



Chapter Sixteen

INTRODUCTION

NOTE: Romans 16 is mostly a formal ending to the letter .

In essence, however, this chapter gives us a closer glimpse of Paul's personality and his genuine warm affection for his brethren.

Persecution and hard times tend to create strong bonds between comrades, and this is exemplified in Paul's greetings to his students and brethren in Rome.

Like today, Christ's ecclesia was facing a hostile world, and Paul wanted to assure and strengthen them.

CHAPTER 16 is the last of Paul's Letter To The Romans. This important and very old letter was written over 1900 years ago. It is, today, one of our most important links to the past and to truth and sanity ... two qualities that are scarce these days.

At the end of this lesson is a short recap. One thing we've learned from Romans is that the Ecclesians in Rome were quite normal. They had normal problems and needed normal correction. They needed the word of God, and they needed encouragement ... just as we today. They struggled as we struggle ... and like us they had to deal with false doctrines and confusion caused by non-Biblical religions and systems of government. In the normal channels of life they had the same sort of problems as we, and Paul's instructions to the Romans are certainly applicable to our world today.

In chapter 15, Paul ended the main body of this letter. Therefore, chapter 16 is a rather long farewell as the ending to his letter.

In chapter 15 Paul promised to visit the Romans on his way to Spain. Obviously, he planned to go to Spain and was waiting for Christ to provide a way. However, while there is no evidence in the canonized text that Paul ever made it to Spain, I must add that there are other texts which claim he did eventually get to Spain.

One such text is a manuscript purportedly found in Turkey by a man named Sonnini. Sometime in the late 1700's, C.S.Sonnini published his copy of *Sonnini's Travels in Turkey and Greece*. Interleaved was a copy of the manuscript found in the Archives of Constantinople presented to him by the Sultan Abdoul Achmet. He was traveling during the reign of Louis XVI, who reigned from AD 1774 to AD 1793. This manuscript claimed to be the "lost 29th chapter of Acts." Now, as you know, in our English Bibles Acts ends with chapter 28. But some scholars allege that the so-called "lost 29th chapter" should have been included.

Quoting from an English translation of the Turkish manuscript, we see that it does indicate that Paul eventually went to Spain. Starting in verse one of the alleged 29th chapter of Acts, it says:

1. And Paul, full of the blessings of Christ and abounding in the spirit, departed out of Rome, determining to go to Spain for he had a long time purposed to journey there and was minded also to go afterward to Britain.

2. For he had heard in Phoenicia that certain of the children of Israel, about the time of the Assyrian captivity, had escaped by sea to the isles afar off, as spoken by the prophet Ezra and called by the Romans Britain.

3. *And the Lord caused the gospel to be preached far hence to the nations and to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and no man hindered Paul for he testified boldly of Jesus before the tribunes and among the people.*

4. *And he took with him certain of the brethren which abode with him in Rome and they took shipping at Austrium and, having the winds fair, were brought safely into a haven of Spain.*

5. *And much people were gathered together from the towns and villages and the hill country for they had heard of the conversion of the apostles and the many miracles which he had wrought.*

6. *And Paul preached mightily in Spain and great multitudes believed and were converted for they perceived he was an apostle sent from God . . .*

The rest of the 26 verses continue talking about Paul departing from Spain and going on to Britain. Now, I'm not qualified to state whether or not Chapter 29 is authentic. I can only tell you that it exists, and you can judge for yourself.

One thing we do know is that Paul did visit the brethren at Rome ... but not under the circumstances he had hoped. In Acts 24-28 we read that Paul was arrested in Jerusalem and extradited to Rome as a prisoner to stand trial before Caesar.

We also know, from the book of Acts, that Paul stayed in Rome as a prisoner for some time and that he was given some degree of freedom while there, so that he shared the good news of Christ's Kingship to people who came to hear him. In this way he was able to witness to his Christian brethren there in Rome.

ROMANS 16:1-16 THE ECCLESIA AT ODDS WITH THE WORLD

I commend to you Phebe our sister, who is also a servant of the ecclesia which is at Cenchræa:

That you receive her in the Lord, as it is fitting for saints, and that you

assist her in whatever matter she may need of you: for she has been a guardian to many, and to myself also.

Greet Priscilla and Aquila my fellow workers in Christ Jesus.

