

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE
Romans

... a servant of Jesus Christ, called to
be an apostle, separated unto the gospel
which he had preached afore by his
in the holy scriptures,
... the Son of God, our
... the Son of God with
... the spirit of his Son, by
... grace and
... the faith among
... also the called of
... God,
... peace
... the Lord Jesus
... God through Jesus
... your faith is spoken of
... world,
... whom I serve with
... that with
... of you always
... by any means now as
... journey by
... that I may impart
... to the soul ye
... be comforted in
... back head of
... was
... by own
... your I

... understood by the things that are made, even
his eternal power and Godhead; so that they
are without excuse:
21 Because that, when they knew God, they
glorified him not as God, neither were thank-
ful; but became vain in their imaginations,
and their foolish heart was darkened.
22 Professing themselves to be wise, they
became fools.
23 And changed the glory of the incorrupti-
ble God into an image made like to con-
fessible man, and to birds, and to beasts,
and creeping things.
24 Wherefore God also gave them up to
follies, to do those things which are unprofitable,
that they should be ashamed.
25 Who changed the truth of God into a
lie, and worshipped and served the creature
more than the Creator, who is blessed for
ever. Amen.
26 For this cause God gave them up unto
vile affections: for when their wisdom did
change the natural use into that which is
against nature:
27 And likewise also the men, leaving the
natural use of the woman, burned in their
lust one toward another, men with men,
which was their shame, working that which
ought not to be done, and receiving in their
own persons the just recompense of their
error.
28 And even as they did not like to retain
God's knowledge, God gave them up to
a reprobate mind, to do those things
which are unprofitable, that they should be
ashamed.
29 Being given up to uncleanness, with
increasing wantonness, as the angels in
heaven, who kept not their own dominion,
but left their honorable abode, and changed
themselves into the likeness of the angels
in heaven, and became unprofitable, that
they should be ashamed, receiving in their
own persons the just recompense of their
error.

Dr. Charles Stoner

Study Charts Explained in Steps:*

1. Look at the chart. The text of the passage being studied is written in the text box and divided into paragraphs showing the exact content of the segment as it appears in the NIV. Words may be omitted in this re-creation of the text (...), but none added; some words are capitalized for effect.
2. In the upper right corner of each paragraph is a small box with a one or two word paragraph title or name taken from the text which identifies the paragraph at a glance.
3. Now note in one of the paragraphs, a highlighted, underlined key center, comprised of a key phrase or sentence chosen as the basis for the main topical study of the whole segment.
4. Follow the two arrows to the top of chart to find the master title of the topical study chosen, a short phrase in one's own words of the key center of the text phrase below, Step 3.
5. On the left side of the chart are smaller boxes, one for each paragraph, containing the paragraph points which tie together the topical study derived from the master title and key phrase/sentence being studied. These are usually connected by lines or arrows to show the unity of the topical study based on the Scriptural segment.
6. In the margins are other studies recorded: observations that emphasize, compare or list items of interest found in the text. These are called supplementary studies which can add interest to this inductive approach to Bible study. Below the main chart box are more observations & implications numbered in a sizable text box which conclude the study.

*This method of Bible study using analytical charts is based on Irvin L Jensen's book, *Acts: An Inductive Study*, pages 59-64.

Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

Acts 17:11

This Study of Romans

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TITLES FOR 28 STUDY CHARTS IN ROMANS

Key verse: “I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.” Rom. 1:16

1. THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF GOD Rom. 1:1-17
2. THE GOSPEL & KNOWLEDGE OF GOD ARE SUPPRESSED.....1:18-32
3. THE JUDGMENT BY THE GOSPEL.....2:1-16
4. THE JEW, THE LAW & THE GOSPEL 2:17-29
5. THE GOSPEL FINDS ALL UNDER SIN..... 3:1-18
6. THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH THE GOSPEL 3:19-31
7. THE GOSPEL & JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH IN THE OT 4:1-25
8. THE GLORYING IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST 5:1-11
9. THE GOSPEL BROUGHT THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE 5:12-21
10. THE NEW LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL 6:1-14
11. THE SIN-SLAVES SET FREE BY THE GOSPEL 6:15-23
12. THE FREED FROM THE LAW BY THE GOSPEL 7:1-11
13. THE GOSPEL & THE BATTLE AGAINST SIN 7:12-25
14. THE GOSPEL & THE HOLY SPIRIT 8:1-17
15. THE GOSPEL BRINGS HOPE 8:18-27
16. THE GOSPEL MAKES US OVERCOMERS 8:28-39
17. THE GOSPEL THROUGH DIVINE MERCY 9:1-18
18. THE GOSPEL & THE DIVINE POTTER 9:19-33
19. THE GOSPEL BRINGS SALVATION 10:1-21
20. THE GOSPEL & THE SITUATION OF ISRAEL 11:1-16
21. THE DIVINE MERCY TO ALL THROUGH THE GOSPEL 11:17-36
22. THE GOSPEL FORMS THE BODY OF CHRIST 12:1-21
23. THE GOSPEL BRINGS SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS 13:1-14
24. THE GOSPEL WORKERS SERVING IN THE KINGDOM 14:1-23
25. THE HOPE PROVIDED BY THE GOSPEL 15:1-13
26. THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED TO THE GENTILES 15:14-33
27. THE COMMENDATIONS & GREETINGS IN THE GOSPEL 16:1-16
28. THE ESTABLISHED IN THE GOSPEL MESSAGE 16:17-27

#1

Rom. 1:1-17

The Epistle of Paul to the Romans

After completing an inductive study of the Acts of the Apostles, I now offer a another study by using the vertical chart method applied to Paul's letter to the Romans.

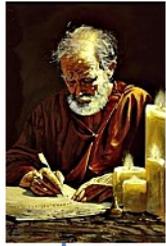
One reason for choosing Romans is that years ago I prepared a total of 28 chart studies in Portuguese that covered all 16 chapters of this marvelous book! These former chart studies will now serve as a basis for an updated approach in English. I trust you will find these studies interesting and helpful in your life and ministry.

Another motive for choosing Romans is the doctrinal and practical importance of this great book. I believe the key verse is Romans 1:17 -- "For in the **gospel** a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous will live by faith.'" (NIV)

For this reason, each chart study is connected to the theme of the **Gospel**. This is to emphasize how Paul developed this divine provision for all humanity, and how it related to his own life and ministry.

Please see the attached study chart to discover the Promise & Person of the **Gospel**, the Preaching & Spread of the **Gospel**, & the Power & Righteousness of the **Gospel**. That's the basic outline for Romans 1:1-17. There are more studies presented with the chart, as you can see.

Grateful for the **Gospel**,
Charles Stoner



THE GLORIOUS GOSPEL OF GOD

The Apostle Paul:

The Gospel He promised / Jesus Christ

1- PAUL, a SERVANT of CHRIST JESUS, called to be Called an APOSTLE and set APART for the GOSPEL of GOD— 2the GOSPEL he PROMISED beforehand through his PROPHETS in the HOLY SCRIPTURES 3regarding his SON, who as to his EARTHLY life was a DESCENDANT of DAVID, 4and who through the SPIRIT of HOLINESS was APPOINTED the SON of GOD in POWER by his RESURRECTION from the dead: JESUS CHRIST our LORD. 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. 6And YOU also are AMONG those GENTILES who are CALLED to BELONG to JESUS CHRIST. 7To 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.

Called & set apart for the Gospel

- JESUS CHRIST:**
- >has servants.
 - >is the Son of God.
 - >experienced earthly life.
 - >was descendant of David.
 - >appointed the Son of God.
 - >was resurrected from the dead.
 - >is our Lord.
 - >dispensed God's grace & apostleship.
 - >Gentiles belong to Him.
 - >dispenses God's peace.
 - >is the Son of God.
 - >the Gospel pertains to Him.

Reported all over the world / Preaching

8- First, I THANK my GOD through JESUS CHRIST for Prayers ALL of you, because your FAITH is being REPORTED all over the WORLD. 9 GOD, whom I SERVE in my SPIRIT in PREACHING the GOSPEL of his SON, is my WITNESS how CONSTANTLY I remember you 10in 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. 11I LONG to SEE you so that I may IMPART to you some SPIRITUAL GIFT to make you STRONG— 12that is, that YOU and I may be mutually ENCOURAGED by each OTHER'S FAITH. 13I 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.

Preached & shared the Gospel

- FAITH:**
- >Obedience that comes from Faith.
 - >Faith reported.
 - >Encouraged by Faith.
 - >Righteousness by Faith.
 - >Living by Faith.

Power of God / Salvation

14- I am OBLIGATED both to GREEKS and to NON-GREEKS, both to the WISE and the FOOLISH. 15 That is WHY I am so EAGER to PREACH the GOSPEL also to YOU who are in ROME. 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. 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." 17

Not ashamed of Gospel

- Statement of Paul:**
- >I am obligated.
 - >I am eager.
 - >I'm not ashamed of the Gospel.

The Promise & Person of the Gospel



The Preaching & Progress of the Gospel

The Power & Righteousness of the Gospel

(1) The central Person of our life and ministry must always be the Lord Jesus Christ. (2) God's servant must recognize that he's been called and separated exclusively to the Gospel. (3) Paul prayed for people he did not know personally, desiring to visit them to impart some spiritual gift, and to have a spiritual harvest among them. (4) In what way was Paul obligated to people of other cultures and social standing? (5) There's a sequence of personal responsibility in the Gospel ministry: to recognize my obligation to everyone; be eager to meet this obligation by sharing the Gospel; affirm the power of the Gospel for the salvation of all who believe. (6) The Gospel is of great value because it's the greatest evidence of the resurrection power of God; at the same time, the Gospel reveals the righteousness of God, a theme Paul will develop subsequently in Romans. (7) How is your ministry of encouragement and sharing Christ going today? Who might be awaiting your interest, love, and spiritual care?

#2

Rom. 1:18-32

Unbelief---Wickedness---Total Depravity

"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." (Rom. 1:19-20)

"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. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles." (1:21-23)

The whole passage of Rom. 1:18-32 clearly shows the extent of the unbelief, rebellion, and depravity of mankind. As noted in the [attached chart study](#), the result of this is God's wrath **revealed, applied, and deserved**.

Is there any hope for man? Yes, but only by accepting the transforming power of God in the [gospel](#) as Paul explained in the previous verses, Rom. 1:16-17. For a person to know God's salvation, he or she must first be lost! And Rom. 1:18-32 leaves no doubt that apart from receiving Jesus Christ as Savior, all mankind is spiritually lost and without hope.

Certainly, man's only hope is the [gospel](#), because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. (Rom. 1:16). Praise God for the hope and power of the [gospel](#)!

In His grace,
Charles Stoner



THE GOSPEL & KNOWLEDGE OF GOD ARE SUPPRESSED

God's Wrath

<p>Suppress the truth by their wickedness</p>	<p>1:18—The WRATH of GOD is being REVEALED Without excuse from HEAVEN against all the GODLESSNESS and WICKEDNESS of people, who SUPPRESS the TRUTH by their WICKEDNESS,¹⁹ since what may be KNOWN about GOD is PLAIN to them, because GOD has made it PLAIN to them.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.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.²² Although they CLAIMED to be WISE, they became FOOLS²³ and EXCHANGED the GLORY of the IMMORTAL GOD for IMAGES made to LOOK like a MORTAL HUMAN, being and BIRDS and ANIMALS and REPTILES.</p>	<p>The Wrath of God is revealed</p>
<p>Abandoned natural relations</p>	<p>24—Therefore GOD gave them OVER in the SINFUL Gave them over desires of their HEARTS to SEXUAL IMPURITY for the DEGRADING of their BODIES with one ANOTHER.²⁵ They EXCHANGED the TRUTH about GOD for a LIE, and WORSHIPPED and SERVED created THINGS rather than the CREATOR—who is forever PRAISED. AMEN.²⁶ Because of THIS, GOD gave them OVER to SHAMEFUL LUSTS. Even their WOMEN EXCHANGED NATURAL sexual RELATIONS for UNNATURAL ones.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.</p>	<p>The Wrath of God was applied</p>
<p>Filled with every kind of wickedness, evil</p>	<p>28 Furthermore, just as they did NOT THINK it worthwhile Every kind 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.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,³⁰ SLANDERS, GOD-HATERS, INSOLENT, ARROGANT and BOASTFUL; they INVENT ways of DOING EVIL; they DISOBEY their PARENTS;³¹ they have NO UNDERSTANDING,... FIDELITY,... LOVE, NO MERCY.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. 32</p>	<p>The Wrath of God is reserved</p>

- Elements of Human Depravity:**
- Godlessness
 - Wickedness
 - Futility
 - Unthankfulness
 - Foolishness
 - Darkness
 - Idolatry
 - Sinfulness
 - Impurity
 - Untruthfulness
 - Shamefulness
 - Lust
 - Unnaturalness
 - Error
 - Depravity
 - Evil
 - Greed
 - Envy
 - Murder
 - Strife
 - Deceit
 - Malice
 - Gossip
 - Slander
 - Hate
 - Insolence
 - Arrogance
 - Boastfulness
 - Disobedience
 - No Understanding
 - Infidelity
 - Unloving
 - Merciless



By the Rejection of Divine Revelation



By the Mutual Degradation of their Bodies



By the Practice of all Kinds of Sin

(1) Mankind has no excuse for not believing in the true God because His eternal power and divine nature are clearly revealed by His marvelous creation. (2) Those who reject God are in danger of three evidences of God's judgment, as stated in 1:24, 26 & 28 — "God gave them over..." (3) The practice of homosexuality is a strong evidence of the moral perversion and total depravity of man. (4) These verses show the sin of man in three dimensions: sin against God (suppression of revealed truth), 1:18-23; the sin of man against himself with other perverted humans (shameful immorality), 1:24-27; and sin against others (relational wickedness), 1:28-32. (5) The human heart, will, mind & body are all involved & thoroughly darkened by sin. (6) The righteousness of God obtained by faith in Rom. 1:17 is not readily received by man because of his blatant rejection of God, his rampant unbelief, and his obvious state of depravity. (7) Instead of agreeing to become righteous before God by faith, man prefers to practice every type of rebellion and unrighteousness. (8) This passage clearly proves that man on his own is hopelessly condemned before Holy God because of his unbelief and state of total depravity. (9) Certainly man's only hope is the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes. (Rom. 1:16). Praise God for the hope and power of the gospel!

#3

Rom. 2:1-16

Judging Others

After observing the list of sins and proof of man's total depravity in Romans 1, good folks may tend to say to themselves: *What a sad, condemned lot of people. Thank God, I'm not guilty of their gross sins!!*

But according to Romans 2:1-16, the good citizen who judges and condemns others, many times is guilty of the same sinful attitude and behavior, either openly or in secret! For this reason, such a person is subject to God's severe judgment just like anyone else. He too is without excuse and in great need of the liberating **gospel** of Christ.

In these 16 verses, Paul clearly shows how the **gospel** will judge: It's a **truth-based** judgment (v. 1-4), an **impartial** judgment (5-11), and a **thorough** judgment (12-16). Paul strongly declares that all need the **gospel** of Jesus Christ because all are guilty, and God's law and human conscience affirm the fact. All deserve God's judgment and wrath.

Look at the attached chart and discover more observations related to the subject of God's righteous judgment. Summarizing: According to Rom. 1:20, the wicked and ungodly are clearly without excuse. Here in 2:1-16 we see that those who hypocritically judge others are also without excuse before God!

