

# CALLAWAY GARDENS 2019

WMc

*Romans 12-16*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- a. THE PREVIOUS SPEAKERS HAVE TAKEN US THROUGH CHAPTERS 1-11 TEACHING US:
  - i. THE WRATH OF GOD IS REVEALED B/C MEN HAVE IGNORED ALL THE EVIDENCE NATURE REVEALS ABOUT GOD'S NATURE AND CHARACTER AND HAVE WORSHIPPED CREATED THINGS RATHER THAN THE CREATOR.
  - ii. JEWS HAVE CONDEMNED THEMSELVES BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE LAW AND THEY BREAK IT. THEY TEACH THE LAW AND CONDEMN OTHERS FOR NOT KNOWING OR OBEYING THE LAW AND YET DISOBEY IT THEMSELVES. THEY ARE CONDEMNED BY GENTILES WHO DO NOT KNOW THE LAW AND YET OBEY IT.
  - iii. BUT GENTILES ARE CONDEMNED B/C THEY DISOBEY THE NATURAL LAW WHICH IS WRITTEN IN THEIR HEARTS AND EVIDENT ALL AROUND THEM
  - iv. THE JEW FINDS NO PROTECTION IN THE LAW B/C IT CANNOT SAVE THEM B/C THEY CANNOT OBEY IT.
  - v. GENTILES FIND NO PROTECTION APART FROM THE LAW B/C THEIR OWN JUDGMENTS CONDEMN THEM
  - vi. TERRIBLE NEWS ALL AROUND US! WE ARE ALL HEMMED IN BY SELF-CONDEMNATION. WE ARE ALL SET TO PERISH.
  - vii. ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD. ALL DESERVE GOD'S WRATH. HELL WAITS WITH MOUTH WIDE OPEN

FOR ALL THOSE WHO MARCH RELENTLESSLY TOWARD IT. WE ARE LOST! WE ARE LOST!

- viii. BUT GOD HAS PROVIDED SALVATION BY GRACE TO THE JEW AND GENTILE ALIKE. WE ARE ALL SAVED BY GRACE, NOT BY WORKS: JEWS AND GENTILES ALIKE
- ix. CHRIST HAS BECOME THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS, TAKING OUR SINS UPON HIMSELF, DYING THE DEATH WE DESERVE TO DIE, LIVING THE LIFE WE CANNOT LIVE APART FROM HIM.
- x. BY GRACE ADAM'S SIN IS IMPUTED TO US.
- xi. BY GRACE OUR SIN IS IMPUTED TO CHRIST.
- xii. BY GRACE CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS IMPUTED TO ALL WHO BELIEVE HIM
- xiii. CHRIST BY THE CROSS HAS TAKEN ON HIS DIVINE PERSON WHAT WE DESERVE AND HAS GIVEN TO US WHAT HE DESERVES.
- xiv. WE ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS! OUR SIN IS NO LONGER CHARGED TO OUR ACCOUNT. WE HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIED
- xv. AND CHRIST HAS GIVEN US HIS HOLY SPIRIT TO INDWELL US AND THE SPIRIT WORKS CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS INTO OUR HEARTS, GIVING US A NEW WANTED, A NEW HOPE, AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE SO THAT WE NOW LIVE FOR HIM AND THROUGH HIM WHO DIED FOR US.
- xvi. OUR SALVATION IS ETERNALLY SECURE BECAUSE WE WERE CHOSEN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD. CHRIST HAS DONE THIS FOR US AND HIS WORK CANNOT BE UNDONE OR THWARTED. GOD WILL ACCOMPLISH IN US HIS HOLY PURPOSE. WE ARE HIS. WE CAN CALL HIM FATHER. HE CALLS US SONS. WE ARE JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST OF EVERYTHING CHRIST OWNS WHICH IS EVERYTHING THERE IS.

- xvii. GOD'S GRACE AND ELECTION HAVE SECURED OUR SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.
  - xviii. NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD. NOTHING! NOTHING! FOREVER! FOREVER!
  - xix. "O THE DEPTH OF THE RICHES BOTH OF THE WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE OF GOD! HOW UNSEARCHABLE *ARE* HIS JUDGMENTS, AND HIS WAYS PAST FINDING OUT! <sup>34</sup> FOR WHO HATH KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD? OR WHO HATH BEEN HIS COUNSELOR? <sup>35</sup> OR WHO HATH FIRST GIVEN TO HIM, AND IT SHALL BE RECOMPENSED UNTO HIM AGAIN? <sup>36</sup> FOR OF HIM, AND THROUGH HIM, AND TO HIM, *ARE* ALL THINGS: TO WHOM *BE* GLORY FOREVER."
  - xx. **THEREFORE!!!!!! WE ARE TO "PRESENT OUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, *WHICH IS* OUR REASONABLE SERVICE."**
- b. THE ENTIRE BOOK OF **ROMANS** IS CONCERNED WITH THE SUPREMACY AND CENTRALITY OF JESUS CHRIST AND HIS GOSPEL. THE BOOK IS BASED ON THE TRUTH THAT JESUS, BEING GOD, DIED FOR OUR SINS AND IN HIS BODY ESTABLISHED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE FATHER FOR ETERNITY.
  - c. THE AUTHORITY AND REASON FOR THE EPISTLE IN MY MIND TURN ON **CH. 14:10-12** "FOR WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. <sup>11</sup> FOR IT IS WRITTEN, *AS I LIVE*, SAITH THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD. <sup>12</sup> SO THEN EVERY ONE OF US SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD."
  - d. THE PERENNIAL PROBLEM WITH WHICH THE EARLY CHURCH HAD TO DEAL WAS THE RELATIONSHIP WITH JEWS AND GENTILES AND THE ISSUE OF WHAT IT MEANT TO LIVE AS A CHRISTIAN.
    - i. SINCE THE DAYS OF ABRAHAM JEWS HAVE FOCUSED ON KNOWING AND OBEYING GOD. THEY DID THAT BY OBEYING THE MOSAIC LAW

WHICH WAS ABSOLUTELY CENTRAL TO THE JEWISH CULTURE.  
THIS WRITTEN MORAL CODE WAS FOREIGN TO MANY GENTILES.

- ii. THE JEWS HAD BEEN MONOTHEISTIC FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS. IN CONTRAST GENTILES WERE OFTEN ATHEISTIC OR POLYTHEISTIC.
  - iii. MOREOVER, JEWISH LIFE AND IDENTITY REVOLVED AROUND OBEYING GOD, OBSERVING HOLY DAYS AND BEING SEPARATE AND DISTINCT FROM ALL OTHER PEOPLE GROUPS.
- e. "ALL OF PAUL'S EPISTLES (EXCEPT HEBREW) FALL VERY NATURALLY INTO FIVE SECTIONS, AS FOLLOWS: **(1)** AN INTRODUCTION, WHICH MAY CONTAIN A SALUTATION, USUALLY INCLUDING THE SUBJECT OF THE EPISTLE AND THE NAME OF THOSE WITH PAUL AS CO-LABORERS AT THE TIME OF THE WRITING, AND A THANKSGIVING FOR THE GOOD CHARACTER OR CONDUCT OF THOSE WHOM HE ADDRESSES. **(2)** A DOCTRINAL SECTION, IN WHICH HE DISCUSSES SOME GREAT CHRISTIAN TEACHING, WHICH NEEDS SPECIAL EMPHASIS AS THE CASE OF THE CHURCH OR INDIVIDUAL ADDRESSED. **(3)** A PRACTICAL SECTION, IN WHICH HE SETS FORTH THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES DISCUSSED IN THE DOCTRINAL SECTION TO THE LIFE OF THOSE ADDRESSED. **(4)** A PERSONAL SECTION, IN WHICH ARE PERSONAL MESSAGES AND SALUTATIONS SENT TO AND BY VARIOUS FRIENDS. **(5)** A CONCLUSION, IN WHICH MAY BE FOUND A BENEDICTION OR AUTOGRAPH CONCLUSION TO AUTHENTICATE THE LETTER, MAYBE BOTH, WITH OTHER CLOSING WORDS." —*JOHN CALVIN*
- f. CHAPTERS 12-15 FALL INTO THE PRACTICAL SECTION IN WHICH PAUL GIVES PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF TEACHINGS THAT COME EARLIER IN THE EPISTLE.
- g. "IN ROMANS GOD GIVES HIS OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS TO THE BELIEVER FOR HIS JUSTIFICATION." —*JOHN CALVIN*

