Romans 1

Introduction
Date of writing: Spring of 58 A.D., shortly before Pentecost (Acts 20.3, 16)

Location of writing: Corinth, Greece (Acts 20.3), on the Third Missionary Journey, on Paul's way to Jerusalem (Romans 15.22)

People to whom written: Acts 2.10 – Strangers from Rome on the Day of Pentecost
-Generally it was a Gentile church (many Greek names in Romans 16), and the Jews in Rome rejected the gospel in Acts 28)

General theme: Romans 1.16-17 – Since no apostle had ever visited the church in Rome, there were probably some misunderstandings concerning the gospel, so Paul was going to give a good explanation of the gospel to the Christians in Rome

Romans 1.1-7
V 1 – Why did Paul take seven verses for the introduction? He had never seen the Christians in Rome
-What were the qualifications for an apostle? Acts 1.21-22 – Had to have been with Jesus from the baptism of John until the ascension
-How would Paul be considered an apostle then? He was “called” and “set apart”
-He was questioned on this later – See 1 Corinthians 9.1 and Gal. 3.15

V 2 – Where was the gospel of God promised beforehand in Old Testament? Isaiah 53, etc.
-Any examples in the Old Testament of prophecies about Christ? Genesis 3.15, Isaiah 7.14, etc.

V 3 – Seed of David
-What tribe was Jesus a member of? Judah (not Levi) – Matthew 1.6
-Why “according to flesh”? No fleshly father

V 4 – What was the major event that declared that Jesus was the Christ the Son of God?
His resurrection from the dead
-Other times he was declared to be the Son of God? At his baptism (Matthew 3.17), on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17.5), by the centurion at the cross (Matthew 27.54)

V 5 – Explain “obedience of faith”: To believe is to obey
-See Hebrews 5.7-9 – Salvation to those who obey him

V 7 – Saints – we are all saints, not those canonized by Catholic Church
-Essence of gospel in v 1-7:
-Jesus is the Son of God (v 3)
-He became flesh (v 3)
-He was raised from the dead (v 4)
-He requires obedience of faith (v 5)
-Very succinct and to the point

**Romans 1.8-15**

V 8 – This could have referred to the civilized world or to the Roman Empire or literally to all the earth
-See Col. 1.23 – We know that the apostle Thomas went to India and Sri Lanka, and we know that Peter went to modern day Iraq (Babylon)
-Paul went all over the Mediterranean area
-Where did the other apostles go? We don't know

V 9-10 – How did Paul help the church at Rome before he ever arrived there? With his prayers for them

V 11 – What was one of his goals in visiting Rome? Imparting spiritual gifts to them
-These gifts were necessary in the years before the New Testament was completed
-See 1 Cor. 13.10

V 12 – Mutual benefit from the faith of other Christians

V 13 – What hindered him (why was he so anxious to get to Jerusalem)? To deliver money for the poor saints there
-Gentiles were the main people in Rome

V 14 – Where did Paul use the term “barbarians” last? On Melita (Acts 28.2 – see footnote in NASB)

V 15 – “To preach the gospel” – one word in Greek
-What was Paul's attitude toward preaching the gospel in Rome? He was looking forward to it

**Romans 1.16-17**

V 16 – “I am not ashamed”
-Of Paul’s six major speeches in Acts, which audience sneered at him and insulted him? The philosophers at Athens (Acts 17.32)
-But he was still not ashamed of the gospel
-Why? 1 Corinthians 1.25 – The foolishness of God was greater than the wisdom of men, and according to Acts 4.12 there is no other name under heaven by which people can be saved
-The U.S. Library of Congress has over 35 million books – How many of them offer eternal salvation? Only one: the Bible
- **Is this power give freely to everyone?** No, belief is necessary
- **Why were Jews given the gospel first?** Jews had greatest background in worship of God, so if they had accepted Christ, they would have made fantastic missionaries
- **Theme of Romans** – The gospel is the power of God to save all people

**V 17** – “Faith unto faith” – **Any interpretations?** From Old Testament faith to the New Testament faith

**Romans 1.18-23**

**V 18** – **How does God express himself to wickedness?** With his anger
- **What type of person is God especially angered by?** Those who suppress the truth
- **How do ungodly people sometimes suppress the truth?** Spanish Inquisition, persecution of Christians, oppression from other major world religions, censorship of Christian material, etc.

**V 19** – **Is it normal for a human being to believe in a god?** Yes
- **If we did not have the Bible, what other things could be used to find out about God?**
- **The order in nature** – **Read Psalm 8**

**V 20** – **Explain "His invisible attributes":** Those not perceived outwardly by the senses
- **For example, God’s eternal power in the universe**
- **But they are perceived in the mind, so that there is no excuse not to believe in God**

**V 21** – **Does the world at large give thanks?** No - It is rare when people in the world give thanks for their food
- **They are futile in their speculations**
- **Examples of that?** Life in outer space, the Big Bang theory, all other theories that omit God

**V 22** – **What a statement:** They were trying to appear wise, but they ended up looking foolish
- **Remember the story "Emperor’s New Clothes"**

**V 23** – **Examples?**
- Images of birds and animals in astrology
- Most countries have animals for symbols
- Most sports teams are named after animals
- There are animals on some of our paper money (example: eagle)
- People worship cows in India
- We frequently name cars after animals

**Romans 1.24-27**

**V 24** – **God gave up on them – no more hope**
- Sin “dishonors” bodies
- How can sin ruin our bodies? Cirrhosis of liver, car accidents, the mental anguish of adultery, sexually transmitted diseases
- Other examples?

V 25 – What was the lie in the Garden of Eden? “You will not die”
- That was partially correct, but God was referring to spiritual death (separation from God), not physical death
- What other lie in the garden was also partially true? You will know good from evil (yes, but they would not be able to resist evil)
- Do some people worship the creature rather than Creator? All the time
- Can a person worship himself more than God? Yes, by working to maintain his “creature comforts”

V 26-27 – This seems to say that homosexuality is worse than adultery
- Homosexuality is the ultimate level of degeneracy
- But there is a general acceptance of homosexuals today
- More and more states are legalizing homosexual marriage

Romans 1.28-32
V 28 – They didn’t think that it was worthwhile even to think about God

V 29-31 – Paul was writing from Corinth, an extremely wicked place
- Of sins listed here, which are most prevalent today?

V 32 – The worst sin is not committing an immoral act, but in encouraging others to do so also
- Ephesians 5.11-13 – We should expose all sin

Summary of Paul’s comments – Read Hosea 8.7 – They have sown the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind

Revised 2013-02-03
Romans 2

Romans 2.1-4 – The failure of the Jews

V 1 – Referring to the Jews (v 17)
- Jews were world-famous for judging other people
  - Matthew 23.1-14 – The false judgment of the scribes and Pharisees
  - Also see Matthew 23.25-28
- What is the danger of judging other people? We are sinful also
  - Example: A local judge was recently arrested for drunk driving
  - Example: A local minister ran off with his secretary

V 2 – Those who judge others will face the judgment of God

V 3 – Beginning with Christ, was God a respecter of persons? No
- Proof? Peter – Acts 10.28 – God told Peter to call no man common
  - Paul – Acts 17.30 – all men everywhere should repent
- Were Jews given special privileges in the Old Testament? Yes
- In the New Testament? Yes, they were given the gospel first, but by and large they rejected it

V 4 – Paul is becoming increasingly firmer with Jews
  - The Jews should have repented and accepted Jesus as the Christ

Romans 2.5-11

V 5 – What trouble had Jews already caused in early church? They tried to bind circumcision on new converts – See Acts 15
  - Who else gave a similar judgment of the Jews? Stephen – Acts 7.51-53
  - Use of “storing up,” an old Jewish concept:
    - 1 Corinthians 16.2 – to lay by in store
    - 1 Timothy 6.17-19 – NASB translation
    - Matthew 6.20 – We are to lay up treasures in heavens

What were the Jews "storing up"? The wrath of God, because of their disobedience

V 6 – What great principles of God’s judgment are found in this verse?
  - Every person will be judged individually
  - According to each one's deeds - James 2.14-17
  - Also see Psalm 62.12-13 and Matthew 16.27

V 7 – "Honor and glory," a frequently used phrase in Revelation – See Revelation 4.11, 5.13
  - What are some ways that people seek immortality outside of Christ? Building beautiful structures, such as the Taj Mahal and the pyramids
  - Statues, such as the Sphinx
Great works of art, literature,
-Setting records in sports, etc.
**-But how should we achieve immorality?** By our good deeds in the eyes of God

V 8 – But most people are fighting God with their evil behavior

V 9 – Gospel was first delivered to the Jews; therefore their condemnation came first
  -*Why were they more responsible for obeying Christ?* They had an Old Testament background

V 10 – But the blessings are on those who are obedient to God, first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles (Greeks)

V 11 – Other Scriptures that demonstrate this principle of obedience:
  -1 Samuel 16.17
  -2 Chronicles 19.7
  -Job 34.19
  -Galatians 2.6
  -Ephesians 6.9
  -1 Peter 1.17

**Romans 2.12-16**

V 12 – *Was salvation possible outside the Law of Moses and before Acts 2?* Yes, because God put a moral system in the mind of every person (the conscience)
  -For example, consider the "Code of Hammurabi"
  -Hammurabi was a king of Babylon – 1728-1686 B.C.
  -He developed a code similar to the Ten Commandments, dealing with kidnapping, adultery, malpractice, women's rights, about 300 paragraphs long
  -*What is the significance of these verses to Jews?* Even the Gentiles in the Old Testament had the opportunity to be saved!