Pensively,
Charles Stoner

JUDGMENT BY THE GOSPEL



A Truth-based Judgment

An Impartial Judgment



A Thorough Judgment

God's judgment based on truth	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. ² Now we KNOW that GOD'S JUDGMENT against those who DO such THINGS is based on TRUTH. 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 ? 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?	Judgment	You do the same things
God does not show favoritism	5- But because of your STUBBORNNESS and Storing Up your UNREPENTANT HEART, you are STORING up WRATH against YOURSELF for the DAY of GOD'S WRATH , when his righteous JUDGMENT will be REVEALED. ⁶ GOD "will REPAY each person ACCORDING to what he has DONE." ⁷ To those who by persistence in DOING GOOD seek GLORY HONOR and IMMORTALITY, he will give ETERNAL LIFE . ⁸ BUT for those who are SELF-SEEKING and who REJECT the TRUTH and follow EVIL, there will be WRATH and ANGER. ⁹ There will be TROUBLE and DISTRESS for EVERY HUMAN being who does EVIL: first for the JEW, then for the GENTILE; ¹⁰ BUT GLORY, HONOR and PEACE for EVERYONE who does GOOD: first for the JEW, then for the GENTILE. ¹¹ For GOD does NOT show FAVORITISM.	Storing Up	Persistence doing good or following evil
The day God judges people's secrets	12- ALL who SIN APART from the LAW will also The LAW PERISH APART from the LAW, and all who SIN UNDER the LAW will be JUDGED by the LAW. 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. 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. 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.) ¹⁶ This will TAKE PLACE on the DAY when GOD JUDGES people's SECRETS through JESUS CHRIST, as my GOSPEL DECLARES. 16	The Law	The Law written on their hearts

GOD:

God's Judgment

God's Judgment

God's Kindness

God's Wrath

God's Righteous Judgment

God's Impartiality

God's Law

God's Sight

God's Judgment

Contrasts:

(1) Eternal life, the good, glory, honor, peace, immortality.

(2) Evil, wrath, anger, self-seeking, rejection, trouble, distress.

(1) It's always easier to find faults in others than to admit our own sins, v. 1. (2) What are the 'same things' practiced by the Romans? Could they not be all the sins listed in chapter one? (3) Divine judgment will be based on a person's deeds, meaning that the behavior which characterizes a life is evidence of the relationship that a person has or does not have with God. (4) However, as other Scriptures like Eph. 2:8-10 indicate, one's deeds are not the basis for receiving eternal life or divine wrath; human behavior merely indicates if one is, or isn't, a true child of God. (5) The law clearly reveals God's absolute, holy standard for man. (6) Rom. 2:1-16 readily refutes the error of anyone thinking that they are better off than others and think that they really don't need the gospel as much as gross sinners do. (7) In God's view and plan, it's a different conclusion: whoever judges others is equally guilty and in need of salvation in Christ available only through the gospel. (8) According to Rom. 1:20, pagans are without excuse; according to Rom. 2:1-16, those who would hypocritically judge pagans are also without excuse! (See Paul's conclusion in Rom. 3:23.)

#4

Rom. 2:17-29

Hypocrites!

"The church is full of hypocrites!" Ever heard this statement?

A hypocrite is "one who feigns to be other and better than he is; a false pretender to virtue or piety."

In this study (Romans 2:17-29, see attached chart), Paul shows how the typical Jew of his day would teach others, but not himself! This person preached against stealing, but he himself would steal! This type of Jew was a hypocrite.

Such a Jew needed to become a Jew inwardly transformed (have a circumcised heart!) by accepting the **gospel** of Jesus Christ. He could never attain this spiritual reality by human effort, obedience to the Law, or by inherited privileges. Salvation is received only by God's grace through faith in Christ!

The lesson for us is to discontinue our '**evangelical hypocrisy**,' that is, the practice of piously talking about God, even quoting, and teaching the Bible, while living like pagans in a hedonistic, materialistic society! Only the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ through the **gospel** and the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit can make this happen!

Your fellow-pilgrim,
Charles Stoner



THE JEW, THE LAW & THE GOSPEL

GOD:

Guide, light, instructor, teacher, BUT steal, rob, break Law	2:17– Now YOU, if you CALL yourself a JEW ; The Law if you RELY on the LAW and BOAST in GOD ; ¹⁸ if you know his WILL and APPROVE of what is SUPERIOR because you are INSTRUCTED by the LAW ; ¹⁹ if you are CONVINCED that you are a GUIDE for the BLIND, a LIGHT for those who are in the DARK, ²⁰ an INSTRUCTOR of the FOOLISH, a TEACHER of little CHILDREN, because you have in the LAW the embodiment of KNOWLEDGE and TRUTH— ²¹ YOU, then, who TEACH OTHERS, do you not teach YOURSELF? YOU who PREACH against STEALING, do you STEAL? ²² YOU who SAY that people should NOT commit ADULTERY, do YOU commit ADULTERY? YOU who ABHOR idols, do you ROB TEMPLES? ²³ YOU who BOAST in the LAW , do you DISHONOR GOD by BREAKING the LAW ? ²⁴ As it is written: GOD'S NAME is BLASPHEMED among the GENTILES, because of YOU”	The Will, Honor & Name of God
Circumcision: value if observe Law	25 – CIRCUMCISION has VALUE if you Circumcision OBSERVE the LAW , but if you BREAK the LAW , you have become as though you had NOT been CIRCUMCISED. ²⁶ So then, IF those who are NOT circumcised KEEP the LAW'S requirements, will they not be regarded as THOUGH they were CIRCUMCISED? 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 .	The Law of God
Inwardly, by the Spirit	28 – A person is NOT a JEW who is one The Heart only OUTWARDLY, NOR is CIRCUMCISION merely OUTWARD and PHYSICAL. 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 . ²⁹	The Praise of God

The Boastful Jew: Instructed & Hypocritical

The Circumcised Jew: Privileged & Lawbreaker

The Inward Jew: Heart Circumcised

Contrasts:

- Superior/Inferior
- Light/Dark
- Instructor/Foolish
- Teacher/Children
- Teach others/Not self
- Preach/Steal
- Not commit/Commit
- Abhor/Rob
- Boast/Dishonor
- Name/Blasphemed
- Observe/Break
- Jew/Gentile
- *
- Observe/Break
- Circumcised/Not
- Not physically/Yet obeys
- Have code/Lawbreaker
- *
- Outwardly/Inwardly
- Exterior/Interior
- Physical/The Spirit
- Written code/The heart
- Other people/God



(1) In these verses, **God** and the **Spirit** are named, but not **Jesus Christ**, perhaps because Paul's target audience is the **Jews**. (2) Spiritual advantages of the **Jews** are various: The **Law** (mentioned twelve times!), great knowledge of **God**, and the covenant sign of circumcision. (3) The unbelieving **Jew** described here demonstrates a proud attitude, a sense of superiority, and is boastful and disobedient to **God**. (4) Paul used various contrasts to teach the Romans that the interior, spiritual attitude of man is what matters to **God**, not one's special nationality or inherited privileges. (5) Paul clearly explained to the Romans that a true **Jew** is the person who has had his/her heart transformed (spiritually circumcised) by the Holy Spirit, apart from the **Law** or any human effort or merit, by believing the gospel. (6) **Law** here: rely on the **Law**; instructed by the **Law**; in the **Law** is knowledge & truth; boast in the **Law**; breaking the **Law**; observe the **Law**; break the **Law**; requirements of the **Law**; obeys the **Law**; the written code (law); a lawbreaker; not by the written code. (7) Paul used five rhetorical questions in Rom. 2:21-23 to make his point! (8) There's a danger among evangelicals to be guilty of the same hypocritical attitudes and practices as unbelieving **Jews** concerning the things of **God**; one must only substitute **evangelical** for **Jew**, and **Bible** for **Law** in this passage to observe this danger.

#5

Rom. 3:1-18

Why Jesus, why a **Savior**?

When we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the question arises, why was Jesus born? An angel gave the answer to Joseph, explaining the meaning of His name: "you are to give him the name of Jesus, because he will **save** his people from their sins." (Mt 1:21)

God did not primarily send us a politician, engineer, psychologist, teacher, physician, or economist. No! He sent us Jesus, the **Savior**, because **salvation** from sin is our greatest need of all!

However, some might think: *A **savior** for me? I don't think so! I'm not lost, so I don't need a **savior**!* Who believes this is ignorant of the fact taught in Romans 3:1-18 --- **The Gospel Finds All Under Sin!**

In these verses the truth is very clear: All men and women are miserably lost and without hope because they practice sin, have a sin nature, and live in a sinful condition.

Our only hope is the eternal **salvation** provided in Jesus Christ, the **SAVIOR**, through His death and glorious resurrection! *Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!* (2 Cor 9:15) Happy reflection on your **Savior**!

In the **Savior's** care,
Charles Stoner



THE GOSPEL FINDS ALL UNDER SIN

Humanity:

God:

Some Jews unfaithful — God is faithful

Some were unfaithful

3:1- What **ADVANTAGE**, then, is there in being a **JEW**, or what **VALUE** is there in **CIRCUMCISION**? ² **MUCH** in every way! First of all, the **JEW**S have been **ENTRUSTED** with the **VERY WORDS** of **GOD**. ³ What if **SOME** were **UNFAITHFUL**? Will **THEIR** unfaithfulness **NULLIFY** **GOD'S FAITHFULNESS**? **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**."

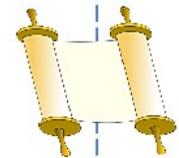
Every human being a liar

God is just — unrighteousness justly condemned

Their condemnation is just

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**.) ⁶ Certainly **NOT**! **IF** that were **SO**, how could **GOD** **JUDGE** the **WORLD**? ⁷ Someone might **ARGUE**, "If my **FALSEHOOD** enhances **GOD'S TRUTHFULNESS** and so **INCREASES** his **GLORY**, **WHY** am I still **CONDEMNED** as a **SINNER**?" ⁸ **WHY** not **SAY**—as **SOME** slanderously **CLAIM** that we say—"Let us do **EVIL** that **GOOD** may **RESULT**?" Their **CONDEMNATION** is just!

A human argument



Jews & Gentiles — all under the power of sin

There is no one righteous, not even one

9- What shall we **CONCLUDE** then? Do we have **ANY** **ADVANTAGE**? **NOT** at all! **For we have already made the CHARGE** that **JEW**S AND **GENTILES** alike are **ALL** under the **POWER** of **SIN**. ¹⁰ As it is **WRITTEN**: "There is **NO** one **RIGHTEOUS**, **NOT** even **ONE**; ¹¹ there is **NO** one who **UNDERSTANDS**; there is **NO** one who **SEEKS** **GOD**. ¹² **ALL** have **TUR**ned away, they have **TO**gether become **WORTHLESS**; there is **NO** one who does **GOOD**, **NOT** even **ONE**." ¹³ "Their **THROATS** are **OPEN GRAVES**; their **TONGUES** practice **DECEIT**." "The **POISON** of **VIPERS** is on their **LIPS**." ¹⁴ "Their **MOUTHS** are **FULL** of **CURSING** and **BITTERNESS**." ¹⁵ "Their **FEET** are **SWIFT** to shed **BLOOD**; ¹⁶ **RUIN** and **MISERY** mark their **WAYS**; and the **WAY** of **PEACE** they do **NOT** know." ¹⁸ "There is **NO** **FEAR** of **GOD** before their **EYES**." ¹⁸

No one understands, seeks God, does good...

- The very Words of God
- The Faithfulness of God
- The Righteousness of God
- The Wrath of God
- The Judgment of God
- The Truthfulness of God
- The Glory of God
- The Fear of God
- The Writings of God

- Worthless Features:**
- Throats > graves
 - Tongues > deceit
 - Lips > poison
 - Mouths > cursing
 - Feet > shed blood
 - Ways > ruin, misery
 - Eyes > no fear of God



More Observations:

(1) God's special revelation, in the form of the Old Testament Scriptures, came to humanity through the Jewish people. (2) However, a national, spiritual legacy of privileges and advantages does not guarantee divine favor or salvation. (3) Note important contrasts here: the unfaithfulness of man vs. the faithfulness of God; the lies of men vs. the truthfulness of God; the unrighteousness of man vs. the righteousness of God; the sin of man vs. the glory of God. (4) True, the unrighteousness and unfaithfulness of the Jews brought the abundant saving grace of God through Christ to all, but this by no means exempts unbelievers from divine judgment. (5) The Scripture references from the Old Testament in Rom 3:10-18 are: In 3:10-12 > Ps 14:1-3; 53:1-3; Eccles. 7:20. In 3:13-14 > Ps 5:9; 140:3; 10:7. In 3:15-17 > Is 59:7,8. In 3:18 > Ps 36:1. (6) The brash conclusion, let us do evil that good may result is roundly condemned by Paul. (7) The conclusion of the matter is clear: men and women are miserable sinners without hope, unable to stop sinning and are under the power of inherited sin. (8) According to Paul, human beings are sinners for three theological reasons: >for having depraved sinful natures; >for finding themselves in a state of sin; >and for constantly practicing sin. (9) The problem today is that most do not believe they are lost, hopeless sinners, needing the Savior! (10) Only the Holy Spirit can convince them of their need. Actually, this is the Spirit's work in the world (see John 16:8-11), so let's pray that the Spirit will continue His work!

#6

Rom. 3:19-31

What about **Justification**?

How can sinful mankind be **justified**, that is, declared **righteous** before a Holy God, the Creator and Sovereign Lord of the universe? For the Jewish people, circumcision and keeping the Law of Moses was the answer. They were convinced that faithfully obeying the Law was their best chance to be forgiven and accepted by God.

In Romans 3:19-31, the Apostle Paul strongly refuted this prevalent belief! He stated that everyone has sinned and fallen short of God's glory (v. 23). All mankind is condemned and hopeless. The Law cannot save anyone! It can only expose man's guilt before God, confirming our miserable spiritual condition.

However, there is eternal hope in Jesus Christ! Redemption and **justification** for mankind were provided by the shed blood of Jesus Christ (v. 25). Men and women, young and old, Jews & Gentiles---all can now be saved and declared **righteous** by grace through faith in the Person and Work of Christ! It is impossible for anyone to be **justified** by human effort, but it is totally possible by divine grace!

Look at the vertical study chart with the verses outlined: (1) **Righteousness (Justification)** needed, 3:19-20; (2) **Righteousness** demonstrated, 21-26; (3) **Righteousness** experienced, 27-31. These great spiritual truths were all part of the **gospel** that Paul preached and taught. To God be the glory for our **justification**! Let's live and share this glorious message!

Charles Stoner



RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH THE GOSPEL

Justified:

Righteousness Needed

Righteousness Demonstrated



Righteousness Experienced

No one is righteous	3:19– Now we KNOW that whatever the LAW 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. 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.	Not by works of the LAW
He did this to demonstrate His Righteousness	21– But now APART from the LAW the Righteousness RIGHTEOUSNESS of GOD has been made KNOWN , to which the LAW and the PROPHETS TESTIFY . ²² This RIGHTEOUSNESS is given through FAITH in JESUS CHRIST to ALL who BELIEVE . There is NO difference between JEW and GENTILE , ²³ for ALL have SINNED and FALL SHORT of the GLORY of GOD, ²⁴ and ALL are JUSTIFIED FREELY by his GRACE , through the REDEMPTION that came by CHRIST JESUS . 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 — 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 .	But by GRACE through FAITH in Christ Jesus
Justified by Faith apart from works	27– Where, then, is BOASTING ? It is EXCLUDED . Faith . Because of what LAW ? The LAW that requires WORKS ? NO, because of the LAW that requires FAITH . ²⁸ For we MAINTAIN that a PERSON is JUSTIFIED by FAITH APART from the WORKS of the LAW . ²⁹ OR is GOD the GOD of JEWS only? Is HE not the GOD of GENTILES TOO? YES , of GENTILES TOO, ³⁰ since there is ONLY one GOD , who will JUSTIFY the CIRCUMCISED by FAITH and the UNCIRCUMCISED through that SAME FAITH . ³¹ Do we, then, NULLIFY the LAW by this FAITH ? NOT at ALL! Rather, we UPHOLD the LAW . 31	By FAITH — both Jews & Gentiles

GOD:

- All Accountable to God
- The Sight of God
- The Righteousness of God
- The Glory of God
- The Grace of God
- The Uniqueness of God



- Doctrines:**
- >Justification
 - >Sin
 - >Christology
 - >Redemption
 - >Atonement
 - >Grace

(1) The **Law** makes us conscious of the reality of sin. (2) All are under the judgment of God, subject to eternal condemnation because of sin. (3) The good news is that God provided a **righteousness** that does not come by the **Law**, but by **faith** in Christ Jesus through the redemption that He provided. (4) No one can ever conclude that they are **justified** by their own efforts because only God **justifies** those who **believe** in Christ. (5) This new manifestation of divine **justice** is not only for the Jews; it is also for Gentiles who **believe** in Christ! (6) **Sin in this passage:** the *consciousness* of sin, the *guilt* of sin, the *impunity* of sin. (7) **Faith in passage:** *faith in Christ; atonement by faith; faith in Jesus; the Law of faith; justified by faith; will justify by same faith; this faith.* (8) The manifestation of the **righteousness** of God through **faith** in Christ—this is the essence of the gospel, the good news. (9) Thanks be to God that **justification** is not attainable by works or by keeping the **Law**; it is only granted by divine grace through personal **faith** in the Person & work of Jesus Christ! To Him be all glory!

