

2021-2022 CMA Romans James Reference Materials

Romans 1

- ¶ Romans 1:1 - **Paul**, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be **an apostle** and **set apart** for the gospel of God--
- Romans 1:2 - the gospel **he promised beforehand** through his **prophets** in the **Holy Scriptures**
- Romans 1:3 - **regarding** his Son, who as to his **earthly life** was a **descendant** of **David**,
- Romans 1:4 - and **who** through the Spirit of **holiness** was **appointed** the Son of God in power by his **resurrection** from the **dead**: Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Romans 1:5 - Through him **we** received **grace** and **apostleship** to **call** all the Gentiles to the **obedience** that comes from **faith** for his **name's sake**.
- Romans 1:6 - And you **also** are among those Gentiles who are called to **belong** to Jesus Christ.
- ¶ Romans 1:7 - To **all** in Rome who are **loved** by God and called to be his **holy people**: **Grace** and **peace** to you from God our **Father** and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's Longing to Visit Rome

- ¶ Romans 1:8 - **First**, I **thank** my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because **your** faith is being **reported** all over the world.
- Romans 1:9 - God, **whom** I **serve** in my spirit in **preaching** the gospel of his Son, is my **witness** how **constantly** I **remember** you
- Romans 1:10 - in my **prayers** at all times; and I **pray** that now at last by God's will the way may be **opened** for me to come to you.
- ¶ Romans 1:11 - I **long** to **see** you so that I may **impart** to you **some spiritual gift** to make you **strong**--
- Romans 1:12 - that is, that you and I may be **mutually encouraged** by **each other's** faith.
- Romans 1:13 - I do not **want** you to be **unaware**, **brothers** and **sisters**, that I **planned many** times to come to you (but have been **prevented** from doing so **until now**) in **order** that I **might** have a **harvest** among you, just as I have **had** among the other Gentiles.
- ¶ Romans 1:14 - I am **obligated** both to **Greeks** and **non-Greeks**, both to the **wise** and the **foolish**.
- Romans 1:15 - That is **why** I am so **eager** to **preach** the gospel **also** to you who are in Rome.
- ¶ Romans 1:16 - For I am **not ashamed** of the gospel, because it is the power of God that **brings salvation** to **everyone** who **believes**: **first** to the **Jew**, **then** to the **Gentile**.
- Romans 1:17 - For in the gospel the righteousness of God **is revealed**--a righteousness that is by **faith** from **first to last**, just as it is **written**: "The **righteous will live** by faith."

God's Wrath Against Sinful Humanity

- ¶ Romans 1:18 - The **wrath** of God is being revealed from **heaven against** all the **godlessness** and wickedness of people, who **suppress** the truth by their wickedness,
- Romans 1:19 - since what may be **known** about God is **plain** to them, because God has made it **plain** to them.
- Romans 1:20 - For since the **creation** of the world God's **invisible qualities**--his **eternal** power and **divine nature**--have been **clearly seen**, being **understood** from what has been made, so that people are **without excuse**.
- ¶ Romans 1:21 - For although they **knew** God, they **neither glorified** him as God **nor** gave **thanks** to him, but their **thinking** became **futile** and their foolish hearts were **darkened**.
- Romans 1:22 - Although they **claimed** to be wise, they became **fools**
- Romans 1:23 - and exchanged the **glory** of the **immortal** God for **images** made to **look like** a **mortal human** being and **birds** and **animals** and **reptiles**.
- ¶ Romans 1:24 - **Therefore** God gave them over in the **sinful desires** of their hearts to sexual **impurity** for the **degrading** of their **bodies** with one another.
- Romans 1:25 - They exchanged the truth about God for a **lie**, and **worshiped** and **served** **created** things **rather than** the **Creator**--who is **forever praised**. Amen.
- ¶ Romans 1:26 - Because of **this**, God gave them over to shameful **lusts**. **Even** their women exchanged natural sexual relations for **unnatural ones**.
- Romans 1:27 - In the **same way** the **men** also **abandoned** natural relations with women and were **inflamed** with **lust** for one another. **Men** **committed** shameful **acts** with other **men**, and received in **themselves** the **due penalty** for their **error**.
- ¶ Romans 1:28 - **Furthermore**, just as they **did** not **think** it **worthwhile** to **retain** the **knowledge** of God, so God gave them over to a **depraved mind**, so that they do **what ought not** to be **done**.

- Romans 1:29 - They have **become filled** with **every kind** of wickedness, evil, **greed** and **depravity**. They are **full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice**. They are **gossips**,
 Romans 1:30 - **slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful**; they **invent ways** of doing evil; they **disobey their parents**;
 Romans 1:31 - they have no **understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy**.
 Romans 1:32 - Although they **know** God's righteous **decree** that those who do **such things deserve death**, they not **only continue** to do **these very things** but also **approve** of those who **practice** them.

Romans 2

God's Righteous Judgment

- ¶ Romans 2:1 - You, **therefore**, have no **excuse**, you who pass judgment on **someone else**, for at **whatever point** you **judge another**, you are **condemning** yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things.
 Romans 2:2 - Now **we** know that God's judgment against those who do such things is **based on truth**.
 Romans 2:3 - So when you, a **mere human being**, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you **think** you will **escape** God's judgment?
 Romans 2:4 - **Or** do you show **contempt** for the **riches** of his kindness, **forbearance** and **patience**, not **realizing** that God's kindness is **intended** to **lead** you to **repentance**?
 ¶ Romans 2:5 - **But** because of your **stubbornness** and your **unrepentant** heart, you are **storing up** wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be **revealed**.
 Romans 2:6 - God "will **repay each person according** to what they have **done**."
 Romans 2:7 - To those who by **persistence in doing good seek** glory, honor and **immortality**, he will **give eternal life**.
 Romans 2:8 - But for those who are **self-seeking** and who **reject** the truth and **follow** evil, there will be wrath and **anger**.
 Romans 2:9 - There will be **trouble and distress** for **every** human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile;
 Romans 2:10 - **but** glory, honor and **peace** for **everyone** who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.
 Romans 2:11 - For God does not show **favoritism**.
 ¶ Romans 2:12 - All who **sin apart** from the law will also **perish** apart from the law, and all who **sin under** the law will be **judged** by the law.
 Romans 2:13 - For it is **not those who hear** the law who are righteous in God's **sight**, but it is those who **obey** the law who will be **declared** righteous.
 Romans 2:14 - (**Indeed**, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by **nature** things **required** by the law, they are a law for **themselves**, even though they do not have the law.
 Romans 2:15 - They show that the requirements of the law are written on their **hearts**, their **consciences** also **bearing witness**, and their **thoughts sometimes accusing** them and at other **times even defending** them.)
 Romans 2:16 - **This will take place** on the day when God **judges people's secrets** through Jesus Christ, as **my gospel declares**.

The Jews and the Law

- ¶ Romans 2:17 - Now you, if you **call** yourself a Jew; if you **rely** on the law and boast in God;
 Romans 2:18 - if you **know his will** and **approve** of what is **superior** because you are **instructed** by the law;
 Romans 2:19 - if you are **convinced** that you are a **guide** for the **blind**, a **light** for those who are in the **dark**,
 Romans 2:20 - **an instructor** of the **foolish**, a **teacher** of **little children**, because you have in the law the **embodiment of knowledge** and truth--
 Romans 2:21 - you, then, who teach **others**, do you not teach yourself? You who **preach** against **stealing**, do you **steal**?
 Romans 2:22 - You who **say** that people **should** not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who **abhor idols**, do you **rob temples**?
 Romans 2:23 - You who boast in the law, do you **dishonor** God by **breaking** the law?
 Romans 2:24 - As it is written: "God's **name is blasphemed among** the Gentiles because of you."
 ¶ Romans 2:25 - Circumcision **has value** if you **observe** the law, but if you **break** the law, you have **become** as though you **had not been** circumcised.
 Romans 2:26 - So then, if those who are not circumcised **keep** the **law's** requirements, will they not be **regarded** as though they **were** circumcised?
 Romans 2:27 - The one who is not circumcised **physically** and yet **obeys** the law will **condemn** you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a **lawbreaker**.
 ¶ Romans 2:28 - A person is not a Jew who is **one only outwardly**, **nor** is circumcision **merely outward and physical**.

Romans 2:29 - No, a person is a Jew who is one **inwardly**; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the **Spirit**, not by the written code. Such a **person's praise** is not from other people, but from God.

Romans 3

God's Faithfulness

- ¶ Romans 3:1 - What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what **value** is there in **circumcision**?
- Romans 3:2 - **Much** in every way! **First** of all, the Jews have been **entrusted with** the **very words** of God.
- ¶ Romans 3:3 - What if some were **unfaithful**? Will their **unfaithfulness** nullify God's **faithfulness**?
- Romans 3:4 - Not at all! Let God be **true**, and every human being a **liar**. As it is written: "So that you may be **proved right** when you **speak** and **prevail** when you judge."
- ¶ Romans 3:5 - But if our **unrighteousness brings out** God's righteousness **more clearly**, what shall we say? That God is **unjust** in **bringing** his **wrath** on us? (I am **using** a human **argument**.)
- Romans 3:6 - **Certainly not!** If that were so, **how could** God judge the world?
- Romans 3:7 - **Someone might argue**, "If my **falsehood enhances** God's **truthfulness** and so **increases** his glory, why am I **still condemned** as a sinner?"
- Romans 3:8 - Why not say--as some **slanderously claim** that we say--"Let us do **evil** that good may **result**"? Their **condemnation** is just!

