

TRUTH THAT TRANSFORMS

ROMANS 11 - 16



This prayer journal is private and belongs to:

How To Use This Devotional Journal

Journaling is a powerful discipline to help you grow in your relationship with God. When we take the time to write down the Word of God with application, it will begin to take root in our hearts. In ancient times with Israel, it was the responsibility of each king to write down a copy of God's laws and apply it in his heart.

In Deuteronomy 17:18-20 (NIV) we read, "When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. ¹⁹ It is to be with him, and he is to **read it** all the days of his life so that he may **learn to revere** the LORD his God and **follow carefully** all the words of this law and these decrees ²⁰ and **not consider himself better** than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel."

I have broken down the Bible passages into smaller sections for you to read. I suggest you read each passage 2-3 times and then write down how each passage applies to your everyday life. Asking questions is a great way to go deeper in your Bible Study. The goal is to go deeper in the Word of God to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. READ one passage each day, REFLECT on what you have read, and then RESPOND by writing a personal prayer that will correlate to the passage you read. Use Saturday as a day to catch up if you need it. Sunday is designed to be a day to worship as a church and discuss any highlights of your week with your family and friends. Remember, knowledge isn't the goal, but rather life application of God's Word that blesses our family, church, and community.

In the back of this booklet there is a Prayer Journal. If you are like me, it is too easy to forget all that God has done and is doing. By keeping a record of your thankfulness and how God answers your prayers, you will see God at work. If you dare to keep a discipline of prayer for 30 days, I believe you will see God bring you on an amazing spiritual journey of His presence and joy.

Pastor Ed Turley
Cornerstone Church of Poway

Outline Of Romans

Adapted from Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary - Romans.

1. The Gospel and God's Righteousness **1:1-17**
2. The World's Need to Get Right With God **1:18-3:20**
 - a) God's Case Against All Ungodliness & Unrighteousness of Men **1:18-23**
 - b) God's Case Against the Moralists: Judgment **2:1-16**
 - c) God's Case Against the Religionist (Jew) **2:17-29**
 - d) The Arguments of the Religionist (Jew) Against a Heart Religion **3:1-8**
 - e) God's Case Against All Men **3:9-20**
3. Justification: The Way for The World to Be Right With God **3:21-5:21**
 - a) Righteousness: The Way to be Right with God **3:21-26**
 - b) Faith: The Way that Puts an End to Self-Righteousness & Works **3:27-31**
 - c) Logic: The Evidence that Faith Alone Makes a Person Right with God **4:1-8**
 - d) Rituals & Rules: The Wrong Way for a Man to Seek Being Right with God **4:9-12**
 - e) The Law: The Wrong Way for a Man to be Right with God **4:13-16**
 - f) Abraham: The Example of a Man Made Right with God **4:17-25**
 - g) The Great Depth of Justification **5:1-11**
 - h) Adam and Christ: The Two Focal Points of History **5:12-21**
4. The Way for The Believer To Be Free From Sin **6:1-23**
 - a) He is to Know His Position in Christ **6:1-10**
 - b) He is to Live Out His Position in Christ **6:11-13**
 - c) He Does Not Have License to Sin **6:14-23**
5. The Believer Is to Be Free from The Law **7:1-25**
 - a) The Two Positions of the Law to Man **7:1-6**
 - b) The Purpose of the Law **7:7-13**
 - c) The Confessions of a Man's Struggling Soul **7:14-25**
6. Deliverance and Redemption By The Spirit **8:1-39**
 - a) The Man in Christ Jesus is Freed from Condemnation **8:1-17**
 - b) The Whole Creation Shall Be Freed from Struggling and Suffering **8:18-27**
 - c) God Assures Deliverance (Freedom) from Struggling & Suffering **8:28-39**