V 13-14 – Those who obeyed the law of the heart (outside the Law of Moses) were saved by the mercy of God and were monotheistic
  -Consider the life, for example, of Zoroaster, who was monotheistic even before the days of Judaism

V 15 – Their conscience gave them a sense of values
  -Even today, for example, if a person is stopped by a police officer for speeding, but the person is absolutely sure that he was not speeding, he objects to getting a ticket – *Why?*
  -*Where does that sense of justice (or the lack of it) come from?* Why do people who know nothing about the gospel of Christ still get very indignant over how they have been wronged?

V 16 – God will judge all people through Jesus Christ
Romans 2.17-24

V 17 – Were the Jews prone to rely on the name Jew? Yes, Matthew 23.29-33
   -Swearing by the gold of temple, etc.
   -John 5.45 – They liked to rely on the name of Moses
   -Similar today: Some people are proud that their wives and daughters can be members of the
     Daughters of the American Revolution, or that they can be members of the American Legion,
     and other organizations
   -People rely on things that have nothing to do with salvation!

V 18 – So based on their illustrious background, the Jews thought they could judge the rest of the
   world

V 19 – They thought that the could become guides to the blind

V 20 – And they thought they could instruct others
   -Application to us today? We also have knowledge of the truth, but must put it into use

V 21 – But what was their problem? They did not practice what they were preaching to others
   and committed flagrant violations of the law

V 22 – What were two examples of their hypocrisy? They preached against adultery, but
   committed adultery themselves
   -And they preached against idolatry, but robbed temples (the charge falsely brought against
     Paul at Ephesus, Acts 19.37)

V 24 – Hypocrites – What is the result of hypocrisy? Disbelief among outsiders and the way of
   truth is maligned - See 2 Peter 2.1-2

Romans 2.25-29

V 25 – How important was circumcision to Jews? Genesis 17.9-12 – It sealed the pack
   between Abraham and God
   -Sara was to bear a child

   -It was the “sine qua non” [sin.i kwä-nän], the mark that proves a point conclusively

V 28-29 – Paul’s conclusion about circumcision?
   -It should be a circumcision made without human hands - Colossians 2.11
   -Christians are the circumcision who worship God today - Philippians 3.3
   -What was the message of Paul here? Being a Jew does not mean anything to God
     anymore – it is the condition of the heart that counts today
Similar Scriptures that speak these same principles:

- *Matt. 23.25* – Not the wiping of the cup, but what the person drinks
- *Rom. 7.6* – We are to serve the Spirit, not the Old Law
- *Gal. 5.2-24* – Christ crucified the flesh; the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience…self-control
- *James 2.1-10* – We are not to judge people by the quality of their clothes

Revised 2013-02-04
Romans 3

Romans 3.1-8 – Three questions

V 1 – After “demolishing” the Jews in Ch. 2, Paul began Ch. 3 by asking three questions
- First question? Is there any value to the history of the Jewish people?

V 2 – What is his answer to that question? Great value, because God entrusted them with his "oracles"
- Explain “the oracles of God”? Ten Commandments, Old Testament, the writings of the prophets
- What is the value of the Old Testament? Galatians 3.24 – A schoolmaster to lead us to Christ
- Would we miss anything by not having the Old Testament? Read Romans 15.4
- From what characters in the Old Testament can we learn great lessons?
  - All the characters in the Old Testament can teach us great lessons!
    - Joseph
    - Jacob
    - David and Bethesda and death of Absalom
- We could list dozens of heroes of the Old Testament, and their lives would teach us many great principles of the faith
- Think about Hebrews 11

V 3-4 – Second question? Because some of the Old Testament Jews did not believe, does that mean that God was not faithful and reliable? Of course not
- Even if all people forsake God, does that destroy validity of God? Absolutely not
- Quote from Psalm 51.4
  - God’s wisdom is “judged” on the basis of his judgment, not on the basis of our response

V 5 – Third question? Paul is asking, "If my sin demonstrates the faithfulness of God, then is it a good thing that I have sinned?"
  - In other words, the more humans sin, the better God looks! So should I just keep on sinning to make God look better?

V 6 – Of course, we should never sin just to make God look good
  - That is the philosophy of the antinomians (that there is no law for us to obey, it is all a case of grace)
  - If that is true, then how would he judge the world, since he would have encouraged us to sin?
  - That would be a very distorted philosophy

V 7 – Paul is making the hypothetical point that if his sin made God look better, then why would Paul be judged as a sinner? This is a rather complicated argument, but he is still refuting the reasoning of the antinomians (those who were against the concept of law in the New Testament)
V 8 – Paul did not want people to say that morality was relative, that there were no absolute standards of righteousness under the New Covenant – that would be false reasoning

Romans 3.9-18
V 9 – Explain “Are we better than they?” Jesus is greater than both Jews and Gentiles, because all are under sin (the condemnation of all humans by sin)

V 10-12 - A quote from Psalm 14.1-3

V 13 - A quote from Psalm 5.9 and Psalm 140.3

V 14 - A quote from Psalm 10.7

V 15-17 - A quote from Isaiah 59.7-8

V 18 – A quote from Psalm 36.1
-What is the message of these passages? That all have sinned (proven by the Old Testament)

Romans 3.19-20
V 19-20 – The Old Law merely convicted people – it didn’t save them
-Example: Jesus with woman taken in adultery – no one could cast the first stone, because they were all guilty of sin

Romans 3.21-26
V 21-22 – A reference to whom? Jesus, the one through whom salvation comes today
-What bore witness of the coming of Christ? The Law and the prophets

V 23 – All have sinned, and no human is perfect
-Any heroes in history? Andrew Jackson, but look at his attitude about Indians and slavery
-Franklin D. Roosevelt – mistress
-John F. Kennedy – common hero among many people, but he got us into Vietnam and had many sexual affairs, etc.
-All of us probably admired someone while we were growing up, but what a shock it was to find out that that person had serious flaws
-Only perfect people we know are the children (maybe mischievous, but not sinful)
-All have sinned, even the great heroes of human history

V 24 – As sinful people, how are we justified before God? Only through Jesus Christ
-How do people in the world try to justify themselves? By their own deeds, which might
be great in the eyes of the world
-But salvation is a gift that comes through our faith in Christ

**V 25** – What happens to the many sins that we bring to Christ when we want to be saved and are ready to be baptized? Our "previous sins" are passed over, because of the blood of Christ

**V 26** – Christ is just and is the justifier – **Explain?** Christ is perfect (just) and thereby justifies us as his brethren and as the adopted children of God

**V 27** – Why can there be no boasting? We are not justified by our works, so we cannot brag that we were saved because of how much money we donated to the church, how many times we cleaned the church building, how many homeless people we helped, how many orphans we took into our homes, etc.

**Romans 3.27-31**

**V 28** – Not a single human being can ever brag over his life and how it caused him to be saved
   -There can be no boasting before God

**V 29** – We are justified by our faith
   -**Where do works come into God's plan for us?** Because of our faith, we work for God (it cannot be a faith with no works)
   -See *James 2.14-26*

**V 30** – God justifies both the circumcised and the uncircumcised, on the basis of their faith

**V 31** – We do not eliminate the concept of "law" just because we are saved through faith
   -Quite the contrary, we accept the "law" of God in our lives

**Lessons from Ch. 3**

-Good conclusion to *Romans 3*: See *Colossians 2.20-23*
-Characteristics of the law:
   -*Colossians 2.14* – The Old Law ended with the cross
   -*Galatians 3.19* – The Old Law was temporary
   -*Galatians 3.13* – Christ redeemed us from curse of the Law of Moses
   -*Romans 11.6* – We are saved by grace, not by works that we think will earn us salvation

Revised 2013-02-04
**Romans 4**
- This is a rather deep and meditative passage in the letter
- One commentary has 26 pages on this chapter, and another has 125 pages
- The central question: Are we saved by works or by faith?

**Romans 4.1-12**

**V 1** – Did Abraham live under the Law of Moses? No, 400 years before the Old Law
- *Genesis 17* – The covenant between God and Abraham
- **What were the two signs of the covenant?**
  - The circumcision of all males
  - Sarah would have a child (she was 90 years old at this time)

**V 2** – If Abraham had earned salvation, what would he have done? Bragged about it

**V 3** – But how did Abraham become justified in the eyes of God? *Genesis 15.6* – Abraham believed in God, and God accepted that belief as righteousness

**V 4** – A man who works deserves his wages (he earns his salary)

**V 5** – But do we earn our salvation? Absolutely not
- **What then does God require of us in order to be saved?** To believe in him

**V 6** – Who is quoted at this point? King David

**V 7-8** – A quote from David in *Psalm 32.1-2*
- **Does this passage say anything about circumcision?** No, it was his faith

**V 9** – Was the blessing on Abraham based on his circumcision? No, it was his faith

**V 10** – In fact, when God blessed Abraham, had Abraham been circumcised yet? No

**V 11** – What is Paul's great point here? God will bless the circumcised and the uncircumcised
- **It is faith that God is looking for in us**

**V 12** – The Jews of Paul's day had badly misunderstood circumcision – it was a product of faith, not the act that saved people

**Romans 4.13-15**

**V 13** – What is the message of v 13? That the uncircumcised people (the Gentiles) can be saved
- This is the climax of Romans 1-4 – that the Christians at Rome are saved because of their faith, which is not based on the acts of the Old Law
- The Jews made two mistakes:
- They considered themselves to be the sole heirs of God’s house
- They considered themselves justified through obedience to the Law

**V 14** – If the Jews thought that they could be saved by keeping the Law of Moses, they needed to study once again the life of Abraham (saved before the Law and by faith, not works that would have earned him salvation)

