

# **ROMANS**

**By Dr. S. W. Marais**

## **I. (1-17). God asks everyone on this planet to become members of His family.**

The Good News should be heard by everyone

- 1-1 God calls preachers to declare the Gospel.
- 1-2 God is the source of good news.
- 1-3 God was acting out His promises in Christ.
- 1-4 The promise was en-fleshed in Jesus Christ.
- 1-5 The coming of Jesus was God's grace in action.
- 1-6 Everyone is given grace to respond in faith.
- 1-7 Our God of love plans to build a Holy nation, He imparts the grace and Peace to make it happen
- 1-8 What God promises really happens.
- 1-9 God changes hearts to serve Him.
- 1-10 God made it possible for a Jews to love the Gentiles.
- 1-11 Paul was so changed, now he willed the good of all Gentiles.
- 1-12 He feels that he wants no one left out of God's new family.
- 1-13 Paul is committed to the message that God loves everyone.
- 1-14 Why should anyone hear the Gospel twice until everyone has heard it at least once?
- 1-15 Every city on this planet needs this saving message.
- 1-16 God promises to make everyone who believes right again.
- 1-17 God gives everyone enough grace and faith to respond to Him and to start living.

## **II. Men like the Gentiles are rebellious sinners and in the wrong with God. (1:18 –3:20)**

- 18. The history of the world proves man wrong.
- 20. Man who is created in God's image knows he is wrong.
- 21. Like Adam all men have chosen their own way.

22. Foolishness has no logic, but it is a real choice
23. Because man is religious he invents his own god to worship.
24. God does not force anyone to worship Him, but allows man to bring himself under the control of sin.
25. Worship is a gift, but outside of knowing God it is a freedom that has no power or meaning.
26. Every choice of man when he is under the sinful nature becomes warped and twisted.
27. All men reap what they sow, just as the wages of sin is a death principle, like homosexuality which degrades human beings.
28. Because men are deprived of God's power and Spirit they are depraved and through their eyes everything sinful is allowable.
29. They measure everything through the eyes of self-gratification, self-will, and self-sovereignty and practise a 'if it feels right, do it' philosophy.

### **III. (2:1-16). There are also religious sinners like the Jews who think that they are good enough.**

Paul answers the accusations of these religious moralists while they looked down on the Gentiles thinking that they were superior to them..

1. All people who do wrong and reject God are under God's judgment.
2. Being religious does not excuse anyone.
3. God calls all sinners, the rebellious and the religious to repentance.
4. It has to do with failing to respond to God's offer, that brings God's wrath.
5. Everyone is judged eventually by God.
6. Once responded to God, the new man will continue living a life pleasing to God.
7. To those who live for self first and follow sins there will be God's wrath.
8. Evil is the reverse of "live" and this change of life style brings trouble and distress. This applies to every human being, there is no special treatment for being a Jew.
9. Experiencing God's best, and peace with God is for everyone who chooses good.
10. God treats everyone the same, He loves everyone and shows no favoritism.
11. Each one is judged according to the light that God has given to them.

12. Obedience comes from the heart and everyone knows that he is not living up to the light that he has.
13. Even Gentiles do not live up to their own sense of wrong and right.
14. Sinners have not fallen so far from God that they have no conscience, prevenient grace has prevented them from being without a sense of wrong and right.
15. Assisted by the Holy Spirit the conscience holds no secrets before God.

#### **IV. Paul shows the Jews that they are not right with God. (2:17 – 3:8).**

16. The Jew thought of himself as better than those nations who did not have the laws of God.
17. “ You think you are more spiritual because you know God’s will”.
18. You see yourself as the superior know all.
19. You also see yourself as being more advanced in knowledge about God, and look down on others as if they were ignorant children.
20. But when measured by your own measuring stick you also fall short.
21. Don’t you see that seeing self is robbing God of His place in the Temple, it is idolatry.
22. You brag about knowing the law, and yet live for self.
23. God’s name is blasphemed because of the sinful way you live, Outward signs are no guarantee of true spirituality.
24. A person who has faith in God and is not circumcised, sees your hypocrisy.
25. Even being a so called circumcised Jew does not make anyone part of the people of God.
26. A man is a true Jew only when the sin problem has been circumcised from his heart by the Holy Spirit as that is the man whom God accepts.