Who have risked their necks for my soul: to whom not only I, but also all the ecclesias of the nations, give thanks.

Likewise greet their ecclesia house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Asia for Christ.

Greet Mary, who bestowed much labour on us.

Salute Andronicus and Junia, my kinsmen, and my fellowprisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

Greet Ampilas my beloved in the Lord.

Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys.

Greet Apelles the one approved in Christ. Greet those from the household of Aristobulus.

Greet Herodion my kinsman. Greet those of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, who labor in the Lord. Greet our beloved Persis who labored much in the Lord.

Greet Rufus the called-out one in the Lord, and his mother and mine.

Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brethren together with them.

Greet Philologus, and Julia, Nereus, and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints together with them.

Greet one another in a holy kiss. The ecclesias of Christ salute you.

THESE are Paul's concluding remarks and fond admonitions to his brothers and sisters in Rome.

Phebe is called "a servant" of the ecclesia at Cenchræa on the isthmus of Corinth. It is instructive to note that the word "servant" (Gk: *diaconos*) is the same word translated "deacon" in other places. Because of this, some have wrongly assumed that Paul was addressing Phebe as a church officer: a "deacon." But in fact the scripture is merely stating that Phebe served (ministered to) the local ecclesia ... as the word "*diaconos*" (sometimes translated "deacon") simply means "servant" or "minister." Phebe was a servant to the ecclesia.

The references to deacons in other places should have been consistently translated "servant" or "minister" as well.

Today, most people are under a misconception that churches are Christian, and that "elder" and "deacon" indicate offices in a church. However, this is not true. I've pointed out before that "elder" is not an office in a church but rather an older man. "Elder" means an "older" and thus honored man. By the same token, a "deacon" is anyone who serves or ministers.

Aquila and Priscilla, man and wife, likewise were named by Paul. He said he owed them a great debt, as did all of the ecclesias.

The King James Version, in verse 5, says "greet the church that is in their house." The actual wording is better translated "greet their ecclesia house." An "ecclesia house" is simply a meeting house. It is a house like an early American meeting house wherein they considered community and political affairs (remember, an ecclesia is not a church). An "ecclesia house" is essentially a "community center" or "meeting house."

It seems that Andronicus and Junia were in prison ... either at the same time as Paul, or possibly in the same prison. Apparently they had been following Christ even before Paul himself began following Him.

These scriptures should encourage prisoners, especially those who are

imprisoned unjustly. Contrary to conventional wisdom, it is not necessarily shameful to be in a Beast-System jail. Unfortunately, most people have come to believe that imprisonment stigmatizes men. This is an illusion which has captured all who accept “reality by consensus” instead of observing truth. Consensus has never been an accurate means to determine truth.

People who look to God’s Law as their standard of truth are reviled by governments of men, and sometimes labeled criminals. A criminal is defined as a “lawbreaker” ... but we must ask “by whose laws or standards”? The law in man’s government is NOT the law of God. Therefore man’s law cannot define a true criminal (law breaker) ... and we should not stigmatize a man for being imprisoned in the Beast System.

The truth is, some of the very best people who ever lived were, themselves, prisoners and/or fugitives from the Beast System. And the reason this is the case is that men’s governments are criminal organizations. They kill the best people or put them in jail. It’s a theme that runs throughout history. It’s that simple.

It is a fact that dissenters of the Beast System are usually despised by the general public. Sometimes, however, after they are dead a generation or two, in retrospect their lives are reinvented, rewritten and then sanctioned. It seems that “heroes” are more easily created posthumously by later generations who revise history to make them politically correct instead of controversial and at odds with the Beast.

Take Jesus for example. He was hated by almost everybody around Him. A mere handful of disciples liked Him ... but they were too weak to stand up for Him at his crucifixion. On the other hand, today – hundreds of years after the fact – almost no one will condemn Him. This is because Jesus has been reinvented by modern spin doctors and so-called theologians. The Jesus of today’s churches has little if any similarity to the real Jesus. Over the years his record has been altered to fit the Beast System.

Another well-known example is John Wycliffe. He was a man hated by his contemporaries ... so much so that they killed him. Then years later they dug his bones up and burned them publicly to restate their hatred for him.