**V 15** – Why does the Law bring about wrath? Because no-one could keep it perfectly

**Romans 4.16-22**

**V 16** – What an amazing statement! People can be saved without keeping the Law of Moses
- What a great argument Paul has been making to encourage the Gentile Christians in Rome

**V 17** – Who is covered by this concept? "Many nations" (not just the Jews)
- How do we know that God has the power to save "many nations"? Because he can create something out of nothing (as with the creation of the universe – see Hebrews 11.3), and because he has the power to raise the dead

**V 18** – Did Abraham have hope that he would have a child? Not really – it was a hopeless situation in his eyes

**V 19** – Why was it hopeless? Both Abraham and Sarah were too old for children

**V 20** – But how did Abraham view the situation? God could bring about the unthinkable!

**V 21** – Abraham believed in the promises of God

**V 22** – Abraham’s firm belief in God’s promise brought about Abraham's salvation

**Romans 4.23-25**

**V 23** – What application did the events in Abraham's life have? For us today as Gentiles

**V 24** – What kind of faith do we need to have? That God the Father raised Jesus Christ from the dead

**V 25** – Why did Jesus die on the cross? For our transgressions
- And what was the purpose of his resurrection? To being about our justification by faith

Great lessons from *Heb. 4*:
- Abraham was justified by his faith in the promises of God
- What about the sacrifice of Isaac? It was evidence of his faith
- Would he have done it had God not stopped Him? Yes, see Hebrews 11.17-19
-Same with us and baptism – no reason for baptism, but it is the proof of our obedience, and it is at that point that our sins are forgiven

Revised 2013-02-04
Romans 5

Romans 5.1-11

V 1 – Peace comes only through our faith in Jesus Christ
- What can you say to someone who says, “I find God by going fishing on Sunday mornings”? True peace of mind will come only through our faith in Christ

V 2 – Key to our salvation: faith through grace

V 3-4 – What would be the results of persecution of the church? Tribulation teaches us perseverance, which proves our character, which gives us hope

V 5 – Is there value to hope? Yes, it brings about the out-pouring of God's love for us and demonstrates that the Holy Spirit is helping us

V 6 – In what sense are we helpless? We cannot save ourselves eternally

V 7 – Do we have any examples of one person voluntarily dying for another person?
- In World War II, there were four Navy chaplains on the USS Dorchester, who gave up their life jackets for other men on the ship and were last seen with their arms locked together and praying together (see any standard reference site on the Internet for more details)
- Most of us know of other examples of someone stopping a terrorist or a mass murderer, but being killed in the process

V 8 – Actual summary of New Testament: Christ dying for the sinners of the world – What a statement!

V 9 – Read 1 Corinthians 15.10 – Paul: “By the grace of God I am what I am…”

V 10 – Many families are brought together at death of a parent, etc.
- God and the human race were brought together at death of his son

V 11 – Besides forgiveness, what other quality did we receive through Christ?
Reconciliation between us and God the Father

Romans 5.12-21 – An elaborate comparison between Adam and Christ
- Are we all related to Adam? Yes
V 12 – Who sinned first: Adam or Eve? Eve
- Are husbands responsible for sins of their wives? No, but as the head of the family,
Adam should have shown more courage in trying to stop Eve from sinning

**V 13** – From Adam to Moses, there was no written law from God
- How then did God communicate his will to humans? By speaking to the head of the family (as with Enoch and Abraham and Jacob)
- What do we call this period of Bible history? The Patriarchal Age

**V 14** – In what way was Adam similar to Christ? They were both "sons" of God

**V 15** – What is the contrast between Adam and Christ in this verse?
- Adam, with sin, died and brought death to all the human race
- Jesus, with one act, brought grace and eternal life for all

**V 16** – What is the contrast in this verse?  
- With one act, Adam brought sin and condemnation to the human race  
- Jesus with one act brought justification between God and the human race

**V 17** – What is the contrast in this verse?  
- Death reigned as a result of Adam
- Eternal life was established through Christ

**Romans 5.18-21**

**V 18** – Justification came through Jesus Christ

**V 19** – Adam and his disobedience resulted in all people sinning, but obedience to God came through Jesus Christ

**V 20** – What happened when sin increased in the human race? The grace of God also increased

**V 21** – Because of Christ, death no longer reigns
- What reigns in the place of death? Eternal life
- What powerful concepts we find in these verses!

Revised 2013-02-04
Romans 6

Romans 6.1-11

V 1 – Explain why the question would be logical here? If grace covers sin, then the more we sin, the more grace we should receive (the way some people look at grace even today)

V 2 – Related verses:
- Read Colossians 3.3 - For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ…
- Read 2 Corinthians 5.14-21 - Really beautiful – a new creature
- Read 1 Peter 2.9, 21-25 – If there are any conflicts between job and Christ, between country and Christ, between hobby and Christ, Christ is to come first
- This principle solves a lot of problems

V 3-4 – Is there any logic or symbolism to baptism? Yes, we die to the world and to sin, just as Christ died
- Then we are raised to walk in newness of life
- What are the weaknesses of pouring or sprinkling? They do not symbolize a burial and a resurrection

V 4 – Any proof from this verse for immersion? Yes, see Acts 8.38 – Philip and the eunuch went down into the water
- Also: Colossians 2.9-14 and John 3.23
- The Greek word for baptism means immersion
- It was the word that the Greeks used when a ship sank to the bottom of the sea

V 5 – How does baptism resemble the death of Christ? He was buried in the tomb, just as we are buried in the water (again this rules out sprinkling or pouring)

V 6 – How are we crucified with Christ? The old person of sin dies at baptism, just as Jesus died on the cross

V 7 – Physical death? No, death to sin
- If baptism is the act which removes our sin, then do we have to be baptized every time we sin? No, see 1 John 1.7

V 8-9 – 1 Corinthians 15.50-58 – O death, where is they victory… – 1 Corinthians 15.23 – Christ is the first fruits of those to come

V 10 – How many times did Christ die for the sins of the world? Only once for all
- This shows that the Catholic concept of the "mass" being the re-crucifixion of Christ is erroneous

V 11 – Reason some people drift away from church: they never completely died to sin when they entered the church
Romans 6.12-14

V 12 – What happens when sin reigns in the human body? It produces lusts of all kinds

V 13 – Can members of our bodies (for example, our hands) be servants of Satan? Yes – examples: shoplifting, stealing, writing bad checks, fighting, etc.
-How can they be servants of God? Passing out tracts, shaking hands with visitors
-Other examples?

V 14 – Can we be overcome by sin against our will? No, we have nothing to fear
-Galatians 6.16 – The world has been crucified in our lives

Romans 6.15-23

V 15 – Repeats initial question in v 1 of this chapter

V 16 – Is it possible to be a slave to an employer? Yes, an employee can be asked to steal for the company
-How does sin sometimes result in physical death? Drunk driver killed, STD's, etc.

V 17 – Is it possible to be a “member of the church” and not be convinced in the heart? Yes, it results in falling away

V 18 – Slaves of righteousness
-Did Paul ever consider himself to a slave of Christ? Yes – Romans 1.1 – bond servant
-Philippians 1.21 – To live is Christ...

V 19 – How are we slaves to Christ? We submit to him and present our bodies to him for the sake of righteousness and sanctification

V 20 – What were our lives like before we became Christians? We were slaves to sin
-How does a sin enslave us? It leads to more and more sin, and eventually it becomes a habit that is very hard to break

V 21 – What "benefits" do we get from sin? Death

V 22 – A beautiful verse – Henry David Thoreau said, “A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can do without.”
-Same with us – we are freed from sin and the loves of the world

Revised 2013-02-04
Romans 7

Romans 7.1-6

V 1 – Whom is Paul talking to? Mainly to the Jews (those acquainted with the Old Law)
- Explain the second part of the verse? We must obey all laws, as long as they do not conflict with the gospel of Christ
- In other words, we cannot intentionally run a stop sign as long as we live for Christ
- We are always under some kind of law

V 2-3 – What was the illustration of this principle? A husband and wife are bound to each other as long as both are alive
- Verses on divorce: Matthew 5.27-32, Matthew 19.1-10, 1 Corinthians 7.39
- Is this permanent aspect of marriage popular in the United States today? No
- Are there any practical reasons why divorce is bad? When the writer of these notes taught at the high school level, just about every discipline problem involved a student from divorced parents

V 4 – Analogy: Old Law = husband
- Disciples of Christ = wife
- The Old Law died so we can be joined to the new law

V 5 – Laws sometimes make good things seem bad and make us want them more
- Examples? When books at school are banned, those are the books that get read the most
- Another example: The use of alcohol during the Prohibition era – Because it was illegal, the brewing business boomed

V 6 – Released from the Law: John 19.30 – “It is finished.”
- When were we were released from the Old Law? When Christ died on the cross and the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom – Read Colossians 2.14

Romans 7.7-13

V 7 – Why was Paul still grateful of Old Testament? It taught us right from wrong and the basic principles of morality - See Romans 15.4

V 8 – Who took advantage of God’s first law? The serpent
- Same thing happened to the Jews and Paul
- It is like trying not to think about a pink elephant for five minutes

V 9 – When had Paul lived without the Law? As a child
- In what sense did he die? He could not keep the Old Law perfectly; therefore, he "died" in his sins
V 12 – Did Paul criticize the law? No, but sin took advantage of the weaknesses of the Law

V 13 – The Old Law became "sinful," because it encouraged sin (stirred up our passions to do what was forbidden and took advantage of our inability to keep from sinning)
-Think about what happens when we see a sign on a park bench that says, "Wet paint."
-What are we sorely tempted to do (and usually give in and end up doing)? We have to touch the bench to see if the paint is really wet

**Romans 7.14-20**

V 14 – Dualism (again) – conflict of spirit and flesh
- V 14 is an excellent example – sold into slavery and overcome by sin

V 15 – Paul speaks to each of us here
- Why is losing weight so hard? We know what we need to do, but we are too weak and end up eating the whole box of chocolates!