7. Israel and the Gospel of Righteousness **9:1-11:36**
 - a) The Privileges of Israel and Their Tragic Failure **9:1-5**
 - b) The True Children of God **9:6-13**
 - c) God's Right to Show Mercy and Justice as He Wills **9:14-33**
 - d) The Tragic Mistake of Israel: Missing God's Righteousness **10:1-11**
 - e) The Gospel (Righteousness by Faith) is Not for Israel Alone **10:12-21**
 - f) The Callous on Israel's Heart is Not Total—There is a Remnant **11:1-10**
 - g) The Callous on Israel's Heart is Not Final—There is Restoration **11:11-16**
 - h) The Callous on Israel's Heart is a Warning to Other Nations **11:17-24**
 - i) The Restoration of Israel and Its Surety **11:25-36**

8. The Believer and His Daily Behavior **12:1-15:13**
 - a) The Believer and God **12:1-2**
 - b) The Believer and Himself **12:3-8**
 - c) The Believer and Other Believers **12:9-13**
 - d) The Believer and Unbelievers **12:14-21**
 - e) The Believer and the State **13:1-7**
 - f) The Believer and His Fellow Citizens **13:8-10**
 - g) The Believer and the Threat of Time **13:11-14**
 - h) The Strong Believer & the Weak Believer: Christian Liberty **14:1-23**
 - i) The Marks of a Strong Fellowship Within the Church **15:1-13**

9. The Messenger of God And His Plans **15:14-16:27**
 - a) The Messenger of God **15:14-21**
 - b) The Messenger and His Ministry **15:22-33**
 - c) One of God's Halls of Fame **16:1-16**
 - d) Mark Divisive People **16:17-20**
 - e) Paul's Companions **16:21-24**
 - f) God is Able to Establish You **16:25-27**

Prayer Journal For The Book Of Romans

Day 24 _____ / Date

There Is A Remnant Of Israel

Romans 11:1-10 (NLT2)

"I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? **Of course not!** I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin. ² No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning. Do you realize what the Scriptures say about this? Elijah the prophet complained to God about the people of Israel and said, ³ "LORD, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too." ⁴ And do you remember God's reply? He said, "No, I have **7,000 others** who have never bowed down to Baal!" ⁵ It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel **have remained faithful because of God's grace**—his undeserved kindness in choosing them. ⁶ And since it is **through God's kindness, then it is not by their good works**. For in that case, **God's grace** would not be what it really is—**free and undeserved**. ⁷ So this is the situation: Most of the people of Israel have not found the favor of God they are looking for so earnestly.

A few have—the ones God has chosen—but the hearts of the rest were hardened.

⁸ As the Scriptures say, "**God has put them into a deep sleep**. To this day he has shut their eyes so they do not see, and closed their ears so they do not hear."

⁹ Likewise, David said, "Let their bountiful table become a snare, a trap that makes them think all is well. Let their blessings cause them to stumble, and let them get what they deserve. ¹⁰ Let their eyes go blind so they cannot see, and let their backs be bent forever."

Reflect:

Has God rejected the Jews? V.1

On what basis are Paul and the other remnant chosen? V. 5-6

Why does Paul emphasize grace over our works?

Why would trying to earn God's grace be offensive to God?

The MacArthur Study Bible. Because Israel refused to hear her true prophets initially, their ability to hear has been impaired. God gave them up judicially to their own hardness of heart. Paul applied this verse specifically to the general condition of Israel's blindness during the age of the church. Isaiah 29:9-10.

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Ingrafted Branches

Romans 11:11-25 (NLT2)

¹¹ Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were **disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles**. But He wanted his own people **to become jealous and claim it for themselves**. ¹² Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when **they finally accept it**.

¹³ I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, ¹⁴ for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them.

¹⁵ **For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead!** ¹⁶ And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy—just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.

¹⁷ But some of these branches from Abraham's tree—some of the people of Israel—have been **broken off**. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been **grafted in**. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree. ¹⁸ But you must **not brag** about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root. ¹⁹ "Well," you may say, "those branches were broken off to make room for me." ²⁰ Yes, but remember—**those branches were broken off because they didn't believe in Christ, and you are there because you do believe**. So don't think highly of yourself, but fear what could happen. ²¹ For if God **did not spare** the original branches, He won't spare you either.