No One Is Righteous

- ¶ Romans 3:9 - What shall we **conclude** then? Do we have **any** advantage? Not at all! For we have **already** made the **charge** that Jews and Gentiles **alike** are all under the **power** of sin.
- Romans 3:10 - As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one;
- Romans 3:11 - there is no one who **understands**; there is no one who **seeks** God.
- Romans 3:12 - All have **turned away**, they have **together** become **worthless**; there is no one who **does** good, not even one."
- Romans 3:13 - "Their **throats** are **open graves**; their **tongues practice deceit**." "The **poison of vipers** is on their **lips**."
- Romans 3:14 - "Their **mouths** are full of **cursing** and **bitterness**."
- Romans 3:15 - "Their **feet** are **swift** to **shed** blood;
- Romans 3:16 - **ruin** and **misery mark** their ways,
- Romans 3:17 - and the way of **peace** they do not know."
- Romans 3:18 - "There is no **fear** of God **before** their eyes."
- ¶ Romans 3:19 - Now we know that **whatever** the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every **mouth** may be **silenced** and the **whole world held accountable** to God.
- Romans 3:20 - **Therefore** no one will be **declared** righteous in God's **sight** by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become **conscious** of our sin.

Righteousness Through Faith

- ¶ Romans 3:21 - But now apart from the law the righteousness of God **has** been made **known**, to **which** the Law and the **Prophets testify**.
- Romans 3:22 - This righteousness is **given** through faith in Jesus Christ to all who **believe**. There is no **difference** between Jew and Gentile,
- Romans 3:23 - for all have **sinned** and **fall short** of the glory of God,
- Romans 3:24 - and all are justified **freely** by his **grace** through the **redemption** that came by Christ Jesus.
- Romans 3:25 - God **presented** Christ as a **sacrifice of atonement**, through the **shedding** of his blood--to be **received** by faith. He did this to demonstrate his **righteousness**, because in his **forbearance** he had **left the sins committed beforehand unpunished**--
- Romans 3:26 - he **did it** to demonstrate his **righteousness** at the **present time**, so as to be **just** and the one who **justifies** those who have faith in Jesus.
- ¶ Romans 3:27 - **Where**, then, is **boasting**? It is **excluded**. Because of what law? The law that **requires** works? No, because of the law that **requires** faith.
- Romans 3:28 - For we **maintain** that a **person** is justified by **faith** apart from the works of the law.
- Romans 3:29 - Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? **Yes**, of Gentiles too,
- Romans 3:30 - **since** there is only one God, who will **justify** the **circumcised** by faith and the **uncircumcised** through that **same** faith.
- Romans 3:31 - Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we **uphold** the law.

Romans 4

Abraham Justified by Faith

- ¶ Romans 4:1 - What then shall we say that *Abraham, our **forefather according** to the **flesh, discovered** in this matter?*
- Romans 4:2 - *If, in fact, Abraham was **justified** by works, he had **something to boast** about--but not before God.*
- Romans 4:3 - *What does **Scripture** say? "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."*
- ¶ Romans 4:4 - **Now** to the one who works, **wages** are not credited as a **gift** but as an **obligation**.
- Romans 4:5 - **However**, to the one who does not work but **trusts** God who **justifies the ungodly, their faith** is credited as righteousness.
- Romans 4:6 - **David says the same thing when he speaks** of the blessedness of the one to whom God **credits** righteousness **apart** from works:
- ¶ Romans 4:7 - *"Blessed are those whose **transgressions** are **forgiven**, whose sins are **covered**."*
- Romans 4:8 - *Blessed is the one whose **sin** the Lord will **never count** against them."*
- ¶ Romans 4:9 - *Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been **saying** that Abraham's faith* was credited to him as righteousness.
- Romans 4:10 - **Under what circumstances** was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before!
- Romans 4:11 - *And he received **circumcision** as a **sign**, a **seal** of the righteousness that he had by faith **while** he was **still** uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in **order** that righteousness **might** be credited to them.*
- Romans 4:12 - *And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also **follow** in the **footsteps** of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.*
- ¶ Romans 4:13 - *It was **not** through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he **would** be **heir** of the **world**, but through the righteousness that comes by faith.*
- Romans 4:14 - *For if those who **depend on** the law are **heirs**, **faith means nothing** and the promise is **worthless**,*
- Romans 4:15 - ***because** the law **brings wrath**. And **where** there is no law there is no **transgression**.*
- ¶ Romans 4:16 - **Therefore**, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by **grace** and may be **guaranteed** to all Abraham's offspring--not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the **faith of Abraham**. He is the father of us all.
- Romans 4:17 - *As it is written: "I have **made you** a father of many nations." He is our father in the **sight** of God, in whom he believed--the God who **gives** life to the dead and **calls into being things** that were not.*
- ¶ Romans 4:18 - *Against **all hope**, Abraham in hope believed and so **became** the father of many nations, **just** as it had been **said** to him, "So shall **your** offspring be."*
- Romans 4:19 - ***Without weakening** in his faith, he **faced** the fact that his **body** was as **good** as dead--**since** he was about a **hundred years old**--and that **Sarah's womb** was also dead.*
- Romans 4:20 - **Yet he did not waver** through **unbelief regarding** the promise of God, but was **strengthened** in his faith and **gave glory** to God,
- Romans 4:21 - *being **fully persuaded** that God had **power** to do what he had **promised**.*
- Romans 4:22 - *This is **why** "it was credited to him as righteousness."*
- Romans 4:23 - *The **words** "it was credited to him" were written not for him **alone**,*
- Romans 4:24 - *but also for us, to whom God will **credit** righteousness--for us who believe in him who raised **Jesus** our Lord from the dead.*
- Romans 4:25 - *He was **delivered over** to **death** for our sins and was raised to life for our **justification**.*

Romans 5

Peace and Hope

- ¶ Romans 5:1 - *Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- Romans 5:2 - *through whom we have **gained access** by faith into this grace in **which** we now **stand**. And we boast in the **hope** of the glory of God.*
- Romans 5:3 - *Not only so, but we **also glory** in our **sufferings**, because we **know** that **suffering produces** perseverance;*
- Romans 5:4 - *perseverance, **character**, and **character**, hope.*
- Romans 5:5 - *And hope **does not put** us to **shame**, because God's love has been **poured out** into our **hearts** through the **Holy Spirit**, who has been given to us.*
- ¶ Romans 5:6 - **You see, at just the right time, when** we were still **powerless**, Christ died for the **ungodly**.

- Romans 5:7 - **Very rarely** will **anyone** die for a righteous person, **though** for a **good** person **someone** might **possibly dare** to die.
- Romans 5:8 - But God **demonstrates** his **own** love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- ¶ Romans 5:9 - Since we have **now** been justified by his **blood**, how much **more** shall we be saved from God's **wrath** through him!
- Romans 5:10 - For if, while we were God's **enemies**, we were **reconciled** to him through the death of his **Son**, how much **more**, **having** been **reconciled**, shall we be saved through his life!
- Romans 5:11 - Not only is **this** so, but we **also** boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now **received reconciliation**.

Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ

- ¶ Romans 5:12 - Therefore, just as sin **entered** the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this **way** death came to all people, because all **sinned**--
- ¶ Romans 5:13 - To be **sure**, sin was in the world **before** the law was given, but sin is not **charged against anyone's account** where there is no law.
- Romans 5:14 - **Nevertheless**, death reigned from the time of **Adam** to the time of **Moses**, **even over** those who did not sin by **breaking a command**, as did **Adam**, who is a **pattern** of the one to **come**.
- ¶ Romans 5:15 - But the gift is **not like** the trespass. For if the **many** died by the trespass of the one man, how much **more** did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, **overflow** to the many!
- Romans 5:16 - **Nor can** the gift of God be **compared** with the **result** of one **man's** sin: The **judgment** followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many **trespasses** and brought justification.
- Romans 5:17 - For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much **more** will those who **receive** God's **abundant provision** of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!
- ¶ Romans 5:18 - **Consequently**, just as one trespass **resulted** in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous **act** **resulted** in justification and life for all people.
- Romans 5:19 - For just as through the **disobedience** of the one man the **many** were made sinners, so also through the **obedience** of the one man the **many** will be made righteous.
- ¶ Romans 5:20 - The law was brought in so that the trespass might **increase**. But where sin **increased**, grace **increased** all the more,
- Romans 5:21 - so that, just as sin reigned in death, so **also** grace might reign through righteousness to **bring eternal** life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6

Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ

- ¶ Romans 6:1 - What shall we **say**, then? Shall we **go on sinning** so that grace may **increase**?
- Romans 6:2 - By no **means**! We are those who **have died** to sin; **how can** we live in **it** any longer?
- Romans 6:3 - Or **don't** you know that all of **us** who were **baptized** into Christ Jesus were **baptized** into his death?
- Romans 6:4 - We were therefore **buried** with him through **baptism** into death in **order** that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the **glory** of the **Father**, we **too** may live a **new** life.
- ¶ Romans 6:5 - For if we have **been united** with him in a death like his, we will **certainly** also be **united** with him in a **resurrection** like his.
- Romans 6:6 - For we know that **our old self** was **crucified** with him so that the body **ruled** by sin might be **done away** with, that we **should** no longer be slaves to sin--
- Romans 6:7 - because **anyone** who **has died** has been set free from sin.
- ¶ Romans 6:8 - Now if we **died** with Christ, we **believe** that we will **also** live with him.
- Romans 6:9 - For we know that **since** Christ was raised from the dead, he **cannot die again**; death no longer has **mastery over** him.
- Romans 6:10 - The death he died, he died to sin **once** for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.
- ¶ Romans 6:11 - In the **same way**, **count** yourselves dead to sin but **alive** to God in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 6:12 - Therefore do not **let sin reign** in your **mortal** body so that you **obey its evil desires**.
- Romans 6:13 - Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an **instrument** of wickedness, but **rather** offer yourselves to God as those who have **been brought** from death to life; and offer **every** part of yourself to him as an **instrument** of righteousness.
- Romans 6:14 - For sin shall no longer be your **master**, because you are not under the law, but under grace.

Slaves to Righteousness

- ¶ **Romans 6:15** - What then? Shall *we sin because* we are not under the law but under *grace*? By no means!
- Romans 6:16** - Don't you know that when *you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves*, you are slaves of the **one you obey--whether** you are slaves to *sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness*?
- Romans 6:17** - But **thanks** be to God *that, though* you used to be slaves to sin, you *have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance*.
- Romans 6:18** - You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.
- ¶ **Romans 6:19** - **I am using an example** from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.
- Romans 6:20** - When you *were slaves to sin*, you *were free from the control* of righteousness.
- Romans 6:21** - What benefit **did** you reap **at that time** from the things you are now **ashamed** of? Those things result in death!
- Romans 6:22** - But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, *the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life*.
- Romans 6:23** - For the **wages** of sin is death, but the **gift** of God is eternal *life in Christ Jesus our Lord*.

Romans 7

Released From the Law, Bound to Christ

- ¶ **Romans 7:1** - Do you not *know, brothers and sisters--for I am speaking to those who know the law--that the law has authority over someone only as long as that person lives*?
- Romans 7:2** - For **example**, by law a **married woman** is bound to her husband as long as **he** is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law *that binds her to him*.
- Romans 7:3** - So then, if she *has sexual relations with another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress*. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is *not an adulteress if she marries another man*.
- ¶ **Romans 7:4** - So, my brothers and sisters, you **also** died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might **belong** to another, to him who was **raised** from the dead, in order that we might **bear** fruit for God.
- Romans 7:5** - For when we were in the realm of the **flesh**, the **sinful passions aroused** by the law were at work in us, so that we **bore** fruit for death.
- Romans 7:6** - But now, by **dying** to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we **serve** in the **new way** of the **Spirit**, and not in the **old way** of the **written code**.

The Law and Sin

- ¶ **Romans 7:7** - What shall we **say**, then? Is the law *sinful*? **Certainly not!** Nevertheless, I would not have known *what sin was had it not been for the law*. For I would not have known *what coveting really was if the law had not said*, "You shall not **covet**."
- Romans 7:8** - But sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the *commandment, produced in me every kind of coveting*. For apart from the law, *sin was dead*.
- Romans 7:9** - Once I was alive apart from the law; but when the *commandment came, sin sprang to life and I died*.
- Romans 7:10** - I **found** that the **very** commandment that was **intended** to bring life **actually brought** death.
- Romans 7:11** - For sin, seizing the opportunity afforded by the *commandment, deceived me, and through the commandment put me to death*.
- Romans 7:12** - So then, the law is holy, and the *commandment is holy, righteous and good*.
- ¶ **Romans 7:13** - **Did that which is good, then, become death to me?** By no **means!** Nevertheless, in order that sin might be **recognized** as sin, it **used** what is good to bring **about** my death, so that through the *commandment sin might become utterly sinful*.
- ¶ **Romans 7:14** - We know that the law is **spiritual**; but I am **unspiritual, sold** as a slave to sin.
- Romans 7:15** - I do not **understand** what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I **hate** I do.
- Romans 7:16** - And if I do what I do not want to do, I **agree** that the law is good.
- Romans 7:17** - As it is, it is no longer I *myself* who do it, but it is sin living in me.
- Romans 7:18** - For I know that good **itself** does not **dwell** in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the **desire** to do what is good, but I **cannot carry it out**.
- Romans 7:19** - For I do not do the *good* I want to do, but the *evil* I do not want to do--**this I keep on doing**.
- Romans 7:20** - Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I *who* do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.
- ¶ **Romans 7:21** - So I **find** this law at work: **Although** I want to *do good, evil is right there with me*.
- Romans 7:22** - For in my **inner being** I **delight** in God's law;

Romans 7:23 - but I **see** another law at work in me, **waging war against** the law of my mind and **making** me a **prisoner** of the law of sin at work **within** me.

Romans 7:24 - What a **wretched** man I am! Who **will rescue** me from this body that is **subject** to death?

Romans 7:25 - **Thanks** be to God, who **delivers** me through **Jesus Christ our Lord!** So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

Romans 8

Life Through the Spirit

- ¶ Romans 8:1 - Therefore, **there** is now no **condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus,
- Romans 8:2 - because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you **free** from the law of sin and death.
- Romans 8:3 - For what the law was **powerless** to do because it was **weakened** by the flesh, God did by **sending** his own Son in the **likeness** of **sinful** flesh to be **a sin offering**. And so he **condemned** sin in the flesh,
- Romans 8:4 - in order that the **righteous requirement** of the law might be **fully met** in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.
- ¶ Romans 8:5 - Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.
- Romans 8:6 - The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and **peace**.
- Romans 8:7 - The mind governed by the flesh is **hostile** to God; it does not **submit** to God's law, nor can it do so.
- Romans 8:8 - Those who are in the realm of the flesh **cannot please** God.
- ¶ Romans 8:9 - You, **however**, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if **anyone** does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not **belong** to Christ.
- Romans 8:10 - But if Christ is in you, then **even though** your body is **subject** to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of **righteousness**.
- Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is **living** in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your **mortal** bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.
- ¶ Romans 8:12 - Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have **an obligation**--but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it.
- Romans 8:13 - For if you live according to the flesh, you will **die**; but if by the Spirit you **put** to death the **misdeeds** of the body, you will live.
- ¶ Romans 8:14 - For those who are **led** by the Spirit of God are the children of God.
- Romans 8:15 - The Spirit you received does not **make** you **slaves**, so that you live in **fear again**; rather, the Spirit you received brought **about** your adoption to sonship. And by him we **cry**, "**Abba, Father**."
- Romans 8:16 - The Spirit himself **testifies** with our spirit that we are God's children.
- Romans 8:17 - Now if we are children, then we are heirs--heirs of God and **co-heirs** with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we **may** also share in his glory.

Present Suffering and Future Glory

- ¶ Romans 8:18 - I **consider** that our present sufferings are not **worth comparing** with the glory that will be revealed in us.
- Romans 8:19 - For the creation **waits** in **eager expectation** for the children of God to be revealed.
- Romans 8:20 - For the creation was **subjected to frustration**, not by its own **choice**, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope
- Romans 8:21 - that the creation **itself** will be **liberated** from its **bondage to decay** and brought **into the freedom** and glory of the children of God.
- ¶ Romans 8:22 - We know that the **whole** creation has been **groaning** as in the **pains** of **childbirth** right up to the present time.
- Romans 8:23 - Not **only** so, but we **ourselves**, who have the **firstfruits** of the Spirit, **groan inwardly** as we wait **eagerly** for our adoption to sonship, the **redemption** of our bodies.
- Romans 8:24 - For in **this** hope we **were saved**. But hope that is **seen** is no hope at all. Who **hopes** for what they **already** have?
- Romans 8:25 - But if we hope for what we do not **yet** have, we wait for it **patiently**.
- ¶ Romans 8:26 - In the **same way**, the Spirit **helps** us in our **weakness**. We do not know what we **ought** to **pray** for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through **wordless groans**.
- Romans 8:27 - And he who **searches** our hearts **knows** the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's **people** in accordance with the will of God.
- ¶ Romans 8:28 - And we know that in all things God **works** for the **good** of those who love him, who have been called according to his **purpose**.

Romans 8:29 - For those God **foreknew** he also predestined to be **conformed** to the **image** of his Son, that he might be the **firstborn among many** brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:30 - And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also **glorified**.