V 16 – Paul ended up doing what he was determined not to do

V 17 – Therefore what was in control of the life of Paul (when he lived under the Law)? Sin

V 18 – The Spirit is willing, but…? See Matt. 26.41, Mark 14.38

V 19 – Paul was frustrated and kept expressing that frustration of doing what he did not want to do

V 20 – Sin was continuing to dwell in him, to his great disappointment

**Romans 7.21-25**

V 21 – Were his intentions good? Absolutely, but he still did evil

V 22 – Where did the law of God reign? In the "inner" man (his soul, his thoughts, his intentions)

V 23 – What was fighting his "inner man"? The members of his body, which were waging war with his mind
-Example: A person on diet, but he eats a donut with 1000 calories
-Other passages: 1 Timothy 1.15 – Paul said that he was the chief of sinners
- Ephesians 3.8 – He called himself the least of the saints
- 1 Corinthians 15.9 – His actions were evil because he persecuted the church of God

V 24-25 – Conclusion: The Law tells us right from wrong, but that does not always stop us from sinning
-The answer? The death of the flesh through Jesus – Read Romans 6.6
-In other words, we die to sin, just as our savior died on the cross

Revised 2013-02-08
Romans 8

Romans 8.1-8

V 1 – What is Paul’s emotional tone here? He is just about shouting the good news (based on his message in Romans 7)

V 2 – Are we still under a "law" today? Absolutely – the "law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus"
   -How has that law set us free? We don't have to be perfect to meet the demands of this law

V 3 – Do we know what Jesus looked like (“likeness of sinful flesh)? Isaiah 53.2 – not handsome or desirable in appearance, a man of sorrows
   -Name for theory that Jesus did not come in flesh? Gnosticism

V 4 – How do we "walk" today? "…according to the Spirit"

V 5 – When people walk according to the flesh, what do their minds dwell on? Things of the flesh
   -Where is list of things for Christians to think about? Read Philippians 4.8-9

V 6 – What is the result of setting our minds on things of the Spirit? Life and peace

V 7 – What is the result of setting one's mind on the flesh? That person is hostile toward God

V 8 – What is the ultimate result of living according to the flesh? That person cannot please God

Romans 8.9-11

V 9 – How does the Holy Spirit interact with humans? The Spirit dwells in us
   -What is our situation if the Spirit does not dwell in us? We do not have Christ

V 10 – What keeps the Spirit alive in us? We have died to sin

V 11 – Notice that Paul repeatedly says that the Spirit dwells in Christians
   -Proof of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit:
     -Acts 5.32 – Peter said that the Spirit dwells in the Christian
     -1 Cor. 3.16 – The Spirit dwells in the Christian
     -1 Cor. 6.19 – The Spirit dwells in the body of the Christian
   -Some people have overreacted to the charismatic movement and want to say that the Spirit dwells in us only "symbolically" through the Word, but there is no passage in the Bible that says that
   -Yes, the Word dwells in us, and the Spirit dwells in us, but that does not mean that the Spirit
dwells in us through the word  
-As brother Thomas B. Warren used to say, A = C, and B = C, but that does not mean that A 
dwells in C through B  
-We might meet a person who says that he lives in Chicago, but supposed we ask him how he 
lives in Chicago  
-He would not understand the question – it would not make sense to him!  
-Yes, the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit, but that does not disprove the literal 
indwelling of the Spirit

For more information, see:
- Lanier, Roy, Sr., *The Timeless Trinity for the Ceaseless Centuries*, see pp. 353-82
  (ETSOPM Lectureship, 1981), pp. 127-31

**Romans 8.12-17**

V 12 – We are not forced to live holy lives (we are not under obligation)

V 13 – But what is our decision under the New Law? We decide (or choose) to live according 
the righteousness, and we ourselves put to death the unrighteous ways of our past

V 14 – How do we become "sons of God"? By being led by the Spirit

V 15 – In what sense are we not afraid? Fear no longer determines how we live (as it did 
under the Law of Moses)  
-But what does determine how we live? The fact that God has adopted us into his family, 
and as adopted children we can call on him as "Abba"

V 16 – We are now children of God  
-We have an entirely different motivation for determining our behavior

V 17 – How else are we described under the Christian Age? "Fellow heirs with Christ"  
-What comes with our new motivation as children of God? We are prepared to suffer 
with Christ

**Romans 8.18-25** – very symbolic language

V 18 – Read 2 Corinthians 4.16-18 – Though the outer man is decaying…  
-What are some of the worse forms of suffering in this life? Death of a loved one, 
sickness, persecution for our faith  
-How do we see persecution and suffering in this life? Nothing compared to the glory to 
come
V 19 – What other form of suffering do we see in this life? The creation itself suffers because of its corruption by sin
-We see the personification of nature in many other Scriptures:
-Psalm 98.7-8 – The rivers clap hands
-Isaiah 55.12 – The hills sing
-Ezekiel 31.15 – The trees fainted
-So nature has suffered because of sin and longs to be freed from sin
-How do we explain infectious diseases, tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, etc.? Because of the corruption of nature by sin

V 20 – Corruption spread to the natural world (as beautiful it can be in many ways)

V 21 – Read Rev. 21.1

V 22 – What does the creation do? Groan to be set free

V 23 – We also (as humans) groan to be set free from the corruption of this life
-1 Corinthians 15.50-54 – This body will put on immortality
-2 Corinthians 5.1-4 – If the earthly tabernacle is torn down...

V 24 – We eagerly await this redemption

V 25 – We have "hope" and look forward with the eyes of faith to our new bodies in eternity

Romans 8.26-30

V 26 – We don’t know how to pray
-See James 1.6-8 and James 4.3 – We ask with the wrong motives
-Were Paul’s prayers answered to his satisfaction? No, his thorn in the flesh was not removed (2 Corinthians 12.7-9)

V 27 – First "he"? God
-Second "he"? Holy Spirit
-What does the Holy Spirit do with our prayers? Tells the Father what we are really trying to say
-Most of us have had some terrible experiences that we have gone through, and we have been so distraught in our grief that we can only pray through our tears, "Be with me, Lord"
-The Spirit takes our thoughts and says what we really want to say and asks for what we really need

V 28 – Can evil events be used by God to the advantage of the Christian? Yes
-World War II was a catastrophic event for the world, but brother Otis Gatewood became a great missionary to Europe after the war and established many congregations there
-They probably would not have been established without the war
V 29-30 – The plan was predestined, not people
- The early Puritans believed that good works proved a person was saved, but that is not what the Bible says
- Those who have obeyed the gospel then fall under the eternal plan of God for salvation

Romans 8.31-39

V 31 – If God is for us, who is against us?
- Example: Like at a basketball game – us vs. Satan, but God is for us

V 32 - How do we know God is for us? V 32 – He gave his Son for our salvation

V 33 – Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? Elect = Saints? Philippians 1.1
- We are called “saints” (Ephesians 2.19)
- When the world is criticizing us, this can be our answer
- Remember Acts 9.13 – Paul persecuted the "saints" in Jerusalem

V 35 – Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
- Had Paul experienced any of these things?
- Tribulation – being dragged out of temple at Jerusalem at the end of his Third Missionary Journey
- Distress – Ephesus
- Persecution – Ephesus (riot), and at Lystra (Acts 14.9) being left for dead
- Famine – 14 days without food on the ship
- Nakedness, peril, shipwreck (Acts 27)
- Sword – The 40 assassins (Acts 23.12)

V 36 – Significance of the quote? The world sees us as targets of its wrath

V 37 – What a beautiful, beautiful passage - …through Him who loved us

V 38-39 – Angels (spirits) – girl at Philippi (Acts 16.18), also Colossians 2.13-15
- Principalities: Caesar, Agrippa, Felix
- There is no power that can separate us from Christ…except one: We can separate ourselves from God (Jude 20-21)

This chapter leaves us breathless with its beauty and power, and we have to again say that only the Holy Spirit could have inspired Paul to write these things

Revised 2013-02-09
Romans 9

Romans 9.1-5

V 1 – Why did Paul refer to his conscience? A conscience can serve us well, but not all the time
   -Had his conscience ever been mistaken?
   -Acts 8:1 – The persecution of Christians
   -Acts 7:58 – He held the clothes of Stephen
   -So how can we trust Paul's conscience in this chapter? Because the Holy Spirit was verifying the truth of what his conscience was saying

V 3 – "Anathema," literally: "accursed" or "sent to hell"
   -Who were his kinsmen according to the flesh? The Jews
   -What tribe was Paul from? The tribe of Benjamin - See Phil. 3:5

V 4 – Where did term "Israel" come from? Genesis 32:28 – Jacob wrestling with the angel; God changed Jacob's name to Israel
   -What advantages did the Jews have?
     -Adoption as sons of God
     -The glory that came with being Jews
     -The covenants
     -The giving of the Law
     -The temple service
     -The promises to the fathers

V 5 – What was the greatest honor that God gave to the Jews? The ancestry of Jesus Christ (according to the flesh)
   -Notice that Christ was saved to the last of the list

Romans 9.6-13

V 6 – Where else in Romans did Paul give this same idea? Romans 2:28-29
   -Were there any famous Israelites who were not true Jews, according to the flesh?
     Ruth, the Gibeonites, Rahab the Harlot and her family, others

V 7 – What descendant of Abraham was not included in the promises? Esau
   -What is Paul's point? Just being a descendant of Abraham was not all-important

