sin debt and allowed God to *pronounce* us innocent! Allow this thought to sink in: Justified does not simply mean that we have been found “not guilty.” It goes much farther than that. It states that we are righteous before God and He sees no sin in us whatsoever! An old preacher once explained the term “justified” by saying: “Justified means that God sees me ‘*Just if I’d*’ never sinned!” Through the blood of Christ, God *cancel*s our sin debt and then *credits* us with the very righteousness of His perfect Son! Verse 25 clearly teaches that Christ became our atoning sacrifice.

Prayer Emphasis: Make much of your salvation today! **Praise** God for the love that would send His own Son to die for us. **Ask** God to allow you to see yourself as He sees you. **Kingdom Policy Number Eighty-Eight:** *The blood of Christ has allowed us to be made righteous, holy, and innocent in the sight of God.*

Day 9: Romans 4:4-15

“*Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.*” (Romans 4:7)

The Example of David

David’s praise and appreciation for God’s amazing ability to forgive is sighted in these verses. David sinned against God and his fellow man in several ways. He paid a dear price for his personal indulgences and suffered greatly for his sins. However, when he turned to God in genuine repentance, he received forgiveness and believed that his sins were “covered.” This verse is the only place where this Greek word was ever used in the New Testament. It is a word that means to be completely covered over or hidden. David considered himself “blessed” because God covered his sin and would never “impute” (count) it against him (v. 8). Paul makes it clear that the promises to Abraham and David are not for the Jews only. Abraham was credited with righteousness *before* his circumcision and not *because* of it! Circumcision was an outward sign of the great work that God had done in Abraham. Verse 11 clearly states that Abraham was declared to be righteous before he performed any good work or spiritual deed and that he is the father of all who *believe*. There is only one way of salvation for all, and that is the way of faith. The law was not given to *save* us, but to *steer* us toward the One who would cover our sins with His righteousness.

Prayer Emphasis: Refuse to allow Satan to deceive you into thinking that you are the one exception to God’s rule. **Believe** that God loves you and will save you from your sins! **Kingdom Policy Number Eighty-Nine:** *It is by God’s grace that we are saved, and our sins are “covered”!*

Day 10: Romans 4:16-25

“*Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all...who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.*” (Romans 4:16)

Abraham, “The Father of Us All”

Through faith, all people can become the spiritual descendants of Abraham! We should trace our family tree through our spiritual ancestry and not our physical ancestry. By faith, we are born into God’s family and made direct heirs of all His promises. When you read the promises that God made to Abraham in Genesis 17 you can clearly see that God had the people of Canaan in mind when He promised salvation by faith. Romans 4:17 clearly identifies Abraham as the father of believing Jews and Gentiles alike. Just as surely as the promised son, Isaac, was born well after Abraham and Sarah had the physical power to produce an offspring, so are we born into the kingdom through the supernatural providence of God. Isaac was born “contrary to hope” (v. 18), nevertheless, he was born! Long after the “hope” of Abraham and Sarah had grown weak, God’s promises remained strong. Faith kept Abraham from wavering and allowed him to accept God’s promises as they were stated to him. It is our faith alone that will keep us strong in our spiritual lives. We must constantly claim God’s promises as we read His Word and allow it to do its work in our hearts. When we do this, we will, like Abraham, find ourselves “giving glory to God” (v. 20).

Prayer Emphasis: Remember to continually see your personal salvation as a miraculous gift from a loving and gracious God. Never forget that our salvation was purchased at the price of God giving His only begotten Son. **Kingdom Policy Number Ninety:** *Through Christ, every Christian can have complete confidence in God’s promises.*

Day 11: Romans 5:1-11

“Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith...and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” (Romans 5:1-2)

“Peace”

Through faith we have been “justified” and that allows us to have “peace with God.” This peace is not merely a peace of mind. It literally means we are at “peace with God” because we have entered into a new relationship with Him. We were once at enmity with Him (see verse 10) and now we are at “peace” with Him. Verse 2 tells us that our faith has granted us “access” into the presence of God, and there is no longer any separation between us and our Creator. However, notice that our “peace with God” is “through our Lord Jesus Christ.” You can rest assured that Jesus is the central figure in God’s great redemption plan that has moved us from being condemned by the “all have sinned” of Romans 3:23 and made us a part of the “we” of Romans 5:1! Because of this, we can “rejoice” even in our sufferings. One of the reasons that we “rejoice” in our tribulations is because we know they are part of God’s perfecting process for the believer. Look again at verses three through five and see how suffering leads to hope! It has been said that, if one could place a hand on the front and back covers of their Bible and push them together, compressing all of God’s Word into one statement, that statement would be the last four words of Romans 5:8: “Christ died for us”!

Prayer Emphasis: Ask yourself, “Am I really at peace with God?” **Trust** Him enough to **allow** Him to turn your sufferings and trials into hope, peace, and joy. **Kingdom Policy Number Ninety-One:** *God never fails or disappoints those who place their trust in Him!*

Day 12: Romans 5:12-21

“Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men...even so through one Man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.” (Romans 5:18)

Adam vs. Christ

Paul sets a definite contrast between our earthly father, Adam, and our spiritual redeemer, Christ. Verse 12 begins with “Therefore.” The literal meaning for that word is, “because of this.” This transitional word indicates that the comparison Paul is about to make between Adam and Jesus is to allow us to see *what* God has saved us *from* and *Who* He has saved us *through*! Through Adam came sin, condemnation, and death (v. 12). Through Jesus came justification and life that was offered to “all men” (v. 18). This does not mean “all men” *will* be saved, but it does mean “all men” *could* be saved if they would only come to Christ! Through Adam’s “disobedience many were made sinners” but through our Lord’s “obedience many will be made righteous” (v. 19). However, we are wise to remember that, even though we have a spiritual inheritance in Christ, we are still living in a body that we have inherited from Adam. Thus, the conflict between “law” and “grace” (v. 20) begins! The law cannot bring redemption. It was never designed to do so. The law was given to stress our need for redemption – and it does a really good job of that!