#7

Rom. 4:1-25

Wages or a Gift?

During my first year in seminary, I worked as a part-time bellhop at a hotel in Dallas. One day a businessman checked in. As he hurried from the lobby to attend a meeting, he handed me a nice tip and asked me to take his bags to his room. I gladly did so and thought to myself: "This man's generosity sure made my day! Usually, I work hoping for a good tip. This time I'm doing my job because I already got a great tip! Wonder what else I can do to make this man's stay comfortable?"

Romans 4:1-25 is the text for this chart study. Common thought was (and is) that to gain God's favor, one must work hard and hope for the best. Paul skillfully used Abraham's experience in the OT to show that this isn't the case. Rather than depending on works, or circumcision that came later, Abraham was saved, or declared righteous, by faith alone in the promise of God. He looked forward to God's full provision, believed God, and learned to walk with his Lord by faith.

Today we look back and exercise saving faith in the resurrected Christ for our justification. From that point forward, we serve God out of gratitude for the amazing gift of salvation already received! We are not saved **by** good works, but **unto** good works! (Eph. 2:8-10) Our salvation is not earned. It's a gift by grace through faith!

Let's praise the Lord for justification by faith, not only in Abraham's day, but also today! And let's share this amazing message far and near!

Charles Stoner

THE GOSPEL & JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH IN THE OT

The Gospel in Action:

Rom. 4:1-25



The Example of Justification by Faith



The Timing of Justification by Faith



The Experience of Justification by Faith

Abraham Believed God
 4:1- What then shall we say that **ABRAHAM**, our **FOREFATHER** Credited according to the **FLESH**, discovered in this matter? ²IF, in fact, **ABRAHAM** was **JUSTIFIED** by **WORKS**, he had something to **BOAST** about—but **NOT** before **GOD**. ³What does **SCRIPTURE** say? "**ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD**, and it was **CREDITED** to him as **RIGHTEOUSNESS**." ⁴Now to the one who **WORKS**, **WAGES** are **NOT CREDITED** as a **GIFT** but as an **OBLIGATION**. ⁵However, to the **ONE** who does **NOT WORK** but **TRUSTS GOD** who **JUSTIFIES** the **UNGODLY**, their **FAITH** is **CREDITED** as **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. ⁶**DAVID** says the **SAME** thing when he speaks of the **BLESSEDNESS** of the one to whom **GOD CREDITS RIGHTEOUSNESS** **APART** from **WORKS**: "**BLESSED** are **THOSE** whose **TRANSGRESSIONS** are **FORGIVEN**, whose **SINS** are **COVERED**. **BLESSED** is the **ONE** whose **SIN** the **LORD** will **NEVER count AGAINST** him."

Credited before Circumcision & the Law
 9- Is this **BLESSEDNESS** only for the **CIRCUMCISED**, or also for the **FAITH** **UNCIRCUMCISED**? We have been saying that **ABRAHAM'S FAITH** was **CREDITED** to him as **RIGHTEOUSNESS**. ¹⁰Under what **CIRCUMSTANCES** was it **CREDITED**? Was it **AFTER** he was **CIRCUMCISED**, or **BEFORE**? It was **NOT** **AFTER**, but **BEFORE**! ¹¹And 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. ¹²And 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**. ¹³It 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**. ¹⁴For if those who **DEPEND** on the **LAW** are **HEIRS**, **FAITH** means **NOTHING** and the **PROMISE** is **WORTHLESS**, ¹⁵because the **LAW** brings **WRATH**. And where there is **NO LAW** there is **NO TRANSGRESSION**.

Words for us, to whom God will Credit Righteousness
 16- **THEREFORE**, the **PROMISE** comes by **FAITH**, so that it may be **Abraham** by **GRACE**...**GUARANTEED** to all **ABRAHAM'S OFFSPRING**—not **ONLY** to those who are of the **LAW** but also **THOSE** who have the **FAITH** of **ABRAHAM**. He is the **FATHER** of us **ALL**. ¹⁷As 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**. ¹⁸Against all **HOPE**, **ABRAHAM** in **HOPE BELIEVED** and so became the **FATHER** of **MANY NATIONS**, just as...said to him, "So shall your **OFFSPRING** be." ¹⁹Without **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**. ²⁰**YET** he did **NOT WAVER** through **UNBELIEF** regarding the **PROMISE** of **GOD**, but was **STRENGTHENED** in his **FAITH** and gave **GLORY** to **GOD**, ²¹being fully **PERSUADED** that **GOD** had **POWER** to **DO** what he had **PROMISED**. ²²This is why "it was **CREDITED** to him as **RIGHTEOUSNESS**." ²³The **WORDS** "it was **CREDITED** to him" were **WRITTEN** not for him **ALONE**, ²⁴but **ALSO** for **US**, to whom **GOD** will **CREDIT RIGHTEOUSNESS**—for **US** who **BELIEVE** in **HIM** who **RAISED JESUS** our **LORD** from the **DEAD**. ²⁵He was **DELIVERED** over to **DEATH** for our **SINS** and was **RAISED** to **LIFE** for our **JUSTIFICATION**. ²⁵

THE PERSON: God alone

THE PLAN: Always by Faith

THE PROMISE: Many Justified

The Justification of Abraham:

- The **FACT** of his **Justification**.
- The **MANNER** of his **Justification**.
- The **PERSON** of his **Justification**.
- The **BLESSEDNESS** of his **Justification**.
- The **TIME** of his **Justification**.
- The **SIGN & SEAL** of his **Justification**.
- The **RESULT** of his **Justification**.
- The **LEGACY** of his **Justification**.
- The **BASE** of his **Justification**.

Credit righteousness:

- >credited as righteousness. (2)
- >credits righteousness.
- >credited as righteousness.
- >that righteousness may be credited.
- >credited as righteousness.
- >will credit righteousness.

Persons here:
 Abraham, God, those, the ungodly, David, the Lord, circumcised, the uncircumcised, heirs, father, many nations, Sarah, we/us, the dead, Jesus our Lord.

(1) In Rom. 3:28 Paul declared that justification is independent of works and obedience to the Law; in chapter 4 he illustrated this truth with the example of David and especially Abraham, the father of the Jews. (2) Paul affirmed that the gospel is for all people and nations because Abraham was declared the father of many nations. (3) Now all who believe in Christ, the one who died "for our sins and was raised to life for our justification," are declared righteous in Him! (4) Abraham was in an impossible situation: it was necessary to have a son with Sarah so God's promise to him could be fulfilled, but because of her age, Sarah could not have children, neither he. (5) At this point, Abraham resolved to believe God's promise in spite of impossibilities, and for this act of faith, God imputed to him His righteousness by grace, and soon afterwards Isaac, the son of the promise, was born! (6) In like manner, it is impossible for us, while dead in our sins, to be justified by our own efforts. However, by believing fully in the Lord Jesus Christ who died and rose again from the dead, by God's grace we are also declared righteous in Christ. (7) Our justification by grace through faith should evoke constant gratitude and thanksgiving to God! (8) God, the Father planned this so-great salvation; God the Son, provided it by His death on the cross; and God, the Holy Spirit bestows eternal salvation freely to all who believe in Christ! Praise be to the Triune God!

#8

Rom. 5:1-11

Gospel Blessings!

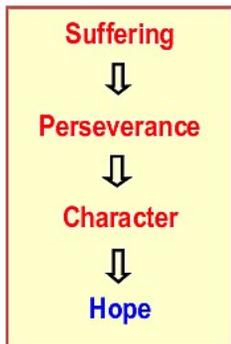
On March 1, 1955, I received Jesus Christ as my Savior. This occurred in a small country church in South Alabama after I'd heard a clear presentation of the **gospel**. I was only eleven years old but felt a strong desire to surrender my life to Christ that evening. The Lord saved me, filling my young heart with joy and peace!

Our study passage at hand is Romans 5:1-11 where Paul presented various spiritual blessings and realities that one receives at conversion: *justification, peace, access to grace, standing in grace, the hope of glory, divine love, the presence of the Holy Spirit, salvation from divine wrath, sanctification by His life, forgiveness, and reconciliation!*

See the study chart and discover these and more benefits that the **gospel** brings to the sinner who believes in Christ. For example, before meeting Christ, we were *powerless, ungodly, sinners, and enemies of God*. But now, by His saving grace, we can affirm that in Him we are *strong, godly, holy, and friends of God!* What a wonderful transformation!

Thanks be to God for the glorious, powerful **gospel** of Jesus Christ! Let's enjoy and share this wonderful message!

Charles Stoner



GLORYING IN THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

Believers:

God:

<p>Peace, access, stand, hope, the Spirit</p>	<p>5:1-Therefore, since we have been JUSTIFIED through FAITH, we have PEACE with GOD through our LORD JESUS CHRIST, 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. Not only so, but we also GLORY in our SUFFERINGS, because we KNOW that SUFFERING produces PERSEVERANCE; perseverance, CHARACTER; and character, HOPE. 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.</p>	<p>Justified</p> <p>Saved—suffering, but with hope</p>
<p>Christ died for us</p>	<p>6- You see, at just the RIGHT time, when we Sinners were still POWERLESS, CHRIST DIED for the UNGODLY. Very RARELY will anyone DIE for a RIGHTEOUS person, though for a GOOD person someone MIGHT possibly DARE to DIE. But GOD demonstrates his own LOVE for US in this: While we were still SINNERS; CHRIST DIED for us.</p>	<p>Loved—by God & Christ</p>
<p>Shall be saved from wrath</p>	<p>9- Since we have NOW been JUSTIFIED by his BLOOD, how much MORE shall we be SAVED from GOD'S WRATH through HIM! 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! Not only is this so, but we ALSO BOAST in GOD through our LORD JESUS CHRIST, through whom we have NOW received RECONCILIATION. 11</p>	<p>Reconciled</p> <p>Justified—reconciled & saved</p>

- Peace with God
- Grace of God
- Glory of God
- Love of God
- Spirit of God
- Love of God
- Wrath of God
- Enemies of God
- Son of God
- Boast in God

In the Present:

We Glory in Hope & in our Sufferings

From the Past:

We Glory in God's Love & Death of Christ

For the Future:

We Glory in God's Salvation & Reconciliation

Observations & Lessons:

While we were:

- >Powerless
- >Ungodly
- >Sinners
- >Enemies

(1) Here Paul presented the great blessings of salvation that the gospel brings to the sinner who believes. (2) He used first person plural (we) to include his readers in his strong affirmation of the grace of God operating in the life of all true believers. (3) The salvation, justification, and reconciliation of man are all accomplished by the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son & God the Spirit—clearly showing the amazing grace & love of God extended to us! (4) Man's deplorable, hopeless situation is clearly presented in these verses: *when we were still powerless, ungodly, sinners & enemies*, that's when we were rescued by faith in the death of Jesus Christ! (5) The believer's wonderful position includes salvation from future divine judgment (wrath), and the present experience of God's progressive sanctification—we shall be saved through his life, verse 10b. (6) The process of our sanctification includes suffering that produces perseverance, approved character, and hope of the glory of God. (7) Divine blessings of the Gospel: justification, peace, access to grace, standing in grace, hope of the glory of God, God's love, the presence of the Holy Spirit, salvation from wrath, reconciliation, and sanctification through the life of Christ.

#9

Rom. 5:12-21

The Best Gift!

Many families participate in a gift exchange at Christmas. The best gift of all is the Gift of Eternal Life that came through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ! *The Gospel Brought the Gift of Eternal Life* is the title of the attached chart study on Rom. 5:12-21. In verses 15 to 17, 'Gift' appears five times...

Thanks be to God, that despite Adam's sinful act and all our sins too, the gospel of Jesus Christ brought forgiveness and the Gift of Eternal Life for all who believe in Him!

The issue of man's sinfulness was resolved by the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ---the *Doctrine of Justification*. In Romans 6, 7 & 8, Paul presents the *Doctrine of Sanctification* where he shows how a justified believer may now live to please the Lord through dependence on the Holy Spirit, even while the sin nature still exists.

Further Study:

In Rom. 5:12-21, Paul presented two contrasting kingdoms or reigns: the Reign of **Adam** (Death), and the Reign of **Jesus Christ** (Life):

<u>Adam:</u>	<u>Jesus Christ:</u>
The First Adam (One Man)	The Last Adam (One Man)
Brought sin.....	Brought life
Sin.....	Gift
Death came to All.....	Life offered to All
One Trespass.....	Act of Righteousness
Condemnation.....	Justification
Law.....	Grace
Disobedience.....	Obedience
Sinners.....	Righteous in Christ
Sin.....	Grace
Death to All.....	Eternal Life for Believers

Appreciate & share your Gift of Eternal Life!

Charles Stoner

THE GOSPEL BROUGHT THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

Death:



- Contrasts:**
- >One Man—All People.
 - >Law—Grace.
 - >Trespass—Gift.
 - One Sin—One Gift.
 - >Condemnation—Justification.
 - >Death—Life
 - >Adam—Jesus Christ.
 - >Disobedience—Obedience.
 - >Sinners—Righteous.
 - >Sin—Grace.
 - >Sin Reigns—Grace Reigns.



<p>Sin came through Adam</p>	<p>Sin entered through one man</p>	<p>12- Therefore, just as SIN entered the WORLD through Adam ONE MAN, and DEATH through SIN, and in this way DEATH came to ALL PEOPLE, because ALL SINNED—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. 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.</p>	<p>The Reality of Death</p>
<p>The Gift came through Christ</p>	<p>The Gift that came by one man, Jesus Christ</p>	<p>15- But the GIFT is NOT like the TRESPASS. For if Jesus Christ 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! 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. 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!</p>	<p>The Reign of Death</p>
<p>Eternal Life came through Grace</p>	<p>Grace brought Eternal Life through Christ</p>	<p>18- Consequently, just as ONE TRESPASS resulted in Many CONDEMNATION for ALL PEOPLE, so also ONE RIGHTOUS act resulted in JUSTIFICATION and LIFE for ALL PEOPLE. 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 RIGHTOUS. ²⁰ The LAW was BROUGHT in so that the TRESPASS might INCREASE. But where SIN increased, GRACE increased all the MORE, 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21</p>	<p>The Removal of Death</p>

(1) In this passage, Paul connects the gospel of Christ and its implications to the historical person of Adam, as he did in Rom. 4 with Abraham and David. (2) Paul clearly shows how Adam and Christ are similar as representatives of the human race and then presents great contrasts between these two as to the eternal results of their acts in time. (3) Paul affirmed that all men participated in the sin of Adam, ver. 12, and thus all are subject to sin's penalty which is spiritual, physical and eternal death. (4) The trespass of Adam condemned all to death, whereas the gift of the grace of God through the obedience of Christ even to death, provided eternal life for all who believe. (5) Due to the importance of the Law to the Jews in their relationship to God, it was necessary for Paul to show here the futility of the Law for salvation. (6) The Law serves well to point out the guilt of sin, but only the grace of God can grant eternal life through Christ Jesus! (7) As noted on the study chart, death for mankind is a present reality and a reign of despair, but everything changed through the vicarious death of Jesus Christ. (8) For those in Christ, the condemnation of spiritual and eternal death was removed, and in the future, physical death will also release its grip!

#10

Rom. 6:1-14

Sin, Grace & New Life

If sin brings grace, shouldn't we sin more so we can experience more grace? 😞
In Rom. 6:2, Paul says, no way! By believing in Christ, we have died to sin, so how can we possibly live in sin any longer?

See Rom. 6:1-14 and discover how **new life** in Christ enables a believer to consider himself or herself to be *dead to sin* but **alive unto God!**

New Life! Wow! Paul gives the Basis, Certainty, Power & the Practice of the **New Life** in Christ in these fourteen verses.