John Wycliffe’s crime was that he translated the Greek scriptures into English so the common people could read them. For that he was demonized by the Beast System and executed ... and the public accepted it.

The point is, most people thoughtlessly accept the lies of the Beast System. Furthermore, you and I may someday find ourselves also facing government persecution and slander ... not for doing bad, but for doing good. And the public would no doubt accept the Beast System’s slander against us. If we are jailed or killed for doing good, or for standing up for Christ, then it is no dishonor. On the contrary, it seems the most righteous men often get caught in the jaws of the Beast ... while the masses quiver in their shoes and slavishly agree with the Beast. It is politically correct to accept the stigma associated with imprisonment, and public consensus may condemn a man who stands against the government ... but the followers of Christ should know

better than to accept the Beast’s lies. They should have more character. It could happen to any of us.

There are other examples we could cite, but these should suffice.

In Romans 16, Paul and some other people were prisoners caught in the jaws of the beast.

In verse 13, Paul calls Rufus his brother in the sense of being a spiritual brother in Christ ... not that they were of the same mother. Apparently the mother of Rufus had also treated Paul well in the past.

Verse 16 is the end of Paul’s closing salute. He commends them as his friends, and commends them to the Lord. Then, as an addendum to the letter, and after the ending of his greeting, he includes a few additional admonitions.

QUESTION: When you say that churches should have no offices of “deacon” or “elder” are you saying that an orderly church infrastructure is a bad thing?

ROMANS 16:17, 18 AVOID THOSE WHO DENY CHRIST

Now I exhort you, brethren, watch those who cause divisions and stumbling contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them.

For such ones are serving not our Lord Christ, but their own bellies; and by smooth talk and flattery they seduce the hearts of the harmless.

LET us make sure we understand what this says ... because while divisions are often bad, the fact is divisions are sometimes necessary. Causing a division is not bad if it’s for the right purpose. Jesus himself caused divisions.

In other words, divisions and offenses are not necessarily bad unless they are for the purpose of confusing and weakening the brethren – things that are contrary to the teachings of the Bible.

Often the teachings of Christ cause divisions. The Gospels tell us plainly that Jesus caused divisions ... divisions to separate God’s people from the world. Read the words of Jesus if you question this:

51. Do you suppose that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, No; but rather division:

Luke 12:51

Divisions are necessary for calling people out of the Beast System. The people we are supposed to mark are those who cause divisions only when they are **CONTRARY TO THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST**.

Jesus offended people right and left. He caused more divisions than any man ... and continues dividing people to this day. Also, his disciples went through the land, teaching his word, causing divisions constantly. The Word Of God is a two-edged sword dividing the right from the wrong, the sheep from the goats. Those who hear are divided; the sheep on one side, and the goats on the other. It was a judgment process. And, of course, judgment is the process of dividing right from wrong. It happens every day, right now.

The Word of God divides and offends nearly everybody that hears it – ourselves included. The first time we hear a new idea it usually offends us. And if you speak the Word of God to someone for the first time, you are going to offend him.

But Paul is saying watch (or mark) those who cause divisions for the purpose of leading people into error. Read this in context and you'll understand. The ones who teach contrary to the doctrine of Christ are to be marked.

Now, who could this possibly refer to ... other than preachers? These are the ones who spin good words and fair speeches for ulterior motives. Preachers seek the spotlight of celebrity, cloaked in piety, feigning good will ... and all the while serving their own bellies. Not everyone who says "Lord, Lord" is known by Christ (Mtt. 7:22-23).

"Serving your own belly" means following the lusts of your flesh rather than the will of your Lord. A man who claims to speak for the Lord is inviting a terrible judgment. If he speaks for himself and pretends it is of the Lord, that man is calling destruction upon himself. We see it everyday across the nation. Men (preachers) brazenly claim to speak for God, when actually they are pursuing profit and ego ... deceiving the simple minded.

Whatever reward they garner – money, popularity, etc. – it will be the only reward they get. You can be assured that they are being judged by Christ. They are not blessed, they are not secure, they do not have peace of mind. They are selling their souls cheap.

QUESTION: Is it possible that Paul was telling churches to not fight with each other so they can unify against the enemy?

ROMANS 16:19 WE ARE TO BE "UNMIXED"

For your obedience is come to the notice of all. I rejoice therefore over you: but I want you wise indeed as to the good, and unmixed (uncompromised) as to the bad.