h. PAUL'S GOAL IN WRITING ROMANS: "SOME ERRORS OF DOCTRINE AND PRACTICE HAD CREPT IN WHICH NEEDED CORRECTION. (1) THEY SEEM TO HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD PAUL'S TEACHINGS AND TO HAVE CHARGED THAT HE TAUGHT THAT THE GREATER THE SIN THE GREATER THE GLORY OF GOD (3:8). (2) THEY MAY HAVE THOUGHT HIM TO TEACH THAT WE SHOULD SIN IN ORDER TO GET MORE GRACE (6:1) AND, THEREFORE, MAY HAVE MADE HIS TEACHING OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH AN EXCUSE FOR IMMORAL CONDUCT. (3) *THE JEWS WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE THE GENTILE CHRISTIANS AS EQUAL WITH THEM IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM (1:9, 29, ETC.). (4) SOME OF THE GENTILE BRETHERN, ON THE OTHER HAND, LOOKED WITH CONTEMPT UPON THEIR NARROW AND PREJUDICED AND BIGOTED JEWISH BRETHERN (14:3). (5) PAUL, THEREFORE, AIMED TO WIN THE JEWS TO CHRISTIAN TRUTH AND THE GENTILES TO CHRISTIAN LOVE.*"

i. IN ORDER TO DO THIS, PAUL MUST CONFRONT HEAD-ON THE SPIRITUAL PRIDE OF BOTH THE JEWISH CONVERTS AND GENTILE CONVERTS.

i. "THE DOCTRINES OF THE BOOK ARE CONSIDERED AND DISCUSSED UNDER FOUR MAIN PROPOSITIONS: (1) ALL MEN ARE GUILTY BEFORE GOD (JEWS AND GENTILES ALIKE). (2) ALL MEN NEED A SAVIOR. (3) CHRIST DIED FOR ALL MEN. (4) WE ALL, THROUGH FAITH, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST."—*JOHN CALVIN*

j. CHAPTERS 12-15 CONCERN THE DOCTRINE OF CHRISTIAN LIFE; THAT IS, *HOW* TO LIVE AS A CHRISTIAN. HE IS EXPLAINING TO THE GENTILE AND HEBREW CHRISTIANS WHAT THE CHRISTIAN LIFE LOOKS LIKE *FOR ALL OF THEM.*

## 2. ROMANS 12

- a. SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH HAS 3 INTERRELATED ASPECTS:  
(1) WHAT JESUS HAS DONE **FOR US**. (2) WHAT JESUS IS DOING **IN US** BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT. AND, (3) WHAT JESUS SEEKS TO DO **THROUGH US** BY HIS HOLY SPIRIT.
  
- b. HAVING NOW EXPLAINED JUSTIFICATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH, PAUL NOW GIVES PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION ON HOW TO LIVE AS A CHRISTIAN. IN **PHILIPPIANS 2:12** PAUL EXHORTS BELIEVERS TO “WORK OUT YOUR OWN SALVATION WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING...” THAT IS, AS CHRISTIANS WE MUST PUT OUR SALVATION TO WORK; WE MUST EXERCISE OUR SALVATION. NOW PAUL IS GIVING PRACTICAL INSTRUCTION OF PUTTING OUR SALVATION TO WORK.
  
- c. 1-2: THEREFORE, [IN GRATITUDE AND HUMILITY] PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE
  
- d. CH. 12 BEGINS WITH “THEREFORE”. IN THE PRECEDING CHAPTERS THE APOSTLE PAUL HAS TALKED ABOUT OUR GLORIOUS SALVATION AND THE NOW REVEALED MYSTERY THAT THE PROMISED SALVATION EXTENDS TO GENTILES THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. PAUL HAS ALSO WARNED GENTILE CHRISTIANS NOT TO BE SPIRITUALLY PRIDEFUL AND ARROGANT B/C THEY HAVE BEEN GRAFTED IN (AS “WILD” BRANCHES) TO THE NATURAL ROOT IN PLACE OF THE JEWS (THE “NATURAL” BRANCHES) WHO WERE CUT OFF *ONLY FOR A TIME* B/C OF THEIR REJECTION OF JESUS CHRIST.
  
- e. IN CHAPTERS 12-15 PAUL EXPLAINS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A **LIVING SACRIFICE**: WHAT IT MEANS AS A CHRISTIAN TO LIVE SACRIFICIALLY FOR CHRIST.
  - i. WE ARE *LIVING SACRIFICES* BECAUSE JESUS WAS A SLAIN SACRIFICE.
  
  - ii. GIVEN WHAT CHRIST HAS DONE *FOR US* AND IS DOING *IN US*, IT IS RIGHT AND FITTING THAT WE CONSECRATE OURSELVES TO HIM: TO

HIS GLORY AND CALLING.

- iii. WE BELONG TO CHRIST, NOT TO OURSELVES. "FOR WHETHER WE LIVE, WE LIVE UNTO THE LORD; AND WHETHER WE DIE, WE DIE UNTO THE LORD: WHETHER WE LIVE THEREFORE, OR DIE, WE ARE THE LORD'S." *ROMANS 14:8*
  - iv. **1 CORINTHIANS 3:23** "YOU BELONG TO CHRIST...."
  - v. IN THE OT NO SACRIFICE COULD BE OFFERED UNTIL THE PRIEST INSPECTED IT AND FOUND TO BE WITHOUT BLEMISH.
  - vi. WE ARE NOT JUST *LIVING SACRIFICES*; WE ARE ALSO *ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICES* B/C (AND ONLY BECAUSE) WE ARE IN CHRIST.
- f. [12:2] "BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT *IS* THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD."
- i. HERE "**PROVE**" IS NOT OUTWARD BUT INWARD. WE ARE NOT REALLY PROVING SOMETHING TO OTHER PEOPLE. RATHER, WE ARE PROVING TO OURSELVES, EXPERIENCING FOR OURSELVES THAT GOD'S WILL IS GOOD AND PERFECT.
  - ii. WE CANNOT LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IF WE ARE NOT **INWARDLY** CONVINCED THAT GOD'S WILL FOR OUR LIVES IS "GOOD, ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT."
    - 1. "GOOD" = MORALLY EXCELLENT
    - 2. "ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD" = WELL-PLEASING
      - a. REINFORCES THAT WE LIVE BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF ONE
    - 3. "PERFECT" = WHOLE, WITHOUT BLEMISH

iii. WHAT GOD REQUIRES US TO DO IS CONTRARY TO OUR ADAMIC NATURE. IT IS ALSO GENERALLY COUNTER-CULTURAL OR FOOLISH.