Prayer Emphasis: **Review** your day and **ask yourself**, “Who did I most resemble today, Adam or Christ?” **Accept** the fact that you, because of the cross, now stand righteous before God! **Commit** to being more like Jesus than Adam. **Kingdom Policy Number Ninety-Two:** *For the believer, the answer to every “how” question about our spirituality is, “Through Jesus Christ our Lord” (v. 21)!*

Day 13: Romans 6:1-14

“Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.” (Romans 6:12)

Sanctification 101

Today’s preaching tends to “shun” the “tion” words! In the earlier chapters of Romans, Paul carefully explained “redemption” and “justification.” He is now going to begin an explanation of “sanctification.” This discussion will continue through chapter eight. The progression here is consistent with every story of the Bible. Man must first understand and accept redemption and justification before he can ever understand (much less experience) sanctification. Unfortunately, many try to start their walk with God at the sanctification level and soon give up in complete and total frustration! For those who have been redeemed (bought back) from the slave block of sin, and justified by the blood of Jesus, being sanctified (literally – “set apart for service”) is the most obvious option. Chapter six deals with our being “sanctified” (set apart) from sin and death. Paul explains that we “died to sin” (v. 2), were “buried,” then “raised” (resurrected) to live a new life in Christ (v. 4)! Imagine that! The Gospel of Jesus is to be lived out through those whom He has saved through His own death, burial, and resurrection. Sanctification is the process that moves us from being like Adam to being more like Jesus.

Prayer Emphasis: Memorize Romans 6:12! **Write** it out on a card and put it in your pocket or purse. **Keep** it with you and refer to it every time you are tempted to allow the flesh to control your life! **Kingdom Policy Number Ninety-Three:** *Believers are not doomed to be slaves to sin!*

Day 14: Romans 6:15-23

“But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart...And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” (Romans 6:17-18)

Who Are You Serving?

Some believers were concerned that Paul’s teaching on grace would lead believers to think they could live any way they wanted without consequences. After all, if God, by grace, has completely forgiven us and made us righteous before Him (“redemption” and “justification”) then what would keep people from thinking they did not need to live in a new and different way (“sanctification”)? Paul’s response was to explain that redemption, justification, and sanctification will direct those who have experienced them to a path of committed service to Christ. This commitment is a result of a heart decision to be obedient to the things that we are taught from the Word of God (v. 17). Few believers ever become committed *servants* of Christ without first becoming committed *students* of the Word! After all, aren’t Christ and the Word one and the same? How can we ignore God’s Word without also ignoring God’s Son? Verse 20 speaks of what we *were*: “Slaves of sin.” Verse 22 speaks of what we *are*: “Free from sin” and “slaves of God!” Verse 23 explains the wage plan for all servants. Those who serve sin, and the flesh, will receive “death” (eternal separation from God) while those who follow the path of redemption, justification, and sanctification will receive “eternal life” through Jesus Christ!

Prayer Emphasis: Do not stop at just being saved. **Press on** and be a servant of Christ! **Kingdom Policy Number Ninety-Four:** *Salvation frees us from a life controlled by sin and motivates us to a life committed to service!*

Day 15: Romans 7:1-13

“Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another – to Him who was raised from the dead...” (Romans 7:4)

Sanctification 201

In Sanctification 101 (Romans 6), we learned that we are saved from sin’s *control*. In Sanctification 201, we will learn that we are also saved from sin’s *condemnation*. Most believers are very familiar with Romans 8:1, “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.” That is a wonderful truth, but the “therefore” reminds us that the statement is based on something that was previously said. That something is the wonderful truth found here in Romans 7! The focus of these verses is to help us understand that *death dissolves legal obligations*. People do not prosecute dead people. They do not sue them, nor do they put them in prison. They certainly do not execute them for their past transgressions. Verse four contains a very important truth. It states that we, as believers, have “become dead to the law through the body of Christ.” As such, Paul concludes that, when Christ died on the cross for us, our obligation (sin debt) to the law died there with Him. Read Romans 6:6-8 again and circle the words that indicate we died with Christ and we have now been made free from sin and its binding obligations.

Prayer Emphasis: Refuse to accept the guilt, shame, and condemnation Satan will try to place on you. **Know** that you have been made free from your sin debt, and its control over your life. **Say** “Thank you!” to Jesus today. **Kingdom Policy Number Ninety-Five:** *Believers are to live free of sin’s control and condemnation.*

Day 16: Romans 7:14-25

“For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.” (Romans 7:15)

Constant Conflict

Like Paul, we are often very critical of ourselves. We have some good things that we know that we desire to do for God, but we seem to fall short of getting them done. We have wrong things in our lives that we say we are never going to do again, and then, sadly, we find ourselves doing them. We, like Paul, can offer no acceptable explanation for our failures. We, like him, have to say, “I do not understand!” Here is a simple explanation for the constant conflict that every Christian experiences. Salvation does not mean God has fixed our old nature. Every Christian still sins. However, salvation does mean we have been given a new nature. That new nature has no appetite for sin. As such, we have an old nature that desires to appease the old man and the flesh, but we also have a new nature that desires to please God. This goes both ways. We have a new nature that desires to please God, but at the same time it aggravates the flesh. The result? We are in a constant struggle to do that which we know to be spiritual and good. And what complicates things even further is that, even when we are doing good things, our old nature is right there with us trying to taint our efforts with such things as pride and selfish ambition (v. 21)!