²² **Notice how God is both kind and severe**. He is **severe toward those who disobeyed**, but **kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness**. **But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off**. ²³ And if the people of Israel **turn from their unbelief, they will be grafted in again**, for God has the power to graft them back into the tree. ²⁴ You, by nature, were a branch cut from a wild olive tree. So if God was willing to do something contrary to nature by grafting you into his cultivated tree, he will be far more eager to graft the original branches back into the tree where they belong.

Wiersbe Expository Outlines: Paul in these verses is discussing Jews and Gentiles, not individual sinners or saints. In this section he proves that God has a dispensational purpose behind the fall of Israel; namely, the salvation of the Gentiles. Through Israel's fall, God was able to commit all people to disobedience and thus have mercy upon all! Gentiles do not have to become Jews before they can become Christians. Paul argues that if the fall of the Jews has brought such blessing to the world, then how much greater will the blessing be when Israel is again restored! The restoration of Israel will bring resurrection to the world ([v. 15](#)). In other words, Paul was certain that there was a future for Israel as a nation.

Reflect:

What good thing came to the Gentiles from the Jews' transgression? V.11

What hope does Paul have this for the Jews? V. 14

From the analogy in verses 17-21, who are the broken branches? The other branches? What is the point of this illustration?

What are the grafted branches warned against and why? V. 20

What is the point of this illustration?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 26 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 11:25-36

The Restoration Of Israel And Its Surety

²⁵ I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will **not feel proud** about yourselves. **Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ.** ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say, **“The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and He will turn Israel away from ungodliness.** ²⁷ And this **is my covenant** with them, that **I will take away their sins.”** ²⁸ Many of the people of Israel are **now enemies of the Good News**, and this benefits you Gentiles. **Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.** ²⁹ **For God’s gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.** ³⁰ Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against him, **God was merciful to you instead.** ³¹ Now they are the rebels, and **God’s mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God’s mercy.** ³² **For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so he could have mercy on everyone.** ³³ **Oh, how great are God’s riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways!** ³⁴ For who can know the LORD’s thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? ³⁵ And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back? ³⁶ For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

Reflect:

Why does God want his Gentile readers to be aware of God’s plan? V. 25

Why would pride become a danger for them?

Does Paul mean that every Jewish person will be saved? Vv. 25-32

What do both the Gentiles and Jews share? Vv. 29-30.

In what ways has God shown His mercy to you? V. 32 See also Ephesians 2:1-7

How does the doxology in verses 33-36 relate to Paul’s argument in verses 25-32 and any questions that may have been raised in chapters 9-11?

Which traits of God does Paul celebrate here?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 27 _____ / Date

The Believer And God

Romans 12:1-8 (NLT2)

And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to **give your bodies to God** because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. ² Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but **let God transform you** into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect. ³ Because of the privilege and authority God has given me, I give each of you this warning: Don't think you are better than you really are. Be honest in your evaluation of yourselves, measuring yourselves by the faith God has given us. ⁴ Just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, ⁵ so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and **we all belong to each other**. ⁶ In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷ If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. ⁸ If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Reflect:

How does verse 12:1 challenge you?

Paul warns Christians not be conformed to the world. In what ways are many Christians being conformed to the world where they should not?

Romans 12:2 has been our remember verse to filter the book of Romans. In what ways has God been transforming you through this study of God's word?

How does Paul address pride in the church?