More Than Conquerors

¶ Romans 8:31 - What, then, shall we **say** in **response** to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Romans 8:32 - He who did not **spare** his own Son, but **gave** him up for us all--**how** will he not also, **along** with him, **graciously** give us all things?

Romans 8:33 - Who will **bring** any **charge** against those **whom** God has **chosen**? It is God who **justifies**.

Romans 8:34 - Who then is the one who **condemns**? No one. Christ Jesus who **died**--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right **hand** of God and is also **interceding** for us.

Romans 8:35 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall **trouble** or **hardship** or **persecution** or **famine** or **nakedness** or **danger** or **sword**?

Romans 8:36 - As it is **written**: "For your **sake** we **face** death all **day long**; we are **considered** as **sheep** to be **slaughtered**."

¶ Romans 8:37 - No, in all these things we are more than **conquerors** through him who **loved** us.

Romans 8:38 - For I **am convinced** that neither death nor life, neither **angels** nor **demons**, neither the present nor the **future**, nor any **powers**,

Romans 8:39 - neither **height** nor **depth**, nor **anything else** in all creation, will be **able** to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our **Lord**.

Romans 9

Paul's Anguish Over Israel

¶ Romans 9:1 - I **speak** the **truth** in Christ--I **am not lying**, my **conscience confirms** it through the **Holy Spirit**--

Romans 9:2 - I have great **sorrow** and **unceasing anguish** in my **heart**.

Romans 9:3 - For I **could wish** that I **myself** were **cursed** and **cut off** from Christ for the **sake** of my people, **those of** my **own race**,

Romans 9:4 - the people of **Israel**. **Theirs** is the **adoption** to **sonship**; theirs the **divine** glory, the **covenants**, the **receiving** of the law, the **temple worship** and the **promises**.

Romans 9:5 - **Theirs** are the **patriarchs**, and from them is **traced** the human **ancestry** of the **Messiah**, who is God over all, **forever praised! Amen**.

God's Sovereign Choice

¶ Romans 9:6 - It is **not as though** God's **word** had **failed**. For not all who are **descended** from Israel are Israel.

Romans 9:7 - **Nor** because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the **contrary**, "It is through Isaac that **your** offspring will be **reckoned**."

Romans 9:8 - In **other words**, it is not the children by **physical descent** who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are **regarded** as Abraham's offspring.

Romans 9:9 - For this was **how** the promise was **stated**: "At the **appointed** time I will **return**, and **Sarah** will have a **son**."

¶ Romans 9:10 - Not only that, but **Rebekah's** children were **conceived** at the same time by **our father** Isaac.

Romans 9:11 - **Yet, before** the **twins** were **born** or had **done anything good** or **bad**--in order that God's purpose in **election** might **stand**:

Romans 9:12 - not by **works** but by him who **calls**--**she** was **told**, "The **older** will **serve** the **younger**."

Romans 9:13 - Just as it is written: "**Jacob** I loved, but **Esau** I hated."

¶ Romans 9:14 - What then shall we say? Is God **unjust**? Not at all!

Romans 9:15 - For he says to **Moses**, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have **compassion** on whom I have compassion."

¶ Romans 9:16 - It does **not, therefore, depend** on human **desire** or **effort**, but on God's mercy.

Romans 9:17 - For **Scripture** says to **Pharaoh**: "I **raised** you up for this very purpose, that I might **display** my power in you and that my **name** might be **proclaimed** in all the earth."

Romans 9:18 - Therefore God **has** mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he **hardens** whom he wants to **harden**.

¶ Romans 9:19 - One of you will say to me: "Then why does God **still blame** us? For who is **able** to **resist** his will?"

Romans 9:20 - But who are you, a human **being**, to **talk back** to God? "Shall what is **formed** say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"

- Romans 9:21 - Does not the **potter** have the **right** to make out of the same **lump** of **clay** some **pottery** for **special purposes** and some for **common use**?
- ¶ Romans 9:22 - What if **God**, **although choosing** to **show** his wrath and make his power known, **bore** with great **patience** the objects of his **wrath**--prepared for **destruction**?
- Romans 9:23 - What if he did this to make the **riches** of his **glory** known to the objects of his **mercy**, *whom he prepared in **advance** for glory--*
- Romans 9:24 - **even us**, *whom he also called, not only from the **Jews** but also from the Gentiles?*
- Romans 9:25 - As he says in **Hosea**: "I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call **her** 'my loved one' who is not my loved one,"
- ¶ Romans 9:26 - and, "In the very **place where** it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' **there** they will be called 'children of the **living God**.'"
- ¶ Romans 9:27 - **Isaiah cries out concerning Israel**: "Though the **number** of the **Israelites** be like the **sand** by the **sea**, only the **remnant** will be **saved**."
- Romans 9:28 - For the Lord will **carry out his sentence** on earth with **speed** and **finality**."
- ¶ Romans 9:29 - It is just as **Isaiah said previously**: "**Unless** the Lord **Almighty** had **left** us descendants, we would have **become like Sodom**, we would have **been like Gomorrah**."

Israel's Unbelief

- ¶ Romans 9:30 - What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did **not pursue** righteousness, have **obtained** it, a righteousness that is by faith;
- Romans 9:31 - but the people of **Israel**, *who pursued the law as the **way** of righteousness, have **not attained their goal**.*
- Romans 9:32 - Why **not**? *Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They **stumbled** over the **stumbling stone**.*
- Romans 9:33 - As it is written: "**See, I lay in Zion** a stone that **causes** people to **stumble** and a **rock** that **makes** them **fall**, and the one who **believes** in him will **never** be **put to shame**."

Romans 10

- ¶ Romans 10:1 - **Brothers** and **sisters**, my **heart's desire** and **prayer** to God for the **Israelites** is that *they may be saved*.
- Romans 10:2 - For I can **testify** about them that they are **zealous** for God, but their **zeal** is **not based on knowledge**.
- Romans 10:3 - **Since** they did not **know** the righteousness of God and **sought to establish their own**, they did not **submit** to **God's** righteousness.
- Romans 10:4 - Christ is the **culmination** of the law **so** that there may *be righteousness* for everyone who believes.
- ¶ Romans 10:5 - **Moses writes this** about the righteousness that is by the law: "**The person who does these things will live by them**."
- Romans 10:6 - But the righteousness that is by **faith** says: "**Do** not say in your heart, 'Who will **ascend** into **heaven**?'"
(that is, to bring **Christ down**)
- Romans 10:7 - **or** 'Who will **descend** into the **deep**?'"
(that is, to bring **Christ up** from the dead).
- Romans 10:8 - But **what** does it say? "**The word is near you**; it is in your **mouth** and in your heart," that is, the message concerning faith that **we proclaim**:
- Romans 10:9 - **If you declare** with your mouth, "**Jesus is Lord**," and believe in your heart that **God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved.
- Romans 10:10 - For it is with your heart that you believe and are **justified**, and it is with your **mouth** that you **profess** your faith and are saved.
- Romans 10:11 - As **Scripture** says, "**Anyone** who believes in him will **never** be **put to shame**."
- Romans 10:12 - For there is no **difference between Jew** and **Gentile**--the **same** Lord is Lord of **all** and **richly blesses** all who call on him,
- Romans 10:13 - for, "**Everyone** who **calls** on the **name** of the Lord will be saved."
- ¶ Romans 10:14 - **How, then**, can they call on the **one** they have **not believed in**? And how can they believe in the one of **whom** they have **not heard**? And how can they hear **without someone preaching** to them?
- Romans 10:15 - And how can anyone **preach unless they are sent**? As it is **written**: "**How beautiful** are the **feet** of those who bring good news!"
- ¶ Romans 10:16 - But not all the **Israelites accepted** the good news. For **Isaiah** says, "**Lord, who has believed our message**?"
- Romans 10:17 - **Consequently**, faith **comes** from **hearing** the message, and the message is heard **through** the word about **Christ**.
- Romans 10:18 - But I ask: Did they not hear? **Of course** they did: "**Their voice** has **gone** out into all the **earth**, their **words** to the **ends** of the world."