#### **V. The Jews should have been a strong spiritual people with a growing in faith in God. (3:1).**

1. The Jews thought that they were the Holy people because they had the law. They had many advantages given them by God..

2. and God did not give them only truth to the amount of their faith, they could have experienced God's fullness.
3. Even when they did not exercise faith God was faithful in continuing to speak to them. The blame cannot be put on God; He has given them everything they required to be His holy people.
4. The more man sins the more he sees how wrong he is, then why does God not judge Him and condemn him.?
5. God does not want the law to merely condemn man, but that the law would drive a person back to God to seek forgiveness,
6. Mans sinfulness shows how good and holy God is, surely this is a good thing,
7. Even thinking and arguing this way shows how sinful man is, and that he deserves condemnation by God.
8. The truth is that whether Jew or Gentile all men have a common problem, that being that they are sinners being controlled by the sin principle.
9. – 18. Paul here uses a collection of OT quotation to show that all men are under the control and power of sin.
  
19. Every sinner in the world is held accountable to God.
  
20. The law with us and the law within the Old Testament all make us guilty of being sinners.

## **VI. God shows His plan of how a sinner can become right with Him. (3:21-31)**

21. God's way of making men right is not through legal obedience to the law.

His way was told by the prophets, when they pointed to the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ.

22. It is only through faith in Jesus Christ that a person is made right by God.

23. Remember this applies to all sinners, Jews and Gentiles alike.

24. Being justified freely by God's grace, is what will happen the moment he believes It does not happen at the end of his life; Jesus has made it all possible by buying us back; by giving His own life to pay for our sins.

25. By dying for our sin, Jesus cleared the way for us to be reconciled to God. He made us At-one-ment with God.. Jesus really became a sinner for us, and shed His blood where we should have died, but we being sinners could not atone for our sin.

26. All those who place their faith in Jesus as their savior stand before God- just-as if- they had never sinned, they are justified.

27. God does it all for us, when we place our faith in Jesus Christ to save us.

28 Keeping the law cannot save anyone; it is by grace through faith

27. God who is one, is over all, and is the one who controls the histories of all men alive.

28. Although the law condemned a man, it also pointed him back to God, so the law fulfilled its true purpose, and man proves its effectiveness by responding to God or choosing to be condemned.

## **VII. Faith has always been the only way to respond to God. (4:1-25).**

1. Abraham discovered the truth through trusting God, and not his own works.
2. Abraham himself discovered the truth of being made right with God by grace through faith in God's promises.
3. Abraham believed, that means he placed his faith in what God had said and God made him right.
4. God' js not obligated to give anyone life because they do good works, for works does not change the heart of man. All man can do is "sinner work."
5. God makes people right, He changes them on the inside, when man accepts Jesus as his saviour.
6. – 7. David discovered that repentance and faith result in being right and blessed . This offer made by God is to every man.
7. Likewise all believers do not have to be actually circumcised, but they are made right by grace through faith. Circumcision should be the outward seal that they have been made God's children through faith. This makes every believer the true spiritual seed of Abraham, because Jesus was the true seed, the one who fulfilled the requirements completely.

8. This invitation is for Jews and Gentiles alike.
9. This offer applies to all sinners.
10. Abraham was made right by God, before he was circumcized and was made right with God..
11. All those who refuse to exercise faith and rather to trust their own works actually become a law unto themselves.
12. It is not circumcision that saves a person but faith in God's seed Jesus.
13. Because Abraham was made right by God and he obeyed shows that alls are made right by faith, it is God's only way.
14. The law does not save only Jesus can save.
15. The law was never given to save a person but rather to show them the right..The law only brings condemnation and God's wrath, because it was never ever meant to be a saving vehicle. The law showed man that he was a sinner who needed God to make him right.
16. If such a good man like Abraham needed to respond to God in faith, we can be certain that this is the only way of salvation. Abraham was made the father through whom Gods' promises would be realized, bringing into existence Gods' faith family. It is only God who can change sinners into His Holy people. Abraham had nothing else but the promise of God that he would be the father of many nations and he believed God. He did not look at the impossibilities, but trusted God.As he obeyed God and trusted His promise so his faith became stronger every day.
17. Our faith in Jesus will also become strong, and we will also be resurrected by God, as He did to Jesus.
- 18 - 25 We can trust Jesus, for He has cleared the way through His death and resurrection to present us right before God.