1. "FOR THAT WHICH IS HIGHLY ESTEEMED AMONG MEN IS ABOMINATION IN THE SIGHT OF GOD." *LUKE 16:15*

2. WHAT SENSE DOES IT MAKE TO LOVE YOUR ENEMIES? TO PRAY FOR THOSE WHO TREAT US BADLY? TO FORGIVE THOSE WHO WRONG US?

g. PAUL IS HERE IS TALKING ABOUT AN *INNER TRANSFORMATION* THAT HAS *OUTWARD MANIFESTATION*. THE WORLD IS CONTENT WITH THE OPPOSITE: *OUTWARD PRETENSE* AND *INWARD REBELLION*.

h. GOD IS NOT TALKING ABOUT SOME OUTWARD COMPULSION THROUGH THE IMPOSITION OF BRUTE FORCE. THAT IS WHY JOB'S 1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONSE TO GOD WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO GOD. IT WAS RESIGNATION; OUTWARD COMPULSION. GOD WANTS A CHANGE IN THE INNER MAN. SO GOD CONTINUED TO DEAL W/ JOB UNTIL JOB FINALLY SAID: "I HAVE HEARD OF THEE BY THE HEARING OF THE EAR: BUT NOW MINE EYE SEETH THEE. <sup>6</sup>WHEREFORE I ABHOR *MYSELF*, AND REPENT IN DUST AND ASHES." **JOB 42: 5-6.**

i. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS ABOUT TAKING OUR WILL AND HUMBLY PLACING IT IN GOD'S LOVING HANDS.

j. WE MUST BE *TRANSFORMED* AND OUR MINDS *RENEWED* B/C OUR MINDS, THE FLESH, IS SO DEEPLY OPPOSED TO GOD. THE OLD MIND, THE FLESH, CANNOT BE RECONCILED TO GOD; THEY ARE EVER AND ALWAYS AT WAR WITH GOD AND GOD WITH THEM.

i. THE SOUL IS EVERY BIT OF THE NON-PHYSICAL PART OF US. OUR MORAL CENTER AND SO INCLUDES OUR THOUGHTS, INTENTIONS AND MOTIVES



ii. THE FLESH IS ALL OUR CONSCIOUS BEING THAT OPPOSES GOD. IT INCLUDES OUR WILL, APPETITES, INTENTIONS AND MOTIVES. IT IS THAT WILFULLNESS IN US THAT SAYS TO GOD: "NO! I WON'T DO THAT. I DON'T WANT TO DO THAT."

k. THE CHALLENGE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS THIS: **WE KNOW BY OBEYING. WE KNOW BY DOING.** HOW DO WE KNOW GOD'S WILL IS "ACCEPTABLE, GOOD AND PERFECT"? WE DO IT. WE SUBMIT TO HIS WILL. WE OBEY AND IN OBEYING WE COME TO SEE THAT GOD'S WILL IS WELL-PLEASING, MORALLY EXCELLENT AND WITHOUT BLEMISH.

i. WHEN GOD SPOKE TO MOSES AT THE BURNING BUSH AND GAVE HIM THE ASSIGNMENT TO FREE THE HEBREW PEOPLE, THIS EXCHANGE OCCURRED: "COME NOW THEREFORE, AND I WILL SEND THEE UNTO PHARAOH, THAT THOU MAYEST BRING FORTH MY PEOPLE THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT. <sup>11</sup> AND MOSES SAID UNTO GOD, WHO AM I, THAT I SHOULD GO UNTO PHARAOH, AND THAT I SHOULD BRING FORTH THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL OUT OF EGYPT? <sup>12</sup> AND HE SAID, CERTAINLY I WILL BE WITH THEE; AND **THIS SHALL BE A TOKEN UNTO THEE, THAT I HAVE SENT THEE: WHEN THOU HAST BROUGHT FORTH THE PEOPLE OUT OF EGYPT, YE SHALL SERVE GOD UPON THIS MOUNTAIN.**"

l. THIS *INNER TRANSFORMATION* IS BOTH INSTANT AND ONGOING

i. **INSTANT** B/C WHEN WE RECEIVE CHRIST'S SALVATION WE ARE CHANGED FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT, FROM ALIENATION TO SONSHIP. *OUR STATUS* HAS CHANGED INSTANTLY: WE ARE NOW CHILDREN OF GOD; MEMBERS OF CHRIST'S BODY.

ii. **ONGOING** B/C IT IS THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT TO CONFORM US TO THE IMAGE OF CHRIST, TO MOVE US TO JOYFUL SUBMISSION TO THE WILL OF CHRIST.

3. [1]: IN LIGHT OF ALL WE GAIN IN CHRIST PAUL SAYS RIGHT UP FRONT THAT THE PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS HE IS GIVING IS PART OF OUR “REASONABLE SERVICE”.

a. HE IS NOT ASKING FOR THE MOON. HE IS ASKING WHAT WE CAN PROVIDE THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

4. [3-8]: ONE PRACTICAL AREA OF OBEDIENCE IS TO USE OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO HELP OTHER CHRISTIANS, TO BENEFIT THE BODY OF CHRIST.

a. WITH HUMILITY AND ZEAL EXERCISE WE MUST EXERCISE OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS (ALL GIVEN BY GRACE) FOR WE ALL PART OF ONE BODY.

b. SPIRITUAL ARE GIVEN TO EACH SAVED INDIVIDUAL BUT THEY ARE NOT INTENDED FOR PERSONAL USE. THE GIFTS ARE INTENDED TO EDIFY THE BODY OF CHRIST.

c. SPIRITUAL GIFTS ARE:

i. ALL OUTWARD-LOOKING

ii. FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS. GIVEN TO EACH CHRISTIAN INDIVIDUALLY BUT NOT FOR HIS DIRECT BENEFIT.

iii. NOT JUST FOR THE BENEFIT OF OTHERS BUT FOR THE BUILDING UP OF CHRIST’S CHURCH, HIS BRIDE.

1. THAT IS, THE GIFTS ARE OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE BRIDE’S TROUSSEAU (E.G., ONE CREATES THE BODICE, ANOTHER THE VEIL AND ANOTHER TRAIN, ETC.) SO THAT THE BRIDE WILL NOT BE NAKED OR IN IMPROPER CLOTHING

d. EACH SPIRITUAL GIFT HAS AN *ATTITUDE* THAT ATTENDS IT.

i. GIVING = GENEROUSLY

- ii. EXHORTATION = ENTHUSIASTICALLY
  - iii. RULING = DILIGENTLY
  - iv. SERVICE (MINISTRY) = HUMBLY
- e. IDENTIFY THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS OF THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE:
- i. ALLEN CHEATHAM – TEACHING, LEADERSHIP, DISCERNMENT AND MERCIFUL
  - ii. RON DUNN – TEACHING, EXHORTATION, WISDOM, DISCERNMENT, LEADERSHIP AND GENEROSITY
  - iii. LEE GOWEN – KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, EXHORTATION AND DISCERNMENT
  - iv. ED ROBERTS – ENCOURAGEMENT AND HOSPITALITY
  - v. CHRIS STRIPPELHOFF – SERVICE, GENEROSITY AND HOSPITALITY

5. 9-21: EXHORTATION ON HOW TO LIVE AS CHRISTIANS

- a. PAUL HERE DESCRIBES WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE “TO PRESENT OUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE”
- b. THIS LIST OF ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS HAVE THE SAME TONE AND FEEL OF THE FRUIT (SINGULAR) OF THE SPIRIT PAUL DESCRIBES IN *GALATIANS 5:22-23*– “THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, <sup>K</sup>LONGSUFFERING, <sup>K</sup>GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, <sup>23</sup> MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE....”
- c. THESE THINGS ARE THE INEVITABLE FRUIT OF A RENEWED MIND.

## 6. APPLICATION

- a. WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE THAT YOU HAVE PRESENTED YOUR BODY AS A LIVING SACRIFICE?
- b. WHAT IS THE EVIDENCE OF YOUR CHRISTIAN CHARACTER?
- c. HOW HAVE YOU USED YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE PAST 90 DAYS?