Prayer Emphasis: Remember that we are not just saved *from* sin, but that we are saved *to* a life of service to Jesus Christ. **Kingdom Policy Number Ninety-Six:** *Believers must focus on what Christ wants us to become in Him and make sure that the new nature is nourished and growing!*

Day 17: Romans 8:1-12

“He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” (Romans 8:3b-4)

Sanctification 301

The Holy Spirit dominates this chapter of the Bible – and rightfully so! If Sanctification 101 and 201 taught us that we could be free from *sin’s* control, then this graduate level of study on sanctification (Romans 8) will teach us how we can live under the *Spirit’s* control. It is important for us to review and understand that sanctification is about our *service* and not our *salvation*. Paul’s struggles in Romans six and seven were not about being saved. In fact, if Paul had not been saved, he would have never had that inner conflict going on in his life! However, since he was saved, God’s Spirit now lived in him and was leading him to live in a way that would bring honor and glory to Christ. As the latter part of Romans 8:4 states, Paul was to no longer live “according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.” As Christians, we understand that we cannot please God without being in harmony with the indwelling Holy Spirit. When we allow God’s Spirit to lead our every step, we are going to learn to walk in ways that please God. When we listen more to our old nature (the flesh), we are going to lead lives that are more in harmony with the sin than with God. In verse 12, Paul reminds us that we, as believers, are “debtors” not to the old nature, but unto God.

Prayer Emphasis: Pray much about your daily walk. **Seek** to be a witness for God’s glory in all that you think, say, and do. **Kingdom Policy Number Ninety-Seven:** *Obedient and joyful believers walk in harmony with the Spirit and not the flesh.*

Day 18: Romans 8:13-23

“...eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.” (Romans 8:23b)

“Adoption”

The Greek word translated “adoption” in Romans 8:23 is also translated “adoption” in verse 15. This word is used sparingly in the New Testament – only five times in all, with three of those times being in Romans. Paul is the only New Testament writer to use this term. Perhaps the best way to understand the way this word is used in the first two places in Romans is to understand how it is used in the third, and final, place that it is found in the book. In Romans 9:4, Paul speaks of Israel and uses this word to describe the special place that was given to that nation as the chosen people of God. This helps us to understand more about our own relationship with Christ. We have been adopted by our heavenly Father because He has chosen us in Christ. This means we have been granted membership into the divine family. With that membership comes all the privileges of sonship. However, just as our adoption brings *privileges*, it also brings *responsibilities*. As such, we must learn to share in His sufferings as well as in His glory. In fact, if we are not willing to share in His sufferings, we will not share in His glory. In verse 18, Paul compared his present suffering to his future reward in heaven and found there to be no comparison between the two. He looked with anticipation to the day that he would be fully, and finally, redeemed to live with God in his new, spiritual body.

Prayer Emphasis: Examine your spiritual life to see if you value privileges above responsibilities. **Commit** to an area of service in the church and fulfill it. **Kingdom Policy Number Ninety-Eight:** *As God’s children, Christians are to accept family responsibilities as eagerly as they accept family privileges.*

Day 19: Romans 8:24-34

“For we were saved in this hope...” (Romans 8:24a)

Hope and Help

The word “hope” is found in today’s 11 verses five times! We know that we are saved “by grace” (Ephesians 2:8), but here we see that salvation brings hope to the heart of the believer. Hope is an outgrowth of our salvation and a very important part of our Christian service. Our hope is found in the help that God provides for us through His Holy Spirit (v. 26). In verse 23, we saw that believers sometimes “groan.” Now, in verse 26, we read where the Holy Spirit groans for us. Verse 27 indicates that the Holy Spirit searches our hearts and intercedes for us even when we cannot find the words to express our needs and desires in prayer. We find help and hope in the promise that, “all things work together for the good to those who love God” (v. 28). We are told that God has predestined us to be conformed to the likeness of His Son. Here we learn that predestination has much to do with our Christian service – that which comes *after* salvation. God has provided every help that we need to succeed in the Christian life and all the hope that we need to be sustained along the way. Based on this truth, in verse 31, Paul asks, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” If God would give His own Son to *save us*, then why would He ever withhold from us what we need to *serve Him*?

Prayer Emphasis: Memorize Romans 8:28 and meditate on it daily! **Ask** the Holy Spirit to help you express your deepest needs to God. **Allow** God’s Spirit and Word to give you hope as you live for Him. **Kingdom Policy Number Ninety-Nine:** *God’s plan is for every believer to be like Jesus – and He provides us all that we need to accomplish that plan.*

Day 20: Romans 8:35-9:7

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” (Romans 8:37)

“More than Conquerors”

Paul asks five questions in Romans 8:32-35 and then provides the answers for each question. There is no need for the believer to ever worry about what God is going to do. God wants all Christians to understand that suffering does not separate us from Christ. In fact, He wants us to understand that suffering is sometimes used as a tool to draw us even closer to Him. Paul quotes Psalm 44:22 to show that God’s people have always suffered for their faith. However, our suffering is in no way an indication that God is not with us – helping us in every way! Paul reminds us that there is absolutely nothing that can take us outside the reach of our loving God! Think about the things that we have read in Romans 8. Verse 1 reminded us that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. Verse 12 reminded us that we have no obligation to obey the flesh and its desires. Verse 39 reminds us that there is no separation from Christ – regardless of our circumstances! Beginning in Chapter nine, Paul is going to teach some biblical lessons from Israel’s spiritual history. In chapters 9, 10, and 11, he is going to talk about Israel’s past, present, and future, respectively. In the first part of chapter nine, he reviews many of the ways that Israel has been blessed by God. However, in verse seven he makes it clear that everyone, Jew and Gentile alike, must be born again to be a true child of God.