What gift has God given you to be useful in the church?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 28 _____ / Date

The Believer And Other Believers

Romans 12:9-13 (NLT2)

⁹ Don't just pretend to love others. **Really love them. Hate what is wrong.** Hold tightly to what is good. ¹⁰ **Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.** ¹¹ **Never be lazy, but work hard and serve the Lord enthusiastically.** ¹² **Rejoice in our confident hope.** Be patient in trouble, and **keep on praying.** ¹³ When God's people are in need, **be ready to help them. Always be eager to practice hospitality.**

Life Application New Testament Commentary. The key ingredient in interpersonal relationships is **love**—God's love (*agape*). This kind of love is a self-sacrificial love, a love that cares for the well-being of others. All the gifts that are exercised in the body should be expressed in this love.

To **hate what is wrong** means turning toward what is **good** and clinging to it. This principle is practiced when we are able to detest an evil act while practicing compassion toward the one who has done it. This principle is also important regarding the exercise of spiritual gifts. Believers must always be careful that the use of their gifts does not lead them to unloving or evil motives, attitudes, or actions.

Reflect:

How do you hate what is wrong, cling to what is good, and show genuine love?

What are some ways we can practice honoring one another at home?
In the church?

Where is God asking you to serve in the church?

What helps you to be patient when trouble arises? V. 12

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 29 _____ / Date

The Believer And Unbelievers

Romans 12:14-21 (NLT2)

¹⁴ **Bless** those who persecute you. Don't curse them; **pray** that God will bless them.

¹⁵ **Be happy** with those who are happy, **and weep** with those who weep.

¹⁶ **Live in harmony** with each other. Don't be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don't think you know it all! ¹⁷ **Never pay back evil with more evil.** Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are **honorable.**

¹⁸ **Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.** ¹⁹ Dear friends, **never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God.** For the Scriptures say, "I will take revenge; I will pay them back," says the LORD. ²⁰ Instead, "If your enemies are hungry, **feed them.** If they are thirsty, **give them something to drink.** In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads." ²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but **conquer evil by doing good.**

Swindoll's Living Insights New Testament Commentary - Romans.

If we want to obey the command to avoid returning evil for evil, we must bring our tongues under control. We must first obey the command to "bless and not curse." The Greek word for "bless," *eulogeō*, means "to speak well of." It's the same term from which we get the English word "eulogy." We are to eulogize the person who offended us . . . *before his or her life has ended.* However, we cannot wait until we feel like it; we must choose deliberately, contrary to our nature. Otherwise, the desire for retaliation will fester.

Paul did not intend to prohibit protecting one's homeland or preserving one's family from an intruder. This is about heated arguments, malicious lawsuits, deliberate slander, and dirty politics at work or school or your neighborhood or even church. It's okay to protect yourself and your family. However, there's a fine line between protection and retaliation. It can be difficult to see, especially in the heat of the moment. Our best policy is to look for ways to be kind to our enemies and fight only to survive immediate threats to life and health.

Reflect:

How are we to respond to people who persecute us? V. 14-21

How does verse 15 help us to be genuine?

What does it mean to live in harmony, rather than unison?

How does verse 18-21 give direction and peace?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 30 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 13:1-7
The Believer And The State

Romans 13:1-7 (NLT2)

¹ Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. ² So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished. ³ For the authorities do not strike fear in people who are doing right, but in those who are doing wrong. Would you like to live without fear of the authorities? Do what is right, and they will honor you. ⁴ The authorities are God's servants, sent for your good. But if you are doing wrong, of course you should be afraid, for they have the power to punish you. They are God's servants, sent for the very purpose of punishing those who do what is wrong. ⁵ So you must submit to them, not only to avoid punishment, but also to keep a clear conscience. ⁶ Pay your taxes, too, for these same reasons. For government workers need to be paid. They are serving God in what they do. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

Life Application New Testament Commentary. Paul says that believers are to **obey the government**. These were wise words to this small group of believers living within the massive structure of the Roman Empire. It wouldn't take much for an imperial edict to fall on a group who might become known for causing unrest within the empire. Their quiet submission would not guarantee peace, but at least it might allow them to continue to spread the gospel freely for a time.

Reflect:

Why does Paul say we should submit to governing authorities?