**VIII. The blessings which accompany being made right with God.  
(5:1-11)**

- 1 We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, means that we can come bodily into the presence of God. There is no longer the sense of guilt and condemnation. This also results in us being the peace of God in us, for His image is restored in us, we are 'living souls.'
- 2 We also are in grace, having responded to God by faith, we are expressing grace that opens up all new dimensions of powerful living to us. We are spiritually alive. And there is a sense of expecting what God has planned for us. to be fulfilled.
- 3 This hope that we have helps us to face life head-on, for life in itself, especially having been affected by sin is not fair, and all sorts of pressures and sufferings will come, we have hope that all things will be changed at the return of King Jesus. God's grace allows us to hope, and this hope teaches us to be patient, what we cannot change, He will do in His own time.
- 4 God has planned that all the negatives in this world, when faced in hope and faith make us stronger in our characters.
- 5 We live out what we hope, and in so doing we put into operation the love principle of God for us and others, and He also sustains this way of living by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are never alone; we have a teacher and a comforter.
- 6 When you acknowledge your need to be made right., at that moment you will find Jesus waiting and longing to change you. That is why it is so important to believe in Him, for He has died to change you.
- 7 He knows that we have no other way to be made right that is why He died for us.
- 8 The Cross is the testimony of Gods' love for the whole world, Jesus was willing to die because He loves you.
- 9 We have been brought to this place being right with God on the basis of His death in our place, can you imagine the glorious life you will now share with His new life in you.
- 10 We are now part of God's family, and share in His quality of eternal life.
- 11 The greatest blessing to all believers is that we can have a face to face communion with God, His Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ His Son.

## **IX. God did not pre-program Adam or Christ. (5:12-21).**

- 12 Adam means mankind, not merely one man. He was given a test by God that he could have passed and thereby ushered in God's eternal purpose for His creation. As the representative of all free, and moral agents, human beings, he failed and plunged God's highest creation into a position of depravity. While Adam was in fellowship with God, he shared God's Spirit of power and life, but when he chose to go his own way, he broke the connection between him and His creator and sustainer, he went out on his own spiritually affecting his whole existence. What he did not realize was that he was now deprived in the sense that he had no spiritual power to avoid himself from being brought under the principle of sin and death, and was more that, under the control of the one who controlled the power of sin, Satan. This became the condition of all of mankind; he could only procreate in his own image, making all men sinners.
- 13 Because man was now deprived of life, all men now die, they do not die because they are condemned by law, in fact the law came later to show man the way out of his way of "living dead."
- 14 Man blamed Adam and not themselves, so God gave the law for everyman on an individual basis, showing every man that he is a sinner. The law only showed up what man was, and also made man see that the death principle is part of the wrath of God, now at work in him.
- 15 The life that Adam enjoyed before he sinned made it essential for someone to come and restore man to his original condition. Besides God who is love, had already made promises for a second Adam and as second test. Jesus Christ was God's second Adam.
- 16 Jesus Christ passed the test and opened the way for anyone who will to return to God, and be made right.
- 17 This second Adam was not a creation, but God, entering history on behalf of man, and bringing the solution, to recreate man and empower him to live as a holy human being again.
- 18 Jesus is willing to make anyone right, and to share His eternal life with them, no longer would they be under the death principle.
- 19 Jesus is God's way of making man right.

- 20 The law enabled man to face his personal condemnations and death sentence, only to discover that when he saw how sinful he was, he discovered that grace still invited him to be saved, a grace that never leaves him.
- 21 Just as death always follows sin, so a right way of living changes grace to an enabling power of Jesus Christ that will never end.