Prayer Emphasis: Refuse to worry when things get tough. **Know** that God is always with you. **Believe** that God has made you a conqueror and live like one! **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred:** *Nothing separates us from God and His love!*

Day 21: Romans 9:8-18

“...but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.” (Romans 9:8)

“The Children of the Promise”

The Jews were going to have to come to a sobering conclusion: being a physical descendant of Abraham was not enough for salvation. To be included in those who were considered “the children of the promise,” they were going to have to be born again. To help his readers understand that salvation was not based on good works, Paul was led to use the illustration of the children of Rebecca. It was before they were “born” or had “done any good or evil” that God’s “election” was made (v. 11). Therefore, we know that God did not base His choice on merit or good works. The last words of that verse are powerful: “Not of *works*, but of *Him* who calls.” By this, we clearly see that our relationship with God is not based on *performance*, but on a *Person!* When you read these verses carefully, you see that this “election” is not even about *salvation*, but *service*. It was about Jacob being chosen over Esau as far as the continuation of the lineage was concerned. In verse 13, the word “hated” does not imply that God did not love Esau. Clearly Esau’s natural father loved him dearly – and we can be assured that God loved him, too! The fact that God chose Jacob over Esau in no way implies that God did not love Esau or that Esau, or his descendants, could not be saved.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank God for His call to salvation *and* to service! **Refuse** to believe that there is one person in this world that God does not love or that Jesus did not die for! **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-One:** *Our call to salvation and service is based on mercy and not merit!*

Day 22: Romans 9:19-29

“But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why have you made me like this?’ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?” (Romans 9:20-21)

A Good Question

Verse 19 begins another series of questions that Paul must have anticipated his readers would ask. The central question regarding God’s callings is found in verse 21, “Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?” A potter might use the same pile of clay to make one vessel that was to be used in some decorative way (like a beautiful vase) and some from the same pile to be used in some more practical way (like a water pot). Paul is reasoning that it is the same with God’s callings for service and His divine purposes for different people. We are not to complain about God’s sovereign choices, whether past, present, or future! God had every right to choose Jacob over Esau – and we have no right to question His choice. Paul then quotes from Hosea and Isaiah to support his statement. He wanted his readers to understand that God is a loving God who forgives and restores those who are not His people so that He, based on mercy and not merit, can make them His own. The important point here is that God loves Jews and Gentiles alike and that He calls whom He chooses and appoints them to whatever place of service He desires.

Prayer Emphasis: **Refuse** to question God and surrender your life to His authority. Serve him in whatever role He chooses for you. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Two:** *Believers are to never question God’s authority or sovereignty.*

Day 23: Romans 9:30-10:4

“Brethren, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.” (Romans 10:1)

Israel’s Real Problem

Romans 9:30 begins with a question. Paul asks, “What shall we say then?” It is interesting to note that this is the fifth time that he introduced a new topic of discussion with this question, or one very similar to it (see 4:1; 6:1; 8:31; and 9:14). He then spoke about the Gentiles obtaining righteousness by faith while the Jews were still seeking to find righteousness through the keeping of the law. Israel’s real problem was that if they were to obtain righteousness by keeping the law, then they would have to keep it perfectly. They had not sought righteousness “by faith, but as if it were, by the works of the law” (v. 32). Thus, the Cornerstone became a stumbling block for Israel because the Jews *rejected* the gospel while the Gentiles *responded* to it by faith. Paul explained the reason for Israel’s stumbling. It was because they were zealous for God, but their zeal was not according to knowledge. I think Paul could clearly understand their situation because he had been such a zealot himself before he met the Lord on his way to Damascus. Some sought to establish their own righteousness by keeping the law and therein rejected the righteousness provided through Christ Jesus. It is obvious that Paul loved his fellow Jews and desired that they would accept the gospel and be saved.

Prayer Emphasis: Pray for the salvation of someone that you know. **Seek** an opportunity to share the gospel with them. **Let** them know how much you care about them and **seek** to be a good witness to them. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Three:** *No one can obtain righteousness through the keeping of the Law.*

Day 24: Romans 10:5-15

“...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

“Righteous—By Faith”

Any righteousness that was obtained by keeping the Law would be a result of human achievement and not by God’s grace. If one had to keep the law perfectly to be righteous, then he could never know with any certainty that he was saved because he could not know how he might react to temptation at some future time. Paul’s quoting of Deuteronomy 30:14 (v.8) is an indicator that Moses never taught that a man was saved by the keeping of the Law. The purpose of the Law was to *reveal* man’s need for salvation, not to *provide* it. The words found in Romans 10:6-8 are based on what is found in Deuteronomy 30:12-14. Blessings were promised to those who were obedient to God while chastisement was promised to those who were disobedient. The same is true with the gospel. One either obeys God’s call to repentance and is blessed with salvation or disobeys God by rejecting the gospel. The latter decision would lead to damnation that could be blamed only on that individual. Salvation involves an inward belief (“in your heart”) and an outward confession (“with your mouth”). There was to be no distinction made between Jew and Gentile. If the Jews were going to be saved, then they were going to have to reject their self-made pursuit of righteousness, accept God’s one way of salvation, and simply call on the name of the Lord to be saved.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank God for allowing you to clearly see His plan of salvation. **Recognize** that it is only by God’s divine grace that you have come to know Jesus and all His wonderful blessings. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Four:** *There is only one way to salvation for all, Jew and Gentile alike.*

Day 25: Romans 10:16-11:6

“God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew...” (Romans 11:2)

No Excuses!