Compare this with Acts 5:27-32. What is the difference between submitting to authorities and unconditionally obeying them?

What aspects of government do you find most difficult to accept?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 31 _____ / Date

The Believer And His Fellow Citizens

Romans 13:8-14 (NLT2)

⁸ **Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another.**

If you love your neighbor, you will fulfill the requirements of God's law. ⁹ For the commandments say, "You must not commit adultery. You must not murder. You must not steal. You must not covet." These—and other such commandments—are summed up in this one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

¹⁰ **Love does no wrong to others**, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.

¹¹ This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; **time is running out.** Wake up, for our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes, and put on the shining armor of right living. ¹³ Because we belong to the day, we must live decent lives for all to see. Don't participate in the darkness of wild parties and drunkenness, or in sexual promiscuity and immoral living, or in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, clothe yourself with the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. And don't let yourself think about ways to indulge your evil desires.

Life Application New Testament Commentary. If we owe something, we should pay the debt. But we must ask, Is Paul against home mortgages and school loans? Paul is not teaching against borrowing, except as it applies to borrowing things or money that we cannot hope to repay. Careless or deceitful debt is not acceptable behavior among believers. To this point Jesus adds the command that his followers ought to be known as willing lenders and givers (Matthew 5:42). We are to be responsible to make payments and not borrow beyond our ability to pay. One debt should never be paid in full, however. We should never finish paying our debt of love for others (see also John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:1-2; 1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-21).

Reflect:

How does Paul's concept of love differ from today's popular notions?

How does love fulfill all the other commandments?

How does Paul's urgency in verse 11 effect your perspective on life?

How are you to clothe yourself in verse 14?

How would you use this chapter to explain holiness?

In what practical way can you show love this week?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

The Strong Believer & The Weak Believer: Christian Liberty Romans 14:1-16 (NLT2)

¹ **Accept other believers** who are **weak in faith**, and don't argue with them about what they think is right or wrong. ² For instance, one person believes it's all right to eat anything. But another believer with a sensitive conscience will eat only vegetables. ³ Those who feel free to eat anything must **not look down** on those who don't. And those who don't eat certain foods must **not condemn** those who do, for God has accepted them. ⁴ Who are you to condemn someone else's servants? **They are responsible to the Lord**, so let him judge whether they are right or wrong. And with the Lord's help, they will do what is right and will receive his approval. ⁵ In the same way, **some think one day is more holy** than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. ⁶ Those who **worship** the Lord on a special day **do it to honor him**. Those who **eat** any kind of food **do so to honor the Lord**, since they give thanks to God before eating. And those who **refuse to eat** certain foods also want **to please the Lord** and give thanks to God. ⁷ For we don't live for ourselves or die for ourselves. ⁸ If we live, it's to honor the Lord. And if we die, it's to honor the Lord. **So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.**

⁹ Christ died and rose again for this very purpose—to be Lord both of the living and of the dead. ¹⁰ So why do you **condemn** another believer? Why do you **look down** on another believer? Remember, **we will all stand before the judgment seat of God**. ¹¹ For the Scriptures say, "**As surely as I live,' says the LORD, 'every knee will bend to me, and every tongue will confess and give praise to God.'**"

¹² Yes, **each of us will give a personal account to God**. ¹³ **So let's stop condemning each other**. Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to **stumble** and fall. ¹⁴ I know and am convinced on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat. But if someone believes it is wrong, then for that person it is wrong. ¹⁵ And if another believer is distressed by what you eat, **you are not acting in love** if you eat it. **Don't let your eating ruin someone for whom Christ died**. ¹⁶ Then you will not be criticized for doing something you believe is good.

Reflect:

What disputable matters divide the church today?

When it comes to gray areas, how do you react to those with strict convictions?

How do you react with those who have more of a lenient conviction?

How can both sides stop judging one another and start accepting each other?