A question as I move through my days: Does my Christian life consistently show that I have indeed died to sin and am now **experiencing New Life** by God's sustaining grace?

Charles Stoner



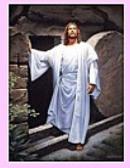
NEW LIFE THROUGH THE GOSPEL

SIN:

Death/Die:

The BASIS of the New Life	Baptized into Christ, Jesus	6:1- WHAT shall we SAY, then? Shall we GO on New Life SINNING so that GRACE may INCREASE? ² By NO MEANS! We are THOSE who have DIED to SIN ; HOW can we LIVE in it ANY LONGER? ³ OR don't you KNOW that ALL of us WHO were BAPTIZED into CHRIST JESUS were BAPTIZED into his DEATH? 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.	The Problem of SIN
The CERTAINTY of the New Life	United with Christ	5- For if we have been UNITED with him in a DEATH Crucified like HIS, we WILL certainly ALSO be UNITED with HIM in a RESURRECTION like HIS. 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 — ⁷ because anyone who has DIED has been SET FREE from SIN .	The Body of SIN
The POWER of the New Life	Will live with Him	8- Now if we DIED with CHRIST, we BELIEVE that we will Lives also LIVE with HIM. ⁹ For we KNOW that since CHRIST was RAISED from the DEAD, he CANNOT die AGAIN; DEATH no longer has MASTERY over HIM. ¹⁰ The DEATH he DIED, he DIED to SIN ONCE for ALL; but the LIFE he LIVES, he LIVES to GOD.	Death to SIN
The PRACTICE of the New Life	Rather offer yourselves to God	11-In the SAME way, COUNT yourselves DEAD to SIN Offer but ALIVE to GOD in CHRIST JESUS. ¹² Therefore do NOT let SIN REIGN in your MORTAL BODY so that you OBEY its EVIL DESIRES. 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. ¹⁴ For SIN shall NO longer be your MASTER, because you are NOT under the LAW, but under GRACE. 14	The Mastery of SIN

>we died.
 >baptized into His death.
 >buried with Him in His death.
 >raised from the dead.



>united with Him in a death like His .
 >who has died, set free from sin.
 >if we died with Christ.
 >Christ was raised from the dead.
 >cannot die again.
 >death no longer has mastery.
 >the death has died.
 >he died to sin once for all.
 >count yourselves dead to sin.
 >brought from death to life.



(1) The physical **body** of the believer is capable of serving the **old self** (the sinful nature), or it can be offered to God as an instrument of justice, which is infinitely better. (2) Expressions here about the human **body**: **body ruled by sin**, v. 6, & **mortal body**, v. 12. (3) The believer is not only freed from the **penalty** of **sin** by the gospel, but through union with Christ he also died to the **power** of **sin**, now freed to **live** in victory over **sin** in newness of **life**! (4) In a way, **sin** highlights the need for, and the glory of grace, but a true believer will no longer desire to **live** dominated by **sin** so as to increase grace. (5) Rather, he now wants only to display grace by taking advantage of this divine resource by **living** a **new life** by the power of the resurrected Christ! (6) A believer should consider himself **dead** to **sin**, and **alive** to God, not allowing himself to be dominated by **sin**, not obeying the desires of his **old self**, and not offering his members as instruments of wickedness, rather offer them to God as instruments of righteousness. (7) Man's fallen, **sinful** state, along with his acts of disobedience result in spiritual, physical and eternal death. (8) But the death of Christ and His resurrection from the dead always bring **new & eternal life** to all who believe in Him. (9) Does my Christian **life** consistently demonstrate that I have already died to **sin**, and that I am now **living** unto God by His sustaining grace?

#11

Rom. 6:15-23

Sin-Slaves Set Free by the Gospel

The Bible study chart under consideration is Romans 6:15-23. Note the following and see the chart for more observations:

- A believer living under grace does not have license to live in **sin**, v. 15.
2. Through Christ, he has been redeemed and freed from **sin** to become a slave of righteousness, v. 18.
3. He is no longer a slave to impurity and wickedness as before his spiritual transformation in Christ, v. 19.
4. He can now offer the members of his body (himself) to God to practice righteousness, v. 19.
5. The two choices have consequences: the fruit or result of living in wickedness is death; the fruit or end of practicing righteousness is holiness and eternal life, v. 22.

What a privilege to be freed from **sin** by the **Gospel** so we can now live as bond servants of Jesus Christ while already enjoying the gift of eternal life in Him, v. 23!

Dear Heavenly Father,

Help me to live today and always in holiness and righteousness by Your power, offering you my body, will, mind, soul, and spirit---everything that I am and have---for the praise of Your glory forever!

In the name of Jesus, my Savior, I ask these blessings, Amen.

Charles Stoner

SIN-SLAVES SET FREE BY THE GOSPEL!

Freed from Sin & Slavery to obey Righteousness

Freed unto Righteousness & Holiness

Freed to get the Gift of Eternal Life

Have become slaves to righteousness
 15- What then? Shall we **SIN** because we **Slaves** are NOT under the **LAW** but under **GRACE**? By **NO MEANS**! ¹⁶Don'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**? ¹⁷But **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**. ¹⁸**YOU** have been **SET FREE** from **SIN** and have become **SLAVES** to **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

Offer selves to righteousness
 19- I am using an **EXAMPLE** from everyday **Offer 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**. ²⁰When you were **SLAVES** to **SIN**, you were **FREE** from the **CONTROL** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**.²¹What **BENEFIT** did you **REAP** at that time from the **THINGS** you are now **ASHAMED** of? Those **THINGS** result in **DEATH!**

Freed for God's gift
 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**. ²³For the **WAGES** of **SIN** is **DEATH**, but the **GIFT** of **GOD** is **ETERNAL LIFE** in **CHRIST JESUS** our **LORD**.
 23

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

EXAMPLE & EXPLANATION

AFFIRMATION

>Obedient slaves.
 >One you obey.
 >Slaves to obedience.
 >Have come to obey.

Important Choices:
 >Obedient slaves.
 >Slaves of the one you obey.
 >Slaves to sin.
 >Slaves to sin.
 >Slaves to righteousness.
 >Slaves to impurity.
 >Slaves to righteousness.
 >Slaves of God.

Death in passage:
 Sin leads to death.
 Things result in death.
 Sin is death.



(1) Here Paul presented obvious contrasts between the slavery of sin and the slavery of righteousness: >offering ourselves as obedient slaves to sin/impurity/wickedness, leads to death; offering ourselves as slaves to righteousness/God and his teaching, leads to HOLINESS & ETERNAL LIFE. (2) Certainly every true believer desires to avoid sin and enjoy a life style of allegiance to righteousness that leads to holiness and eternal life, a life transformed by the gospel. (3) How is it possible to enjoy this new life, a Christian experience characterized by holiness and eternal life, no longer following a sinful life style? Romans chapter 8 is where Paul will explain how a victorious spiritual life is only possible by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit and is never attained by human effort. (4) Rom. 6:15-23 serves well to contrast the past & present, the 'then & now' experience of believers transformed by the gospel of Christ, who now desire to grow in holiness and enjoy victory over the world, the flesh and the devil (every believer's three enemies). (5) Contrasts in 6:23> The wages of sin vs. the gift of God, & Death vs. eternal life! (6) No longer under the Law, believers can now obey the higher law of obedience to righteousness in Christ!

#12

Rom. 7:1-11

Freed from the Law

In Romans 7, Paul declared that for believers in Jesus Christ, the Mosaic **Law** no longer has authority. In fact, we have died to the **law** through the body of Christ, that we might belong to another...to Christ who arose from the dead! For this reason, we no longer have to serve the sinful passions of our flesh that are "aroused by the **law**." (7:5)

The **Law** of Moses shows us what sin is, and it is not sinful in itself (7:7). But by itself the **law** is incapable of helping us overcome the sin it reveals, or at times provokes in us. By belonging to Christ, we are indwelt by Him and by the Holy Spirit, and through divine power we are now able to avoid the practice of sin. We are even empowered to bear spiritual fruit for God!

For this reason, the **law** has clear instructional value, pointing out the need believers have to live in total dependence upon the Holy Spirit so they can serve God and bear spiritual fruit for His glory!

In the following section of Rom. 7, Paul explained how the **law** is holy (12), spiritual (14), and good (16). Consequently, the problem for Paul was not the **law**, but the sin within him that the **law** brought to light. In the rest of Rom. 7, Paul described his own experience of the battle going on within him between the **law** of the Spirit and the **law** of sin. (a future study!)

May you and I learn to depend upon the liberating, sustaining power of the Holy Spirit as we meet the challenges of a world gone mad! *God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power, of love, and of self-discipline!*

See the chart based on Rom. 7:1-11 for more study observations.

Charles Stoner



FREED FROM THE LAW BY THE GOSPEL

Limited Authority of the Law



Complete Freedom from the Law



Instructional Value of the Law

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? ²For 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. ³SO 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.

4- SO, my BROTHERS and SISTERS, you Released 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**. ⁵For 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. ⁶BUT 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**.

7- WHAT shall we SAY, then? Is the **Commandment 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.” ⁸But SIN, seizing the OPPORTUNITY afforded by the **COMMANDMENT**, PRODUCED in ME every kind of COVETING. For APART from the **LAW**, SIN was DEAD. ⁹ONCE I was ALIVE apart from the **LAW**; but when the **COMMANDMENT** came, SIN sprang to LIFE and I DIED. ¹⁰I FOUND that the very **COMMANDMENT** that was INTENDED to bring LIFE actually brought DEATH. ¹¹For SIN, SEIZING the OPPORTUNITY afforded by the **COMMANDMENT**, DECEIVED me, and through the **COMMANDMENT** put me to DEATH. 11

LAW:

Marriage Law & Law of Moses

Law written & Law of Moses

Law of Moses & apart from the Law

Die & Death:

- >If her husband dies.
- >If her husband dies.
- >You also died to the Law.
- >Was raised from the dead.
- >Bore fruit for death.
- >Dying to what bound us.
- >Apart from the Law sin was dead.
- >And I died.
- >The commandment brought death.
- >Sin put me to death.

Trinity:

- >Body of Christ
- >Fruit for God
- >New way of the Spirit

(1) True believers in Jesus Christ have been freed from sin according to Romanos 6, and according to this passage, the believer is also released from the Law. (2) Freedom from the Law enables a believer to serve God in the power of the Holy Spirit, which is the teaching of Romans 8. (3) The guarantee of our freedom from sin and from the Law is our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. (4) Actually, sin did not die, but the believer died to sin, and also died to the Law that arouses sin in him. (5) In 7:4-6 the Trinity is represented: the body of Christ, fruit for God & the way of the Spirit. (6) Notice the logical sequence here: dead to sin> dead to the Law> belonging to Christ> serving & bearing fruit for God. (7) Instead of helping man to avoid sin, the Law actually arouses in man the desire to sin—therefore, we must consider ourselves dead, not only to sin, but also dead to the Law! (8) However, we must remember that although we’ve been freed from the Law of Moses, we are now under the Law of Christ! Galations 6:2 says: “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (9) Nine of the Ten Commandments of Moses are repeated in the epistles of the NT, having been incorporated into the Law of Christ, the law of love. (10) Obedience to this freeing Law is only possible by constant yieldedness to the Holy Spirit who dwells within us! See James 1:25 - “the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom.”

#13
Rom. 7:12-25

Sin Living in Me?

Years ago, I was chatting with a new believer in Christ. I noticed that he seemed preoccupied and sad. Before long he told me what was bothering him. A couple of days earlier, he had yielded to temptation. After that, his sin weighed heavily on his conscience, causing my friend to lose the joy of his salvation.

Sin is the subject of **Romans 7:12-25** where Paul writes of his personal experience as a Christian. He wanted to do what was right but ended up **not** doing it: "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...what a wretched man I am!" (7:19, 24) Paul concluded that the cause of his sin was his sinful nature, the sin living in him, controlling him on those occasions (7:17, 20).

What to do? For my friend it was his sincere confession to God that restored him to fellowship with Christ. (1 John 1:9) And 'wretched' Paul had to do the same, confessing his sin to God. He wrote that deliverance is possible only "through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (v. 25) In Romans 8 Paul will show how the indwelling Holy Spirit gives victory over sin when we depend upon Him.

So, during these days of general uncertainty and spiritual confusion, take a look at the attached study chart and be encouraged in your battle against sin. Divine resources are always available, offering you and me forgiveness and victory over sin in our faith-journey.

Charles Stoner



THE GOSPEL & THE BATTLE AGAINST SIN

Sin:

The LAW:

Origin of the Battle

Dilemma of the Battle

Solution for the Battle

The Law makes Sin sinful	7:12- So then, the LAW is HOLY, and the Commandment COMMANDMENT is HOLY, RIGHTEOUS and GOOD. 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 .	Sin made sinful
Not do what I want, but what I hate	14- We know that the LAW is SPIRITUAL; but I am Slave UNSPIRITUAL , SOLD as a SLAVE to SIN . ¹⁵ I do NOT understand what I DO. For what I WANT to do I do NOT do, but what I HATE I do. ¹⁶ And if I DO what I do NOT want to DO, I agree that the LAW is GOOD. ¹⁷ As it IS, it is NO longer MYSELF who DO it, but it is SIN living IN me. 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. 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. 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.	The Sin living in me
God delivers me through Christ	21- So I find this LAW at WORK: Although I want to do Law GOOD, EVIL is right THERE with ME. ²² For in my INNER BEING I DELIGHT in GOD'S LAW ; ²³ but I see ANOTHER LAW at work in the MEMBERS of my BODY, waging WAR against the LAW of my MIND and MAKING me a PRISONER of the LAW of SIN at WORK within ME. ²⁴ What a WRETCHED MAN I am! WHO will RESCUE me from this BODY that is SUBJECT to DEATH? 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 . 25	The Law of Sin

The LAW is holy



The LAW is spiritual

The LAW is good

This LAW at work

Delight in God's LAW

Another LAW at work

The LAW of my mind

The LAW of sin

Slave to God's LAW

The LAW of sin

(1) This passage seems to depict Paul's situation after his conversion and not before, highlighting his struggle in the process of sanctification. (2) He clearly shows that a believer's problem is not a lack of knowledge of what is right, but his inability to do what is right. (3) The first step in having victory over sin is to recognize that a problem exists, and that human effort cannot solve this problem. (4) Does Paul blame his sinful nature (the sin living in me) for his sin and failure, and not himself? (5) No! It seems he felt responsible, but was incapable in himself to have victory in the battle occurring in his inner person between God's law and the law of sin. (6) In Romans 8, Paul will show that the gospel solution for victory over sin is in the Person of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter/Counselor sent by Jesus Christ to indwell and empower every true Christian believer. (7) Thank you, Father, for showing me my weakness and sin, and for providing deliverance through Jesus Christ and Your indwelling Holy Spirit.

#14

Rom. 8:1-17

There is Now no Condemnation!

The glorious gospel of Jesus Christ, the good news, is the only answer for the spiritual need of mankind! Paul declared that those in Christ are no longer condemned. In fact, the believer's standing before God is already complete and secure because of the presence and power of the **Holy Spirit** living within.

Romans 8:1-17 (see study chart) presents amazing benefits of this new reality in Christ provided by the indwelling power of the **Holy Spirit**: Freedom from the law of sin. A life of peace. Victory over sinful practices. Divine guidance. Now children of God, no longer slaves to sin. Made heirs of God, even co-heirs with Christ---all this provided by the indwelling presence of the **Spirit**!

Despite the ongoing health and economic uncertainties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, let's thank God today for the Person and powerful ministry of the **Holy Spirit** on our behalf! And let's dedicate ourselves to Christ anew---body, mind, soul, spirit and will---in sincere worship, obedience, and service for the glory of God!

Charles Stoner

THE GOSPEL & THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Believer & the Spirit:

The Trinity:

Jesus Christ, the Son

God, the Spirit

God, the Father



The Spirit:
 >frees >desires
 >governs
 >gives life & peace
 >indwells
 >puts to death
 >leads >is received
 >brings adoption
 >testifies

Contrasts:
 >Condemnation vs Life.
 >Law of the Spirit vs Law of Sin.
 >Life vs Death.
 >Flesh vs Spirit.
 >Mind of the Flesh vs Mind of the Spirit.
 >Realm of the Flesh vs Realm of the Spirit.
 >Body dead vs Spirit living.
 >The Spirit vs our spirit.
 >Sufferings vs Glory.