## **X. Right People are God's Holy People. (6)**

- 1 This is not grace that allows willful known disobedience, that is the way of a sinful life.
- 2 People made right by God, do not choose to disobey God and sin, for they are no longer sinners, but belong to Christ.
- 3 Jesus took our sinful nature into the grave with Him.
- 4 Jesus now shares His resurrected life with us, and we now live new lives.
- 5 This is what He alone can do, He creates us into what God had in mind all along; we are now partakers of His quality of life.
- 6 That means that we are freed entirely from our old selves and even more, because we are holy we do not have the presence and power of the sinful mind in us. We are not only right, but holy.
- 7 When we trust Christ, He sets us free from the old life of sinning and leaning to sin.
- 8 We now live in the power of the Holy Spirit not under the power of the sinning spirit.
- 9 Jesus is the source of our new life, and He keeps sustaining us, we are kept spiritually alive, and empowered.
- 10 He does not save us in half measures, He solved our entire sin problem, as God had always intended.
- 11 Believers must not stop short of enjoying the life free from the presence and power of the sin principle in their lives; they must accept this holy life by grace through faith.
- 12 Don't allow yourself to believe that you still have a sin nature in you, and even though sin has left your natural human desires twisted toward sin; do not let it lead you back into your old life to take control.

- 13 And offer yourself to God in the face of temptations. The choice is still yours even though you are free from the pressure and power of the sinful mind; you must learn to discipline your natural desires to live holy.
- 14 A holy person has a holy intention to live right, so do not allow old thinking patterns to bring you into acting in old sinful ways, remember you are free from all of that, you are under God's teaching grace, that gives you time to choose now to live a holy life.
- 15 Remember his grace will not to allow willful known sin into your life, this is grace that gives you time to learn how not to sin.
- 16 Beware that the sinning lifestyle does not become normal, for this is how the evil one got Adam to sin, even though you are a new creation the evil one is out to get you to go back to a sinning life style. Don't think it is impossible to go back, Satan got Adam to sin while he was holy and in a relationship to God, always remember that sin leads to death.
- 17 Don't settle for any teaching that allows you to be a "Sinning Christian," obey the teaching of God.
- 18 True teaching teaches us that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to living right before God.
- 19 Purpose in your heart to produce a life style of living holiness.
- 20 You could not do this while you were still a sinner.
- 21 You know how frustrating it was trying to live right before God, it was impossible.
- 22 But now that you have been set free from sin, and have purposed in your heart to live for God, you are actualizing a holy life style, and you know that this is the Jesus quality of life in you.
- 23 You can compare your past life under the sin and death principle, with this quality of eternal life you living now through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **XI. Paul' attempt at keeping God's plan. (7:1-25)**

1. Paul shares with us how he tried to live right by keeping the law, only to discover that the law doesn't change anybody. And the law only has power over you while you are alive.

2. It's like a woman being married to a man; the law of marriage only binds her while he is alive.
3. She is not free to marry another while he lives, but she is freed from that law from the moment that he dies.
4. Remember your old self died with Jesus, and your new self belongs to the risen Christ, so that you now have His Spirit in you enabling you to live right.
5. While still sinners under the control of the evil principle of sin within us, all the law could do was to pronounce us guilty of death.
6. But we are free from all that sinning business and we serve in the new way of the Holy Spirit.
7. It is not the law that is the problem it is the sinful nature that is shown up by the law. But the law cannot change the sinful nature; it only shows us what the evil result is, death and separation.
8. Paul testified that the problem is that when I become aware of how sinful I was, the sin nature started controlling me, and I thought that this was normal.
9. But what I thought was right turned out to be sinful according to the right God was revealing in me.
10. The harder I tried to be right, the more the law showed me how wrong I was, and because the sin nature had become my nature, I even become proud of my own achievements in helping the law."
11. Just when you see wrong and right, and your conscience starts to worry you, you realize that the power of sin bends you towards the wrong, it seems to be what is right for you, and once obeyed leaves you with a bad conscience.
12. "God's law in me enforced by God's written law helped me to see to see how sinful I really was".
13. I realized that no matter how hard I tried to be right, I had no power to live right, and I knew how powerless I was.
14. I had no spiritual power to do right in God's eyes.
15. That is the position of anyone who is still a slave to sin that which you know is wrong you do, and what you know is right you cannot do.
16. I can't blame God's law for that; it is something wrong in me.
17. I come to realize that I am not the one God wanted me to be, I was aware of a good side of me, but I acknowledged that a sin principle was in control of me.