V 8 – What is all-important? Being the children of promise
   -The message? Our relationship with God is spiritual, not physical
   -Throughout the Old Testament, God allowed Gentiles into his family, and he also excluded those such as Esau who rejected the rule of God in their hearts
V 9 – **What was the promise that was made to Sarah?** That she would bear a son in her old age
- **Was she a "Jew" at that time?** No, Judah was still three generations away

V 10 – **Was Rebekah a "Jew" when she bore twin boys?** No, this was still before the beginning of Judaism

V 11 – So God set the agenda in the Old Testament, and his will prevailed, regardless of whether a person was a Jew or not

V 12 – **Before they were born, what prophecy was made about Rebekah's twins?** The older one would serve the younger one

V 13 – **Was that predestination?** No, it was foreknowledge (there is a very important distinction there)
- God knew what was going to happen with the twins, but he did not predestine the life of either one
- God knew which would be merciful and righteous, and which one would be wicked
- Therefore, he arranged things to deal with Esau’s wickedness (he choose soup over the birthright, because he was interested only in immediate rewards)

**Romans 9.14-18**

V 14 – **What had brought about this question?** Selecting Jacob over Esau before birth
- It doesn't seem right in our sense of "fairness"

V 15 – **God's answer?** I will show mercy on the one that I choose to show mercy and will have compassion on the one I want to have compassion for - **Read Habakkuk 2.20**

V 16 – God is the one who makes the decisions, based on what he knows is coming in the lives of people

V 17 – **Exodus 7.3** – God hardened Pharaoh’s heart
- God could foresee that Pharaoh would be a wicked person, so he allowed him to become ruler of Egypt so that God’s will could be carried out in the Old Testament
- **Did God determine that Pharaoh would be a wicked person?** Not at all, but he took advantage of that wickedness to show love for the Israelites

V 18 – God is still in control of the universe, and he chooses to bless those who will be faithful to him, and he punishes those who will disobey him

**Romans 9.19-26**

V 19 – God is God, and puny little man has no right or power to question God's authority
V 20 – What extended illustration did Paul begin at this point? The molding of an object on the potter's wheel
-What is the message? The thing molded does not control the potter, but it is the other way around

V 21 – What choice does the potter have? To make an object for honorable use (a beautiful vase) or for common use (a simple pot for a plant to be raised in)

V 22 – Does God have the right to use "vessels of wrath" for his own purposes? Yes, just as he used Pharaoh to get the Jews out of Egypt
-Are there other examples of God directing his wrath toward evil people?
   -Aaron and the golden calf while Moses received the Ten Commandments – Moses made the people drink powdered gold in their water – Exodus 32
   -Nadab and Abihu (sons of Aaron) – Leviticus 10.1-2 – Consumed by fire
   -The people complaining about the manna – Numbers 11.1-9, 31.35
   -Lack of faith in the report of the spies sent into land of Canaan (10 with a bad report, 2 with a good report – Caleb and Joshua) – Numbers 14.30
   -Korah’s rebellion (swallowed into the earth) – Numbers 16

V 23 – Who are the “vessels of mercy” today? Christians, whether Jews and Gentiles

V 24 – Paul is speaking of the Roman Christians (primarily Gentiles)

V 25 – Who were "not my people"? The Gentiles

V 26 – What would the "not my people" be called, according to Hosea? The sons of the living God

Romans 9.27-29
V 27 – Out of all of God's people in the Old Covenant, how many will be saved? Only a small number, a remnant

V 28 – The judgment of the Lord will always be correct

V 29 – What comparison did Paul make? The Old Testament Jews were almost like the people who were annihilated at Sodom and Gomorrah, except that God saved a remnant of the Jews

Romans 9.30-33
V 30-31 – What ultimately doomed the Jews? Works
   -What ultimately saved the Gentiles? Faith
**V 32** – How did the Jews stumble? They "stumbled" over the stumbling stone
-What was that "stumbling stone"? Jesus Christ – **Read 1 Cor. 1.23**

**V 33** – What promise did God make to those who would not stumble over Jesus Christ?
They would not be disappointed
-What incredible thoughts here!

Revised 2013-02-09
Romans 10

Romans 10.1-4

V.1 – To whom does the word “them” refer? The Jews
-Why did Paul say “them”? Because he was a Christian first and a Jew second

V.2 – “Knowledge” is imperative – “I bear witness” – Galatians 1.14
-Paul spoke from experience and knowledge, not just feelings and opinions
- John Calvin: “It is better to limp along on the right road than to run on the wrong road!”
-Philippians 3.8-11 – All things are counted as lost when compared to knowing Christ
-Acts 17.11 – The church at Berea had a knowledge of the Bible from daily study

V.3 – Man’s righteousness – Colossians 2.16-23
-How did the Jews rely on their own knowledge? The writings of the rabbis and all their thousands of little rules that had nothing to do with the Word of God
-Examples? Not healing people on the Sabbath, not washing the outside of the cup, etc.

V.4 – In what sense was Christ the end of the law? When he died on the cross, the veil of the temple was torn from top to bottom and thus brought an end to the Law of Moses
-Why? Because the Most Holy Place was exposed to the world, and people could approach God directly without going through the Old Law

Romans 10.5-15

V.5 – What is the problem with keeping the Law of Moses? No-one had ever kept the law perfectly until Christ, and the Law could never save an imperfect person

V.6 – Has anyone ever come down from heaven to the earth? Yes, Jesus Christ
-Acts 17.26-27 – God is close to each person
-The Muslims must go to Mecca
-Mormons must visit various temples around the world
-Jews go to the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem
-But Christ has come down to us

V.7 – Has anyone ever descended to Hades and returned? Yes, Jesus Christ

V.8 – But we have the word of God with us (the Bible), and our savior has promised to be near us at all times

V.9 – What were the apostles preaching? That we must confess our faith that Jesus is Lord
-Are we saved only by confessing our faith in Christ? Absolutely not
-Read Matt. 4.4 – We have to take very passage that mentions salvation and follow all the instructions of the New Testament, not just one passage
V 10 – We must believe with our hearts and we confess our faith with our mouth
   -We remember two additional instructions in Acts 2.38 (to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of our sins)
   -We also remember 1 Peter 3.21, which tells us that just as the ark saved the eight people on board, so also baptism saves us

V 11 – Where else has Paul just quoted this Old Testament verse? Romans 9.33
   -Once we place our faith in Christ, we will not be disappointed (it will make such a great change in our lives)

V 12 – What has the New Testament done to the old view that the Jews were superior to all other people? It has destroyed that belief

V 13 – “To call upon” = “to rely upon” - See Acts 22.16

V 14 – Where does belief in Christ begin? With the preaching of the gospel

V 15 – What obligation to Christians have? To financially support those who want to preach the gospel
   -What did Paul say about the feet of preachers and missionaries? They are beautiful feet
   -Many times people will complain about the preaching of a certain person at a congregation, and yet those same people make no attempt whatsoever to encourage their own boys and men to go into preaching
   -And they would never consider giving financial support to any man going to a school of preaching or entering into a Christian college to prepare to preach
   -As we sometime say, it is better to light a candle than curse the darkness

Romans 10.16-21
V 16 – But even with good preaching, many people will not listen to the message and obey it

V 17 – Had the Jews of Paul’s day heard the gospel? Absolutely
   -Paul again emphasizes the importance of the preaching of the word

V 18 – How widespread has the preaching of the gospel been? Worldwide (there is no excuse for people to say in the Day of Judgment that they had no access to the gospel)

V 19 – To make the Jews jealous (and knowledgeable), the gospel was given to the Gentiles
   -Acts 28.22 – Even the Jews in Rome had heard of Christ (Paul met with them even before meeting with the Christians)
   -Who preached to the Gentiles first? Peter
   -Peter learned not to call any person common or unclean, and thus preached to the Gentiles for the first time
V 20 – A reference to whom? The Gentiles

V 21 – Examples in Acts of the obstinate nature of Jews:
- Stoning of Stephen – Acts 7.58
- Paul let down in basket at Damascus to keep from being killed by the Jews – Acts 9.25
- Paul stoned at Lystra at the instigation of the Jews – Acts 14.19
- Jewish Christians at Jerusalem wrote to Antioch urging circumcision – Acts 15.1
- Paul at Jerusalem was attacked by the Jewish mob at the temple – Acts 21.27
- The Jewish assassins swore to kill Paul – Acts 23.14
- Paul was mistreated by the Jewish lawyer Tertullus – Acts 24.1
- God had stretched out his arms to the Jews, but the majority of them to this day have rejected God's offer of love through his son Jesus Christ
- When we consider the love that God had for the Jewish people, it is stunning that they literally hated his son!

Revised 2013-02-10
Romans 11

Romans 11.1-6

V 1 – What chapters in Romans begin with a question? Rom. 3.1, 4.1, 6.1, 7.1, 11.1
- Was Paul a Pharisee or a Sadducee? Pharisee (Phil. 3.5)
- The difference? The Sadducees did not believe in the spirit world
- From reading Romans, how could we tell that Paul was a Jew? So many Old Testament references
- What question is Paul dealing with here? Has God completely abandoned and rejected the Jewish people?

V 2 – A remnant to be saved – Romans 9.27
- Elijah spoke of being abandoned by the Jewish people
- Does anyone remember any facts about Elijah? 1 Kings 17-18 – The contest with the prophets of Baal, the persecution by Queen Jezebel, having to flee to a foreign country, etc.

