

# The Book of Romans

- I. Paul's **Introduction** to his **Letter** (1:1-17)
- II. Paul *Declares* Man's **Need** for God's **Salvation** and **Righteousness** (1:18-3:20)
- III. Paul *Delivers* his **Gospel Message** of **Righteousness** by **Faith in** Messiah (3:21-5:21)
- IV. Paul *Describes* the New **Life** of **Believers** in Messiah, and their **Walk of Righteousness** through the **Spirit** (6:1-8:39)
- V. Paul *Discloses* God's Present and Future **Purposes** concerning the **People of Israel** (9:1-11:36)

## VI. Paul *Directs* the **Believers** concerning their **Spiritual Life** and **Service** before **God** and **One Another** (12:1-15:13)

- A. He *Exhorts* them to *fully* **Commit** to **Serving** God, and **Living** according to **His will** (12:1-2)

12 *Therefore* I urge you, brethren, by the **mercies** of God, to **present your bodies** a *living* and *holy sacrifice*, acceptable to God, which is your **spiritual service** of worship.

<sup>2</sup> And do **not** be ***conformed*** to this world, but be ***transformed*** by the **renewing** of your mind, so that you may **prove** what the **will of God** is, that which is ***good*** and ***acceptable*** and ***perfect***.

- B. He *Expresses instructions* concerning the exercise of **Gifts** of **Grace** among **themselves** (12:3-8)
  - 1. *Imploring* them to walk “**humbly**” with regard to their **gifts** (12:3)
  - 2. *Instructing* each **one** of them to **exercise** their **gift** according to the “**proportion**” of their **faith**” (12:4-8)

<sup>3</sup>For through the **grace** given to me I say to everyone among you **not** to think **more highly of himself** than he ought to think;

but to think so as to have **sound judgment**,  
as **God** has allotted to **each** a **measure of faith**.

<sup>4</sup>For just as **we** have **many members** in **one body**  
and **all** the **members** do **not** have the **same function**,

<sup>5</sup>so **we**, who are **many**, are **one body** in **Messiah**,  
and **individually** members one of another.

<sup>6</sup>Since **we** have **gifts** that **differ** according to the **grace** given to us,  
*each of us is to **exercise them** accordingly.*

if **prophecy**, according to the **proportion of his faith**;

<sup>7</sup>if **service**, in his **servicing**; or he who **teaches**, in his **teaching**;

<sup>8</sup>or he who **exhorts**, in his **exhortation**;

he who **gives**, with **liberality**;

he who **leads**, with **diligence**;

he who **shows mercy**, with **cheerfulness**.

## Personal Application

1. **Paul** begins this new section in **Romans** with an **appeal** for **believers** to **fully commit** their **lives** in “**holy**” **service to God**. This **appeal** is **based** on what he has shared in the **preceding chapters** concerning the “**mercies of God**” towards them, both **Gentiles** and **Jews** (11:30-32).

“Therefore I **urge you**, brethren, by the **mercies of God**,...” (12:1a)

As **believers**, the **realization** that **we** have received **God’s great mercies**, ought to be the **key reason** for **living** our **lives** in **complete devotion** to **Him** (12:1a).

2. **Unlike** the **sacrifices** that were **killed** and **presented** before **God** in the **Old Testament**, **believers** are to **present** their **bodies** as “a **living** and **holy sacrifice**, **acceptable to God** (12:1b).” It is **through** our “**bodies**” that we **express** our **life** and **activities**, and **these** now are to be **fully consecrated** in **service to God**.

As *believers*, the **presenting** of ourselves as “a *living* and *holy* **sacrifice** is considered our “**spiritual**” service of **worship** (12:1c).

3. As *believers*, we are **not** to “**conform**” to the **standards** and **morality** of this **present age**. Instead, we are to be “**transformed**” through a process of **renewal** (making **new**), which **begins** in our **minds** (12:2a), the control *center* of our “**thoughts, attitudes, feelings, and actions.**” (Bible Knowledge Commentary (N.T.), pg. 487). In Paul’s letter to the **Ephesians** He writes →

→ So this I say, and **affirm together** with the Lord,  
that you **walk no longer** just as the **Gentiles** also **walk**,  
in the **futility** of their **mind**,..

...that, in reference to your **former manner of life**,  
you **lay aside** the **old self**, which is being **corrupted**  
in accordance with the **lusts of deceit**,

and that you be **renewed** in the **spirit of your mind**,

and **put on** the **new self**, which in *the likeness of God*  
has been **created** in **righteousness** and **holiness** of the **truth**.  
(Ephesians 4:17, 22-24)

As *believers*, we are being “**renewed in our minds**,” that we might **determine** the **will of God**—that which is **good, acceptable, and perfect** (12:2b).

4. As *believers*, we are to think **soundly**, and not to think “**more highly**” than we ought to think, concerning **ourselves** and our **abilities**. For **God** has given us each **grace**, and a “**measure of faith**” that **enables us** to accomplish **His work** (12:3).
5. Our **physical body** is comprised of **many “members”** that do **not** have the same **function**. As *believers*, we are “**one body in Messiah**,” and are **individually** “**members one of another** (12:4-5).”

As “**members**” of the **body of Messiah** we have been given “**gifts**” according to **God’s grace**, and we are to **exercise** these **gifts** among ourselves, according to the **measure of faith** given to **us** (12:6).

We read tonight that these **gifts** are:

prophecy,  
service,  
teaching,  
exhortation,  
giving,  
leadership,  
mercy (12:6a-8)

In another letter **Rabbi Paul** shares the overall **purpose** for **God** giving us *gifts* and *abilities* →

→ But to each one of **us** **grace** was given according to the ***measure of Messiah's gift***...

...for the **equipping** of the **saints** for the ***work of service***, to the **building up** of the **body of Messiah**;

until we all **attain** to the ***unity*** of the **faith**, and of the ***knowledge*** of the **Son of God**,

to a ***mature man***, to the ***measure*** of the **stature** which belongs to the **fullness of Messiah**.  
(Ephesians 4:7, 12-13)

Closing Comments