What should be our main guideline in what we do or say in the presence of other believers?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 33 _____ / Date

The Strong Believer & The Weak Believer: Christian Liberty

Read: Romans 14:17- 23

¹⁷ For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of what we eat or drink, but of **living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.** ¹⁸ If you serve Christ with this attitude, you will please God, and others will approve of you, too.

¹⁹ So then, let us **aim for harmony** in the church and **try to build each other up.**

²⁰ Don't tear apart the work of God over what you eat. Remember, all foods are acceptable, but it is wrong to eat something if it makes another person stumble.

²¹ It is better not to eat meat or drink wine or do anything else if it might cause another believer to stumble. ²² You may believe there's nothing wrong with what you are doing, but keep it between yourself and God. Blessed are those who don't feel guilty for doing something they have decided is right. ²³ But if you have doubts about whether or not you should eat something, you are sinning if you go ahead and do it. For you are not following your convictions. If you do anything you believe is not right, you are sinning.

Life Application New Testament Commentary. After all, says Paul, if we let those little scruples become major points of contention, we have forgotten what the Kingdom of God is all about. It has nothing to do with what we eat or drink (Matthew 6:31, 33). Instead, it is living a life of goodness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Arguing over scruples does not contribute to that. Believers need to concern themselves with doing what is right in the essentials, maintaining harmony, and sharing God's joy, not in forcing their scruples and lifestyles on others. Those who serve Christ by doing right before God, maintaining peace among the believers, and sharing joy with others are the ones who will accomplish the acceptable service to Christ—they will please God and people.

Reflect:

What should characterize the church? Romans 14:17; 15:13

In what ways does knowing that you will give an account before God affect how you relate to others. 14:12

By instructing the Romans not to judge one another, does Paul mean that we are never to judge between right and wrong? Why or why not?

What active step can you take in building others up in the church?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 34 _____ / Date

The Marks Of A Strong Fellowship Within The Church

Romans 15:1-13 (NLT2)

¹ We who are strong must **be considerate** of those who are sensitive about things like this. We must not just please ourselves. ² We should **help others do what is right** and **build them up** in the Lord. ³ For even Christ didn't live to please himself. As the Scriptures say, "The insults of those who insult you, O God, have fallen on me." ⁴ Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled. ⁵ May God, who gives this **patience and encouragement**, help you live in complete **harmony** with each other, as is fitting for followers of Christ Jesus. ⁶ Then all of you can **join together with one voice, giving praise and glory to God**, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Therefore, **accept each other just as Christ has accepted you** so that God will be given glory. ⁸ Remember that **Christ came as a servant** to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors. ⁹ He also came so that the **Gentiles** might **give glory to God for his mercies to them**. That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote: "For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing praises to your name." ¹⁰ And in another place it is written, "Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles." ¹¹ And yet again, "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles. Praise him, all you people of the earth." ¹² And in another place Isaiah said, "The heir to David's throne will come, and **he will rule over the Gentiles. They will place their hope on him.**" ¹³ I pray that God, the **source of hope**, will fill you completely with **joy and peace because you trust in him**. Then you will overflow with **confident hope** through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Reflect:

Who has helped build you up in the Lord?

Who can you build up in the Lord?

In this passage, what are some areas you can grow in?

If we make God the source of our hope, what does he promise to do?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

The Messenger And His Ministry

Romans 15:14-33 (NLT2)

¹⁴ I am fully convinced, my dear brothers and sisters, that **you are full of goodness**. You know these things so well you can teach each other all about them.