## 7. ROMANS 13

a. [1]: "LET EVERY SOUL BE SUBJECT UNTO THE HIGHER POWERS. FOR THERE IS NO POWER BUT OF GOD: THE POWERS THAT BE ARE ORDAINED OF GOD."

i. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE PASSAGES THAT PROVE THE BIBLE IS COUNTER-CULTURAL AND OFTEN PLACES US IN OPPOSITION TO OUR CULTURE.

1. REMEMBER JESUS'S REBUKE OF THE PHARISEES IN **LUKE 16: 13-15** "YE ARE THEY WHICH JUSTIFY YOURSELVES BEFORE MEN; BUT GOD KNOWETH YOUR HEARTS: FOR THAT WHICH IS HIGHLY ESTEEMED AMONG MEN IS ABOMINATION IN THE SIGHT OF GOD."

2. AS A PRODUCT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, I HAVE STRUGGLED WITH THIS PASSAGE.

ii. HERE PAUL STATES THE RULE **AND** GIVES THE REASON FOR THE RULE.

iii. THERE ARE MANY PRAGMATIC REASONS FOR THIS RULE BUT THE UNDERLYING REASON IS THAT GOD IS SOVEREIGN AND HAS PLACED ALL LEADERS INTO THE POSITIONS THEY OCCUPY AND GOD SO DOES FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES.

iv. PAUL WAS STATING A RULE THAT THE OTHER APOSTLES AFFIRMED.

1. PETER, THE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE OTHER APOSTLES, WROTE IN **1 PETER 2:13-17** "SUBMIT YOURSELVES TO EVERY ORDINANCE OF MAN FOR THE LORD'S SAKE: WHETHER IT BE TO THE KING, AS <sup>D</sup>SUPREME; <sup>14</sup> OR UNTO

GOVERNORS, AS UNTO THEM THAT ARE SENT BY HIM FOR THE PUNISHMENT OF EVILDOERS, AND FOR THE PRAISE OF THEM THAT DO WELL. <sup>15</sup> FOR SO IS THE WILL OF GOD, THAT WITH WELL DOING YE MAY PUT TO SILENCE THE IGNORANCE OF FOOLISH MEN: <sup>16</sup> AS FREE, AND NOT USING *YOUR* LIBERTY FOR A CLOAK OF MALICIOUSNESS, BUT AS THE SERVANTS OF GOD. <sup>17</sup> <sup>M</sup>HONOUR ALL *MEN*. LOVE THE BROTHERHOOD. FEAR GOD. <sup>P</sup>HONOUR THE KING."

2. PAUL WROTE AGAIN IN **TITUS 3:1** "BE SUBJECT TO PRINCIPALITIES AND POWERS, TO OBEY MAGISTRATES...."

v. I WANT TO GIVE YOU 2 EXAMPLES OF JESUS DEMONSTRATING THIS SAME OBEDIENCE:

1. *FIRST*, WHEN HE SUBMITTED TO THE QUESTIONING OF THE CHIEF PRIESTS AND THE SANHEDRIN. JESUS WAS SILENT UNTIL THE HIGH PRIEST INVOKED THE RULE OF ADJURATION UNDER THE LAW: "JESUS HELD HIS PEACE. AND THE HIGH PRIEST ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO HIM, I ADJURE THEE BY THE LIVING GOD, THAT THOU TELL US WHETHER THOU BE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD. <sup>64</sup> JESUS SAITH UNTO HIM, THOU HAST SAID: NEVERTHELESS I SAY UNTO YOU, HEREAFTER SHALL YE SEE THE SON OF MAN SITTING ON THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, AND COMING IN THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN." *MATTHEW 26:63-64*

2. *SECOND*, PILATE, SURPRISED AT JESUS'S HUMBLE SILENCE, WARNED JESUS THAT HE (PILATE) HAD THE POWER TO SPARE JESUS OR TO KILL HIM, JESUS SAID: "SPEAKEST THOU NOT UNTO ME? KNOWEST THOU NOT THAT I HAVE POWER TO CRUCIFY THEE, AND HAVE POWER TO RELEASE THEE? <sup>11</sup> JESUS ANSWERED, THOU COULDEST HAVE NO POWER *AT ALL* AGAINST ME, EXCEPT IT WERE GIVEN THEE FROM ABOVE...." **JOHN 19:10-11**

vi. BECAUSE GOD LOVES US AND IS SOVEREIGN HE NOT ONLY TELLS US THE RULE, HE ALSO TELLS WHY HE IMPOSES THE RULE:

1. [1]: GOD HAS SOVEREIGNLY PUT THE RULERS IN OFFICE:  
“THERE IS NO POWER BUT OF GOD: THE POWERS THAT BE ARE ORDAINED OF GOD.”

b. THE BIBLE EVEN TELLS US TO PRAY FOR OUR LEADERS:

- i. [1 TIMOTHY 2:1-2](#) – “I URGE, THEN, FIRST OF ALL, THAT PETITIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSION AND THANKSGIVING BE MADE FOR ALL PEOPLE— FOR KINGS AND ALL THOSE IN AUTHORITY, THAT WE MAY LIVE PEACEFUL AND QUIET LIVES IN ALL GODLINESS AND HOLINESS.”
- ii. [1 PETER 2:17](#) - SHOW PROPER RESPECT TO EVERYONE, LOVE THE FAMILY OF BELIEVERS, FEAR GOD, HONOR THE EMPEROR.

c. IN ORDER TO PROPERLY UNDERSTAND THIS CHAPTER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER TWO THINGS.

- i. **FIRST**, PAUL WAS A ZEALOUS PHARISEE BEFORE HE WAS CONVERTED. JEWS HAD BEEN NOTORIOUSLY RESISTANT TO EXTERNAL AUTHORITY FOR CENTURIES.
  1. THE VIOLENT REVOLUTIONARY BARABBAS IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE NATIONALISTIC FERVOR THAT EXISTED IN ISRAEL AT THIS TIME.
  2. AS ON COMMENTATOR EXPLAINED “THE WHOLE JEWISH NATION GROANED UNDER THE YOKE OF ROMAN TYRANNY, LONGED TO ESCAPE IT, AND HAD PARTICIPATED IN A NUMBER OF BLOODY INSURRECTIONS AGAINST ROMAN AUTHORITY...THE QUESTION OF SUBMISSION TO A GOVERNMENT LIKE ROME WAS THE MOST BURNING QUESTION OF THE DAY” – *COFFMAN’S COMMENTARIES*

3. THE HATED NERO WAS EMPEROR OF ROME AT THE VERY TIME PAUL WAS WRITING THIS LETTER. HE ALLEGEDLY FIDDLER WHILE ROME BURNED. HE IS ASSOCIATED WITH TYRANNY AND EXTRAVAGANCE AND IS ONE OF THE MOST INFAMOUS LEADERS IN HISTORY.

ii. **SECOND**, PAUL WAS EVENTUALLY EXECUTED IN ROME.

1. PAUL OBVIOUSLY WROTE THE LETTER FROM CORINTH **BEFORE** HIS 1<sup>ST</sup> TRIP TO ROME.

2. DURING THE WINTER OF 57–58 A.D., **PAUL WAS** IN THE GREEK CITY OF CORINTH. FROM CORINTH, HE WROTE THE LONGEST SINGLE LETTER IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH HE ADDRESSED TO “GOD'S BELOVED IN ROME” (1:7)

3. PAUL WAS IMPRISONED IN ROME 2X. HIS 1<sup>ST</sup> IMPRISONMENT WAS RELATIVELY BENIGN. HE LIVED IN A RENTED HOUSE BUT IN CHAINS WITH A ROMAN GUARD ALWAYS OUTSIDE. EVENTUALLY HE WAS RELEASED AND CONTINUED HIS MISSIONARY WORK.