We know some Jews believed the gospel and accepted Jesus as Savior. When Romans 10:16 states, “But they have not all obeyed the gospel” it is saying that Israel, as a nation, rejected Jesus and denied He was who He claimed to be. But why was that the case? What excuse could they possibly offer the Lord when they would have to stand before Him? Could they say they had not heard? No! Paul quotes Psalm 19:4 to refute that reasoning. Could they claim they did not understand? No again! Paul quotes from Moses (Deuteronomy 32:21) and Isaiah 65:1 to disallow that excuse. Paul then quoted Isaiah 65:2 to prove that God reached out to Israel only to find them to be a disobedient people who would not come to Him on His terms. In 11:1 Paul asks, “Has God cast away His people?” The answer was, “Certainly not!” It was Israel that rejected God. However, there would prove to be a remnant that would be faithful to believe that the only way to God was on *His* terms – that being, by grace and grace alone! There has never been, nor ever will be, any other way to come to God.

Prayer Emphasis: Review your various excuses for not being fully committed to God. Consider the cross, and God’s love for you, and then try to explain your excuses to Him. Move from the realm of “thinking about it” to “being busy” at doing the things God wants you to do! **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Five:** *There is no good excuse for the lost to not be saved or for the saved to not be serving.*

Day 26: Romans 11:7-18

“I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.” (Romans 11:11)

A Very Long Time!

Paul believed in giving credit where credit was due. He recognized that the Jews sought God, even though they pursued Him through a performance-based plan of their own making. For many of the Jews, their sad condition could not be attributed to a lack of effort! In verse eight, Paul refers to Isaiah 29:10 where the prophet said that Israel was in “a deep sleep” and then Paul added that they were still in that spirit “to this very day.” The first 30 chapters of Isaiah were written somewhere around 701 BC, and Paul wrote this letter to the Romans somewhere around 57 AD. That means that, for at least a period of almost 800 years, Israel had been banging their heads against the hard wall of the law while trying to earn their own way to God! That, my friends, is a very long time! However, 800 years was not time enough to extend beyond the reach of God’s grace! Look at the question in the first part of verse 11. Paul asks, “Have they stumbled that they should fall?” Then look at the Holy Spirit’s immediate answer, “Certainly not!” Israel’s “fall” mentioned in the later part of the verse refers to their rejection of the gospel. To reject Christ and the pardon that He purchased, is the one, and only, unpardonable sin.

Prayer Emphasis: Review your life and recognize that time is passing swiftly. Consider all the things that you have been thinking, talking, and praying about doing for God on that magical “someday” and get busy getting them done! **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Six:** *God never gives up on His people, and it is never too late to surrender to His will!*

Day 27: Romans 11:19-31

“And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in...” (Romans 11:23)

“Grafted In”

How supernatural is our salvation? In the last part of yesterday’s verses, and the first part of today’s, Paul uses the illustration of the olive tree to help us understand just how thankful we should be that we are saved and that we have been “grafted in” and made a part of God’s kingdom (v.23). The olive tree is used to represent God and His holy Word. The natural “branches” (v. 17) represent Israel, the people to whom God’s Word was first given and with whom God first made a covenant relationship. The “wild olive tree” (v. 17) represents the Gentiles. A very important phrase is found in verse 24, that being, “contrary to nature.” Typically, shoots were removed so the tree would not have to compete with them for nourishment. When the “natural” branches (Israel) refused to fulfill their covenant relationship with God the “wild” branches, or shoots were grafted in and made a part of the tree. However, this grafting was not based on any merit on the part of the Gentiles, but because of Israel’s unbelief. There was to be no boasting on the part of the Gentiles. Even though Israel refused to keep its covenant promises, God never failed from His end. His promises are said to be “irrevocable” (v. 29). As a result of God’s faithfulness, Israel will ultimately be saved.

Prayer Emphasis: Consider how much God loves you! **Thank** Him for the fact that you are a part of His family. **Pray** for Israel today and for the salvation of someone you know. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Seven:** *Being born again means that we are God’s children and heirs to all His promises.*

Day 28: Romans 11:32-12:5

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!” (Romans 11:33)

“Unsearchable”

The thought of God’s love for all people, Jew and Gentile alike, caused Paul to begin to praise the Lord for His mercy and goodness. The riches of His wisdom and knowledge are said to be “unsearchable.” By that, Paul is simply saying there is no bottom or end to the love and mercy of God! The last verse of chapter 11 is a key to understanding what we are going to learn in chapter 12. All things are *of* Him and *through* Him, so every life should be committed *to* Him! All things should be for God’s glory! Chapter 12 begins a practical application as to how every saved person can contribute to the glory that is due God. We should be willing to present ourselves to God as living sacrifices. Just like the ceremonial offerings of old, the presenting of our lives to God is a form of “service” (12:1). As God’s born-again Christians, our lives are not to conform to the pattern of this world, but to be transformed by allowing God to change the way we think. We are not to think of ourselves as some second choice that God made after Israel’s rejection of the gospel. We are to see ourselves as God’s children and just as much a part of His great plan as Israel. At this point, God begins to refer to His followers as a “body” that is to be completely transformed and dedicated to Him (v. 4).