V 3-4 – A quote from 1 Kings 19.10, 14, 18
- Elijah felt totally rejected by the Jewish people
- But had all of the Jews rejected Elijah? No, in spite of what Elijah thought, there were still 7000 who were faithful to God and had not bowed their knees to Baal

V 5 – Was there a remnant of faithful Jews as Paul was writing this letter to the church at Rome? Yes, a remnant
- A lesson for us today? There are times when it looks as if the Lord's church is about to be extinguished from the face of the earth, but there will always be a remnant
- When the division came in 1906 over instrumental music in worship, the missionary society, fellowship with denominations, and similar issues, it is estimated that about 90% of the congregations were swept away by the apostasy
- But the faithful congregations knew that the kingdom of God would not come to an end, so these congregations began to rebuild
- Similarly, the message of v 5 was that there would be some Jews that would remain faithful to God and his son Jesus Christ
- The writer of these notes has known two Jewish Christians in the Chicago area, so God never abandoned his people
- It is just that most of his people abandoned him and the message of Christ

V 6 – Where else in Romans had Paul said that salvation was by grace and not works? Rom. 3.20, 3.24, 4.5, 6.14, 9.30-32
- Paul is stating again here that most Jews were lost because they tried to attain salvation by keeping the Old Law, along with all the writings of the rabbis
- Verses like these from Romans remind us of the words of Peter in 2 Peter 3.16
Romans 11.7-10

V 7 – Israel did not obtain salvation, because they tried to attain it by works
  -And when they rejected God's offer of salvation through Christ, God hardened their hearts to
    make them in example to the watching world

V 8 – A quote from Deut. 29.4

V 9 – A quote from Psalm 69.22
  -"Their table" = their basis for righteousness (works)

V 10 – A quote from Psalm 69.23

Romans 11.11-24

V 11 – Did God give up on the Jews? No, they gave up on God (at least the majority of them)
  -The writer of these notes has made several visits to the Field Museum in Chicago
  -It is interesting, but sad, that so many of the dates there are labeled as either "B.C.E." or
    "C.E.," which stand "Before the Common Era" or "Common Era"
  -The continuing rejection of Christ by the Jews can still be seen, even in dating events in
    world history
  -Anything to keep from referring to Christ (B.C. = Before Christ, A.D. = Anno Domini – In
    the Year of Our Lord)
  -The rejection of Christ by his own people continues

V 12 – "Their fulfillment" = the end of the Old Law
  -They had served their purpose
  -What had the Jews taught the world?
    -Monotheism
    -Prophecies of Messiah
    -Opposition to idolatry
    -Ten Commandments (a good legal system)
    -Origin of man and sin

V 13 – Paul has been writing about the Jews for many chapters, and he now turns his attention to
  his readers in Rome, who were mostly Gentiles, not Jews
  -Why was Paul interested in the Gentiles? Because Christ had commissioned him to
    devote the main thrust of his ministry to the Gentiles (Acts 9.15)

V 14 – What was the advantage of Paul's ministry to the Gentiles? It might make some of
  the Jews jealous to the point that they could be converted to Christ

V 15 – Could the Jews still turn to Christ? Yes

V 16 – Any interpretations? The root of righteousness will produce some good results
This verse is based on *Numbers 15.19-20*

**Romans 11.17-14**

**v 17** – Grafted stock = Gentiles

-Why can Gentiles not boast? Root supports branch – the branch cannot brag about being better than the roots of the tree

**v 18** – The branches (Gentiles) ought not to be bragging about their salvation, because it is based on the power of the Law in the Old Testament

**v 19** – Again, they should not rejoice and feel proud that the Gentiles have replaced the Jews on the holy tree

**v 20** – Why should the Gentiles not be arrogant? Jews were cut off, so Gentiles can also be cut off

-Instead of being conceited, how should the Gentiles view their faith? With fear (that unless they remain faithful….

**v 21** – They also can be cut off

**v 22** – What are the two aspects of God? His goodness and his severity

-Today in almost all denominational churches, which aspect is stressed over the other? His goodness

-Some of the TV evangelists have even stated that they will not even mention the word "sin," because they don't want to offend anyone

**v 23** – In theory what could happen to the Jews as a people? They could change their lives and become faithful Christians

-Would God accept them back? Yes, he would graft them back into his holy tree

**v 24** – What would be the advantage of the Jews being grafted back in? They had been a part of the natural tree to begin with, and it would therefore be easy to graft them back into the tree

**Romans 11.25-32**

**v 25** – What did Paul not want to happen to the Gentiles? That they would become arrogant over the fall of the Jews (that they would become wise in their own estimation)

**v 26** – A quote from *Isaiah 59.20*

**v 27** – Quotes from *Isaiah 59.21, Jer. 31.33*

-In trying to understand how "all Israel will be saved," let us remember that both Jews and
Gentiles were brought together into the body of Christ

-Read Ephesians 2.11-22
-In this passage, therefore, "Israel" refers to spiritual Israel, not fleshly Israel
-So there are no longer two bodies of righteous people (a remnant of the Jews, plus the Gentiles), but one body: the body of Christ or symbolically "all Israel"

V 28 – Does God still love the Jews? Yes, and his offer of salvation through Christ still stands

V 29 – God's offer of salvation cannot be revoked

V 30 – The Gentiles have been shown mercy and a way to be saved

V 31 – What about the Jews? God's offer of salvation to them is also still in effect

V 32 – How broad is God's mercy? It is available to all

Romans 11.33-36

V 33 – What is Paul rejoicing about here? The unfathomable mercy of God to all people
-What an incredibly beautiful verse!

V 34 – How can mankind understand the mercy and greatness of God? (a rhetorical question)

V 35 – Can we outshine God when it comes to mercy and blessings? No way

V 36 – A beautiful doxology to God (at the end of one of the deepest and most profound chapters of the Bible)

Revised 2013-02-10
Romans 12

Romans 12.1-2

V 1 – Paul was beseeching or urging his readers in this passage
- See Philemon 8-14 – Paul could have commanded this, but chose to urge Philemon
- We see the same idea here and also in Romans 6.12-14
- Why did Paul begin with the body? The conduct of the body is very important in the Christian faith, but totally ignored in Gnosticism
- In what passage did he say that his spirit was constantly at war with his body? Romans 7.23
- How is this different from the sacrifices in the Old Testament? In the Old Testament, animals were slain with much bloodshed, but our bodies are to be "living" sacrifices

V 2 – “Renewing of your mind” – A reference to studying the Bible
- We are to serve God with the body (1 Corinthians 6.12-20)
- Ways we can betray God with our bodies?
  - Giving in to stress or "hurry sickness"
  - Eating to the point of damaging our health
  - Being involved with sinful activities that carry diseases with them
  - Various other answers
- “Be not conformed to this world” – one must be transformed, or as we might say today, “Do not take this age as your fashion statement”
- Why not? 1 John 2.17 – This world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God abides forever
- Is Paul referring to outward forms of dress (for example: ties, shoes, dress pants)? No, 1 Corinthians 9.19-23 teaches that in terms of dress, we are to generally conform to the society where we are living
- Therefore, how are we not to be transformed? By avoiding immoral activities and everything else that might be contrary to the gospel of Christ

Romans 12.3-8

V 3 – Parallel passage – 1 Corinthians 12 (those with spiritual gifts were taking over the service)
- Why should one member not be boastful about his position or talents in the church? The church takes all kinds of members, and every member has something to contribute to the congregation

V 4 – In the human body, do all the members have the same function? Absolutely not

V 5 – In the same way, in the body of Christ, the members have different functions

V 6 – How are members to exercise their gifts? "Accordingly"
- An example from the First Century church? The gift of prophecy
V 7 – Two other gifts? Serving and teaching

V 8 – Other gifts in the First Century? Exhortation, giving, leading, mercy, cheerfulness
-What passage teaches that the gifts of the Spirit would be done away with later in the First Century? I Cor. 13.10

Romans 12.9-13
V 9 – Twenty-four admonitions which are easy to understand, but hard to follow
[Note to the teacher: You can ask the students to give examples of how each commandment could be carried out]
1. Let love be without hypocrisy
2. Abhor what is evil
3. Cling to what is good

V 10 – 4. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love
5. Give preference to one another in honor

V 11 – 6. Not lagging behind in diligence
7. Fervent in spirit
8. Serving the Lord

V 12 – 9. Rejoicing in hope
10. Persevering in tribulation
11. Devoted to prayer

V 13 – 12. Contributing to the needs of the saints
13. Practicing hospitality

Romans 12.14-21
V 14 – 14. Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse

V 15 – 15. Rejoice with those who rejoice
16. Weep with those who weep

V 16 – 17. Be of the same mind toward one another
18. Do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly
19. Do not be wise in your own estimation

V 17 – 20. Never pay back evil for evil to anyone
21. Respect what is right in the sight of all men

V 18 – 22. Live at peace with all men (so far as it depends on us)
V 19-20 – 23. Never take your own revenge, but leave room for the wrath of God

-Instead of taking our own revenge, what are we to do? Leave room for the wrath of God
-What has God promised? He will repay vengeance with vengeance
-Why should we turn it over to God? He has the wisdom and the power to deal out retribution to evil-doers who have mistreated us
-We will sleep a lot better and be able to keep from getting bitter if we allow God to deal with the situation
-What can we do in a situation where we have been mistreated? Return kindness for evil
-What will be the effect of that action? We will "heap burning coals on his head"
-How will that happen? They will be shocked by our kindness and feel guilty

V 21 – 24. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good

-Which are the hardest of these 24 commandments to follow? (Various answers from the class)
Romans 13

Romans 13.1-7

V 1 – Besides the government, what other authority are we to be in subjection to? Elders (who manage the church) – See Heb. 13.17
-What is the one exception to obeying the civil government? When government leaders order us to do something that violates the Gospel
-Do we have an example of this in the New Testament? See Acts 4.19-20 – Peter and John before Sanhedrin – they resolved to obey God, rather than men
-Does this verse refer to the occasional unintentional violation of a law? No, but it is a reference to rebellion
-Why are we to obey the government? Because God has commanded it
-Suppose the government leaders are atheists? God will deal with that situation, and he has not asked for our help