4. HIS 2<sup>ND</sup> (AND LAST) INCARCERATION IN ROME WAS IN THE MAMERTINE PRISON. THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE TERRIBLE. IT WAS A SUBTERRANEAN DUNGEON. PAUL WAS PROBABLY BEHEADED IN ROME *c.* 62–64 CE.

5. ONE CHRISTIAN COMMENTATOR NOTED THAT THIS RULE WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE CHURCH'S SURVIVAL: “THE CHRISTIANS THEMSELVES WERE WIDELY REGARDED AS A JEWISH SECT, WERE KNOWN TO ACKNOWLEDGE SUPREME ALLEGIANCE TO THE MESSIAH, AND WERE EASILY CONFUSED WITH THE EXTREME NATIONALISTIC MOVEMENT AMONG THE JEWS. PAUL HIMSELF WAS MISTAKEN FOR THE LEADER OF AN INSURRECTION BY THE MILITARY TRIBUNE HIMSELF ([ACTS 21:38](#)); AND THUS, IT WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR SHOULD CONFORM



TO A STRICT PATTERN OF RESPECT AND SUBMISSION TO THE  
LAWFUL GOVERNMENT. OTHERWISE, THE WHOLE  
CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT MIGHT HAVE BEEN SWALLOWED UP  
IN THE OVERWHELMING DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL, THEN  
IMPENDING, AND SO SOON TO BE ACCOMPLISHED.” --  
*COFFMAN’S COMMENTARIES*

6. THE ROLE OF THE STATE IS TO ASSURE ORDER AND TO  
RESTRAIN EVIL. WITHOUT THE STATE MAN’S UNBRIDLED  
PASSIONS WOULD REDUCE THE WORLD TO CHAOS.

iii. **MY POINT IS THIS:** WHEN PAUL SAYS THAT AS CHRISTIANS  
WE MUST SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES, HE SPEAKS  
WITH AUTHENTICITY AND AUTHORITY. HE IS NOT SPEAKING FROM  
SOME IVORY TOWER. HE WAS WRITING SOMETHING THAT MANY  
OF HIS LISTENERS WOULD HATE TO HEAR, ESPECIALLY HIS  
BROTHERS THE JEWS.

d. **THE RULE: SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES:  
“HIGHER POWERS”**

i. **[1-7]:** IN FEAR SUBMIT TO GOVERNING AUTHORITIES WHOM GOD  
HAS SOVEREIGNLY INSTALLED

ii. IMPLICIT IN THIS PHRASE IS THE REALITY AND EXISTENCE OF **THE  
HIGHEST POWER** WHICH IS GOD HIMSELF.

iii. GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY IS THE BASIS OF THIS COMMAND.

1. GOD PUTS THE LEADERS IN PLACE, EVEN LEADERS WE  
CONSIDER REPREHENSIBLE.

e. **[6-8]:** “FOR THIS CAUSE PAY YE TRIBUTE ALSO: FOR THEY ARE GOD’S  
MINISTERS, ATTENDING CONTINUALLY UPON THIS VERY THING. <sup>7</sup> RENDER  
THEREFORE TO ALL THEIR DUES: TRIBUTE TO WHOM TRIBUTE *IS DUE*;  
CUSTOM TO WHOM CUSTOM; FEAR TO WHOM FEAR; HONOUR TO WHOM

HONOUR.”

- i. PAUL OBVIOUSLY KNOWS ABOUT JESUS’ ENCOUNTER W/ THE PHARISEES WHEN THE FOLLOWING EXCHANGE OCCURRED IN **MATTHEW 22:17-22** “IS IT LAWFUL TO GIVE TRIBUTE UNTO CAESAR, OR NOT? <sup>18</sup> BUT JESUS PERCEIVED THEIR WICKEDNESS, AND SAID, WHY TEMPT YE ME, YE HYPOCRITES? <sup>19</sup> SHEW ME THE TRIBUTE MONEY. AND THEY BROUGHT UNTO HIM A PENNY. <sup>20</sup> AND HE SAITH UNTO THEM, WHOSE *IS* THIS IMAGE AND SUPERScription? <sup>21</sup> THEY SAY UNTO HIM, CAESAR’S. THEN SAITH HE UNTO THEM, RENDER THEREFORE UNTO CAESAR THE THINGS WHICH ARE CAESAR’S; AND UNTO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD’S. <sup>22</sup> WHEN THEY HAD HEARD *THESE WORDS*, THEY MARVELLED, AND LEFT HIM, AND WENT THEIR WAY.”

## f. WE CAN DERIVE 8 PRINCIPLES FROM THIS RULE.

- i. 1<sup>ST</sup>: THIS RULE ARISES FROM THE KNOWLEDGE THAT **GOD HAS A SOVEREIGN PLAN FOR THE UNIVERSE** (WHICH PAUL CLEARLY STATES C. 62C.E. WHEN PAUL WAS IMPRISONED THE 2<sup>ND</sup> TIME IN ROME).

### 1. JESUS EXECUTES THE PLAN

### 2. JESUS IS THE OBJECT OF THE PLAN.

- a. “BLESSED *BE* THE GOD AND FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO HATH BLESSED US WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN HEAVENLY *PLACES* IN CHRIST: <sup>4</sup> ACCORDING AS HE HATH CHOSEN US IN HIM BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, THAT WE SHOULD BE HOLY AND WITHOUT BLAME BEFORE HIM IN LOVE: <sup>5</sup> HAVING PREDESTINATED US UNTO THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN BY JESUS CHRIST TO HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO THE GOOD PLEASURE OF

HIS WILL, <sup>6</sup> TO THE PRAISE OF THE GLORY OF HIS GRACE, WHEREIN HE HATH MADE US ACCEPTED IN THE BELOVED. <sup>7</sup> IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION THROUGH HIS BLOOD, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS, ACCORDING TO THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE; <sup>8</sup> WHEREIN HE HATH ABOUNDED TOWARD US IN ALL WISDOM AND PRUDENCE; <sup>9</sup> HAVING MADE KNOWN UNTO US THE MYSTERY OF HIS WILL, ACCORDING TO HIS GOOD PLEASURE WHICH HE HATH PURPOSED IN HIMSELF: <sup>10</sup> THAT IN THE DISPENSATION OF THE FULNESS OF TIMES HE MIGHT GATHER TOGETHER IN ONE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST, BOTH WHICH ARE IN HEAVEN, AND WHICH ARE ON EARTH; *EVEN* IN HIM: <sup>11</sup> IN WHOM ALSO WE HAVE OBTAINED AN INHERITANCE, BEING PREDESTINATED ACCORDING TO THE PURPOSE OF HIM WHO WORKETH ALL THINGS AFTER THE COUNSEL OF HIS OWN WILL....”

**EPHESIANS 1: 3-11**

3. WE DON'T KNOW WHY GOD PLACES THE LEADERS HE DOES. GOD DOES NOT CONSULT US. GOD DOES NOT NEED OR WANT OUR INPUT. ALL WE KNOW IS THAT GOD HAS BENT THE ARC OF THE UNIVERSE TO EXALT JESUS CHRIST AND TO CREATE A BRIDE FOR HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON. ALL LEADERS, SAVED AND UNSAVED, BENIGN AND TERRIBLE, ARE INSTALLED FOR THIS DIVINE PURPOSE.
- ii. **2<sup>ND</sup>**: SUBMISSION IS NOT AGREEMENT. WE ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES EVEN IF WE DO NOT AGREE.
  1. AGREEMENT IS NOT SUBMISSION. WE SHOULDN'T PAT OURSELVES ON THE BACK IF WE AGREE WITH THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES.

iii. **3RD:** SUBMISSION IS OFTEN DISTASTEFUL. WE MUST SUBMIT ANYWAY.

iv. **4TH: THIS IS A POSITIVE COMMAND AND IT IS INHERENTLY AMBIGUOUS.** EACH MAN IS LEFT TO DETERMINE WHAT OBEDIENCE LOOKS LIKE IN HIS LIFE.

v. **5TH:** THE STATE IS A HIGHER AUTHORITY. IT IS NOT THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY. JESUS IS THE HIGHEST AUTHORITY. WE MUST ALWAYS OBEY JESUS OVER THE STATE.