Prayer Emphasis: Read God’s Word faithfully and, as you read, ask Him to change the way you think and to give you a *new mind* that is more compatible to your *new life*! **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Eight:** *We can only change the way we live by allowing God to change the way that we think.*

Day 29: Romans 12:6-16

“Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophecy in proportion to our faith.” (Romans 12:6)

“Gifts”

Applying what he just said about all believers being a part of God’s body, Paul reveals how we are to “present” our “bodies” as “a living sacrifice” (See 12:1). Every Christian is to use their God-given abilities (spiritual gifts) in spiritual service to Christ and His church. We are to serve the Lord by serving one another. This service should be motivated by love, which will cause us to think more about the needs of others and less about ourselves. Verse 11 clearly teaches us that when we are serving one another, we are “serving the Lord.” When we serve the Lord, our lives are filled with rejoicing, patience, and consistency (v. 12). We will also exhibit generosity and “hospitality” toward others (v. 13). In addition, we will be empowered to live out our Lord’s command (Matthew 5:44) to love and be a blessing to even our enemies (v.14). That is not all. By serving one another, we learn how to relate to people in all situations and better understand how to meet their needs (v. 15). Perhaps best of all, we become “of the same mind” with one another (v. 16). God desires for every believer to do their part, with every part serving Him, and all things being done for His glory! Now that is a gift in itself!

Prayer Emphasis: Value the ministries of others. **Express** appreciation to someone who serves in a different ministry than yours today. **Pray** for all our church volunteers and workers on a regular basis. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Nine:** *God is glorified when His people serve one another because they love one another.*

Day 30: Romans 12:17-13:8

“Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.” (Romans 12:17-18)

“It Is Possible”

The verses we read yesterday dealt with the way believers are to lovingly serve one another while the verses we read today deal with the way believers are to relate to unbelievers. We are to “repay no one evil,” even when we are treated in an evil way (v. 17). We are to “have regard for good things in the sight of all men,” whether believers or unbelievers (v. 17). If there is any way we can possibly do so, we are to live at peace with all people. This means the saved and unsaved alike. However, it goes even further than that. As the Scripture states, we are to feed our enemies when they are hungry and give them something to drink when they are thirsty. In other words, we are to leave such things as judgment and revenge to God. When we do this, we will learn the great truth that is found in Romans 12:21, and we will accomplish great things for God. As Christians, we are to be good citizens and respect the laws of the land (13:1-7). The only debt we should owe to anyone is to love them in the way that God has commanded (13:8). God certainly seems to indicate that “it is possible” to do these things (12:18).

Prayer Emphasis: Live out the Golden Rule every day! **Treat** others as you would want to be treated. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Ten:** *Believers are to exhibit love to all people and not just their fellow Christians.*

Day 31: Romans 13:9-14:4

“Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” (Romans 13:10)

The Importance of Showing Love

Paul continued his discourse on the role believers are to play within society by stating there is a lot of Bible preaching done when Christians love their neighbor and treat them the way they should be treated. There is a whole lot of John 3:16 to be found in being kind to those who are experiencing difficult situations in life. You cannot help but notice that Paul quoted three of the “Shall Not” commandments in this illustration (v. 9) before moving on to what love “does” and “is” (v. 10). Verses 11-14 help us understand that the coming of the end of this age should serve to motivate us to get around to all those good things we have been thinking about doing. The brevity of life is understood in the usage of the word “night” and then, “day” (v.12). The kind of love that motivates us to do good to others is the kind of love that will help us overcome the desire to live and act in ways that are displeasing to God and to live in ways that are pleasing to the Lord Jesus. Accordingly, the first verses in chapter 14 serve to remind us that we are not to judge others in matters of diet and other observances of the ceremonial laws. Such “disputes” (Romans 14:1) are not reason enough to become judgmental or to break fellowship with other believers.

Prayer Emphasis: Do something good for someone today. **Express** God’s love to someone by rendering an act of kindness. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Eleven:** *Believers preach the gospel by what they do and not just by what they say.*

Day 32: Romans 14:5-17

“One person esteems one day above another; another esteems every day alike...” (Romans 14:5)

Differing Opinions

Yesterday, we read a warning against being judgmental toward those who hold differing opinions regarding ceremonial, dietary laws. Today, we read about those who hold differing opinions on the Sabbath or Holy Days. A key to understanding these verses is found in the last part of verse five: “Let each be fully convinced in his own mind.” Which position a person took on what day to worship did not seem to matter to Paul. If they believed they should worship on the Sabbath and on the Holy Days, then let them do it. You would not have to follow him around for too long before learning that he, like the apostles and early church in Acts, worshipped God on all days! It seems Paul was convinced that you could not pick a *wrong* day to worship and serve God! All days are to be dedicated to God and should be filled with service to Him. When we begin to judge others, we should allow the Holy Spirit to remind us that, “Every knee shall bow” before God and “every tongue shall confess to God” (v. 11). God is the one to whom every person will ultimately answer. Be assured that, “each of us shall give account of *himself* to God” (v. 12). Believing that should be enough to convince us that we should cease from being too judgmental of others. Besides, believers are to do everything possible to avoid becoming “a stumbling block” to others, especially new believers (v. 13).