18. The sinful nature controlling me, was pulling me towards all these wrong things in me, causing me to think that I was in control of my life.
19. I had no power in me to stop doing evil and unholy things.
20. I had to admit that sin was in control of me.
21. I had to admit that I was not able to obey God because something more powerful than my free will was at work in me, a sin principle was controlling me and I was paralysed spiritually, That part of me that was created in the image of God was reaching out to what was right, and I realized that I needed help.
22. But something kept holding me back from believing in God with all of my mind, and I was under the law of unbelief and sin, which has got a hold of all of me.
23. I cry out again and again in my misery and failure, but I am in bondage to sin, “who shall rescue me from this body of death,?” this death principle that paralyses me spiritually.
24. The gospels have given me the answer, “thanks be to God, there is a way to be free from sin, through Jesus Christ our Lord.” In this sinful state, I know what it feels like, in your heart you want to be free and you really try to live by God’s law, but you are powerless to do so because you are a slave to sin.

### **XIII. God imparts to the believing His Spirit that wants them to live right before Him. (8:1-39).**

1. Once in Christ you are free from all guilt and condemnation within yourself, and you are free from the presence and control of the sin nature that makes you powerless.
2. The law of the Spirit of life set us free from the law of sin and death.
3. Believers no longer live according to the sinful nature, but according to the Spirit. Through Christ offering Himself to meet all the requirements of God and sin, God made it possible for His Spirit to enter our lives expelling every trace of sin in us.
4. Now we desire to live out the way that pleases God.
5. Now believers have their minds set upon what the Spirit of God chooses now they have holy intentions instead of sinful desires.

6. This new state of mind now produces peace and life. No longer is there a battle in the mind and a cry in the heart for deliverance from sin, there is peace, and no longer inability to do right, now there is power to live right before God.
7. Because the fight is gone, and the mind is at peace with God, the believer want to do Gods' will.
8. No person, even believers controlled by the sinful nature can please God.
9. Your new life in Christ is under the control of the Holy Spirit who came into your life when you accepted Christ as Saviour, but now you must believe this
10. You are alive spiritually, and you are the one who controls your human body not allowing it to sin.
11. It is the Holy Spirit who fills every part of your life, giving you power and wisdom to control yourself. It is not your human body that is sinful but it can be used as a tool to sin therefore you must keep your body holy as well.
12. Don't accept any teaching that tells you that your body is sinful, your body is not controlled by the sinful nature, it is controlled by the Spirit who is filling you.
13. You can discipline all your human instincts and appetites to live right, and when you do you will live holy, and Spirit filled.
14. Holy people do holy things, and the Spirit of God keeps them right.
15. You are now a child of God and God as your Father will always take care of you. You can live open to Him.
16. Also when you live right God Spirit in you gives you the assurance that it is right.
17. Sanctified Christians are living the some quality of life that Jesus is living. God's best yet to come. (8:18-30).
18. God's plan is going to be realized in us, we are going to share in His glorified creation.
19. Even the heaven and the earth, which are decaying will be rejuvenated and made new.
20. Just as Jesus Christ delivers us from all sin in a moment of faith so He will change us to be like Him..
21. He will also deliver all of Gods' creations from the principle of decay.
22. All creation seems to long for this day of recreation..