Paul commended their obedience. However, there were some there who weren't obedient.

THE King James Version says Paul admonished them to be "simple" concerning the evil. The word "simple" is okay providing it is defined properly. In the strict sense, "simple" means unmixed or pure. Paul

tells them to remain wise to that which is good and **unmixed** concerning that which is bad.

There is more to this than may meet the eye. In Genesis 2 we can find a clarification of just what Paul meant by "unmixed."

16. And the Lord God commanded the man [Adam], saying, Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat:

17. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die.

Genesis 2:16, 17

Religion, down through the ages, has struggled to understand the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil ... without much success. Religious descriptions of this "tree" have been numerous and often laughable. One common description is that it was a literal tree with literal, edible fruit. Other creative ideas surfaced ... and myths have grown from there. One thing of which we can be sure is that the "tree" was NOT literal ... nor was the fruit. It was something else.

The first thing we should note is the name of the tree: "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." This was a very interesting tree indeed! **What kind of tree produces both good knowledge and evil knowledge?** With both "good" and "evil," it can certainly be said that this tree produced a **MIXTURE**. In other words, this infamous tree produced an effect that was the opposite of "**unmixed**." The "serpent" (deceiver) promoted a mixture of both good and evil.

In contrast, Paul admonished his Roman brethren to strive to be **UNMIXED OR UNADULTERATED**. Now, let's look at Genesis 3 to see another clue:

4. And the serpent said to the woman, You shall not surely die:

Genesis 3:4

The serpent told the woman that it was okay to eat of this tree. He said "you shall not surely die" as God said.

5. For God knows that in the day you eat

of it [by mixing good and evil], then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing (both) good and evil.

Genesis 3:5

The serpent was not a literal snake as the churches claim. He was a misinformation agent ... probably either a preacher or a politician. He was teaching a **doctrine of mixture** (i.e., compromise)! According to the serpent, self-sovereignty, mixture, and compromise were the way to power and godship. This doctrine can be found in every religion the world around, as it can also be found in every government the world around. "Mixture" (adulteration of truth) is the very foundation of politics. They call it "negotiation" and "compromise." Only a sovereign can compromise and negotiate law. And in Genesis we see the woman (Eve) fell for it.

Eve was recruited into the philosophy of compromise and self-sovereignty. She became convinced that she could learn both good and evil, and then mix the two based upon her own judgment. This, then, made her "as God, understanding good and evil."

Can you imagine the exhilaration ... putting yourself on the level of God, and making laws based upon your own judgment? She became a god in her own mind. **Understand this one point and you will at once be able to grasp the majority of Bible teaching.**

The great sin depicted in the garden of Eden was the acceptance of the doctrine of MIXTURE. It was not the rejection of good. Nor was it the choosing of evil. **RATHER, IT WAS THE MIXING OF GOOD AND EVIL.** Do you understand this?

God told them to obey Him and choose good ... but the serpent told them to mix good and evil according to their own preferences ... and to obey their own hearts. By this process they would assume the status of gods themselves. What is the definition of "a god"? Simply this: **A GOD IS ANYONE WHO MAKES LAW.** When Adam and his wife agreed to be "gods" they rejected Yahweh as their Lawmaker and usurped the po-

sition themselves. Instead of accepting Yahweh's laws they decided to mix good with evil to make their own laws ... as every government around the world does today.

What Paul was telling the Romans was to stay away from serpent-type teachings which teach men that they should take it upon themselves to sample both good and evil and determine for themselves how much of each they should include in their laws. He told them to remain unmixed (uncompromised) concerning bad. Don't mix bad with good.

Much more could be said on that one subject. But, suffice it to say that Paul was talking about the same thing that Moses wrote about. Remain "unmixed" concerning the bad.

QUESTION: Did Adam and Eve really know the difference between right and wrong before they "partook" of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil? It sounds like having the knowledge of good and evil would be a good thing because then you would know right from wrong. It sounds like God wanted to prevent them from fully understanding right from wrong. Did He want them to blindly obey Him and not think for themselves?

ROMANS 16:20-26 MYSTERIES ARE NOT UNKNOWABLE

And the God of peace shall crush the adversary under your feet quickly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Timothy my fellow worker, and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsman, greet you.