Freedom through the Spirit

Living in the Spirit

Indwelt by the Spirit

Adoption through the Spirit

The Spirit has set you free	8:1—Therefore, there is now NO CONDEMNATION for In Christ those WHO are IN CHRIST JESUS, because through CHRIST JESUS the LAW of the SPIRIT who gives LIFE has set you FREE from the LAW of SIN and DEATH. 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, 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.	Life according to the Spirit
Accordance with the Spirit	5—Those who LIVE according to the FLESH have their Minds 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. The MIND governed by the FLESH is DEATH, but the MIND governed by the SPIRIT is LIFE and PEACE. The MIND governed by the FLESH is HOSTILE to GOD; it does NOT submit to GOD'S LAW, nor can it do so. THOSE who are in the REALM of the FLESH CANNOT please GOD.	The Mind of the Spirit
The Spirit lives in you	9—YOU, however, are NOT in the REALM of the FLESH but Spirit 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. 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. 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.	The Realm of the Spirit
The Spirit brought your adoption	12— THEREFORE, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation Led —but it is NOT to the FLESH, to LIVE according to IT. 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. For THOSE who are LED by the SPIRIT of GOD are the CHILDREN of GOD. 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." The SPIRIT himself TESTIFIES with OUR SPIRIT that we ARE GOD'S CHILDREN. 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.	The Witness of the Spirit

(1) Rom. 8 presents the person & ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer: (2) The Trinity is in this passage: God sent Christ; Christ condemned sin by Himself becoming the offering for sin; the Spirit, indwells the believer and satisfies the requirements of the Law. (3) Through Christ, God did what the Law could not do—freed us from the Law of sin. (4) Now we are free to live for Christ, by depending upon the power of the Holy Spirit. (5) The believer is now in Christ and lives by the Spirit, under the dominion of the Spirit. (6) The Spirit and Christ live in the believer; therefore the believer is guided by the Spirit, becomes a child of God, is an heir of God, and co-heir with Christ! (7) More contrasts: freedom vs slavery; peace vs enmity; spirit vs body; adoption vs slavery; heirs vs slaves. (8) This passage clearly shows how the good news of the Gospel is related to the glorious presence, ministry and indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the experience of a Christian disciple. (9) Shared sufferings with Christ will eventually bring us shared glory.

#15

Rom. 8:18-27

Hope for Today!

Suffering and afflictions are part of the Christian life. But along with life's difficult experiences, the gospel of Jesus Christ brings us great **hope**! In Romans 8:18-27, Paul presented three promises by which God, through the gospel, gives us hope: (see study chart)

(1) We have **hope** in the future **liberation of the natural creation** at the second coming of Christ. (8:18-21) All creation groans now, while awaiting its glorious liberation through the future renewal of the earth.

(2) While creation awaits liberation and freedom from the Fall, believers are given the certain **hope of the redemption of their bodies at Christ's return!** That will be the last phase of our eternal salvation in Christ. (8:22-25) The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of this future reality.

(3) Another reality that gives believers great **hope** is the **Holy Spirit's intercession for us** with 'wordless groans.' (8:26-27) He helps us in our weakness and effectively intercedes for us when we don't know how to pray!

For these reasons, Paul considered *that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us*. Don't you think we should agree with Paul? (8:18)

Charles Stoner



THE GOSPEL BRINGS HOPE

A Believer's Life:



Creation eagerly awaits liberation	8:18- CONSIDER that our PRESENT SUFFERINGS are NOT worth COMPARING with the GLORY that WILL be REVEALED in us. ¹⁹ For the CREATION waits in eager EXPECTATION for the CHILDREN of GOD to be REVEALED. 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 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.	In the Past: Bondage
Waiting redemption of our Body	22- We know that the WHOLE CREATION Hope has been GROANING as in the PAINS of CHILDBIRTH right up to the PRESENT time. 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. 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? ²⁵ But if we HOPE for what we do NOT YET have, we WAIT for it PATIENTLY.	In the Future: Adoption/Sonship
The Spirit Intercedes	26- In the SAME way, the SPIRIT HELPS us Spirit in our WEAKNESS. We do NOT know WHAT we OUGHT to PRAY for, but the SPIRIT himself INTERCEDES for US through WORDLESS GROANS. 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. ²⁷	In the Present: Help



The Holy Spirit:
 > is the firstfruits.
 > helps us.
 > intercedes for us.
 > groans for us.
 > intercedes for God's people.

Hope in Liberation of Creation

Hope in Redemption of the Body



Hope by Intercession of the Spirit

(1) In this passage, Paul answers the question: If the gospel is so good and effective, why do believers still suffer and do not yet enjoy all the promises made to those who believe? (2) Mankind needs the hope that the gospel brings, the certainty that God will indeed complete what He promised by sending His Son and the Holy Spirit, in spite of the apparent delay. (3) The natural creation and we ourselves are included in the future liberation plan of God, this in spite of the suffering, futility and groanings of our present reality. (4) In what way is the creation frustrated and in bondage today due to the fall of man? (5) While we are eagerly awaiting the 'redemption of our bodies,' we have the presence and special help of the Holy Spirit; He intercedes for us and Christ does too, and this intercession for us is part of Christ's present ministry in heaven. (6) It is necessary that I pass on to the next generation the faith and hope that I received through my Christian parents, with conviction and clarity, while I await the return of Christ during my brief earthly pilgrimage! (7) A believer, in spite of present sufferings, enjoys many blessings: Freedom from sin, the certain hope of the future redemption of his body, and the present, powerful, ongoing help of the Spirit of God within him!

- Contrasts:**
- Sufferings <> Glory
 - Waiting <> Revealed
 - Human will <> Divine will
 - Futility <> Hope
 - Bondage <> Freedom
 - Groanings <> Adoption/Redemption
 - Wait <> See
 - Anxious <> Patient
 - Weakness <> Help
 - God's people <> the Spirit
 - What to pray <> the Spirit intercedes



#16

Rom. 8:28-39

More Than Conquerors!

God is for us!

>He foreknew us, predestined us, called us, justified us & glorified us!

>He did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all.

>Along with Him, He will graciously give us all things!

Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ!

>No trouble, hardship, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger or sword.

And nothing can separate us from the love of God!

>Neither death, life, angels, demons, the present, the future, any powers, height, depth, or anything else in all creation.

See the study chart on Romans 8:28-39 for more encouragement!

And may each new day be full of gratitude, spiritual victory and joy in the Lord, even when we face many health, economic and political uncertainties.

Today, in all these things we are more than overcomers!

Charles Stoner



THE GOSPEL MAKES US OVERCOMERS

What God Does:

In line with the Purpose of God

In spite of Opposition & Trouble



In all the Dangers of Life

Conformed to his image	8:28- And we KNOW that in ALL things GOD WORKS Purpose for the GOOD of those who LOVE him, who have been CALLED according to his PURPOSE. 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. 30 And THOSE HE PREDESTINED, HE also CALLED; those HE CALLED, HE also JUSTIFIED; those HE JUSTIFIED, HE also GLORIFIED.	God Works in all things
Who will separate us from Christ?	31-WHAT, then, shall we say in RESPONSE to these Response things? If GOD is FOR us, who can be AGAINST us? 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? 33 WHO will bring any CHARGE against THOSE whom GOD has CHOSEN? It is GOD who JUSTIFIES. 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. 35 WHO shall SEPARATE us from the LOVE of CHRIST ? Shall TROUBLE or HARDSHIP or PERSECUTION or FAMINE or NAKEDNESS or DANGER or SWORD? 36 As it is WRITTEN: “For your sake WE face DEATH all DAY LONG; we are CONSIDERED as SHEEP to be SLAUGHTERED.”	God Justifies the chosen
More than conquerors	37- No, in ALL these THINGS we are MORE than Convinced CONQUERORS through HIM who LOVED us. 38 For I am CONVINCED that neither DEATH nor LIFE, neither ANGELS nor DEMONS, neither the PRESENT nor the FUTURE, nor any POWERS, 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.	God loved us in Christ

-Those God foreknew, He...
 >predestined
 >called
 >justified
 >glorified

Jesus Christ:
 >died.
 >was resurrected.
 >is at the right hand of God.
 >intercedes for us.

What cannot separate us from the love of Christ or the love of God:
 >trouble >death
 >hardship >life
 >persecution >angels
 >famine >demons
 >nakedness
 >the present
 >danger
 >the future
 >sword >powers
 >height >depth
 >anything else in all creation

(1) Is it really true that God is working in our lives? Yes, He is always working, protecting us and bringing us to glory according to His eternal purpose! (2) If so, why is the life of a believer still full of problems, concerns and afflictions? It's because God is providing us opportunities to grow spiritually and to overcome all these things through His power, for His eternal glory. (3) Paul declared that through the gospel we are secure, and that nothing can separate us from the eternal love of Christ. (4) In Rom. 8:26 Paul wrote that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us; in Rom. 8:34 he affirmed that Jesus Christ also intercedes for us at the right hand of God. As the chosen of God, we are well protected and privileged! (5) God gave us Christ, and graciously with Him, all things. Think of that! (6) Love: those who love Him; the love of Christ; through Him who loved us; the love of God. (7) May each new day of our earthly pilgrimage be one of progress and victory, because we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus!

#17

Rom. 9:1-18

Mercy & Grace

In God's great plan of salvation for mankind, His **mercy** extends to all and guarantees that those who believe will not receive what they deserve---eternal death! By His extended **grace**, believers receive from Him what they do not deserve---eternal life!

In the study passage of Romans 9:1-18 (see chart), Paul showed how God provided His abundant **mercy** and grace to the people of Israel, to Isaac, and to Jacob. In no way did these patriarchs earn God's merit and favor, yet they received it!

Could it be that God was unjust when He did not choose Ishmael, Esau, or Pharaoh? Paul said not so, quoting what God said to Moses: "I will have **mercy** on whom I have **mercy**, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." (Rom 9:15) The basis of the divine choice was not any human desire or effort. It was the pure **mercy** of God!

Thanks be to God for His great love, grace, and mercy poured out abundantly through the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ! Let's share this good news soon with someone who feels discouraged, fearful or hopeless in these trying times!

Charles Stoner

THE GOSPEL THROUGH DIVINE MERCY

Summary:

Mercy on the people of Israel



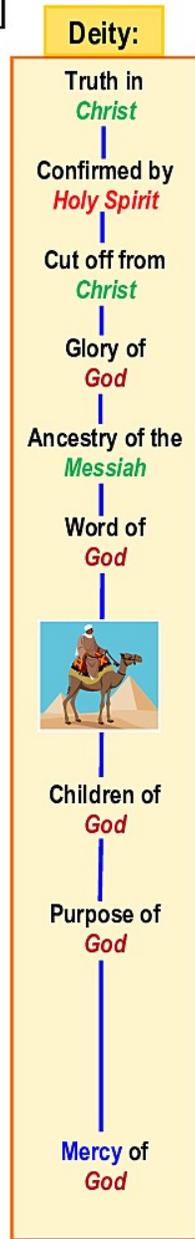
Mercy on the descendant of Abraham, Isaac

Mercy on the son of Isaac, Jacob

Mercy on whom God wants



Adoption, glory, covenants, law, temple	9:1- I speak the TRUTH in CHRIST —I am NOT lying. My people my CONSCIENCE CONFIRMS it through the HOLY SPIRIT — 2I have great SORROW and unceasing ANGUISH in my HEART. 3For I could WISH that I MYSELF were CURSED and CUT OFF from CHRIST for the SAKE of MY PEOPLE, those of my OWN RACE, 4the 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. 5THEIRS are the PATRIARCHS, and from THEM is traced the HUMAN ANCESTRY of the MESSIAH , who is GOD over ALL, forever PRAISED! Amen.	THE ADVANTAGES
By Isaac, the promise	6- It is NOT as though GOD'S WORD had FAILED. Descendants For NOT ALL who are DESCENDED from ISRAEL are ISRAEL. 7NOR because they are his DESCENDANTS are they ALL ABRAHAM'S children. On the contrary, "It is THROUGH ISAAC that your OFFSPRING will be RECKONED." 8In 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. 9For THIS was HOW the PROMISE was stated: "At the APPOINTED TIME I will RETURN, and SARAH will HAVE a SON."	THE PROMISE
Jacob I loved	10- NOT only THAT, but REBEKAH'S CHILDREN were Jacob CONCEIVED at the SAME time by our FATHER ISAAC. 11Yet, BEFORE the TWINS were BORN or had DONE anything GOOD or BAD—in order that GOD'S PURPOSE in ELECTION might STAND: 12NOT by WORKS but by HIM who CALLS—she was TOLD, "The OLDER will SERVE the YOUNGER." 13Just as it is WRITTEN: "JACOB I LOVED, but ESAU I HATED."	THE ELECTION
Depends on God's mercy	14- WHAT then shall we SAY? Is GOD UNJUST ? NOT at all! 15For he says to MOSES, "I will have MERCY on whom I have MERCY , and I will have COMPASSION on whom I have COMPASSION ." It does NOT, therefore, DEPEND on HUMAN DESIRE or EFFORT, but on GOD'S MERCY . 17For 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." 18 THEREFORE GOD has MERCY on whom he WANTS to have MERCY , and he HARDENS whom he WANTS to HARDEN.	THE PRINCIPLE



(1) Paul expressed his great love for his own people, even being willing to lose his own salvation if he could save his Israelite brothers! (2) One very important privilege enjoyed by Israel was to have been chosen to form the human line of the **Messiah, Jesus Christ**. (3) 9:5 clearly states the deity of **Christ**: "...the **Messiah**, who is **God** over all..." (4) Paul explained the process of divine selection in the choice of Abraham (not relatives), Isaac (not Ishmael), Jacob (not Esau), and Israel (not Pharaoh), to provide salvation and divine blessings to humanity. (5) **God** works according to His own sovereign purpose in the salvation of mankind, not being influenced by human works or desires. (6) By some, **God** wants to show His great power; by others, His great **mercy**. (7) This is the good news of the Gospel: **God** desires to save mankind, Jews or gentiles, not on the basis of any human merit, but only on the basis of His amazing grace, **mercy**, and compassion. (8) Oh that I would have the ardent desire like Paul to see lost folks around me saved by the Gospel of **Christ!**

#18

Rom. 9:19-33

The Gospel & the Divine Potter

"Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel." (Jeremiah 18:6b) "Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?" (Romans 9:21)

Romans 9:19-33 is the passage for this chart Bible study. You will observe that the chart has 15 verses divided into three sections: **The Right of the Potter** (9:19-21), **the Work of the Potter** (22-29) & the **Promise of the Potter** (30-33).

From this passage I learned the following: My salvation is totally of God---by His mercy, grace, and love. I did not seek Him; it was He who sought me and found me, granting me the grace and faith to believe in Christ!

During these uncertain days, may you and I meditate more on the glorious gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. May the certainty of our salvation through God's abundant grace encourage our hearts unto grateful worship and faithful ministry, until we He takes us Home!

Your fellow clay pot,
Charles Stoner



THE GOSPEL & THE DIVINE POTTER

Metaphors, Illustrations:

- Potter
- Clay
- Pottery
- Objects
- Riches
- Objects
- My loved one
- Sons
- Sand of the sea
- Sodom & Gomorrah
- Stumble
- Stumbling stone
- Rock

The Right of the Potter

The right to make
 19- One of you will say to me: "Then **WHY** does GOD **Right** still **BLAME** us? For **WHO** is able to **RESIST** his **WILL**?" 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**?' " **DOES NOT** the **POTTER** have the **RIGHT** to **MAKE** out of the **SAME** lump of **CLAY** some **POTTERY** for **SPECIAL** purposes and some for **COMMOM** USE?"