23. The Holy Spirit in believers is God's guarantee, He is God's down payment that what He has promised will happen.

24. Even our bodies are going to be changed to be like His glorified body.

#### **XIV. Israel could not be right while rejecting God's way of faith. (9:1-33).**

They were called "Israel" because the El (God) of that Ish (people) was Jehovah and they were His people but so did other nations have their "El's" as god, but with these people of God (Jehovah) they were an obedient people following His commandments and who were open and obedient to the progressive revelations of God. There were the true Israelites.

The Israelites were God's chosen people, and because they had the law, and obeyed the commandments they alone could be the channel of blessings to the world. This is what Paul sees that they are sinners in need of a deliverer, not merely deliverance from the enemies around them, but the sin nature they carried in their hearts and minds because they were rejecting their Messiah. They failed to realize that only by obedient faith to the covenant God had made to Abraham could they be God's holy people, and secondly they refused to see that their God was including all nations "Gentiles" in His promise, in Christ and that they had to accept the new testament and agreement on the grounds of His shed blood. (1-33). There was always a remnant who lived by faith and were already the seeds of the church which was born at Pentecost. Acts 2.

14-29) To say that God is wrong because He has rejected Israel has no ground, for God's way is now open through Christ and they are the ones who reject God's way because it does not fit their plan of a national King. God has reinstated His original plan to serve both Jews and Gentiles and to produce one holy nation.

(30-32) They had decided to work their own plan, thinking that they could change God's way, but they could not make the law save them, neither could they accept Jesus as their King, that is why they stumbled over the claim of Jesus to be God's only redeemer.

## **XV. They could still become part of Gods' saving plan in Christ. (10:1-21).**

(1-4). Israel could still be part of the saved community believing in Christ, but they would not accept Gods' revealed will, they were holding onto the past that they were still Gods' special people, and they could remain so by keeping the law, they believed in a righteousness through works. (5-13). Their commitment to Gods law and self righteousness was really unbelief. But they failed to realize that they were powerless to keep the law, and therefore were condemned and under God's wrath. They rationalized and argued, and went so far as to say that Jesus was not alive and in heaven, they said it cannot be proved.

They said that there was no proof that Jesus really died because it is impossible to get proof and check out the facts, they were using the "seeing is believing" philosophy.

(8-10) Paul answers and says that they are guilty because they are failing to use their God given faith to believe Christ even when they have clearly heard the gospel. They would not accept that Jesus Christ was the promised deliverer of God.

(11-13). They as outright refused to call on the name of Jesus and to be saved so they closed their hearts and minds to God's progressive revelations.

(14-15). The reason that they do not "call" is because they chose not to believe, it is not because God has another way to save the Jews, as if this gospel is only for the Gentiles, Gods' way is open to all who will call on Jesus to save them but the Jews refused to accept what God had revealed to Isaiah, who prophesied the coming of the 'Suffering Servant Messiah, which was fulfilled by Jesus. (16).

(17). Christ Himself was the one who fulfilled all that was spoken of Him by the prophets, but the Jews had suppressed this truth by seeking only an earthly Kingdom of which only they would be part.

(18-19). They have brought judgment upon themselves, it is not God who has rejected them.

(20). God and His will can only be found by grace through faith; and Christ being Abrahams seed is the only way to become part of the family of God as was promised.

(21). God says that the unbelievers are disobedient and obstinate, because they will not obey Him, they still hold to this sinful and idollic life styles; they are sinners condemned and lost by their own choice.

## **XVI. The Covenant keeping God. (11:1-36).**

(1-10). The fact that God had called Paul, an Israelite himself and from Abrahams descent from the tribe of Benjamin, and had brought him into God's family on a co-heir\_with Jesus Christ proves that God had not rejected any Jew, they could be part of His plan if they would so choose. Because this has always been Gods' way to become part of Gods' faith family. The Jews chose not to believe in God's full revelation in Christ. But there has always been a faith remnant within the people of Israel, even Elijah had to learn this, the spirit of *stupo* .Heb. which the Jews displayed is the consequence of free moral agents choosing evil.

11-16). Can anyone imagine what would have happen if they had believed in Christ, they would have blessed the whole world as God had intended, but they can still become part of God's plant through faith in Christ, just as the gentiles were doing.