- ¶ Romans 10:19 - Again I ask: *Did Israel not **understand**? First, Moses says, "I will make you **envious** by those who are not a **nation**; I will make you **angry** by a **nation** that has no **understanding**."*
- ¶ Romans 10:20 - *And Isaiah **boldly** says, "I **was found** by those who did not **seek** me; I **revealed myself** to those who did not ask for me."*
- ¶ Romans 10:21 - *But concerning Israel **he** says, "All **day long** I have **held** out my **hands** to a **disobedient** and **obstinate** people."*

Romans 11

The Remnant of Israel

- ¶ Romans 11:1 - *I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an **Israelite** myself, a **descendant** of **Abraham**, from the **tribe** of **Benjamin**.*
- Romans 11:2 - *God did not reject his people, **whom** he **foreknew**. **Don't** you **know** what **Scripture** says in the **passage** about **Elijah**--how he **appealed** to God **against** Israel:*
- Romans 11:3 - *"Lord, they have **killed** your **prophets** and **torn down** your **altars**; I am the **only one left**, and they are **trying to kill me**"?*
- Romans 11:4 - *And what **was** God's **answer** to him? "I have **reserved** for myself **seven thousand** who have not **bowed** the **knee** to **Baal**."*
- Romans 11:5 - *So too, at the **present time** **there** is a **remnant chosen** by grace.*
- Romans 11:6 - *And if by **grace**, then it cannot be **based** on **works**; if it were, **grace** **would no longer** be grace.*
- ¶ Romans 11:7 - *What then? What the people of Israel **sought** so **earnestly** they did not **obtain**. The **elect** among them did, but the others were **hardened**,*
- Romans 11:8 - *as it is written: "God **gave** them a **spirit** of **stupor**, eyes that could not see and **ears** that could not **hear**, to this **very day**."*
- ¶ Romans 11:9 - *And **David** says: "May their **table** become a **snare** and a **trap**, a **stumbling block** and a **retribution** for them.*
- Romans 11:10 - *May their eyes be **darkened** so they cannot see, and their **backs** be **bent** forever."*

Ingrafted Branches

- ¶ Romans 11:11 - *Again I ask: Did they **stumble** so as to **fall** beyond **recovery**? Not at all! **Rather**, because of their **transgression**, **salvation** has come to the Gentiles to **make** Israel **envious**.*
- Romans 11:12 - *But if their **transgression** means riches for the **world**, and their **loss** means riches for the **Gentiles**, how much **greater** riches will their **full inclusion** bring!*
- ¶ Romans 11:13 - *I am **talking** to you **Gentiles**. **Inasmuch** as I am the **apostle** to the **Gentiles**, I take **pride** in my **ministry***
- Romans 11:14 - *in the **hope** that I may **somehow arouse** my own people to **envy** and **save** some of them.*
- Romans 11:15 - *For if their **rejection** brought **reconciliation** to the **world**, what will their **acceptance** be but **life** from the **dead**?*
- Romans 11:16 - *If the part of the **dough** offered as **firstfruits** is holy, then the **whole batch** is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.*
- ¶ Romans 11:17 - *If some of the **branches** have been broken off, and you, **though** a wild olive **shoot**, have been grafted in among the others and now **share** in the **nourishing sap** from the olive root,*
- Romans 11:18 - *do not consider **yourself** to be **superior** to those **other** branches. If you do, consider this: You do not **support** the root, but the root **supports** you.*
- Romans 11:19 - *You will **say** then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in."*
- Romans 11:20 - ***Granted**. But they were broken off because of **unbelief**, and you **stand** by **faith**. Do not be **arrogant**, but **tremble**.*
- Romans 11:21 - *For if God did not **spare** the natural branches, he will not **spare** you **either**.*
- ¶ Romans 11:22 - *Consider **therefore** the kindness and sternness of God: **sternness** to those who **fell**, but kindness to you, **provided** that you **continue** in his kindness. **Otherwise**, you **also** will be cut off.*
- Romans 11:23 - *And if they do not **persist** in **unbelief**, they will be grafted in, for God is **able** to **graft** them in again.*
- Romans 11:24 - ***After** all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and **contrary** to nature were grafted into a **cultivated** olive tree, how much **more readily** will **these**, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!*

All Israel Will Be Saved

- ¶ Romans 11:25 - *I do not **want** you to be **ignorant** of this **mystery**, **brothers** and **sisters**, so that you may not be **conceited**: Israel has **experienced** a **hardening** in part **until** the **full number** of the **Gentiles** has come*

- in,
- Romans 11:26 - and in this **way** all Israel will be **saved**. As it is written: "The **deliverer** will come from **Zion**; he will **turn godlessness** away from **Jacob**."
- Romans 11:27 - And this is my **covenant with them when** I take away their **sins**."
- ¶ Romans 11:28 - As far as the **gospel is concerned**, they are **enemies** for your **sake**; but as far as **election is concerned**, they are **loved on account** of the **patriarchs**,
- Romans 11:29 - for God's **gifts and his call are irrevocable**.
- Romans 11:30 - **Just** as you who were *at one time disobedient to God* have now **received** mercy as a result of their *disobedience*,
- Romans 11:31 - so they *too* have now become disobedient in **order** that they too may now **receive** mercy as a result of God's mercy to you.
- Romans 11:32 - For God has **bound everyone over** to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

Doxology

- ¶ Romans 11:33 - **Oh**, the **depth** of the riches of the **wisdom and knowledge** of God! How **unsearchable** his **judgments**, and his **paths** beyond **tracing** out!
- Romans 11:34 - "Who has **known** the mind of the Lord? **Or** who has been his **counselor**?"
- Romans 11:35 - "Who has **ever given** to God, that God **should repay** them?"
- Romans 11:36 - For from him and through him and for him are all **things**. To him be the **glory forever! Amen**.

Romans 12

A Living Sacrifice

- ¶ Romans 12:1 - Therefore, I urge you, **brothers and sisters**, in **view** of God's mercy, to **offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God--this is your true and proper worship**.
- Romans 12:2 - Do not **conform** to the **pattern of this world**, but be **transformed** by the **renewing** of your **mind**. Then you will be **able to test and approve** what God's will is--his good, pleasing and **perfect will**.

Humble Service in the Body of Christ

- ¶ Romans 12:3 - For by the grace given **me** I **say to every** one of you: Do not think of yourself **more highly than you ought**, but **rather** think of yourself with **sober judgment**, in accordance with the faith God has **distributed** to each of you.
- Romans 12:4 - For **just** as each of us has one body with many **members**, and **these members** do not all have the **same function**,
- Romans 12:5 - **so in Christ** we, **though** many, **form** one body, and each **member belongs** to all the **others**.
- Romans 12:6 - We have **different gifts, according** to the grace given to each of us. If your **gift is prophesying**, then **prophesy** in accordance with your faith;
- Romans 12:7 - if it is **serving**, then **serve**; if it is **teaching**, then **teach**;
- Romans 12:8 - if it is to **encourage**, then give **encouragement**; if it is **giving**, then give **generously**; if it is to **lead**, do it **diligently**; if it is to **show** mercy, do it **cheerfully**.

Love in Action

- ¶ Romans 12:9 - Love **must** be **sincere**. **Hate** what is evil; **cling** to what is good.
- Romans 12:10 - Be **devoted** to one another in love. **Honor** one another **above yourselves**.
- Romans 12:11 - **Never** be **lacking in zeal**, but **keep** your **spiritual fervor**, serving the Lord.
- Romans 12:12 - Be **joyful in hope**, **patient in affliction**, **faithful in prayer**.
- Romans 12:13 - **Share** with the Lord's people who are **in need**. **Practice hospitality**.
- ¶ Romans 12:14 - **Bless** those who **persecute** you; **bless** and do not **curse**.
- Romans 12:15 - **Rejoice** with those who rejoice; **mourn** with those who mourn.
- Romans 12:16 - Live in **harmony** with one another. Do not be **proud**, but be **willing to associate** with people of **low position**. Do not be **conceited**.
- ¶ Romans 12:17 - Do not repay **anyone** evil for evil. Be **careful** to do what is **right** in the **eyes** of everyone.
- Romans 12:18 - If it is **possible**, as far as it **depends** on you, live **at peace** with everyone.
- Romans 12:19 - Do not **take revenge, my dear friends**, but **leave room** for God's **wrath**, for it is **written**: "It is **mine to avenge**; I will repay," **says** the Lord.
- Romans 12:20 - On the **contrary**: "If your **enemy is hungry**, **feed** him; if he is **thirsty**, give him **something to drink**. In **doing** this, you will **heap burning coals** on his **head**."

¶ Romans 12:21 - Do not *be overcome* by evil, but *overcome* evil with good.

Romans 13

Submission to Governing Authorities

- ¶ Romans 13:1 - Let everyone be **subject** to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that **which** God has *established*. The authorities that **exist have been established by** God.
- Romans 13:2 - **Consequently**, whoever **rebels** against the authority is **rebell**ing against what God has **instituted**, and those who do so will bring **judgment on themselves**.
- Romans 13:3 - For rulers **hold no terror** for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you **want** to be **free** from **fear** of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be **commended**.
- Romans 13:4 - For the one in authority is God's **servant** for your **good**. But if you do wrong, be **afraid**, for rulers do not **bear the sword** for no **reason**. **They** are God's servants, **agents** of **wrath** to bring punishment on the **wrongdoer**.
- Romans 13:5 - Therefore, **it is necessary** to **submit** to the authorities, not **only** because of **possible** punishment but also as a **matter of conscience**.
- ¶ Romans 13:6 - This is also **why** you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give **their full** time to governing.
- Romans 13:7 - Give to everyone what you owe **them**: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if **revenue**, then **revenue**; if **respect**, then **respect**; if honor, then honor.

Love Fulfills the Law

- ¶ Romans 13:8 - Let no debt **remain outstanding**, except the **continuing** debt to love one **another**, for whoever **loves others** has **fulfilled** the law.
- Romans 13:9 - The **commandments**, "You shall not **commit adultery**," "You shall not **murder**," "You shall **not steal**," "You shall not **covet**," and **whatever other** command there **may** be, are **summed** up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as **yourself**."
- Romans 13:10 - Love **does** no **harm** to a neighbor. Therefore love is the **fulfillment** of the law.