1. **EXAMPLES:**

a. WE SHOULD DISOBEY IF THE STATE TOLD US WE HAD TO GET AN ABORTION.

b. WE SHOULD DISOBEY IF THE STATE ONLY PERMITTED SAME SEX MARRIAGES.

c. WE SHOULD DISOBEY IF THE STATE FORBIDS US TO ASSEMBLE TOGETHER AS CHRISTIANS.

vi. **6TH:** WE ARE TO SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES UNLESS THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES **REQUIRE** US TO VIOLATE **THE HIGHEST POWER, THAT IS, GOD.**

1. DANIEL, SHADRACH, MESHACH AND ABED-NEGO ARE EXAMPLES. WHEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR ORDERED TO EAT FOOD THAT WAS NOT LAWFUL FOR A JEW TO EAT, THEY ASKED PERMISSION TO NOT EAT. THEY OFFERED AN EXPERIMENT: LET US EAT ACCORDING TO OUR RELIGION AND IF OUR HEALTH REMAINS GOOD, YOU WILL LET US CONTINUE. IF OUR HEALTH DECLINES, WE WILL EAT THE KING'S FOOD.

2. FURTHER, WHEN NEBUCHADNEZZAR ORDERED ALL PEOPLE TO BOW DOWN BEFORE AN IDOL AND TO WORSHIP NO

OTHER GOD BUT THE IDOL NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD ERECTED, DANIEL AND HIS 3 FRIENDS QUIETLY WENT ABOUT THEIR RELIGIOUS PRACTICES AS USUAL.

vii. **7<sup>TH</sup>**: WHEN WE DISOBEY THE STATE WE MUST BE WILLING TO HUMBLY BEAR THE CONSEQUENCES.

viii. **8<sup>TH</sup>**: TO RESIST (THAT IS, OPPOSE) THE GOVERNING AUTHORITIES IS TO RUN THE TERRIBLE RISK OF OPPOSING GOD WHO ESTABLISHED THEM. **[2]**

1. **13:2**: "WHOSOEVER THEREFORE RESISTETH THE POWER, RESISTETH THE ORDINANCE OF GOD: AND THEY THAT RESIST SHALL RECEIVE TO THEMSELVES DAMNATION."

a. THIS IS NOT THE CONDEMNATION OF NO SALVATION. RATHER, IT IS THE GREEK WORD FOR THE DECISION OF A JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE.

b. THE PASSAGE IS SIMPLY SAYING THAT IF YOU DISOBEY THIS COMMAND YOU WILL BEAR THE FULL WEIGHT OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

g. [8-10]: LOVING OTHERS AS YOU LOVE YOURSELF FULFILLS THE LAW

i. [9]: "IF *THERE BE* ANY OTHER COMMANDMENT, IT IS BRIEFLY COMPREHENDED IN THIS SAYING, NAMELY, THOU SHALT LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR AS THYSELF."

1. PAUL'S SUMMARY OF THE COMMANDMENTS IS IDENTICAL TO JESUS'S OWN SUMMARY

2. *MATTHEW 22: 35-40*—"A LAWYER, ASKED [JESUS] A QUESTION TO TEST HIM. <sup>36</sup> "TEACHER, **WHICH IS THE GREAT COMMANDMENT** IN THE LAW?" <sup>37</sup> AND HE SAID TO HIM, "YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. <sup>38</sup> THIS IS THE GREAT AND FIRST COMMANDMENT. <sup>39</sup> **AND A SECOND IS LIKE IT: YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.** <sup>40</sup> ON THESE TWO COMMANDMENTS DEPEND ALL THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS.'"

3. LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES IS A KEY PART OF THE PRACTICAL OUTWORKING OF PRESENTING OUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE. THE GOSPEL UNDERSCORES THAT THE

4. THE PHRASE "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF" IS NOT A COMMANDMENT TO LOVE OURSELVES. RATHER, THE PHRASE IS A DESCRIPTION OF HOW WE ARE SUPPOSED TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR.

5. THERE IS NO COMMANDMENT ANYWHERE IN THE BIBLE THAT WE LOVE OURSELVES.

ii. HOWEVER, THE NEW TESTAMENT IS FULL OF COMMANDS TO LOVE OTHERS.

1. EXAMPLES:

a. **2 CORINTHIANS 13:11** "AIM FOR RESTORATION, COMFORT ONE ANOTHER"

b. **2 CORINTHIANS 13:12** "GREET ONE ANOTHER WITH A HOLY KISS."

c. **GALATIANS 5:13** "SERVE ONE ANOTHER."

d. **GALATIANS 6:2** "BEAR ONE ANOTHER'S BURDENS"

e. **EPHESIANS 4:32** "FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER"

2. THERE ARE MORE THAN 100 SIMILAR COMMANDS.

iii. LET'S READ THE COMMANDMENT AS THOUGH IT WERE A DIALOGUE BETWEEN YOU AND GOD.

1. YOU: GOD, WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

2. GOD: I WANT YOU TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR.

3. YOU: BUT HOW?

4. GOD: THE SAME WAY YOU ALREADY LOVE YOURSELF.

h. [11-14]: EXHORTATION TO WALK IN THE LIGHT AND TO MAKE NO PROVISION FOR THE FLESH

i. THE WORD "FLESH" IS USED IN VARIOUS WAYS IN SCRIPTURE. IN THE NT IT COMMONLY MEANS *ALL THAT PART OF US THAT IS OPPOSED TO GOD* (E.G., OUR WILL, DESIRES, MIND, THOUGHTS,

ETC.) THE ADAMIC NATURE.



## 8. ROMANS 14 AND 1<sup>ST</sup> HALF OF 15

- a. THESE CHAPTERS TELL US HOW ARE TO EXERCISE OUR CHRISTIAN LIBERTY.
  - i. THESE TWO CHAPTERS DO NOT DEAL WITH HERESY, BUT ONLY WITH THE ISSUE OF HOW A *CHRISTIAN* EXERCISES HIS LIBERTY.
- b. THE KEY IS TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE PLAY BEFORE AN AUDIENCE OF ONE. OUR OBLIGATION IS TO PLEASE GOD EVEN IF EVERYONE ELSE OPPOSES US FOR DOING SO.
  - i. **[14:11]:** “FOR WE SHALL ALL STAND BEFORE THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST. <sup>11</sup> FOR IT IS WRITTEN, *AS I LIVE, SAITH THE LORD, EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW TO ME, AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD.* <sup>12</sup> SO THEN EVERY ONE OF US SHALL GIVE ACCOUNT OF HIMSELF TO GOD. <sup>13</sup> LET US NOT THEREFORE JUDGE ONE ANOTHER ANYMORE: BUT JUDGE THIS RATHER, THAT NO MAN PUT A STUMBLINGBLOCK OR AN OCCASION TO FALL IN *HIS BROTHER’S WAY.*”
  - ii. CHRIST’S AUTHORITY AND HEADSHIP ARE CRITICAL TO UNDERSTANDING HOW WE MAY EXERCISE OUR CHRISTIAN LIBERTY.
    - 1. OUR LIBERTY MUST BE UNDERSTOOD AND EXERCISED FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE BASIS OF OUR ACCEPTANCE BEFORE GOD.
    - 2. OUR LIBERTY MUST NOT KNOWINGLY HINDER THE WALK OF OTHER BELIEVERS.
    - 3. JUDGING ON THINGS THAT ARE NOT ESSENTIAL CHALLENGES CHRIST’S AUTHORITY AND HARMS CHRIST’S CHURCH BY PRODUCING ERRANT FOCUS AND CONFLICT. AS

LIVING SACRIFICES WE MUST NOT DO THIS!