Seven QUESTIONS

The Work of the Potter

Prepare objects for His glory, Jews & Gentiles
 22- **WHAT** if **GOD**, although **CHOOSING** to **SHOW** **Objects** his **WRATH** and make his **POWER** known, **BORE** with great **PATIENCE** the **OBJECTS** of his **WRATH**—**PREPARED** for **DESTRUCTION**? **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**— even **US**, whom he also **CALLED**, not only from the **JEWS** but also from the **GENTILES**? 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**," and, "It will **HAPPEN** that in the very **PLACE** where it was said to them, '**YOU** are **NOT** my **people**,' they will be called '**SONS** of the **LIVING GOD**.'" **ISAIAH** **GRIES** out concerning **ISRAEL**: "Though the **NUMBER** of the **ISRAELITES** be like the **SAND** of the **SEA**, **ONLY** the **REMANANT** will be **SAVED**. For the **LORD** will **CARRY OUT** his **SENTENCE** on **EARTH** with **SPEED** and **FINALITY**." It is **JUST** as **ISAIAH** said previously: "**UNLESS** the **LORD** **ALMIGHTY** had **LEFT** us **DESCENDANTS**, we would have **BECOME** like **SODOM**, we would have **BECOME** like **GOMORRAH**."

Scripture quotations



The Promise of the Potter

Who trusts, never put to shame
 30- **WHAT** then shall we **SAY**? That the **Righteousness** **GENTILES**, who **did NOT** pursue **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, have **OBTAINED** it, a **RIGHTEOUSNESS** that is **by FAITH**; but the **PEOPLE** of **ISRAEL**, who pursued **the LAW** as the **WAY** of **RIGHTEOUSNESS**, have **NOT** attained their **GOAL**. **WHY** not? Because they pursued it **NOT** by **FAITH** but as if it were by **WORKS**. They **STUMBLED** over the **STUMBLING STONE**. As it is **WRITTEN**: "**SEE**, I **LAY** in **ZION** a **STONE** that causes **MEN** to **STUMBLE** and a **ROCK** that makes them **FALL**, and **the ONE** who **TRUSTS** in **HIM** will **NEVER** be **PUT** to **SHAME**." 33

Summary

(1) Paul effectively displays the sovereignty of God by using rhetorical questions. (2) God has a specific purpose for every part of His creation, including the human race, either to demonstrate His great patience, or His great mercy and grace, all for His glory. (3) The salvation of Gentiles in Christ was not well understood by his Jewish readers, leading Paul to explain by using the illustration of a potter, and by quoting the prophecies of Hosea and Isaiah. (4) The reason for the omission of many Israelites is their dependence on the Law and works, causing them to stumble over the simplicity of the gospel which is the exercise of faith as the only means of obtaining divine righteousness. (5) In the chapters to follow, Paul will show another reason for the unbelief of the Jews—a spiritual blindness that most suffer during this dispensation. (6) The fact is, the Divine Potter has the right to form each person into the type of object or vessel that He so desires, for special or common use. (7) From this passage I observe how my salvation is totally of God—by His mercy, grace and love. I did not really seek Him or His righteousness; it was He who sought me out, instilling in me the grace to believe in Him for salvation!

#19

Rom. 10:1-21

Everyone Who Calls on the Name of the Lord will be Saved!

Just as every coin has two sides, so man's salvation has two sides.

God's gracious role in the salvation of mankind, that is, His calling and election in mercy is explained in Romans 9:11&16. Here in Romans 10, Paul spelled out man's response in appropriating God's gift of salvation, that is, by calling on and believing in Christ. (Rom. 10:13,14) The divine role and the human response are the two sides of the same coin of eternal salvation, all to the glory of God and the joy of man!

Paul used an interesting illustration in Romans 10:15. He wrote that the one who shares the gospel message with others has **beautiful feet**, quoting Isaiah 52:7. An interesting metaphor!

The steps are clear in the process of sharing the good news which results in the salvation of folks like you and me: beautiful feet *sent*, feet *preaching*---to people who *hear*, people who *believe*, people who *call on* the Lord's name---people *saved!* (Inverted order of the text, 10:13-15)

May our **feet be beautiful** wherever they may walk, for the glory of God and the growth of His kingdom!

Charles Stoner



Rom. 10:1-21

THE GOSPEL BRINGS SALVATION

<p>Salvation sought but unattained</p>	<p>Zeal without faith 10:1—Brothers and sisters, my heart's DESIRE and PRAYER to Prayer GOD for the ISRAELITES is that they may be SAVED.² For I can TESTIFY about them that they are ZEALOUS for GOD, but their ZEAL is NOT based on KNOWLEDGE.³ Since they did NOT KNOW the RIGHTEOUSNESS of GOD and sought to ESTABLISH their OWN, they did NOT SUBMIT to GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.⁴ CHRIST is the CULMINATION of the LAW so that there MAY be RIGHTEOUSNESS for EVERYONE who BELIEVES.</p>	<p>Salvation desired</p>
<p>Salvation accepted & enjoyed</p>	<p>Who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved 5—MOSES writes this about the RIGHTEOUSNESS that is by the LAW: "The PERSON who DOES these THINGS will LIVE by them."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)"⁷ "or 'WHO will DESCEND into the DEEP?' (that is, to bring CHRIST UP from the DEAD)."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: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.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.¹¹ As SCRIPTURE says, "ANYONE who BELIEVES in HIM will NEVER be put to SHAME."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,¹³ for, "EVERYONE who CALLS on the NAME of the LORD will be SAVED."</p>	<p>Salvation promised</p>
<p>Salvation preached & heard</p>	<p>Message through the Word 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?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!"¹⁶ But NOT ALL the ISRAELITES ACCEPTED the GOOD NEWS. For ISAIAH says, "LORD, WHO has BELIEVED our MESSAGE?"¹⁷ Consequently, FAITH comes from HEARING the MESSAGE, and the MESSAGE is HEARD through the WORD of CHRIST.¹⁸ BUT I ask: Did they not HEAR? Of course they DID: "Their VOICE has GONE OUT into ALL the WORLD."</p>	<p>Salvation proclaimed</p>
<p>Salvation not sought but found</p>	<p>Found, not sought 19—Again I ask: Did ISRAEL not UNDERSTAND? First, MOSES Israel says, "I will MAKE you ENVIUS by THOSE who are NOT a NATION; I will MAKE you ANGRY by a NATION that has NO UNDERSTANDING."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."²¹ BUT concerning ISRAEL he says, "ALL DAY long I have HELD OUT my HANDS to a DISOBEDIENT and OBSTINATE PEOPLE." 21</p>	<p>Israel provoked</p>

Means of Salvation:

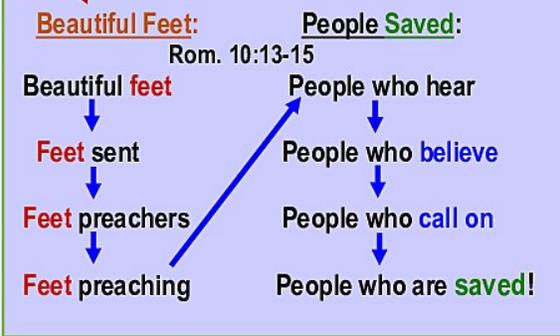
- >believe (7)
- >confess
- >express faith (4)
- >call on (3)
- >accept



>in your heart
 >in your heart
 >in your heart
 >with your heart



(1) Paul expressed his desire for his own people. (2) He showed how both Jews and Gentiles are saved on the same basis: by hearing & believing the message of Christ. (3) On the blue chart, see the steps for a person to come to faith and be saved. (4) God allowed Israel in general to be disobedient to divine justice, thus provoking Israel to be envious of Gentiles who are now included by faith in Christ. (5) Summary: During the present Church age, God left the majority of Jews in disobedience and spiritual rebellion while He is being revealed and found by many Gentiles. (6) Rom. 11 will address Israel's present situation and positive future in the ongoing plan of God.



#20

Rom. 11:1-16

Observations on Rom. 11:1-16

Although God disciplined Israel for their unbelief, He did not permanently reject them. (Rom. 11:1-2)

God's ultimate plan is to restore and accept His people. (Rom. 11: 2,15)

Throughout history, God has His people, a believing remnant, reserved and chosen by grace. (vv. 4-5)

Election and hardening are parallel biblical doctrines. (Rom. 11: 7)

Because of Israel's transgression and hardening, salvation has come to the Gentiles. (Rom. 11:11)

6. Israel's fall is not permanent; a full inclusion and acceptance are foreseen. (Rom.

11:12,15)

7. Paul ministered as a Jewish apostle to the Gentiles. (Rom. 11:13)

8. Paul considered himself a catalyst to provoke belief unto salvation for some of his people. (Rom. 11:14)

My response to Paul's teaching?

>Profound gratitude to God that salvation in Jesus Christ was made available and effective for me, a Gentile.

>A sense of shame for not sharing the gracious gospel message more consistently.

Charles Stoner

THE GOSPEL & THE SITUATION OF ISRAEL

THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL:



A Remnant was Chosen

Remnant chosen by grace

1- I ask then: Did GOD REJECT his people? By NO means! Remnant I am an ISRAELITE myself, a descendant of ABRAHAM, from the tribe of BENJAMIN. ²GOD did NOT REJECT his PEOPLE, whom he FOREKNEW. Don't you KNOW what SCRIPTURE says...about ELIJAH—how he APPEALED to GOD against ISRAEL: 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”? ⁴And what was GOD'S ANSWER to him? “I have RESERVED for MYSELF SEVEN THOUSAND who have NOT BOWED the KNEE to BAAL.” ⁵So too, at the PRESENT there is a REMNANT CHOSEN by GRACE. ⁶And IF by GRACE, then it CANNOT be BASED on WORKS; IF it were, GRACE would NO longer be GRACE.

Not Rejected but Reserved

Quotes from the OT:

1 Kings 19:10,14

1 Kings 19:18



Deut. 29:4
Isaiah 29:10

Psalm 69:22, 23

A Hardening was Predicted

Others were hardened

7- What then? WHAT the PEOPLE of ISRAEL sought Hardened so EARNESTLY they did NOT OBTAIN. The ELECT among them DID, but the OTHERS were HARDENED, ⁸as 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.” ⁹And DAVID says: “May their TABLE become a SNARE and a TRAP, a STUMBLING BLOCK and a RETRIBUTION for them. ¹⁰May their EYES be DARKENED so they CANNOT SEE, and their BACKS be BENT FOREVER.”

Hardened & Darkened

The Fall is Temporary

Full inclusion: riches

11- Again I ask: Did they STUMBLE so as to FALL beyond Envious RECOVERY? NOT at ALL! RATHER, because of their TRANSGRESSION, SALVATION has COME to the GENTILES to make ISRAEL ENVIOUS. ¹²But 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!

Stumbled & Provoked

Transgression = Salvation.
Salvation = Envy.
Transgression = Riches.
Loss = Riches.
Fullness = Greater.



Their Acceptance is Foreseen

Acceptance: life from the dead

13- I am talking to you GENTILES. Inasmuch as I Reconciliation am the APOSTLE to the GENTILES, I take PRIDE in my MINISTRY ¹⁴in the HOPE that I may somehow AROUSE my OWN PEOPLE to ENVY and SAVE SOME of them. ¹⁵For IF their REJECTION brought RECONCILIATION to the WORLD, what will their ACCEPTANCE be but LIFE from the DEAD? ¹⁶IF 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.

Acceptance & Life



Rejection = Reconciliation.
Acceptance = Life.
Part of the Dough = Holy.
Whole Batch = Holy.
Root Holy = Branches Holy.

(1) Paul, an Israelite from the tribe of Benjamin, became the apostle to the Gentiles, proving that God had not abandoned His people during the church age. (2) Paul and all other believing Jews represent a remnant of Israelites being saved during the dispensation of the Church until the fullness of salvation can be enjoyed by all believing Israel in the future. (3) The metaphor of parts of the human body is used here to demonstrate the present spiritual condition of Israel: knees, spirit, eyes, ears and backs. (4) Other illustrations and comparisons used: Bible quotes and stories, stumbling, fall, enemy, riches, loss, dough, first fruits, root and branches. (5) Motives for the spiritual hardening of Israel: to set aside Israel for general unbelief, and to open a way of salvation for believing Gentiles while Israel remains in discipline. (6) Observe two specific functions here for Paul's ministry: to take the Gospel to the Gentiles, and to provoke jealousy among his own people, hopefully resulting in salvation for some during the present age. (7) Paul's firm hope in the future restoration and acceptance of his people is clear, showing his certainty in the fulfillment of God's promises given to Israel in the Old Testament. (8) Salvation for both Jews & Gentiles is possible only and always by grace through faith. (9) God is not finished with the nation of Israel; Paul will explain this more in 11:25-26.

#21

Rom. 11:17-36

Mercy Me

Mercy is much more than half the name of a popular Christian singing group. It's a prominent theme that permeates the Scriptures---God's initiative in reaching out to mankind. The grace of Jesus Christ gives us what we **don't** deserve.

God's **mercy** withholds from us that which we **do** deserve.

Our world is in crisis. Fear of Covid-19 has gripped families, communities, and nations. Even with a vaccine available, there is uncertainty as to its effectiveness while the death toll continues to rise. Fear and hopelessness abound. It's time to cry out for God's **mercy**!

However, according to Romans 11:17-36 (see study chart for details), God's **mercy** already operates in our world! Because of Israel's disobedience to God, Gentiles have received God's highest expression of **mercy** which is His salvation made available to all who believe in Christ. Paul wrote, "For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have **mercy** on them all." (11:32) Divine **mercy** is now offered to all through the Gospel.

Thanks be to God for His **mercy** in the gift of our Savior. And may we continue to ask Him to be **merciful** to all, especially those in need of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing---our families, communities, nation, and world.

Charles Stoner



DIVINE MERCY TO ALL THROUGH THE GOSPEL

Summary:

<p>Mercy to the Wild Shoot</p>	<p>Grafted in by Faith</p> <p>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, 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. ¹⁹ You will say then, "BRANCHES were BROKEN OFF so that I could be GRAFTED IN." ²⁰ GRANTED. BUT they were BROKEN OFF because of UNBELIEF, and YOU stand by FAITH. Do NOT be ARROGANT, but TREMBLE. ²¹ For if GOD did NOT SPARE the NATURAL branches, he will NOT spare YOU EITHER.</p>	<p>Do not be arrogant</p>	<p>Israel:</p> <p>Broken Off</p> <p>Fell</p> <p>Hardening in Part</p> <p>Enemies yet Loved</p>
<p>Mercy to the Cultivated Tree</p>	<p>Kindness to You</p> <p>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. ²³ And IF they do NOT persist in UNBELIEF, they will be GRAFTED IN, for GOD is able to GRAFT them in AGAIN. 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!</p>	<p>Kindness & Sternness</p>	
<p>Mercy brings Salvation</p>	<p>Fullness & Salvation</p> <p>25- I do NOT want you to be IGNORANT of this MYSTERY, 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, 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. And this is my COVENANT with them when I TAKE AWAY their SINS." [Isa. 59:20,21; 29:9; Jer. 31:33,34]</p>	<p>Mystery & Covenant</p>	
<p>Mercy by the Gospel & Election</p>	<p>From Enemies to Loved</p> <p>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, ²⁹ for GOD'S GIFTS and his CALL are IRREVOCABLE. ³⁰ Just as YOU who WERE at one time DISOBEDIENT to GOD have now RECEIVED MERCY as a RESULT of their DISOBEDIENCE, 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. ³² For GOD has BOUND everyone over to DISOBEDIENCE so that HE may have MERCY on them all.</p>	<p>Gifts & Call Irrevocable</p>	
<p>Mercy by & for God's Glory</p>	<p>To Him be Glory</p> <p>33 - Oh, the DEPTH of the RICHES of the WISDOM and KNOWLEDGE of GOD! How UNSEARCHABLE his JUDGMENTS, and his PATHS beyond TRACING out! "WHO has known the MIND of the LORD? Or WHO has been his COUNSELOR?" "WHO has ever GIVEN to GOD, that GOD should REPAY them?" [Isa. 40:13; Job 41:11] For FROM him and THROUGH him and FOR him are ALL THINGS. To HIM be the GLORY FOREVER! Amen. 36</p>	<p>Doxology</p>	



References to God:
 Kindness—Sternness—Sovereignty—Covenant—Election
 Love—Gifts & Call—Mercy—Wisdom—Riches—Knowledge
 Judgments—Paths—Mind—Glory

Figures, Metaphors:
 Olive Tree—Branches—Wild Olive Shoot—Nourish—Sap
 Support—Root—Grafting—Cultivation—Cutting
 Wild & Natural Branches

(1) The Gospel of Jesus Christ brings a wonderful salvation opportunity for the world today and hope for Israel. (2) There is still a glorious future for believing Israel connected to the second coming of Christ. (3) What God promises, He will always fulfill (v. 29). (4) Our Almighty God is the Source (from Him), the Agent (through Him), the Purpose (for Him) and the Goal (to Him) of God's grand redemption plan for humanity and the universe (v. 36). (5) Paul expressed God's concern, hope, patience, expectancy, admiration and thanksgiving in this passage, and His sovereignty is clearly affirmed.