V 2 – What will happen to us if we disobey the government? Condemnation
-Is it possible to disobey the government and not get caught? Yes, occasionally it can be done

V 3 – Who should fear the government? Evil people

V 4 – Are we to punish other people? See Romans 12.19
-Does the New Testament endorse capital punishment in this verse? It allows it, but does not command it

V 5 – We are to obey for conscience sake

V 6 – What do we get in return for our taxes? Peace in a country, and evildoers are punished
-What did Jesus say about taxes? We are to pay our taxes to the civil government
-See Matthew 22.17-21

V 7 – Do our taxes ever go for sinful purposes? Yes, for example, some tax money is given to support Planned Parenthood and abortions
-What about the use of bribery in foreign countries where it is an accepted practice? We are to obey the laws of whatever country we are in

Romans 13.8-10

V 8 – Is there any religious group which follows this literally? Islamic people do not believe in borrowing money, but they have a way to get around that practice, so that they can get a loan from a bank
-Is it wrong to buy something on time? We are to have a plan to repay it on time
-What New Testament example do we have where a person said, “Charge these expenses
to my account and I will pay when I come again?” Good Samaritan - Luke 10.33-35

-What do we owe every person? Love

V 9 – What is the Old Testament summation of the Ten Commandments? Lev. 19.18 – You shall love your neighbor as yourself

-What kind of love is being described here? Love where we do what is best for the other person, based on the Word of God

V 10 – How is the law fulfilled in love? We do not do any wrong to a neighbor

Romans 13.11-14

V 11 – What time was it when Paul wrote this passage? Time for his readers at Rome to work out their salvation, according to the gospel of Christ

-What principle of time does Paul describe here? It is later than we think (we are closer to our eternal destiny than we have been in the past) - Read James 4.13-16

V 12 – Another reference to the quick passage of time

-What time was it? Time to lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light

-Where do we have a description of the spiritual armor of the Christian? Eph. 6.13-17

V 13 – Characteristics of a man of the world?

- Carousing
- Drunkenness
- Sexual promiscuity
- Sensuality
- Strife
- Jealousy

-Why did Paul bring up these sins? Because he was writing this letter from Corinth, one of the most wicked cities in the First Century

V 14 – If we are trying to break a sinful habit, what does Paul recommend? Do not make any "provision for the flesh"

-Examples of that principle? If we are trying to give up smoking, then we should not leave cigarettes laying around the house, just in case we might have a "nicotine attack"

-When traveling, we should not flirt with trouble, just because we might be away from home

-When this writer's father was a traveling salesman, he always locked door of the motel room and refused to open it until morning

Revised 2013-02-10
Romans 14

Romans 14.1-4
V 1 – How are we to deal with someone who is weaker in the faith? By not passing judgment on that person

V 2 - What example did Paul use? The person who is a vegetarian
  - Why might a person be a vegetarian? Health reasons, opposition to killing animals, a desire to be more conscious to environmental problems (pig farms, for example)

V 3 – How should the meat-eaters (carnivores) and the vegetarians treat each other? With respect and without judging
  - Why? Because God accepts both lifestyles in his believers

V 4 – Why are we not to judge our brothers and sisters in matters of opinion? We are answerable to Christ, and we are not to judge another master's servants
  - We may be our brother's keepers, but not our brother’s owners

Romans 14.5-9
V 5 – What is another area where we are not to judge other people? In the celebration of certain days and festivals
  - What could this have referred to in the First Century? The celebration of Jewish holidays, such as Pentecost, the Feast of Tabernacles, Feast of Lights (Hanukkah), Purim, etc.
  - What are examples of this principle today? The non-religious celebration of Christmas, Easter, Halloween, Valentine's Day, patriotic holidays, etc.
  - But we are not to violate our conscience in celebrating such holidays

V 6 – What principle applies to this principle? We are not to do anything that would be contrary to our understanding of the Gospel of Christ

V 7 – This reminds us of words of John Donne:
  “No man is an island, entire of itself. Every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main…. Any man’s death diminishes me, for I am involved in mankind. Therefore, never send for whom the bell tolls – it tolls for thee.”
  - V 7 teaches that our lives as Christians are interwoven, and we must be respectful of the views of our brothers and sisters in Christ

V 8 – This should remind us of an earlier verse: Read Romans 12.1
  - We have passed from death into life

V 9 – In all things, Christ is to rule our lives
Romans 14.10-12
V 10 – What is a danger in such things as holidays and festivals and similar matters? That we start judging our fellow Christians in matters of opinion

V 11 – Ultimately, God is in control, and we are to honor his wishes that we do not judge one another in matters of opinion

V 12 – Where else do we have this same idea? Romans 2.6 – according to his deeds
- Cases where we have to judge people:
  - Matthew 7.15-16 or 23 – False prophets
  - Romans 16.17-18 – Those who cause divisions
  - Philippians 3.1-2 - Evil workers
  - Read John 7.24 - In all things, we are to judge righteously

Romans 14.13-23
V 13 – Definition of a stumbling block? Something that might not be sinful in itself, but which might lead a weaker Christian astray
- Read 1 Cor. 8.1-13 – The eating of meat dedicated to an idol
- Read Romans 14.21 – Drinking wine (in moderation)
- At most congregations today, grape juice is used in the Lord's Supper – Why not wine? Because of recovering alcoholics who are usually members of any medium to large size congregation
- So if grape juice meets the requirement of "fruit of the vine," that is what we should use, based on this chapter

V 14 – Not a general statement, but talking about eating meat and celebrating certain days

V 15 – 1 Corinthians 8.13 ...I will eat no meat while the world stands (if it might offend a weaker Christian)

V 16 – What is the danger on this subject? That something which is allowed by the New Testament might cause an evil result

V 17 – What do eating and drinking have to do with the Gospel? Nothing (as long as weaker Christians are not led astray)

V 18 – God approves of our caution concerning weaker Christians and the danger of leading them astray

V 19 – What major principle does Paul give here? Our goal is to build up the congregation, not tear it down
V 20 – We are not to tear down the congregation, just so we can exercise our "rights" under the New Covenant
  -We are to think about the effect of our actions on the congregation and especially on weaker Christians

V 21 – What does Paul recommend concerning the weaker Christian? That we do not eat meat (offered to idols) and drink wine, if it might cause a weaker Christian to sin and fall back into sin

V 22 – We are to maintain our convictions and work for the building up of the congregation

V 23 – What is always a sin? To do something that we believe is a sin (whether it actually is or not)
  -The basic principle? God does not want us to do anything that violate our own conscience, because he considers that to be a sin

Revised 2013-02-11
Romans 15

Romans 15.1-6 – A continuation of the same basic message as in last chapter

V 1 – What obligation do strong Christians have? To help bear the weaknesses of other Christians
  -Notice that the Christian faith is not a selfish religion, but one in which we put the needs of others first

V 2 – How do we know how far to go in tolerating a person? As long as it for his own good
  -See Galatians 1.10
  -We are not to become "enablers," but we are to help as long as it is producing good in that person's life

V 3 – Who is our example in helping others and putting their needs first? Christ (bearing the reproaches that would have fallen on his disciples) – a quote from Psalm 69.9

  -Can you think of any Old Testament stories that teach us great lessons? Just look at Hebrews 11
  -For example, see Hebrews 11.23-29 concerning the life of Moses
  -Our faith is much stronger because of the example of Moses

V 5-6 – A brief prayer
  -In v 5, what did Paul pray for? That the church would all be of one mind and be at peace
  -In v 6, what else did he pray for? That the church would be united in praising Christ

Romans 15.7-13

V 7 – What is Paul's command here? That we could accept each other in the church and not tear down the church for our own glory

V 8 – Why did Christ preach to the Jews? To fulfill promises made to the fathers

V 9 - Why did he preach to the Gentiles? Because they glorified the mercy of God
  -The purpose of these verses? To show that the Old Testament prophesied about the Gentiles
  -A quote from 2 Sam. 22.50 and Psalm 18.49

V 10 – A quote from Deut. 32.43

V 11 – A quote from Psalm 117.1

V 12 – A quote from Isaiah 11.10
  -What do we know about Jesse?
- **Read 1 Samuel 16.1-5** – He would be the father of the next king (after Saul)
  - Jesse was the grandson of Boaz and Ruth (Boaz was son of Rahab) – See *Ruth 4.18-22*
  - So Jesse was a descendant of a Gentile grandmother (Ruth), and through Jesse came David, and Christ descended through David by way of Mary (*Luke 3.32*)
**What was Paul's message in v 9-12?** That the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians must learn to live together in peace

**Romans 15.14-21**

**V 14** – What three compliments did Paul make concerning the Christians in Rome?
  - Full of goodness
  - Filled with all knowledge
  - Able also to admonish one another

**Where else in Romans did he compliment them?** Romans 1.8
**How are we to admonish one another?** – *Matthew 18.15-20, Galatians 6.1-2, 1 Timothy 5.19-21* (how to deal with corrupt and unqualified elders)

**V 15** – Why did Paul write boldly in this letter only on some points? Because he had not established this congregation and would wait until he could visit there to make further comments for them

**V 16** – What did Paul hope to accomplish with the Gentile Christians? To present them as an acceptable offering to God (since he had been appointed to preach to the Gentiles)

**V 17** – Boasting in Jesus
  - **What was Paul proud of?** The success of the church at Rome (primarily a Gentile congregation)

**V 18** – Where had most of the mission work of Paul been done? In the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire

**V 19** – Where had Paul preached? Jerusalem to Illyricum
  - We have no other record of his preaching in Illyricum (the eastern most location of his preaching)
  - He must have gone there when he preached in Ephesus

**V 20 - His philosophy as a missionary?** Not build on another man’s foundation
  - Like the old Star Trek series, “To boldly go where no man has gone before”
  - That was Paul's philosophy of mission work, to preach where no preacher had previously gone
  - We have to admire Paul dedication and courage in maintaining that philosophy

**V 21** – A quote from *Isaiah 52.15*
-Notice in this book how Paul continues to weave Old Testament Scriptures into his writing

-Why was he constantly doing this? He is familiarizing the Gentile readers with the Old Testament and showing them how it was the foundation of the New Testament

Romans 15.22-29

V 22 – Paul had thus far not been able to visit the church in Rome

V 23 – But he had wanted to visit Rome for many years

V 24-25 – What were Paul’s plans? Go to Jerusalem, then spend time in Rome, and then go on to Spain

-Spain had just been conquered by Rome and was the center of much activity

-Two non-biblical manuscripts say he made it to Portugal and Spain in 62-64 A.D., but we have no inspired statement to that effect

-We know that he was a prisoner in Rome in 65 A.D. and was probably executed in 67 A.D.