Prayer Emphasis: Draw an imaginary circle on the floor and get in it. **Ask** God to deal with the person in the circle and leave the judging of others to Him alone. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Twelve:** *Pay attention to your own actions and trust God to pay attention to the actions of others.*

Day 33: Romans 14:18-15:6

“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace...” (Romans 14:19)

“Pursue”

As believers, it should be our consuming desire to do what leads to peaceful relationships with our fellow Christians and to live in ways that result in other believers being strengthened. The fellowship of God’s people should not be disrupted because of differing opinions on what foods should be eaten or avoided. There is much freedom for the believer in these matters, but much responsibility accompanies that freedom. It is better for stronger believers to forfeit some of their freedom if doing so will prevent younger, or weaker, believers from stumbling. If you have questions in your own heart about something, then it is best to avoid the questionable thing or activity altogether. Strong Christians know how to put the needs of others before their own. Each of us should be constantly considering the needs of our “neighbor” (whether saved or not) and taking care to live in ways that will be a positive witness of our faith in Christ (15:2). Memorize the first part of Romans 15:3: “For even Christ did not please Himself.” When we begin to live unselfishly, we begin to “be like-minded” (v. 5) and to “glorify...God” (v. 6).

Prayer Emphasis: Resist the temptation to make life more about you than others. **Defeat** that seed of selfishness that draws you toward thinking about *you* and what *you* want or need. **Focus** on the needs of others and **trust** your needs to God. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Thirteen:** *We are never being more like Christ than when we are unselfish in our actions.*

Day 34: Romans 15:7-19

“Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God.” (Romans 15:7)

A Big Challenge

Our focus verse reveals something we are to do and how God would have us do it. When we “receive one another,” we are to do so in the same way Christ “received” us. When we obey this command, we bring glory to God. For some it may be difficult to refer to Christ as “a servant” (v. 8), but that is the very word He often used to describe Himself. Like Christ, Paul made himself a servant to Jews and Gentiles alike. He used several quotes from the Old Testament to prove that God’s redemption plan always included all people from all races and nationalities. When we learn to love all people, and to allow God to love them through us, then “the God of hope (will) fill (us) with all joy and peace in believing,” and we will soon “abound in hope by the power of the Spirit of God” (v. 13). Paul considered it an honor to preach the gospel to the Gentiles and to teach them truths from God’s Word that would empower them to be the kind of sacrificial believers he encouraged them to become back in chapter 12. When people live in accordance with the Word of God and the leadership of the Holy Spirit of God, then the life they offer for God becomes acceptable to Him and God can accomplish great things through them. Paul never forgot that it was, “by the power of the Holy Spirit” that he “fully preached the gospel of Christ” (v. 19).

Prayer Emphasis: Consider the way Christ has loved you and then treat others accordingly. **Be** strong enough to make yourself a servant to others. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Fourteen:** *We are never more like Christ Jesus than when we are serving others.*

Day 35: Romans 15:20-33

“And so I have made it my aim to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build on another man’s foundation.” (Romans 15:20)

Paul’s “Aim”

Paul stated that he made it his “aim” (ambition) to carry the gospel to places and people that had never heard it before. Even though he often quoted from Isaiah, Moses, and Jeremiah, it seems as if Paul adopted the last part of Isaiah 52:15 as his life verse (see Romans 15:21). It seems Isaiah’s words became his personal Mission Statement. He stated that his desire to carry the gospel to unreached peoples often hindered him from spending as much time as he might have desired with the established churches and his fellow believers (v. 22). When you read verse 23, you almost stand in awe of Paul’s statement that there was no longer “a place in these parts” where he had not carried the gospel. This does not imply that everyone alive at Paul’s time had heard him preach, but it does imply that he had fulfilled his personal mission statement of carrying the gospel to every Gentile nation within his reach. What was Paul going to do with his spare time? He was already on his way to Jerusalem to deliver a contribution that the Christians in Macedonia and Achai collected for the church there (vs. 25-26).

Prayer Emphasis: Review your own personal, spiritual ambitions. Set a goal to **witness** to someone for Christ in the very near future and **prepare** yourself for that task. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Fifteen:** *Christians should be ambitious in their desire to reach people for Christ.*

Day 36: Romans 16:1-15

“Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.” (Romans 16:3-4)

Personal Greetings

As you read the closing verses in Romans, notice how well Paul seemed to know the many people who are mentioned in this closing chapter. When I read these verses, I can only conclude that Paul, like Jesus, knew his sheep by name and had a personal concern for each of them. Some believe that Phoebe was probably the person who delivered Paul’s letter to the Christians at Rome. She was a servant in the church of a smaller city located just outside of Corinth. Aquila and Priscilla were Paul’s “fellow workers” in many ways (v. 3). Paul joined them in their tent-making business and they, apparently, eventually joined him in the business of preaching the gospel around the world. Read through verse 15 and note again the personal information Paul shares about each one of these dearly beloved people. He knew them, their personal ministries, and their families as well. As you read these expressions of love and appreciation, you can imagine that these people represented the many people with whom the road-weary apostle would have loved to spend more time. There would be time for friends and fellowship when this life was done, and heaven was his home. I think I know a little of how Paul felt. After many years of traveling from church to church, I am so blessed to now have an opportunity to have a home church and many wonderful Christian friends.