¹⁵ Even so, I have been bold enough to write about some of these points, knowing **that all you need is this reminder**. For **by God's grace**, ¹⁶ I am a special **messenger** from Christ Jesus to you Gentiles. I bring you the **Good News** so that I might present you as an acceptable offering to God, made holy by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁷ So I have reason to be enthusiastic about all Christ Jesus has done through me in my service to God. ¹⁸ Yet I dare not boast about anything except what Christ has done through me, bringing the Gentiles to God by my message and by the way I worked among them. ¹⁹ They were convinced by the power of miraculous signs and wonders and by the power of God's Spirit. In this way, I have fully presented the Good News of Christ from Jerusalem all the way to Illyricum. ²⁰ My ambition has always been **to preach the Good News where the name of Christ has never been heard**, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. ²¹ I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says, "**Those who have never been told about him will see, and those who have never heard of him will understand.**" ²² In fact, my visit to you **has been delayed** so long because I have been preaching in these places.

²³ But now I have finished my work in these regions, and after all these long years of waiting, **I am eager to visit you**. ²⁴ I am planning to **go to Spain**, and when I do, I will stop off in Rome. And after I have enjoyed **your fellowship** for a little while, you can provide for my journey. ²⁵ But before I come, **I must go to Jerusalem** to take a gift to the believers there. ²⁶ For you see, the **believers in Macedonia and Achaia** have eagerly taken up an **offering for the poor** among the believers in Jerusalem. ²⁷ They were glad to do this because they feel they **owe a real debt to them**. Since the Gentiles **received the spiritual blessings** of the Good News from the believers in Jerusalem, they feel the least they can do **in return is to help them financially**. ²⁸ As soon as I have delivered this money and completed this good deed of theirs, I will come to see you on my way to Spain. ²⁹ And I am sure that when I come, Christ will richly bless our time together.

³⁰ Dear brothers and sisters, I urge you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to **join in my struggle by praying to God for me**. Do this because of your love for me, given to you by the Holy Spirit. ³¹ Pray that I will be rescued from those in Judea who refuse to obey God. Pray also that the believers there will be willing **to accept the donation** I am taking to Jerusalem. ³² Then, by the will of God, I will be able to come to you with a joyful heart, and **we will be an encouragement to each other**. ³³ And now may God, who gives us his peace, be with you all. Amen.

Life Application New Testament Commentary. 15:26-27 Paul had collected voluntary offerings from various churches, including the ones in **Greece**, and would be taking that **offering** to the poor **Christians in Jerusalem** who were **going through such hard times**. The Gentile believers had collected an offering for the Jewish believers in Jerusalem. These Gentile churches **were very glad to do this because they felt they owed a real debt** to the Jewish church in Jerusalem. The Gentiles had received the gospel (**spiritual blessings**) originally from Jerusalem (where Christianity began), so they wanted to offer financial help to the needy poor there.

Not only that, but Paul hoped that such generosity and caring among the churches would strengthen the ties between them. The Jerusalem church, obviously made up mostly of Jews, at first had a difficult time even accepting ministry to the Gentiles (see Peter's situation in Acts 10:1–11:18). Some were still concerned about these mostly-Gentile churches. Gentile churches helping to meet the needs of the Jerusalem church was a sure way to maintain harmony among the believers and strengthen the bond of brotherhood.

Reflect:

What ministry did Paul feel called to? V. 20

What ministry do you feel called to?

In the past week how do you feel your life has been an offering?

What could you do better?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 36 _____ / Date

One Of God's Halls Of Fame

Romans 16:1-16 (NLT2)

¹ I commend to you our sister **Phoebe, who is a deacon** in the church in Cenchrea.

² Welcome her in the Lord as one who is worthy of honor among God's people. Help her in whatever she needs, for she has been helpful to many, and especially to me.

³ Give my greetings to **Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers** in the ministry of Christ Jesus. ⁴ In fact, they once risked their lives for me. I am thankful to them, and so are all the Gentile churches. ⁵ Also give my greetings to the church that meets in their home. Greet my dear friend **Epenetus**. He was the first person from the province of Asia to become a follower of Christ.

⁶ Give my greetings to **Mary**, who has worked so hard for your benefit. ⁷ Greet **Andronicus and Junia**, my fellow Jews, who were **in prison with me**. They are highly respected among the apostles and became followers of Christ before I did.