The Day Is Near

- ¶ Romans 13:11 - And do *this*, **understanding** the **present** time: The **hour** has **already come** for you to **wake** up from your **slumber**, because **our salvation** is **nearer now than when we first believed**.
- Romans 13:12 - The **night** is **nearly over**; the **day** is **almost here**. So let us put **aside** the **deeds** of **darkness** and put on the **armor of light**.
- Romans 13:13 - Let us **behave decently**, as in the **daytime**, not in **carousing** and **drunkenness**, not in **sexual immorality** and **debauchery**, not in **dissension** and **jealousy**.
- Romans 13:14 - **Rather, clothe yourselves with** the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not **think about how** to **gratify** the **desires** of the flesh.

Romans 14

The Weak and the Strong

- ¶ Romans 14:1 - **Accept** the one whose faith is weak, **without quarreling over disputable matters**.
- Romans 14:2 - One **person's** faith **allows** them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats **only vegetables**.
- Romans 14:3 - The one who eats everything must **not treat with contempt** the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must **not judge** the one who does, for God has **accepted** them.
- Romans 14:4 - Who are you to **judge someone else's servant**? To their own **master, servants** stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is **able** to make them stand.
- ¶ Romans 14:5 - One person considers one day **more sacred than** another, another considers every day **alike**. Each of them **should** be fully convinced in their own mind.
- Romans 14:6 - Whoever regards one day as **special** does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever **abstains** does so to the Lord and **gives** thanks to God.
- Romans 14:7 - For **none** of us **lives** for ourselves alone, and **none** of us **dies** for ourselves alone.
- Romans 14:8 - If we **live**, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, **whether** we live or die, we **belong** to the Lord.

- Romans 14:9 - For this **very reason**, Christ died and **returned to life** so that he **might** be the Lord of **both the dead** and the **living**.
- ¶ Romans 14:10 - You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? *Or why do you treat them with contempt?* For we *will all stand before* **God's judgment seat**.
- Romans 14:11 - It is **written**: "'As **surely** as I live,' **says** the Lord, 'every **knee will bow** before **me**; every **tongue will acknowledge** God.'"
- ¶ Romans 14:12 - So then, each of us will give **an account** of ourselves to God.
- ¶ Romans 14:13 - Therefore let us **stop passing judgment on** one another. **Instead**, make **up** your mind not to **put any stumbling block or obstacle** in the way of a brother or sister.
- Romans 14:14 - I **am convinced**, **being fully persuaded** in the Lord **Jesus**, that **nothing** is **unclean in itself**. But if anyone regards **something** as **unclean**, then for that person it is unclean.
- Romans 14:15 - If your brother or sister is **distressed** because of what you eat, you are **no longer acting in love**. Do not by your eating destroy someone for **whom** Christ died.
- Romans 14:16 - Therefore do not let what you **know is good** be **spoken** of as **evil**.
- Romans 14:17 - For the **kingdom** of God is not a **matter** of eating and **drinking**, but of **righteousness, peace and joy** in the **Holy Spirit**,
- Romans 14:18 - because anyone who **serves** Christ in this way is **pleasing** to God and **receives human approval**.
- ¶ Romans 14:19 - Let us therefore make every **effort** to do what **leads** to peace and to **mutual edification**.
- Romans 14:20 - Do not destroy the **work** of God for the **sake** of food. All food is **clean**, but it is **wrong** for a person to eat anything that **causes** someone else to **stumble**.
- Romans 14:21 - It is **better** not to eat meat or **drink wine** or to do anything else that will **cause** your brother or sister to fall.
- ¶ Romans 14:22 - So **whatever** you **believe about these things keep between yourself** and God. **Blessed** is the one who does not **condemn himself** by what he **approves**.
- Romans 14:23 - But **whoever has doubts is condemned** if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not **come** from faith is **sin**.

Romans 15

- ¶ Romans 15:1 - We who are **strong ought to bear** with the **failings** of the **weak** and not to please **ourselves**.
- Romans 15:2 - Each of us **should** please our **neighbors** for their **good**, to **build** them up.
- Romans 15:3 - For **even** Christ **did not please himself** but, as it is written: "The **insults** of those who **insult** you have **fallen** on me."
- Romans 15:4 - For **everything** that was written in the **past** was written to **teach** us, so that through the **endurance taught** in the **Scriptures** and the encouragement they **provide** we might have hope.
- ¶ Romans 15:5 - May the God who **gives** endurance and encouragement **give** you the **same attitude** of mind **toward** each **other** that Christ Jesus **had**,
- Romans 15:6 - so that with one mind and one **voice** you may glorify the God and **Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ¶ Romans 15:7 - **Accept** one another, **then, just** as Christ **accepted** you, in **order to bring** praise to God.
- Romans 15:8 - For I **tell** you that Christ has become a **servant** of the Jews on **behalf** of God's **truth**, so that the **promises** made to the **patriarchs** might be **confirmed**
- Romans 15:9 - and, **moreover**, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his **mercy**. As it is written: "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will **sing** the **praises** of your **name**."
- ¶ Romans 15:10 - Again, it says, "**Rejoice**, you Gentiles, with his people."
- ¶ Romans 15:11 - And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; **let** all the **peoples extol** him."
- ¶ Romans 15:12 - And again, **Isaiah** says, "The **Root of Jesse** will **spring** up, one who will **arise** to **rule** over the **nations**; in him the Gentiles will hope."
- ¶ Romans 15:13 - May the God of hope **fill** you with all joy and peace as you **trust** in him, so that you may **overflow** with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul the Minister to the Gentiles

- ¶ Romans 15:14 - I **myself am convinced**, my brothers and sisters, that you **yourselves** are full of **goodness, filled** with **knowledge** and **competent** to **instruct** one another.
- Romans 15:15 - **Yet** I have written you **quite boldly** on **some points** to **remind** you of them again, **because** of the **grace** God gave me
- Romans 15:16 - to be a **minister** of Christ **Jesus** to the Gentiles. **He** gave me the **priestly duty** of **proclaiming** the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become **an offering acceptable** to God, **sanctified** by the Holy Spirit.
- ¶ Romans 15:17 - Therefore I **glory** in Christ **Jesus** in my service to God.

- Romans 15:18 - I will *not* **venture** to **speak** of **anything except** what Christ has **accomplished** through me in **leading** the Gentiles to **obey** God by what I have **said** and **done**--
- Romans 15:19 - by the power of **signs** and **wonders**, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way **around** to **Illyricum**, I have **fully proclaimed** the gospel of Christ.
- Romans 15:20 - It has **always** been my **ambition** to **preach** the gospel **where** Christ was **not known**, so that I would **not be building on someone else's foundation**.
- Romans 15:21 - **Rather**, as it is written: "Those who were **not told about him** will see, and those who have **not heard** will **understand**."
- ¶ Romans 15:22 - This is **why** I have **often** been **hindered** from **coming** to you.

Paul's Plan to Visit Rome

- ¶ Romans 15:23 - But now that there is **no more place** for me to **work in these regions**, and **since** I have been **longing** for **many years** to visit you,
- Romans 15:24 - I **plan** to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while **passing** through and to have you **assist** me on my **journey** there, after I have **enjoyed** your company for a while.
- Romans 15:25 - Now, **however**, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there.
- Romans 15:26 - For **Macedonia** and **Achaia** were pleased to **make** a contribution for the **poor** among the Lord's people in Jerusalem.
- Romans 15:27 - They were pleased to do it, and **indeed** they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have **shared** in the Jews' **spiritual** blessings, they owe it to the Jews to **share** with them their **material** blessings.
- Romans 15:28 - So after I have **completed this task** and have made **sure** that they have **received this contribution**, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way.
- Romans 15:29 - I **know** that when I come to you, I will come in the **full measure** of the **blessing** of Christ.
- ¶ Romans 15:30 - I **urge** you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the **love** of the Spirit, to **join** me in my **struggle** by **praying** to God for me.
- Romans 15:31 - **Pray** that I may be **kept safe** from the **unbelievers** in **Judea** and that the contribution I **take** to Jerusalem may be **favorably** received by the Lord's people there,
- Romans 15:32 - so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be **refreshed**.
- Romans 15:33 - The God of peace be with you all. **Amen**.