-See 2 Timothy 4

V 25 – Why was he going to Jerusalem next? To take his offering from the churches for the starving saints in Jerusalem - See 1 Corinthians 16.1-4

V 26 – A reference to the money that he had collected from various congregations

-See Acts 11.28 – Agabus prophesied a famine in Palestine

V 27 – Why should Gentiles help Jewish Christians? They were spiritual debtors to the Jews

-Jews: Christ, 12 apostles, Jewish diaspora

-Acts 2 - The first church was Jewish

V 28 – His plan for future travel? To Rome and then on to Spain

V 29 – He expects Christ to bless in in his journey to Rome

Romans 15.30-33 – Very interesting request

V 30 – Three missionary journeys and now he was on the way to Jerusalem

-What did he ask the Christians at Rome to do for him? Pray for him

V 31 - What was prophesied that would happen to him in Jerusalem? Acts 20.22-23 – He was to be persecuted there

-What did he ask them to pray for? His safety in Jerusalem and for him to be allowed to go to Rome

-Were their prayers answered? Yes

-Should we ever ask fellow Christians to pray for us? James 5.16-18
V.32 – His goal was to make it to Rome and be refreshed by them

V.33 – A final blessing in this chapter (the basic message of the letter was ending at this point)

Revised 2013-02-11
Romans 16

Romans 16.1-16

V 1 – These two verses basically constitute a letter of recommendation for Phoebe
-We have other references to such letters: See Acts 18:27, 2 Corinthians 3:1-3, Philippians 2:28-30
-Why would such letters be useful in the First Century? Because Christians were constantly traveling across the Roman Empire, and there was a danger of false teachers visiting a congregation - See 2 John 9-11
-Paul refers to her as a "servant" of the church (the female word for "deacon")
-Did this make her a deaconess? There is no evidence of a special group of women of this type for several centuries after the establishment of the Lord's church

V 2 – It appears from these words of Paul that probably Phoebe was delivering the letter from Paul to the church at Rome
-Maybe she was a business woman (as Lydia was) and was traveling to Rome, or maybe she had other reasons to be traveling there
-Why didn't Paul just mail the letter to the church at Rome? At this point in the Roman Empire, only public officials could use the imperial postal service for letters
-How was the church in Rome to receive Phoebe? "In the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints"
-What else were they to do for her? Render any assistance that she might have needed
-Who had Phoebe helped in the church? The apostle Paul, as well as many others
-Here is a faithful Christian lady who rendered very valuable service to the church and was rewarded by having her name inscribed in the Holy Word for all time - What a great honor!
-Most of us who are involved the full-time in the work of the church know modern day women who walk in the footsteps of Phoebe

Romans 16.3-16

-What do we know about them? Tentmakers, forced to leave Rome, corrected the misunderstandings of Apollos (Acts 18.24-26), frequently mentioned in the letters of Paul

V 4 - What else had they done? They had risked their lives for the sake of Paul

V 5a – What other service had they rendered to the First Century church? They had used their house as a meeting place for the church
-Other verses on churches meeting in houses
-1 Corinthians 16.9 – Church in house of Priscilla and Aquilla
-Colossians 4.15 – Church in house of Nympha
-Philemon 2 – Church in house of Philemon
-Acts 1.13 – Upper room
-Acts 20.8 – Upper room
-What are the disadvantages of a church building? Maintenance costs, plus the temptation to refer to the building as the "church"
-What are the advantages of a church building? No interruptions from family pets, more room, classrooms
-Where did Paul preach a sermon about the temptation to put God into a building? Acts 17.24-25 – God does not dwell in temples made with hands

V 5b – Greetings to Epaenetus
-Who was he? The first convert in the Roman province of Asia

V 6 – Next greetings? Mary
-Her distinction? Had worked hard for the church

V 7 – Greetings to Andronicus and Junias (probably husband and wife), kinsmen of Paul
-"Apostles" – used in general sense of “messengers” or literally "those sent out"
-2 Corinthians 8.23 – See the footnote in the NASB
-Philippians 2.25 – See the footnote here also in the NASB
-What great compliments did Paul give them? They were fellow prisoners with Paul at some point, and they had been converted before Paul was

V 8 – What do we know about Ampliatus? Only that he was beloved to the apostle Paul

V 9 – Next to be greeted? Urbanus (meaning: "of the city") and Stachys (their identity was known only to Paul)

V 10 – The distinction of Apelles? "Approved in Christ"
-Also greetings to Aristobulus and his household

V 11 – Greetings to Herodion ("from the household of Herod"), probably a former slave
-His distinction? A relative of Paul's
-Greetings to Narcissus, "who are in the Lord"

V 12 – Distinction for Tryphaena and Tryphosa (probably sisters)? Workers in the Lord
-Distinction for Persis? "...has worked hard in the Lord"

V 13 – Distinction for Rufus? "A choice man in the Lord"
-See Mark 15.21 – a son of Simon of Cyrene (a great story there!)
-His mother was probably not literally the mother of Paul, but she had been very helpful to Paul and had "mothered" him

V 14 – Asyncritus, Phelgon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brethren
-What great honor they receive? Having their names recorded in the Word of God

V 15 – What honor went to Philologus, Julia, Nereus, his sister, Olympas (very common
slave names)? All the "saints"

V 16 – “The holy kiss” – Should we be greeting each other in the church today with a holy kiss?
- The Bible gives us various ways to greet one another:
  - Luke 7.45 – “You gave me no kiss” – to Simon the Pharisee
  - Luke 22.48 – Betraying the Son of man with a kiss”
  - Luke 15.20 – Father kissed Prodigal Son
  - 2 Corinthians 13.12 – Holy kiss
  - 1 Corinthians 16.20 – Holy kiss
  - 1 Thessalonians 5.26 – Holy kiss
  - 1 Peter 5.14 – Kiss of love
But consider also:
- 2 Kings 10.15 – Handshake
- Ezra 10.19 – Gave their hand
- Galatians 2.9 – The right hand of fellowship

- What name describes the various congregations of the Lord's church? …the churches of Christ
- What is the great message of v 1-15? – Even though Paul had not been in Rome, still he knew so many people there and felt a very strong attachment to them in Christian love
  - For many of these names, we know nothing else about them, but they were faithful Christians in the First Century
  - So also today many of the "nameless" Christians who are working in the kingdom of Christ will find their names someday recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 21.27)

Romans 16.17-20
V 17 – From what we have studied elsewhere in Romans, what kinds of false teachers might they have had in Rome? Legalists (Jewish converts), false teachers on meat (Romans 14)
  - How was the church to treat the false teachers and the divisive members? "Turn away from them"

V 18 – Why? Because their “smooth and flattering speech” would deceive other Christians
  - See 1 Corinthians 2.1-5 – We do not use that kind of speech in converting people
  - See 1 Corinthians 5.6 – Such false teaching will spread in the congregation, if it is not stopped

V 19 – Be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil
  - Applications? Our passion in life should be in doing what is right
  - Negative example: Our passion should not be how to pick locks or rob banks

V 20 – A reference to what Old Testament verse? An echo of Genesis 3.1-6
  - Where in the book of the Revelation do we also read about the defeat of Satan? Rev. 20.1-3
Romans 16.21-24

V 21 – Greetings from Timothy, Lucius (Acts 13.1), Jason (Acts 17.5-9), Sosipater (Acts 20.4) -All Paul's kinsmen

V 22 – The letter is being dictated to Tertius (See 1 Cor. 16.21, Col. 4.18, 2 Thess. 3.17)
-Why would Paul have been dictating this letter? One possibility: His "thorn in flesh" might have had something to do with eye problems or even blindness
-See Galatians 4.15, 6.11

V 23 – More greetings from Gaius (1 Cor. 1.14), Erastus (2 Tim. 4.20), and Quartus
-Notice Erastus – Some in the church today say that there should be a complete separation between civil government and Christians, that we cannot even work or participate in any way in the government and should not even vote
-What does the example of Erastus show? He was the treasurer for the city
-Paul did not condemn him for holding that position (very, very interesting)

V 24 – Final greetings of Paul’s friends

Romans 16.25-27

V 25 – How could the Roman Christians be established in the faith? By following the gospel that Paul taught and the preaching of Jesus Christ
-What was the mystery that was hidden in the Old Testament? The way that God was working out a grand plan of salvation for all mankind, but which was revealed in the New Testament

V 26 – The "mystery" has been made known to all mankind

V 27 – Paul's final message? We owe all to the wisdom of God, revealed to us through Jesus Christ
-So be it!

Revised 2013-02-11