#22

Rom. 12:1-21

We Form One Body!

During the unprecedented days of wearing masks and continued social distancing, how have relationships with others been affected? Restrictions have resulted in creative uses of modern technology such as Zoom. God's kingdom work continues, and believers are being built up through the Word, despite many changes. This lesson from Romans shows believers how to maintain good relationships.

Paul penned eleven great gospel-teaching chapters---Rom. 1 through Rom. 11. Then, in chapter 12, he turned to explain how such glorious truth should affect the lives of his readers. First, he appealed to believers to consecrate themselves fully to God, Rom. 12:1-2. After that he used the metaphor of a human body to describe how the spiritual body of Christ can function in the tension of unity and diversity. Paul's exhortations and real case scenarios follow to complete chapter 12.

Look at the attached study chart of Romans 12:1-21 and note how members of the Body of Christ operate on four relational levels: **(1)** In relationship with God, 12:1-2; **(2)** In relation to the spiritual gifts, 3-8; **(3)** In relationships with other believers, 9-13; **(4)** In relationships with unbelievers, 14-21.

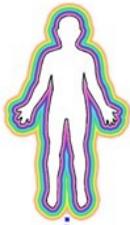
By the *three fat arrows* on the right side of the chart, observe how our consecration to God is--**Upward**; our connection with one another and the spiritual gifts is--**Inward**; and at same time our association with all others is--**Outward**.

The ongoing challenge is to maintain sincere, godly relationships on all fronts. Think about your family, folks in your church, at work, and your extended community. May God give you and me grace to serve Him with more dedication and faithfulness as zealous members of the Body of Christ in all our complex relationships for His eternal glory!

Charles Stoner

THE GOSPEL FORMS CHRIST'S BODY

The Believer's Relationships...



Consecration of the Body

Functions of the Body

LOVE

Devotion in the Body



Associations of the Body



True & proper worship	12:1- Therefore, I URGE you, BROTHERS and SISTERS, in Worship 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. 2Do 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.	With God > sacrifice	↑ Upward
Many members, different functions	3- For by the GRACE given me I say to EVERY one of you: Gifts 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. 4For just AS each of us has ONE BODY with MANY members, and these MEMBERS do NOT all have the SAME FUNCTION, 5SO in CHRIST we, though MANY, FORM ONE BODY, and EACH member BELONGS to ALL the OTHERS. 6We have DIFFERENT GIFTS; according to the GRACE given to EACH of us. If your GIFT is PROPHECY, then PROPHESEY in accordance with your FAITH; 7if it is SERVING, then SERVE; if it is TEACHING, then TEACH; 8if 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.	With himself & gifts > sober judgment	← Inward
To one another in love	9- LOVE must be SINCERE. HATE what is EVIL; CLING to what Love is GOOD. 10Be DEVOTED to one ANOTHER in LOVE. HONOR one ANOTHER above YOURSELVES. 11NEVER be LACKING in ZEAL, but KEEP your spiritual FERVOR, SERVING the LORD. 12Be JOYFUL in HOPE, PATIENT in AFFLICTION, FAITHFUL in PRAYER. 13SHARE with the LORD'S PEOPLE who are in NEED. PRACTICE HOSPITALITY.	With believers > love	
Willing to associate with people	14- BLESS those who PERSECUTE you; BLESS and do NOT CURSE. 15REJOICE with those who REJOICE; MOURN with those who MOURN. 16LIVE in HARMONY with ONE ANOTHER. Do NOT be PROUD, but be WILLING to ASSOCIATE with people of LOW POSITION. Do NOT be CONCEITED. 17Do NOT REPAY anyone EVIL for EVIL. Be CAREFUL to DO what is RIGHT in the EYES of EVERYONE. 18IF it is POSSIBLE, as far as it DEPENDS on YOU, LIVE at PEACE with EVERYONE. 19Do 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. 20On 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." 21Do NOT be OVERCOME by EVIL, but OVERCOME EVIL with GOOD.	With everyone else > peace & harmony	

- Different Gifts:**
- > Prophecy
 - > Serving
 - > Teaching
 - > Encouraging
 - > Giving
 - > Leading
 - > Showing Mercy

(1) After eleven chapters of careful theological teaching about the advent of the Gospel among men, in Rom. 12, Paul begins to apply these great truths to his readers' daily lives. (2) The metaphor of the human body aptly illustrates the necessity for mutual cooperation in the Body of Christ. (3) Paul's exhortations apply to our words, practices, thoughts, attitudes, feelings, activities and reactions. (4) Note his exhortations toward humility: not to think of myself more highly than I ought, 3; be devoted to and honor others more than myself, 10; not to be proud but rather associate with those of lower position, and do not be conceited, 16. (5) Perhaps the relationship most challenging to maintain is love for fellow believers in the church body because of differing giftedness, interests, temperaments and levels of spiritual maturity. (6) Such deep differences require much awareness, effort and constant dependence on the Lord to maintain the unity of the Spirit. (7) When wronged, we should be proactive in blessing our persecutors and not seeking revenge, 20.

#23

Rom. 13:1-14

How Then Shall We Live?

Submission to governmental authorities is part of the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ. Paul taught this clearly in Romans 13. (See the study chart) This includes paying taxes and giving respect and honor to authorities at all levels. Government officials are actually God's servants for our good and a stable society.

With brothers and sisters in Christ, and with our neighbors, we are to extend sacrificial love. The obligation to ourselves is to understand the present time and to awake from spiritual slumber. In Christ we have already overcome spiritual death by the transforming power of the Gospel. Now we must wake up from our complacency, put aside the deeds of darkness, and clothe ourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ!

Why should we thus live? Because it's our Christian privilege and obligation, and the coming of Christ is near! This is God's message to you and me during these days of social upheaval and political turmoil: obey and pray for the authorities, love and help those who are suffering, preach the Gospel, and live in holiness and peace with all.

This then is how we must live as Christian pilgrims, for *the night is nearly over; the day is almost here.*

Charles Stoner



THE GOSPEL BRINGS SPECIFIC OBLIGATIONS

A Believer's concern is...

To Governing Authorities



To Fiscal Authorities

To Neighbors



To Ourselves

Subject & submissive, doing what is right	<p>13:1- Let EVERYONE be SUBJECT to the GOVERNING Authority AUTHORITIES, for there is NO AUTHORITY except that which GOD has ESTABLISHED. The AUTHORITIES that exist have been ESTABLISHED by GOD. ² Consequently, whoever REBELS against the AUTHORITY is REBELLING against what GOD has INSTITUTED, and those who do SO will bring JUDGMENT on themselves. 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. 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. ⁵ Therefore, it is NECESSARY to SUBMIT to the AUTHORITIES, not only because of possible PUNISHMENT but also as a matter of CONSCIENCE.</p>	...his civil life & conscience
Pay taxes	<p>6- THIS is also WHY you PAY TAXES, for the AUTHORITIES are: Pay GOD'S SERVANTS, who give their FULL TIME to GOVERNING. 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.</p>	...his debts & moral duties
Love your neighbor	<p>8- Let NO DEBT remain OUTSTANDING, except the CONTINUING DEBT to LOVE one ANOTHER, for whoever LOVES others has FULFILLED the LAW. ⁹ The COMMANDMENTS, "You shall NOT commit ADULTERY," "You shall NOT MURDER," "You shall NOT STEAL," "You shall NOT COVET," and WHATEVER other COMMAND..., are SUMMED UP in this ONE COMMAND: "LOVE your NEIGHBOR as YOURSELF." ¹⁰ LOVE does NO HARM to a NEIGHBOR. Therefore LOVE is the FULFILLMENT of the LAW.</p>	...his alertness & behavior
Wake up, clothed with the Lord	<p>11- And DO THIS, understanding the PRESENT TIME: The Time HOUR has already COME for you to WAKE UP from your SLUMBER, because our SALVATION is NEARER now than when we FIRST BELIEVED. 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. 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. ¹⁴ Rather, CLOTHE yourselves with the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and do NOT think about HOW to GRATIFY the DESIRES of the FLESH.</p>	



- >not commit adultery
 - >shall not murder
 - >shall not steal
 - >shall not covet
 - >and whatever other command... summed up...
- ↓
- >love your neighbor as yourself



- Deeds of Darkness:**
- >carousing
 - >drunkenness
 - >sexual immorality
 - >debauchery
 - >dissension
 - >jealousy
 - >desires of the flesh

(1) Acceptance of the Gospel results in specific ethical obligations for the believer: to the government, to finances, to neighbors, and to oneself. (2) It is difficult sometimes to believe that governing authorities, even bad ones, really are God's 'servants,' His agents to punish wrongdoers. (3) See the directives that define the ideal relationship of believers with civil authorities: be subject, don't rebel, submit, pay taxes, respect, and honor (4) Rich figures & metaphors used: sword, servants, agents, debt, time, sleep, darkness, light, armor, clothing, flesh. (5) The seriousness of the declining spiritual climate of our days is seen in 13:11-14, requiring that a person wake up as from a night's sleep and dress himself with the Lord Jesus to begin a new day of victory over sin. (6) Salvation in v. 11 refers to the event of a believer's ultimate glorification at the return of Christ, the future aspect of our salvation. (7) My ongoing relationship of submission to Christ is the key to success in fulfilling the ethical obligations of the Gospel.

#24

Rom. 14:1-23

Peace in God's Kingdom

In the Church, the Body of Christ, doubtful or disputable matters may cause serious disagreements. During Paul's day, strong feelings were expressed between believers who were vegetarians and those who would eat most anything, including meat. Proponents of both sides of the question were condemning the others.

Paul made it very clear that the Roman believers who were stronger in their faith should be accepting those who were weaker concerning participation in doubtful things. And all were to practice brotherly love instead of insisting on personal preferences! Today among Christ-followers, areas of questionable or doubtful things may include alcoholic beverages, clothing styles, kinds of worship music, and types of entertainment.

The teaching of Romans 14 is this: The Kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, rather it is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit! (see study chart) These are the essential matters to be concerned with. Therefore, Christ followers must stop judging one another concerning nonessential things. The reason? Because one day we must all appear before the judgment seat of God to give account of ourselves to God, not of others!

Paul continued: "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to **peace** and to mutual edification." (14:19) The gospel of Jesus Christ places believers securely into the Kingdom of God where they learn to walk in **peace** by faith, serve Christ, and to please God through selflessness in their relationships.

Charles Stoner

GOSPEL WORKERS SERVING IN THE KINGDOM

Workers in the Kingdom:

Paul's Approach:

Accept the weak & don't judge others	Who are you to judge?	14:1- ACCEPT the ONE whose FAITH is WEAK, without QUARRELING over DISPUTABLE matters. ONE person's FAITH allows them to eat ANYTHING, but ANOTHER, whose FAITH is WEAK, EATS...VEGETABLES...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. 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.	To eat	Exhortation & Question
Are convinced & belong to the Lord	We belong to the Lord	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. 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. For NONE of us LIVES for ourselves ALONE, and NONE of us DIES for ourselves ALONE. 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.	To the Lord	Examples & Implications
Must give account to God	God's Judgment seat	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. 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. It is WRITTEN: "As SURELY as I LIVE," says the LORD, "EVERY KNEE will BOW before ME; EVERY TONGUE will ACKNOWLEDGE GOD." SO then, EACH of US will GIVE an ACCOUNT of OURSELVES to GOD.	Judgment Seat	Big Question & Quote
Must stop judging & act in love	Don't put obstacle in others' way	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. 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. 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. THEREFORE do NOT let what you KNOW is GOOD be spoken of as EVIL. For the KINGDOM of GOD is NOT a matter of EATING and DRINKING, but of RIGHTEOUSNESS, PEACE and JOY in the HOLY SPIRIT; because ANYONE who SERVES CHRIST in THIS way is PLEASING to GOD and receives HUMAN APPROVAL.	Brother or Sister	Exhortation & Explanation
Must work for peace & edification	Do what leads to peace	19- Let us therefore make EVERY EFFORT to DO what LEADS to PEACE and to mutual EDIFICATION. 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. It is BETTER NOT to eat MEAT or drink WINE or to DO ANYTHING else that will CAUSE your BROTHER or SISTER to FALL. 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. 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. 23	Edification	Application & Summary



The Things of God:
 ↓
 > Thanks to God
 > The Judgment Seat of God
 > The Kingdom of God
 > The Work of God



The Trinity:
 ↓
 > God the Father
 > God the Son
 > God the Spirit

(1) Community life in the Kingdom of God requires mutual understanding among all workers of the King. (2) In God's Kingdom, spiritual principles (righteousness, peace, joy) are more important than material aspects of life (eating, drinking, observing days). (3) Believers live in the Kingdom of God, do the Work of God, and await the Judgment Seat of God. (4) Christ died for believers, God reigns over believers, and the Holy Spirit indwells believers. (5) The LORD appears 10 times (vs. 4 to 14), showing the importance of the sovereignty of Christ in the community of believers; GOD appears 9 times; CHRIST 4; the SPIRIT 1; BROTHER & SISTER 4 times. (6) The main topic of Romans 14 is doubtful things, allowance of personal preferences among Christians where there is liberty to act as long as one's actions do not destroy the faith of weaker believers. (7) Christian liberty is ultimately not about what I do, but what I know I can do, yet refrain from doing, in consideration of a weaker believer. (8) Examples today: alcoholic beverages, movies & films, music style, entertainment, leisure.

#25

Rom. 15:1-13

Hope For Today

How is it possible to maintain **hope** when surrounded by so much confusion and uncertainty around us? Families have been stressed out by the pandemic, sometimes expressing their frustrations in hurtful ways. Folks have lost jobs, and some schools are still closed. Vaccines for Covid-19 finally became available but not before many friends and family were directly affected, some succumbing to the virus. In March 2021 our former student in Brazil, Pastor Nahur Santos, along with his brother and mother all died within the span of a week. "O Lord, when will it all end?" No wonder many have lost **hope**.

In the turbulent first century, the apostle Paul recorded his outstanding desire for a group of believers in Rome:

"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."** (Romans 15:13)

This is the last verse in the segment for the chart study based on Rom.15:1-13. These words show us how to cope and have **hope** in tough times. Observe in Rom.15:13 the following:

- >The Source of **Hope**---God and none other.
- >The Fruit of **Hope**---joy and peace.
- >The Means of **Hope**---trust in God.
- >The Promise for those who trust---an overflow of **Hope**.
- >The Person & Power of **Hope**---the Holy Spirit.

Ponder these words and look at the study chart to discover more how **hope** is provided and maintained by the gospel which Paul preached. The same gospel which Christ-followers have continued to believe and proclaim until today!