(17-24). The Gentiles are like a slip from a wild olive tree that has been grafted into God's will, but the Jews are like branches that have been broken off from the tree (Jesus claimed to be the True Vine in John 15 ) but through faith they could once again be grafted into the vine of eternal live; so then the Jews are not beyond being saved for they have been given grace to believe in Jesus Christ.

(25-36). Remember that God has made it absolutely clear who His Holy faith people are! All those, whether Jew or gentile, who have responded to God's invitation to place their faith in Jesus Christ as their only savior. These are the true offspring of Abraham, because of his faith in Gods' promise, He was chosen as the line through whom the Son of God alone who would save all Israel, God has always promised to save His people and He will never change that, but it is salvation through faith .in Jesus alone.

## **XVII. What Gods' plan includes. 12,**

(12:1-2). Jesus continues His ministry to the world through His holy people.

He empowers them to live supernaturally natural.

He opens the door for them to worship God.

He imparts to them spiritual gifts to do their ministries.

He imparts to them His love enabling them to build redemptive relationships.

God's plan for the New Israel is that they would be: the Worshipping Body proving every day that Gods' plan was working in and through them. They would realize everyday that the living Jesus Christ was working in and through them; this would be the process of worship.<sup>1,2</sup> Through this process of worship they would grow in Christlikeness.

(3-8). They would also be the Ministering body of Christ. God gives to each individual a gift mix that enables them to do ministry, but it is really Christ ministering through them.

(9-21). But they would also be the Fellowshiping Body of Christ building redemptive relationships to their world. They would be constrained by God's love.

## **XVIII. Christians live out God's plan for all to see. (13:1-14).**

As the body of Christ they are to obey the laws of the land, and are examples of the ideal citizens. They live in the power of the Holy Spirit who imparts to them the gifts that make them Christlike. They operate from the basis of God's law of love. (8).

(12). Christians wear the "armour of light" and walk in the light and are continually being cleansed from all sin by the blood of Jesus.

## **XIX. God's plan does not destroy different cultures. (14:1-23).**

To Christians every day must be lived as a holy day to the Lord. Even though Jesus and His teachings confronted certain behavioural practices within the different cultures, they must learn to recognize that not everything within a different culture is wrong. Many disciplines and practices in cultures preserve the true values and worth

of individuals. There is no one holier than others, there is no clothing that makes men and woman purer, there is no observance of ritual that cleanses from sin, what Jesus offers changes the person from a sinner into a holy person.

## **XX. God's plan points to Christ as the ideal of all ethnics. (15:1-31)**

(1-6).The example of Christ is seen in that He never put His own interests and welfare first, and He never thought of Himself as better than others. He put Gods' emphasis on everyone, that anyone can come to God, on the grounds of mercy and grace, Jesus always operated from a basis of Gods' love.

(7-13). Jesus treated Jews and Gentiles all alike, just as we have to do. They are no superior and inferior races. There is not one saviour for the Gentiles and another Messiah for the Jews, there is only one "God of hope." (13); and there is only one Holy Spirit, there is not a Spirit for the Gentiles and another Spirit for the Jews.

(14-33). There is only one sanctifier, the Holy Spirit, there is not a special reserved way for Jews to be made holy. The Gentiles enjoy the presence and power of the same Holy Spirit of God, who sanctifies them, makes them all one holy body in Christ., all members of the church are saints not sinners any longer.

## **XXI. God's plan knows us by name. (16:1-26).**

Paul sends personal greeting to all people and to the\_home churches, even though he has never visited Rome, that is what love does, it keeps in touch with people, he calls them by name so no one is left out. It also reveals that God does not think any higher of a pastor or a deaconess or even just a mother. Rufus was the son of Simon of Cyrene who carried the cross of Jesus, but receives no special treatment. Woman were treated as equal servants in the church.

Pricilla is mentioned before her husband, showing the respect awarded woman in the Christian fellowship.

This is a mystery, for this message comes directly from God, that faith in the Lord Jesus brings everyone Jews and Gentiles alike, into one holy family of God, this has always been His plan.