4. BECAUSE WE BELONG TO CHRIST, WE LIVE TO PLEASE HIM AND TO DO HIS WILL. THEREFORE, WE SHOULD UNDERTAKE NO PRACTICE WHICH DISPLEASES HIM OR WHICH WE SUSPECT MAY DISPLEASE HIM.
  - a. WE MUST STRIVE TO KNOW AND DO HIS WILL.  
**EXAMPLE:** I'M TRYING TO DECIDE WHETHER IT WOULD BE RIGHT TO BE CREMATED INSTEAD OF BURIED.
- c. **[BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM:** EITHER YOU RAISED YOUR OWN MEAT OR YOU GOT IT FROM STORES OR TEMPLES. THE TEMPLES (HEBREW AND GENTILE) WERE WHERE ANIMALS WERE BROUGHT FOR SACRIFICE. HENCE, THE TEMPLE PRIESTS BECAME GREAT BUTCHERS.
  - i. PAUL DEALS W/ 3 SPECIFIC DIVISIVE ISSUES WITHIN THE CHURCH: MEAT, DAYS OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES AND DRINK.
  - ii. SINCE THE INSTITUTION OF THE MOSAIC LAW, JEWS HAVE DEFINED THEMSELVES BY THE LAW AND THE TEMPLE.
    1. ALL INDIVIDUAL AND COMMUNAL LIFE REVOLVED AROUND THE LAW AND THE TEMPLE
    2. EXCOMMUNICATION MEANT A JEW HAD NO PLACE TO GO. HE WAS CUT OFF FROM ALL SOCIAL INTERCOURSE WITH HIS PEOPLE. IT WAS AS CLOSE TO A LIVING HELL AS A JEW COULD EXPERIENCE.
    3. JEWS HIGHLY ESTEEMED PEOPLE LIKE DANIEL, SHADRACH, MESHACK AND ABEDNEGO.
    4. THE JEWISH DIASPORA FIRST BY ASSYRIA AND THEN BY BABYLON RESULTED FROM DISOBEYING THE LAW.

5. THE REASON MOST OFTEN CITED FOR THE PHARISEES' HATRED OF JESUS WAS THAT HE PERFORMED WORKS OF HEALING ON THE SABBATH.
  6. AND NOW UNDER THE GOSPEL, THEY WERE TOLD THERE WERE NO UNCLEAN FOODS AND THEY COULD EAT PORK, SHRIMP AND WHATEVER ELSE THEY WANTED. THEY NO LONGER HAD TO TRAVEL TO JERUSALEM FOR SPECIFIED RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS. THEY COULD DO WHATEVER THEY WANTED ON THE SABBATH. AND THEY COULD DRINK FERMENTED WINE.
  7. EVEN THE APOSTLE PETER MOMENTARILY SUCCUMBED TO THE OLD CONVENTIONS OF THE MOSAIC LAW. IN ANTIOCH HE WAS EATING WITH GENTILES WHEN SOME JEWS CAME. EMBARRASSED, PETER REMOVED HIMSELF FROM THE GENTILES AND WENT TO EAT WITH THE JEWS. PAUL HAD TO PUBLICLY REBUKE PETER TO HIS FACE. *GALATIANS 2: 11-12*
  8. IMMATURE BELIEVERS BELIEVED THEY WERE OFFENDING CHRIST OR ENGAGING IN IDOLATRY OR UNCLEAN MEATS IF THEY GOT THEIR MEAT FROM A TEMPLE BUTCHER. MATURE CHRISTIANS KNEW THIS WAS NOT SO. >> CONFLICT.
  9. JEWS ASSOCIATED ALCOHOL WITH PAGANISM, IDOLATRY AND DEBAUCHERY. NOW THEY COULD DRINK ALCOHOL.
  10. THE CHANGE FOR JEWS WAS DIZZYING.
- d. **[1-12]:** DISTINGUISH BETWEEN ESSENTIALS AND NON-ESSENTIALS. HAVE CONVICTIONS BUT DON'T JUDGE OTHERS BASED ON THE NON-ESSENTIALS (THAT IS, YOUR CONVICTIONS)
- i. **ESSENTIALS**

1. THE GOSPEL
2. THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST
3. THE IDENTIFY AND WORK OF GOD THE FATHER, GOD THE SON AND GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT.
4. THE AUTHORITY AND INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE
5. THE NT COMMANDS.

e. **[13-23]:** DO NOT CAUSE A BROTHER TO STUMBLE. OUR CONVICTIONS MUST SPRING FROM OUR FAITH IN THE SAVING WORK OF JESUS CHRIST IN ORDER TO BE VALID.

f. PAUL IDENTIFIES 2 TYPES OF PEOPLE WITHIN THE CHURCH:

i. **THE STRONG**

1. THOSE WHO UNDERSTAND THEIR LIBERTY REGARDING THE NON-ESSENTIALS AND HOLD IN CONTEMPT THOSE WHO DO NOT UNDERSTAND.
2. THOSE WHO EXERCISE THEIR FREEDOM WITH CONSTRAINT IN CONSIDERATION OF THE WEAK.
3. THOSE EXERCISE THEIR LIBERTY IN CHRIST WITH RESTRAINT BECAUSE OF PERSONAL CONVICTION.

ii. **THE WEAK**

1. THOSE WHO REGARD THE NON-ESSENTIALS AS MORAL ISSUES; THAT IS, ONE IS EITHER RIGHT OR WRONG. THUS, IF THEY SEE A CHRISTIAN EAT MEAT THEY SAY THAT PERSON IS SINNING.

g. THIS SUBJECT OF CHRISTIAN LOVE AND TOLERANCE WITHIN THE CHURCH WAS OBVIOUSLY NEAR AND DEAR TO PAUL'S HEART. PAUL WAS A FORMER PHARISEE AND BEFORE HIS CONVERSION HE HAD DRUNK DEEPLY FROM THE WELL OF SPIRITUAL PRIDE, LEGALISM AND INTOLERANCE THAT CHARACTERIZED THE PHARISEES. HE WAS LIVING PROOF OF THE TERRIBLE DANGER OF FALSE JUDGMENTALISM.

h. AS MEN IT IS OUR NATURE TO LET DIFFERENCES IN OPINION BOIL OVER INTO CONFLICT.

i. SOME PRINCIPLES TO HELP US

i. *1<sup>ST</sup>*: IT IS A SIN TO JUDGE A BROTHER BASED ON HIS NON-COMPLIANCE WITH *OUR OWN* CONVICTIONS.

1. **ILLUSTRATION:** THE BIBLE SAYS IT IS WRONG TO GET DRUNK. IN ORDER TO AVOID THIS POSSIBILITY, I ABSTAIN FROM ALCOHOL ALTOGETHER. I CANNOT JUDGE A BROTHER WHO SIMPLY DRINKS ALCOHOL AND DOES NOT GET DRUNK.

ii. *2<sup>ND</sup>*: IT IS A SIN TO JUDGE A BROTHER BECAUSE OF HIS PERSONAL APPLICATION OF A POSITIVE MORAL COMMANDMENT.