Charles Stoner



HOPE PROVIDED BY THE GOSPEL

Summary:

<p>Hope through the Scriptures</p>	<p>15:1- WE who are STRONG ought to BEAR with the FAILINGS of the WEAK and NOT to please OURSELVES. EACH of us should please our NEIGHBORS for their GOOD, to BUILD them UP. For even CHRIST did not please HIMSELF but, as it is WRITTEN: "The INSULTS of those who INSULT YOU have fallen on ME." 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.</p>	<p>Neighbors</p>	<p>Please our neighbors</p>
<p>Hope through One Mind</p>	<p>5- May the GOD who gives ENDURANCE and ENCOURAGEMENT give you the same ATTITUDE of MIND toward EACH OTHER that CHRIST JESUS had, so that with ONE MIND and ONE VOICE you may GLORIFY the GOD and FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST.</p>	<p>Glorify</p>	<p>Same attitude</p>
<p>Hope through the Promises</p>	<p>7- ACCEPT one ANOTHER, then, just as CHRIST accepted YOU, in order to bring PRAISE to GOD. 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 and, moreover, that the GENTILES might GLORIFY GOD for his MERCY. As it is WRITTEN:</p>	<p>Gentiles</p>	<p>Accept one another</p>
<p>Hope for the Gentiles</p>	<p>9b- "Therefore I will PRAISE you among the GENTILES; I will SING the PRAISES of your NAME." AGAIN, it says, "REJOICE, you GENTILES, with his PEOPLE." And AGAIN, "PRAISE the LORD, ALL you GENTILES; let all the PEOPLES EXTOL him." 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."</p>	<p>Written</p>	<p>Praise the Lord</p>
<p>Hope through the Holy Spirit</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Hope</p>	<p>Joy & Peace</p>

- Persons/Who:**
- >we- 3
 - >the strong- 1
 - >the weak- 1
 - >our neighbors- 1
 - >Christ- 5
 - >God- 4
 - >you- 3
 - >God & Father- 1
 - >I (Paul)- 1
 - >the Jews- 1
 - >the Patriarchs- 1
 - >the Gentiles- 6
 - >His people- 1
 - >the Lord- 2
 - >the peoples- 1
 - >Isaiah- 1
 - >Jesse- 1
 - >the nations- 1
 - >the Holy Spirit- 1

- Glory & Praise:**
- >You glorify God & Father
 - >You bring praise to God
 - >The Gentiles glorify God

(1) I should seek to please my neighbors, family, Sunday school class, PaceSetters, our small group and other believers instead of seeking to please myself. (2) Endurance and encouragement are provided by the Scriptures and give me hope. (3) God is glorified through Christian unity, by our accepting one another in Christ, and by God's mercy shown to the Gentiles. (4) Paul emphasized the importance of the inclusion of the Gentiles in the Body of Christ, proving from O T Scriptures how this divine plan greatly glorifies God (15:9-12). (5) This passage connects various positive elements of the Christian life: truth, service, hope, encouragement, unity, glorification, promises, song, rejoicing, praise, joy, peace, and trust. (6) Other notable concepts here are mercy, edification, endurance, and the power of the Holy Spirit. These elements generate confidence and are experienced by accepting the outworking of the Gospel in the life of the believer. (7) Christ is the great example of how to maintain a unified servant-mind and attitude—seeking to please others, accepting them, and showing a willingness to be taught to serve and glorify God. (8) The O T quotations in 15:9-12 are: 2 Sam 22:50, Ps 18:49, Deut 32:43, Ps 117:1 & Is 11:10—representatively drawn from the Psalms, the Writings & the Law.

#26

Rom. 15:14-23

In the Service of God's People

What are you doing today to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Some believers use their gifts of speaking, others employ gifts of service. Paul's example in Rom. 15:14-33 shows how both are necessary around the world for the Church to be on mission and bring people to Christ. A proper balance between clearly sharing the Gospel by using words and meeting social needs is necessary. It may surprise you that Paul not only preached---he was also involved in meeting material needs!

Romans 15:14-33 (see study chart) is where Paul opened his outlining his sincere, practical, and complete obedience to God. Paul ministered both by word and action to fulfill his divine mission. He encouraged, preached, performed miracles, taught, struggled, planned, prayed, travelled widely, counseled, wrote letters, and even served as a cash-carrying courier! All was for the glory of God in fulfilling his cross-cultural calling to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

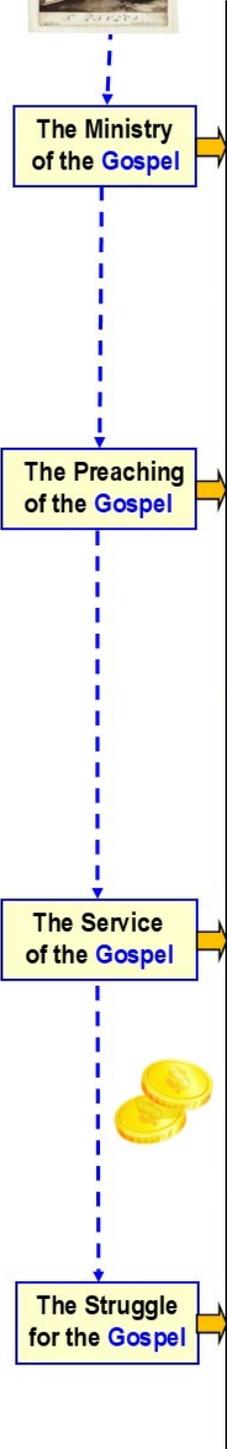
Whatever form our calling may take, may the Lord give us wisdom and persistence to minister faithfully to meet both material and spiritual needs. Like Paul, may we serve the Lord Jesus by preaching, teaching, worshipping, sharing resources, encouraging and praying---all to the glory of the One who saved, called, and commissioned us through the Gospel.

Charles Stoner



THE GOSPEL PROCLAIMED TO THE GENTILES

Paul's Glorifying in Christ Jesus...



Minister to the Gentiles	<p>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. ¹⁵YET I have WRITTEN you quite BOLDLY...to REMIND you of them AGAIN, because of the GRACE GOD gave ME ¹⁶to be a <u>MINISTER of CHRIST JESUS to the GENTILES</u>. He gave me the <u>PRIESTLY DUTY of PROCLAIMING the GOSPEL of GOD</u>, so that the GENTILES might BECOME an OFFERING ACCEPTABLE to GOD, SANCTIFIED by the HOLY SPIRIT.</p>	Minister By his priestly duty
Fully proclaimed the Gospel	<p>17- Therefore I <u>GLORY</u> in CHRIST JESUS in my <u>SERVICE</u> to PRAISE GOD. ¹⁸I 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— ¹⁹by 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. ²⁰It 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. ²¹Rather, as it is WRITTEN: "THOSE who were NOT TOLD about HIM will SEE, and those who have NOT HEARD will UNDERSTAND." ²²This is WHY I have OFTEN been HINDERED from coming to YOU.</p>	Preach By his service to God
Service of sharing material blessings	<p>23- But NOW that there is NO more PLACE for ME to work in JERUSALEM, and since I have been LONGING for many years to VISIT you, ²⁴I 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... ²⁵NOW, however, I am on MY WAY to JERUSALEM in the <u>SERVICE</u> of the LORD'S PEOPLE there. ²⁶For MACEDONIA and ACHAIA were PLEASSED to make a CONTRIBUTION for the POOR among the LORD'S PEOPLE in JERUSALEM. ²⁷They were PLEASSED to do it, and indeed they OWE it to them. For if the GENTILES have SHARED in the JEW'S SPIRITUAL blessings, they OWE it to the JEWS to SHARE with them their MATERIAL blessings. ²⁸So 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. ²⁹I know that when I come to you, I will come in the FULL MEASURE of the BLESSING of CHRIST.</p>	Jerusalem By his service to the Lord's people
Struggle by praying	<p>30- I URGE you, brothers and sisters, by our LORD JESUS CHRIST and by the LOVE of the SPIRIT, to JOIN me in my <u>STRUGGLE</u> by PRAYING to GOD for ME. ³¹PRAY 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, ³²so that I may COME to YOU with JOY, by GOD'S WILL, and in your company be REFRESHED. ³³The GOD of PEACE be with you ALL. AMEN.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">33</p>	Praying By his struggle in prayer

The Trinity:

- >The grace of God.
- >Minister of Christ Jesus.
- >The Gospel of God.
- >Sanctification of the Spirit.
- >Service to God.
- >Obedience to God.
- >Power of the Spirit.
- >What Christ Accomplished.
- >The Gospel of Christ.
- >The Blessing of Christ.
- >The Love of the Spirit.
- >Praying to God.
- >The Will of God.
- >The God of Peace.

The Places:

- >Jerusalem. (5)
- >From Jerusalem to Illyricum.
- >These regions.
- >Spain. (2)
- >Macedonia & Achaia.
- >Judea.
- >To you (Rome).



(1) Paul remained passionate about his divine calling to offer the Gospel to the Gentiles, a consuming vocation made possible only through God's abundant grace. (2) The term *minister* refers to the Jewish priesthood services to which Paul compared his ministry of taking the Gospel to the Gentiles, God's Old Testament plan by which Israel would bless all nations. (3) Note the reciprocal relationship between material and spiritual blessings—those benefited spiritually 'owe' material blessings to those who share with them spiritually. (4) Paul's personal prayer requests: protection from unbelievers, acceptance of his ministry, a favorable journey and visit with the Romans. (5) Paul performed many tasks: preaching, teaching, writing, encouragement, miracles, worship, social action, counselling, struggles, praying and much travel—all related to his ministry of taking the glorious Gospel to the Gentiles. (6) "Lord, give me the grace to be faithful in sharing, serving, praying & living the Gospel of Jesus Christ!"

#27

Rom. 16:1-16

Greeting 26 Friends!

Apparently, the average North American knows from 290 to 600 people. Of these 'known' folks, he/she would consider only 10 to 25 as close friends. Perhaps this is true in other countries as well.

The Apostle Paul had not visited the church in Rome before sending his letter from Corinth in 56 AD. But according to Romans 1:11, he really wanted to visit the church: *For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you.*

Several of Paul's friends were living in Rome at the time. In fact, someone observed that he mentioned 26 folks by name in Rom. 16:1-16! These friends and family would be specifically greeted or commended for various reasons when his letter was read to the group. See the study chart for details. Seems like this listing was Paul's way to greet his dear friends without writing them individually. All were faithful co-laborers who made his wide ministry of the Gospel possible.

An application: In your church, when recognizing members for their contribution to ministry, include those who are less known who faithfully serve the Lord. The visible and gifted leaders are not the only ones to thank---the church custodian, folks who serve in the nursery, greeters, minister assistants and others whom we sometimes take for granted should also be thanked publicly. *Paul greatly valued faithfulness and dedication to God's work, whoever they were, and for whatever they did.* So should we!

Charles Stoner

COMMENDATION & GREETINGS IN THE GOSPEL

1- I **COMMEND** to you our sister PHOEBE, a **SERVANT** of the **CHURCH** in Cenchrea. I ask you to **RECEIVE** her in the **LORD** in a way **WORTHY** of the **SAINTS** and to **GIVE** her any **HELP** she may **NEED** from **YOU**, for she had been a **GREAT HELP** to **MANY** people, including **ME**.



Friends Greeted:	Description & Motivation:
3- Greet PRISCILLA and AQUILA,	my FELLOW WORKERS in CHRIST JESUS . They RISKED their lives for me. Not only I but ALL the CHURCHES of the GENTILES are GRATEFUL to THEM .
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 .
6- Greet MARY ,	who WORKED very HARD for you.
7- Greet ANDRONICUS and JUNIAS ,	my RELATIVES who have been in PRISON with me. They are OUTSTANDING among the APOSTLES , and they were in CHRIST before I was.
8- Greet AMPLIATUS , ..	whom I LOVE in the LORD .
9- Greet URBANUS ,	our FELLOW WORKER in CHRIST (my DEAR FRIEND)
10- Greet APELLES ,	tested and APPROVED in CHRIST .
Greet those who BELONG ...	to the HOUSEHOLD of ARISTOBULUS .
11- Greet HERODION ,	my RELATIVE .
Greet those.....	in the HOUSEHOLD of NARCISSUS who are in the LORD .
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 .
13- Greet RUFUS ,	CHOSEN in the LORD , and his MOTHER , who has been a MOTHER to ME , too.
14- Greet ASYNCRITUS , PHLEGON , HERMES , PATROBAS , HERMAS and the BROTHERS	with them.
15- Greet PHILOLOGUS , JULIA , NEREUS and his SISTER , and OLYMPAS and ALL the SAINTS	with them.
16- Greet ONE ANOTHER ...	with a HOLY KISS .
ALL the CHURCHES of CHRIST	send GREETINGS .

- (1) Personal relationships are very important in life & ministry.
- (2) Paul carefully commended the strong point & contribution of each person.
- (3) Paul greatly valued faithfulness & dedication in God's work.
- (4) Relatives & women were highly valued by Paul.

- Greetings to:**
- > fellow workers
 - > risk-takers
 - > those that meet
 - > first convert
 - > very hard workers
 - > relatives
 - > outstanding apostles
 - > beloved & dear friends
 - > approved in Christ
 - > Paul's relative
 - > those in the Lord
 - > women
 - > one chosen in the Lord
 - > a mother to me



#28

Rom. 16:17-27

Established!

Are you an established Christian? Paul ended his letter to the Romans pointing his friends to the "only wise God" (Rom. 16:27) as the source of the glorious Gospel which he lived and preached. The Gospel is not only for future salvation and God's glory. It is also about being established in the faith right here and now. The Gospel with all its implications is the theme of Romans.

See the study chart for Rom.16:17-27 and discover what being established indicates. **Established** in the gospel message means: **(1)** walking in *wisdom & obedience* to God, **(2)** *sharing greetings & hospitality* with other believers, and **(3)** *living on mission in obedience to God's word*. These points are like the three core values of our church here in Central Texas (Temple Bible Church): Surrender, Community & Mission.

Hopefully, these 28 study charts in flipchart format have helped you to better visualize and understand what Paul desired to communicate clearly and passionately to the church in Rome. His theme throughout was the essential character of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how this good news related to their daily walk.

On a separate page I have listed all 28 chart titles created for this Romans study series. If you have a question or comment concerning any of this material, please send me a message.

What next? I am presently preparing study charts based on the book of 1 Corinthians. Eventually I hope to make 1 Corinthians available on this website as well.

Charles Stoner

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ESTABLISHED IN THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

By Wisdom & Obedience

By Greetings & Hospitality



By Prophetic Writings & Obedience

Watching out for deceivers	<p>16:17—I URGE you, BROTHERS and SISTERS, to Watch out 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. ¹⁸For such people are NOT SERVING our LORD CHRIST, but their own APPETITES. By SMOOTH TALK and FLATTERY they DECEIVE the MINDS of NAIVE people. ¹⁹Everyone 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. ²⁰The GOD of PEACE will soon CRUSH SATAN under your FEET. The GRACE of our LORD JESUS be with you.</p>	WARNING
Send you their greetings	<p>21—TIMOTHY, my CO-WORKER, sends his GREETINGS to you, as do LUCIUS, JASON and SOSIPATER, my FELLOW JEWS. ²²I, TERTIUS, who WROTE down this LETTER, GREET you in the LORD. ²³GAIUS, whose HOSPITALITY I and the WHOLE CHURCH here ENJOY, sends you his GREETINGS. ERATUS, who is the city's DIRECTOR of PUBLIC WORKS, and our brother QUARTUS send you their GREETINGS.</p>	SALUTATIONS
Obedience from faith	<p>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, ²⁶but 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— ²⁷to the only WISE GOD be GLORY FOREVER through JESUS CHRIST! Amen. ²⁷</p>	DOXOLOGY

Contrasts:

- Serve our Lord vs Serve their own appetites
- Deception vs Obedience
- Good vs Evil
- God vs Satan



- Ages past vs Now
- Hidden vs Revealed

(1) In Rom 16:1, Paul commends Phoebe to the Romans, and here in 16:17 he warns them about divisive, contrary teachers. (2) Indeed, sometimes there are 'those' in the church who work against biblical teaching, use clever flattery, cause division, and put obstacles in the way of sincere believers, deceiving the minds of naïve people. (3) 'Crush Satan under your feet' (v. 20) is an allusion to Gen. 3:15 - 'he will crush your head'. (4) See the interesting variety of people who send greetings with this letter: Paul's co-worker, Timothy; fellow Jews—Lucius, Jason and Sosipater; his secretary, Tertius; his host, Gaius; the Director of Public Workers, Eratus; and a brother, Quartus. (5) The doxology (vs. 25-27), gives a good summary of the book's theme, the Gospel that Paul preached and taught—the Gospel is able to establish believers, it is the message he proclaimed about Jesus, it is in accordance with God's mystery now revealed and known, is through OT prophetic writings, is commanded by God, has the purpose of bringing all Gentiles to obedience by faith. (6) God only Wise deserves eternal praise and glory for the Gospel of Jesus Christ!