Romans 16

Personal Greetings

- ¶ Romans 16:1 - I **commend** to you our sister **Phoebe**, a **deacon** of the church in **Cenchreae**.
- Romans 16:2 - I **ask** you to **receive** her in the Lord in a way **worthy** of his people and to **give her any help she may need** from you, for she has been the **benefactor** of **many people**, **including** me.
- ¶ Romans 16:3 - Greet **Priscilla** and **Aquila**, my **co-workers** in Christ Jesus.
- Romans 16:4 - They **risked** their **lives** for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are **grateful** to them.
- ¶ Romans 16:5 - Greet **also** the church that **meets at their house**. Greet my dear friend **Epenetus**, who was the **first convert** to Christ in the **province of Asia**.
- ¶ Romans 16:6 - Greet **Mary**, who worked very hard for you.
- ¶ Romans 16:7 - Greet **Andronicus** and **Junia**, my fellow Jews who have been in **prison** with me. They are **outstanding among the apostles**, and they **were** in Christ **before** I was.
- ¶ Romans 16:8 - Greet **Ampliatius**, my dear friend in the Lord.
- ¶ Romans 16:9 - Greet **Urbanus**, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend **Stachys**.
- ¶ Romans 16:10 - Greet **Apelles**, whose **fidelity** to Christ has **stood the test**. Greet those who **belong** to the household of **Aristobulus**.
- ¶ Romans 16:11 - Greet **Herodion**, my fellow Jew. Greet those in the household of **Narcissus** who are in the Lord.
- ¶ Romans 16:12 - Greet **Tryphena** and **Tryphosa**, those **women who work hard** in the Lord. Greet my dear friend **Persis**, another **woman who has worked very hard** in the Lord.
- ¶ Romans 16:13 - Greet **Rufus**, **chosen** in the Lord, and his **mother**, who has been a **mother** to me, **too**.
- ¶ Romans 16:14 - Greet **Asyncritus**, **Phlegon**, **Hermes**, **Patrobas**, **Hermas** and the **other** brothers and sisters with them.
- ¶ Romans 16:15 - Greet **Philologus**, **Julia**, **Nereus** and his sister, and **Olympas** and all the **Lord's** people who are with them.
- ¶ Romans 16:16 - Greet **one** another with a **holy kiss**. All the churches of Christ send greetings.
- ¶ Romans 16:17 - I **urge** you, brothers and sisters, to **watch out** for those who **cause divisions** and **put obstacles** in your way that are **contrary** to the **teaching** you have **learned**. **Keep away** from them.

- Romans 16:18 - For **such** people are not **servicing** our Lord Christ, but their **own appetites**. By **smooth talk** and **flattery** they **deceive** the **minds** of **naive** people.
- Romans 16:19 - **Everyone** has **heard** about your obedience, so I **rejoice because** of you; but I **want** you to be **wise** about what is **good**, and **innocent** about what is **evil**.
- ¶ Romans 16:20 - The God of **peace will soon crush Satan under your feet**. The **grace** of our Lord Jesus be with you.
- ¶ Romans 16:21 - **Timothy**, my co-worker, sends his greetings to you, **as do Lucius, Jason and Sosipater**, my fellow Jews.
- ¶ Romans 16:22 - I, **Tertius**, who **wrote down this letter**, greet you in the Lord.
- ¶ Romans 16:23 - **Gaius**, whose **hospitality** I and the **whole church here enjoy**, sends you his greetings. **Erastus**, who is the **city's director** of **public works**, and our **brother Quartus** send you their greetings.
- ¶ Romans 16:25 - Now to **him** who is **able** to **establish** you in **accordance** with my **gospel**, the **message I proclaim** about Jesus Christ, in **keeping** with the **revelation** of the **mystery hidden** for **long ages past**,
- Romans 16:26 - but now **revealed** and **made known** through the **prophetic writings** by the **command** of the **eternal** God, so that all the Gentiles **might come** to the obedience that **comes** from faith--
- Romans 16:27 - to the **only wise God** be **glory forever** through Jesus Christ! **Amen**.

James 1

- ¶ James 1:1 - **James**, a **servant** of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the **twelve tribes scattered among** the **nations: Greetings**.

Trials and Temptations

- ¶ James 1:2 - Consider it **pure joy**, my brothers and sisters, **whenever** you face **trials** of **many kinds**,
- James 1:3 - because you **know** that the **testing** of your **faith produces** perseverance.
- James 1:4 - **Let** perseverance **finish** its **work** so that you **may be mature** and **complete**, not **lacking** anything.
- James 1:5 - **If any** of you **lacks wisdom**, you should ask God, who gives **generously** to all **without finding fault**, and it will be **given** to you.
- James 1:6 - But when you ask, you **must believe** and not **doubt**, because the one who **doubts** is like a **wave** of the **sea, blown** and **tossed** by the **wind**.
- James 1:7 - That person should not **expect** to receive anything from the Lord.
- James 1:8 - **Such** a person is **double-minded** and **unstable** in all they do.
- ¶ James 1:9 - **Believers** in **humble circumstances** **ought** to take pride in their **high position**.
- James 1:10 - But the **rich** should take pride in their **humiliation**--**since** they will **pass** away like a **wild flower**.
- James 1:11 - For the **sun rises with scorching heat** and **withers** the **plant**; its **blossom falls** and its **beauty** is **destroyed**. In the **same way**, the **rich** will **fade** away **even while** they **go about** their **business**.
- ¶ James 1:12 - Blessed is the one who **perseveres under trial** because, **having stood** the **test**, that person will receive the **crown** of **life** that the Lord has **promised** to those who **love** him.
- ¶ James 1:13 - When tempted, **no one** should **say**, "God is **tempting me**." For God **cannot** be tempted by evil, **nor** does he **tempt** anyone;
- James 1:14 - but **each** person is tempted when they **are dragged** away by their **own** evil desire and **enticed**.
- James 1:15 - **Then**, after desire has **conceived**, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is **full-grown**, gives birth to **death**.
- ¶ James 1:16 - **Don't be deceived**, my dear brothers and sisters.
- James 1:17 - **Every good** and perfect **gift** is from **above, coming down** from the Father of the **heavenly lights**, who does not **change** like **shifting shadows**.
- James 1:18 - He **chose** to give us **birth through** the word of **truth**, that we might be a **kind of firstfruits** of all he **created**.

Listening and Doing

- ¶ James 1:19 - My dear brothers and sisters, take **note** of this: **Everyone** should be **quick** to listen, **slow** to speak and **slow** to **become angry**,
- James 1:20 - because **human anger** does not **produce** the **righteousness** that God **desires**.
- James 1:21 - **Therefore, get rid** of all **moral filth** and the evil that is so **prevalent** and **humbly accept** the word **planted** in you, **which can save** you.
- ¶ James 1:22 - Do not **merely** listen to the word, and so deceive **yourselves**. Do what it says.
- James 1:23 - Anyone who **listens** to the word but does not do what it says is like **someone** who looks at **his** face in a **mirror**
- James 1:24 - and, after **looking** at **himself, goes** away and **immediately forgets** what he looks like.
- James 1:25 - But **whoever** looks **intently into** the perfect **law** that gives **freedom**, and **continues** in it--not **forgetting** what they **have heard**, but **doing** it--they will be **blessed** in what they do.

- ¶ James 1:26 - Those who consider themselves **religious** and yet do not keep a **tight rein** on their **tongues** deceive themselves, and their religion is **worthless**.
- James 1:27 - Religion that God our Father **accepts as pure and faultless** is this: to **look after orphans** and **widows** in their **distress** and to keep **oneself** from **being polluted** by the world.
-

James 2

Favoritism Forbidden

- ¶ James 2:1 - My brothers and sisters, **believers** in our **glorious Lord Jesus Christ must** not show favoritism.
- James 2:2 - Suppose a man comes into your **meeting** wearing a **gold ring** and fine clothes, and a poor man in **filthy old** clothes also comes in.
- James 2:3 - If you show **special attention** to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "**Here's** a good **seat** for you," but say to the poor man, "You **stand there**" or "**Sit** on the **floor** by my **feet**,"
- James 2:4 - have you not **discriminated among yourselves** and become **judges with evil thoughts**?
- ¶ James 2:5 - **Listen**, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God **chosen** those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to **inherit the kingdom** he **promised** those who love him?
- James 2:6 - But you have **dishonored** the poor. Is it not the rich who are **exploiting** you? Are they not the ones who are **dragging you into court**?
- James 2:7 - Are they not the ones who are **blaspheming the noble name** of him to whom you **belong**?
- ¶ James 2:8 - If you **really keep the royal law found in Scripture**, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are **doing right**.
- James 2:9 - But if you show favoritism, you **sin** and are **convicted** by the law as **lawbreakers**.
- James 2:10 - For **whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it**.
- James 2:11 - For he who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." If you do not commit adultery but do commit murder, you have become a **lawbreaker**.
- ¶ James 2:12 - **Speak and act** as those who are **going to be judged** by the law that **gives freedom**,
- James 2:13 - **because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone** who has not **been merciful**. Mercy **triumphs over judgment**.