⁸ Greet **Ampliatius**, my dear **friend in the Lord**. ⁹ Greet **Urbanus**, our **co-worker** in Christ, and my dear friend **Stachys**. ¹⁰ Greet **Apelles**, a good man whom Christ approves. And give my greetings to the believers from the household of **Aristobulus**.

¹¹ Greet **Herodion**, my fellow Jew. Greet the Lord's people from the household of **Narcissus**. ¹² Give my greetings to **Tryphena and Tryphosa**, the **Lord's workers**, and to dear **Persis**, who has worked so hard for the Lord. ¹³ Greet **Rufus**, whom the Lord picked out to be his very own; and also **his dear mother**, who has been a mother to me. ¹⁴ Give my greetings to **Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas**, and the brothers and sisters who meet with them. ¹⁵ Give my greetings to **Philologus, Julia, Nereus** and his sister, and to **Olympas** and all the believers who meet with them. ¹⁶ **Greet each other in Christian love**. All the churches of Christ send you their greetings.

Reflect:

What kind of things does Paul commend in this group of believers?

What does this say about how we should judge success?

In your opinion, how close did Paul let people get to him?

How close do you let people get to you?

How many women are named here? What role did they have?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 37 _____ / Date

Mark Divisive People

Romans 16:17-27 (NLT2)

¹⁷ And now I make one more appeal, my dear brothers and sisters. **Watch out for people who cause divisions and upset people's faith by teaching things contrary to what you have been taught. Stay away from them.**

¹⁸ Such people are not serving Christ our Lord; they are **serving their own personal interests**. By **smooth talk** and **glowing words** they **deceive** innocent people. ¹⁹ But everyone knows that you are obedient to the Lord. This makes me very happy. I want you to be wise in doing right and to stay innocent of any wrong.

²⁰ **The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.** May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. ²¹ Timothy, my fellow worker, sends you his greetings, as do Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my fellow Jews. ²² I, Tertius, the one writing this letter for Paul, send my greetings, too, as one of the Lord's followers.

²³ Gaius says hello to you. He is my host and also serves as host to the whole church. Erastus, the city treasurer, sends you his greetings, and so does our brother Quartus.

²⁵ Now all glory to God, who is able to **make you strong**, just as my Good News says. This message about Jesus Christ has revealed his plan for you Gentiles, a plan kept secret from the beginning of time. ²⁶ But now as the prophets foretold and as the eternal God has commanded, this message is made known to all Gentiles everywhere, so that they too might believe and obey him. ²⁷ All glory to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

Reflect:

What divisions and obstacles are people to avoid? 17-20; Romans 3:8; 6:1,15.

Is there a contradiction here when compared to not passing judgment on disputable matters Romans 14?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Lessons from Romans:

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

✓ _____

Our Purpose And Vision

When you come to Cornerstone, you will find a contemporary style of music with words that direct our hearts to celebration and **WORSHIP** our great God and Savior. You will hear relevant teachings from God's Word with a life application every Sunday. As we **CONNECT** with each other, it is our vision to go beyond the superficial and encourage each other to take our next right step with God. It is our aspiration to help people **GROW** into maturity through personal application of God's Word. We desire to lead the way with selfless generosity and **SERVE** as a way of life. It is our purpose to **SHARE** God's message of forgiveness through Jesus Christ and help people find and follow Jesus.

Service Times:

On Campus Sunday Worship Service: 9:15 & 11:00AM

Online Sunday Service: 9:15AM > <https://www.youtube.com/c/cornerstonepoway>

Weekly Sermon Notes> <https://www.cornerstonepoway.com/sermons>

Sermon Notes Bible Study, Tuesdays 6:00-7:00PM (online Zoom)

Link> <https://zoom.us/join>. Meeting ID: 84983852091, Password: 355924

Cornerstone Church of Poway
13617 Midland Road
Poway, CA 92064
www.CornerstonePoway.com
email: church@cornerstonepoway.com
858.748.2327