Prayer Emphasis: Thank God for your fellow church members today. **Contact** one or some of them and **express** your love and appreciation to them. **Take time** to get to know people. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Sixteen:** *Make and take the time to get to know your fellow believers!*

Day 37: Romans 16:16-27

“To God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.” (Romans 16:27)

Closing Words

You can sense the urgency in Paul’s words as he asks the Christians at Rome to watch out for those who desired to cause division in the church by teaching things that were contrary to what they learned from him and other teachers. His warning was both simple and succinct: “avoid them” (v. 17). It was his opinion that people that caused division in the church did so for selfish reasons. “Smooth words” and “flattering speech” were some of the tools false teachers used to draw people to their way of thinking (v. 18). We would be unwise to think this does not go on in God’s churches today. People have not changed. Personal *ambitions* lead to personal *agendas*, and personal agendas lead to politics in the church. Paul simply encouraged them “to be wise in what is good” and to do the right things toward one another (v. 19). When Christians selflessly serve the Lord, and one another, Satan is ultimately defeated and crushed! How is this possible? Read again the words of verses 25-27 and be reminded that we serve a God “who is able” to do all things. Unto Him, “be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen” (v. 27).

Prayer Emphasis: When it comes to church unity, **commit** to always being a part of the solution and to never being a part of the problem. **Make** maintaining church unity a personal goal. **Refuse** to become used to promote any person’s personal agenda in the church. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Seventeen:** *You cannot spell division without getting a lot of “I’s” involved in it!*

Day 38: Galatians 1:1-10

“I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel.” (Galatians 1:6)

“A Different Gospel”

It has always been difficult for me to understand how so many churches can read from the same Bible and still be so very different. Such is the case when we move from Romans to Galatians. In Romans, we read where Paul asked the Christians there to be tolerant with others that still wanted to celebrate the ceremonial Holy Days and dietary laws of the Old Testament. In Galatians, we find a group who were so adamant about such things that they did not believe you were truly saved if you did not observe certain ceremonial laws. They believed that some of the Old Testament ceremonies were still for the New Testament Church and they were insisting that the new Gentile converts submit to such traditions. In verse six, Paul said, “I marvel” that you are so quick to accept a “different” gospel. There are two Greek words translated “another” or “different” in the New Testament. One means “another of the *same* kind” and the other means “another of a *different* kind.” The word used here, in the original form, is the “different” kind, and that is not a good thing. Any gospel, so called, that requires works for salvation is “a different gospel” of which God does not approve!

Prayer Emphasis: Take a moment and **circle** the word “gospel” whenever you find it in these few chapters. You are going to find that this book is very much about the gospel and the word gospel is the key word to the entire book. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Eighteen:** *Believers are to be committed to making the preaching of the gospel the main business of the church.*

Day 39: Galatians 1:11-24

“But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.” (Galatians 1:11)

Paul’s Defense

Paul began to defend the gospel he preached as the *real version* and not a *perversion*. He stated that it was not “according to man” but that “it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ” (vs. 11-12). The insinuation here is that the gospel, *plus anything*, is something man made up (literally *imagined*) and it is different from the gospel Christ preached and commanded men like Paul to continue preaching. Paul’s defense for the gospel he preached can be divided into three sections: 1) He received his gospel from Christ (vs. 11-14); 2) He had *not* simply heard the gospel from the apostles and began to preach his own version of it (vs. 15-17); 3) The gospel he preached had been readily accepted by the apostles and by other churches (vs. 18-24). It is important to remember that the early church did not immediately accept Paul after his conversion. In fact, Paul “went to Arabia” (v. 17) for some time after his conversion. So, just as men like Moses, Elijah, and John the Baptist did, Paul spent some time alone with God (“three years” v. 18) in training before he began to share the refreshing, life-changing water of the gospel with others.

Prayer Emphasis: **Accept** the gospel as it is. Do not allow church traditions to become more important than reaching the lost. **Never** mix works with grace – to do so will only result in a *disgrace* to what Christ has done for us. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Nineteen:** *Believers are to avoid any version of the gospel that is different from what the Bible teaches.*

Day 40: Galatians 2:1-10

“And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in...to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.” (Galatians 2:4-5)

“The Truth of the Gospel”

Galatians 2:5 is a key verse in today’s reading, and the phrase, “the truth of the gospel” is a key theme throughout this important book. The word that is translated “truth” in this verse is first found in Matthew 22:16 where even the Lord’s enemies had to admit He was “true” and He taught the way of God “in truth.” The “truth” came from the “true” One – Jesus Christ. That is exactly where Paul states he received his gospel, or “truth,” that he was preaching and teaching. In verse 6, Paul declared that his eventual meeting with the apostles did not cause him to add one thing to what he learned directly from the Lord. This is really a positive statement about the apostles. Since their gospel was not different from what Paul learned from Jesus, that meant that these men were still preaching only what they heard from Him as well. It is important to note that the words “uncircumcised” and “circumcised” (v. 7) are translated “Gentiles” and “Jews” in some translations. The “gospel for the uncircumcised” or “circumcised” does not refer to different *gospels* but to different *people*.

Prayer Emphasis: **Surrender** your life to the One who is “true,” and you will be a witness of the “truth.” **Respect** the opinions of others but **know** that the gospel is not subject to any man’s opinion. **Kingdom Policy Number One Hundred-Twenty:** *Believers should respect tradition, but at the same time, they must reject any tradition that begins to take precedent over the one, true gospel.*