Faith and Deeds

- ¶ James 2:14 - What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone **claims** to have faith but has **no deeds**? **Can such faith save** them?
- James 2:15 - Suppose a **brother** or a **sister** is without clothes and **daily food**.
- James 2:16 - If one of you says to them, "**Go in peace; keep warm and well fed**," but **does nothing about their physical needs**, what good is it?
- James 2:17 - In the same way, faith by **itself**, if it is not **accompanied by action**, is dead.
- ¶ James 2:18 - **But someone will say**, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show **me** your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.
- James 2:19 - You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the **demons** believe that--and **shudder**.
- ¶ James 2:20 - You **foolish person**, do you **want evidence** that faith without deeds is **useless**?
- James 2:21 - Was not our father Abraham considered righteous for what he did when he **offered his son Isaac on the altar**?
- James 2:22 - You see that his faith and his **actions were working together**, and his faith was **made complete** by what he did.
- James 2:23 - And the scripture was **fulfilled** that says, "Abraham **believed** God, and it was **credited** to him as **righteousness**," and he was **called God's friend**.
- James 2:24 - You see that a person is considered righteous by what they do and not by faith **alone**.
- ¶ James 2:25 - In the same way, was not even **Rahab the prostitute** considered righteous for what she did when she **gave lodging to the spies** and **sent them off in a different direction**?
- James 2:26 - As the **body without the spirit** is dead, **so faith without deeds** is dead.

James 3

Taming the Tongue

- ¶ James 3:1 - Not many of you should **become teachers**, my fellow believers, because you know that we who **teach will be judged more strictly**.

- James 3:2 - We all **stumble** in many ways. Anyone who is **never at fault** in what they say is **perfect, able** to keep their whole body in **check**.
- ¶ James 3:3 - When we **put bits into the mouths of horses** to make them **obey us**, we can **turn** the whole **animal**.
- James 3:4 - Or **take ships as an example**. Although they are **so large** and are **driven** by **strong winds**, they are **steered** by a **very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go**.
- James 3:5 - **Likewise**, the tongue is a small **part** of the body, but it **makes great boasts**. Consider what a great **forest** is set on fire by a small **spark**.
- James 3:6 - The tongue **also** is a fire, a **world** of evil among the **parts** of the body. It **corrupts** the whole body, **sets** the whole **course** of **one's** life on fire, and is **itself** set on fire by **hell**.
- ¶ James 3:7 - All **kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures** are being **tamed** and have been **tamed** by **mankind**,
- James 3:8 - but **no** human being can **tame** the tongue. It is a **restless** evil, full of **deadly poison**.
- ¶ James 3:9 - With the tongue we praise **our Lord and Father**, and with it we **curse** human **beings**, who have been **made in God's likeness**.
- James 3:10 - **Out** of the same **mouth** come praise and **cursing**. My brothers and sisters, **this** should not be.
- James 3:11 - Can **both** fresh water and salt water **flow** from the same spring?
- James 3:12 - My brothers and sisters, can a **fig tree** bear **olives**, or a **grapevine** bear **figs**? **Neither** can a salt spring **produce** fresh water.

Two Kinds of Wisdom

- ¶ James 3:13 - Who is **wise and understanding** among you? **Let** them **show** it by their good life, by **deeds done** in the **humility** that comes from wisdom.
- James 3:14 - But if you **harbor bitter** envy and selfish ambition in your **hearts**, do not **boast about it** or **deny** the truth.
- James 3:15 - **Such** "wisdom" **does** not come **down** from heaven but is **earthly, unspiritual, demonic**.
- James 3:16 - **For where** you have envy and selfish ambition, **there** you **find disorder** and **every evil practice**.
- ¶ James 3:17 - But the wisdom that comes from heaven is **first** of all **pure**; **then peace-loving, considerate, submissive**, full of **mercy** and good **fruit, impartial** and **sincere**.
- James 3:18 - **Peacemakers** who **sow** in **peace** reap a **harvest** of righteousness.

James 4

Submit Yourselves to God

- ¶ James 4:1 - What **causes fights** and **quarrels** among you? Don't they come from your **desires** that **battle** within you?
- James 4:2 - You **desire** but do not have, so you **kill**. You **covet** but you **cannot** get what you **want**, so you **quarrel** and **fight**. You do not have because you do not ask God.
- James 4:3 - When you ask, you do not **receive**, because you ask with **wrong motives**, that you **may** spend what you get on your **pleasures**.
- ¶ James 4:4 - You **adulterous people**, don't you know that **friendship** with the world **means enmity** against God? **Therefore**, anyone who **chooses** to be a **friend** of the world **becomes an enemy** of God.
- James 4:5 - Or do you **think** Scripture says **without reason** that he **jealously longs** for the **spirit** he **has caused** to dwell in us?
- James 4:6 - But he **gives** us **more grace**. That is why Scripture says: "God **opposes** the **proud** but **shows favor** to the humble."
- ¶ James 4:7 - **Submit** yourselves, then, to God. **Resist** the **devil**, and he will **flee** from you.
- James 4:8 - Come near to God and he will come near to you. **Wash** your **hands**, you **sinners**, and **purify** your **hearts**, you **double-minded**.
- James 4:9 - **Grieve, mourn** and **wail**. **Change** your **laughter** to **mourning** and your **joy** to **gloom**.
- James 4:10 - **Humble** yourselves **before** the **Lord**, and he will **lift** you up.
- ¶ James 4:11 - **Brothers** and **sisters**, do not **slander** one **another**. Anyone who speaks against a **brother** or **sister** or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not **keeping** it, but **sitting in judgment** on it.
- James 4:12 - There is **only one Lawgiver** and Judge, the one who is **able** to **save** and **destroy**. But you--who are you to judge your **neighbor**?

Boasting About Tomorrow

- ¶ James 4:13 - **Now** listen, you who say, "**Today** or tomorrow we will **go** to this or that **city**, spend a **year** there, **carry on**

business and make money."

James 4:14 - Why, you do not **even** know what will **happen** tomorrow. What is your **life**? You are a **mist** that **appears** for a **little while** and then **vanishes**.

James 4:15 - **Instead**, you ought to say, "If it is the **Lord's will**, we will **live** and do this or that."

James 4:16 - **As it is**, you **boast** in your **arrogant schemes**. **All such boasting is evil**.

James 4:17 - If **anyone**, then, **knows** the **good** they ought to do and **doesn't** do it, it is **sin** for them.

James 5

Warning to Rich Oppressors

¶ James 5:1 - **Now listen**, you **rich people**, **weep** and **wail** because of the **misery** that is coming on you.

James 5:2 - Your wealth **has rotted**, and **moths** have **eaten** your **clothes**.

James 5:3 - Your **gold** and **silver** are **corroded**. Their **corrosion** will **testify** against you and **eat** your **flesh like fire**. You have **hoarded** wealth in the **last days**.

James 5:4 - **Look!** The **wages** you **failed to pay** the **workers** who **mowed** your **fields** are **crying out** against you. The **cries** of the **harvesters** have **reached** the **ears** of the Lord **Almighty**.

James 5:5 - You have **lived** on earth in **luxury** and **self-indulgence**. You have **fattened yourselves** in the **day** of **slaughter**.

James 5:6 - You have **condemned** and **murdered** the **innocent** one, who was not **opposing** you.

Patience in Suffering

¶ James 5:7 - Be **patient**, **then**, brothers and sisters, **until** the Lord's coming. **See how the farmer waits** for the land to **yield its valuable crop**, **patiently waiting** for the **autumn** and **spring rains**.

James 5:8 - You **too**, be **patient** and **stand firm**, because the Lord's coming is **near**.

James 5:9 - **Don't grumble** against one **another**, brothers and sisters, or you will be **judged**. The **Judge** is **standing at the door!**

¶ James 5:10 - Brothers and sisters, as **an example** of **patience** in the **face** of **suffering**, **take the prophets** who **spoke** in the name of the Lord.

James 5:11 - As you **know**, we **count** as **blessed those** who have **persevered**. You have **heard** of **Job's perseverance** and have **seen what** the Lord **finally brought about**. The Lord is **full of compassion** and **mercy**.

¶ James 5:12 - **Above all**, my brothers and sisters, **do not swear**--not by **heaven** or by **earth** or by **anything else**. All you **need to say** is a **simple "Yes"** or **"No"**. **Otherwise** you will be **condemned**.

The Prayer of Faith

¶ James 5:13 - Is anyone among you in **trouble**? Let them **pray**. Is anyone **happy**? Let them **sing songs of praise**.

James 5:14 - Is anyone among you **sick**? Let them **call the elders** of the **church** to **pray over them** and **anoint them with oil** in the name of the Lord.

James 5:15 - And the **prayer offered in faith** will **make the sick person well**; the Lord will **raise them up**. If they have **sinned**, they will be **forgiven**.

James 5:16 - **Therefore confess** your sins to each other and **pray for each other so** that you **may be healed**. The **prayer of a righteous person** is **powerful** and **effective**.

¶ James 5:17 - **Elijah** was a **human being**, **even** as we are. He **prayed earnestly** that it **would** not rain, and it **did** not rain on the land for **three** and a **half years**.

James 5:18 - **Again** he **prayed**, and the **heavens gave** rain, and the earth **produced its crops**.

¶ James 5:19 - My brothers and sisters, if one of you should **wander** from the **truth** and **someone** should **bring** that person **back**,

James 5:20 - **remember this: Whoever turns** a **sinner** from the **error** of their **way** will **save** them from **death** and **cover** over a **multitude** of sins.