1. POSITIVE COMMANDMENTS ARE INHERENTLY AMBIGUOUS. THEREFORE, HOW WE APPLY THE COMMANDMENT CAN LEAD US TO BE DOGMATIC ABOUT WHAT OBEDIENCE TO THE COMMANDMENT LOOKS LIKE.

2. **ILLUSTRATION:** "HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH." I APPLY THAT COMMANDMENT BY OPENING THE CAR DOOR OR ANY OTHER DOOR FOR MY WIFE.

iii. *3<sup>RD</sup>*: IT IS CONTRARY TO FAITH TO BE CONVINCED THAT GOD WANTS US TO HOLD A PARTICULAR CONVICTION B/C IT IS

MORALLY CORRECT AND TO THEN VIOLATE THAT CONVICTION.

1. **FOR EXAMPLE:** IF I AM CONVINCED THAT IT IS MORALLY WRONG TO DRINK ALCOHOL UNDER THE MOSAIC LAW BUT I THEN DRINK A MARGARITA, MY CONSCIENCE WILL CONDEMN ME FOR DOING WHAT I AM CONVINCED GOD DISAPPROVES. IF I ABSTAIN BUT AM NOT CONVINCED THAT ABSTINENCE IS MORALLY CORRECT, I AM GUILTY OF THE SIN OF LEGALISM B/C I AM NOT ACTING UNDER GRACE. ON THE OTHER HAND, IF I DRINK BUT AM NOT CONVINCED THAT DRINKING IS MORALLY ACCEPTABLE, I AM GUILTY OF THE SIN OF LETTING MY APPETITES RULE.
  
- iv. **4<sup>TH</sup>:** WE ENJOY FULL PEACE OF CONSCIENCE ONLY WHEN WE ARE CONVINCED THAT WE ARE OBEYING GOD WITH RESPECT TO A SPECIFIC MATTER. IF WE DOUBT THAT WE ARE OBEYING,—OR BELIEVE THAT WE ARE **NOT** OBEYING GOD—, OUR CONSCIENCE WILL CONDEMN US AND WE WILL NOT HAVE PEACE.
  
- v. **5<sup>TH</sup>:** WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR CONSCIENCE APPROVES WHAT SCRIPTURE ALLOWS. THEREFORE, A CONSCIENCE NOT GUIDED BY THE GOSPEL AND THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN LEAD US TO SIN. WE MUST TEST OUR CONVICTIONS AGAINST THE GOSPEL AND SCRIPTURE.
  
- vi. **6<sup>TH</sup>:** OUR CONVICTIONS MUST CONTRADICT GRACE. THAT IS, WE MUST UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE NOT SAVED BY OBEYING THE LAW. WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.
  
- vii. **7<sup>TH</sup>:** BEWARE OF ASCETICISM. IT IS A FORM OF SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS AND CAN BREED SPIRITUAL IMMATURITY. TRUE RELIGION DOES NOT FOCUS ON EXTERNAL OBEDIENCE.
  
- viii. **8<sup>TH</sup>:** GOD ACCEPTS THE WEAK AND THE STRONG. THE STRONG BROTHER SHOULD HONOR THE WEAK BUT ALSO HELP HIM TO GROW.

1. ILLUSTRATION: GREG WOOLSEY

- ix. **9<sup>TH</sup>**: GOD WILL JUDGE EVERY BELIEVER. PART OF THAT JUDGEMENT WILL BE HOW WE HAVE JUDGED OTHER BELIEVERS AND HOW HE HAS HELPED OR HINDERED THE WALK OF OTHER BELIEVERS.
  
- x. **10<sup>TH</sup>**: THINGS ARE DIFFERENT TODAY. NEW CHRISTIANS DON'T CARE THAT MUCH ABOUT THE NON-ESSENTIALS. IN CONTRAST, PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN CHRISTIANS A LONG TIME OFTEN FIXATE ON THE NON-ESSENTIALS (E.G., TATTOOS, BODY PIERCINGS, WEIRD HAIR COLORS AND STYLES, ETC.)
  - 1. **LEGALISM**: TATTOOS AND BODY PIERCINGS ARE SINFUL.
  
  - 2. **A BELIEVER SHOULD NOT CONSIDER A NON-ESSENTIAL MORALLY WRONG IN THE LIFE OF ANOTHER BELIEVER.**
  
- xi. **11<sup>TH</sup>**: INSISTING ON MY RIGHTS IN THE NON-ESSENTIALS IS WRONG IF IT CAUSES DISCORD WITHIN THE CHURCH.

## 9. ROMANS 15

- a. **1-7:** THE SPIRITUALLY STRONGER MUST HELP THE SPIRITUALLY WEAKER BY FOLLOWING CHRIST'S EXAMPLE
- b. **8-13:** CHRIST BECAME A SERVANT TO THE JEWS SO THAT HE COULD SAVE BOTH JEW AND GENTILE.
  - i. JESUS CONFIRMED GOD'S PROMISES TO THE JEWS. [v.8]
  - ii. JESUS ALSO CONFIRMED GOD'S PROMISES TO THE GENTILES [9v.9-12]
    - 1. JESUS CAST OUT THE DEMON FROM THE DAUGHTER OF THE SYROPHOENICIAN WOMAN. *MARK 7:24-30*
      - a. "YE LORD; YET EVEN THE DOGS UNDER THE TABLE EAT THE CHILDREN'S CRUMBS."
    - 2. JESUS HEALED THE CENTURION'S SERVANT. *MATTHEW 8:5-13*
    - 3. JESUS KNEW HIS TIME HAD COME WHEN THE GREEKS CAME SEEKING HIM. *JOHN 12:20-32*
      - a. "THE HOUR IS COME THAT THE SON OF MAN SHOULD BE GLORIFIED."
      - b. "FATHER, GLORIFY THEY NAME...I HAVE BOTH GLORIFIED IT AND WILL GLORIFY IT AGAIN. THE PEOPLE THEREFORE HEARD IT...."
      - c. "AND IF I BE LIFTED UP FROM THE EARTH WILL DRAW ALL MEN UNTO ME."
- c. **14-21:** CHRIST USED PAUL TO BRING THE GOSPEL TO GENTILES



- d. **22-29:** PAUL PLANS TO COME TO ROME AND TO COLLECT AN OFFERING FOR THE SUFFERING SAINTS IN JERUSALEM. GENTILES ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF THE JEWS' *SPIRITUAL* WEALTH; THEREFORE, JEWS SHOULD BE THE BENEFICIARIES OF GENTILES' *MATERIAL* WEALTH.
  
- e. **30-33:** PAUL BESEECHES THE ROMAN BELIEVERS TO PRAY FOR HIM AND HIS MINISTRY.

## 10. ROMANS 16

- a. 1-16: PAUL'S HEARTFELT GREETINGS TO INDIVIDUAL SAINTS
- b. 17-20: BEWARE OF THOSE WHO CAUSE DIVISION
- c. 21-23: FINAL SALUTATIONS
  - i. THESE SALUTATIONS SHOW THE SWEETNESS OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY AND HOW DEPENDENT WE ARE ON ONE ANOTHER.
- d. 24-27: DOXOLOGY: PRAISE TO GOD
  - i. "NOW TO HIM THAT IS OF POWER TO STABLISH YOU ACCORDING TO MY GOSPEL, AND THE PREACHING OF JESUS CHRIST, ACCORDING TO THE REVELATION OF THE MYSTERY, WHICH WAS KEPT SECRET SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN, <sup>26</sup> BUT NOW IS MADE MANIFEST, AND BY THE SCRIPTURES OF THE PROPHETS, ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENT OF THE EVERLASTING GOD, MADE KNOWN TO ALL NATIONS FOR THE OBEDIENCE OF FAITH: <sup>27</sup> TO GOD ONLY WISE, *BE* GLORY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST FOREVER. AMEN."