I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, greet you in the Lord.

Gaius, the host of me and the whole ecclesia, greets you. Erastus the steward of the city, and Quartus his brother greet you.

Now to him who is powerful to establish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the disclosure of the mystery which was kept silenced until eonian times.

But now is manifested through prophetic scriptures according to the mandate of the God of this eon made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.

To God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ into the eons. Amen.

IN VERSE 20, Paul says that when God crushes the adversary it will happen "quickly."

There are many "adversaries." So, which adversary was Paul referring to? The same great adversary we face today: THE BEAST SYSTEM. In Paul's day it was the Roman government and the Jerusalem Sanhedrin empowered by Rome. They were killing or imprisoning people who were associated with Christ. Man's government was, and still is, the adversary (the satan).

The government of Rome did eventually fall, as did Jerusalem ... and they both fell quickly.

Verse 22 tells us that Paul's personal scribe, Tertius, apparently penned at least some, and possibly all, of the book of Romans for Paul. Paul's bad eyesight would have hindered him from doing it himself. So Tertius became his scribe. Galatians 6 gives us at least part of the explanation as to why Paul needed a scribe or a penman:

11. You see how with large writings I

Paul penned this note toward the end of this letter to the Galatians. Apparently, he had written in large letters because his eyes were bad ... probably from having been blinded by a light from heaven on his way to Damascus (Acts 9). He got his sight back later. However, his sight was not good from that time on. In fact, he prayed three times that he could be healed of his "thorn in the flesh," but the Lord told him "My grace is sufficient" (2 Cor. 12:1-10). Thus, Paul needed Tertius to assist in writing the letter.

In verse 25 the word "disclosure" is sometimes translated "revelation." It is one of those words that churches have redefined. The churches tell us that a "revelation" is a magical event that gives occult knowledge through supernatural means. However, in truth it simply means disclosure: to reveal something that hadn't previously been revealed. A child just starting school does not understand the "mystery" of reading words, but that mystery is soon disclosed to him, and then it is no longer a mystery. Mysteries are not magical. They are merely parts of the learning process.

A mystery is THAT WHICH IS NOT YET REVEALED. A mystery is learnable, but not yet learned. After it is revealed it is no longer a mystery. Think again of the small child learning how to read. The teacher explains the words to the child, and in the process the teacher converts the mystery into new knowledge. This passage speaks of a message that, up to that time, had not been explained. The true understanding had waited until eonian times. Eonian times (New Covenant times) was now upon them, and the message was being clarified. The "mystery" was no longer a mystery.

They were in the age (eon) of the Kingdom: the age of the new covenant. Remember that an "age" is an "eon." So if something is "eonian," that means it is "of an age." The King James Version says "according to the commandment of the everlasting God." Every time this word "eonian" appears in the Greek, the English translators have intentionally mistranslated it to "everlasting" or "forever."

Correctly it reads, "the God of this eon (age)." The message was kept silent to that time, but now was being manifested – made clear and understandable. This truth had not been understood, but it was now clarified by the gospel of Christ "for the obedience of faith."

In verse 27 "alone wise" simply means that God is unique because all wisdom resides ONLY in Him. His wisdom is above all other wisdoms.

Thus, Paul ends his letter to the Romans.

QUESTION: Doesn't your definition of a "mystery" belittle the glory of God by demeaning the mysteries of God? How can we have faith without mysteries?

ROMANS CHAPTER SIXTEEN

POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. The Ecclesia that follows Jesus is fundamentally at odds with the world system. This was true in the first century, and it is true today. Thus, it is incumbent upon ecclesians to spiritually separate themselves from the Beast System ... and support and strengthen fellow ecclesians. As ecclesians, our duty is to love our brethren, and hate the Beast System.

19. *Surely you will slay the wicked, O God: depart from me therefore, you bloody men.*

20. *For they speak against you wickedly, and your enemies take your name in vain.*

21. *Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate you? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against you?*

22. *I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them my enemies.*

Psalms 139: 19-22

2. Being a prisoner of, or fugitive from, the Beast System is NOT shameful. If anything, it is a badge of honor.

3. Church offices so-called (i.e., "Elders, Deacons, etc.) are not Biblical offices. Churches are Zoroastrian/Mithraic – not Christian (although they are falsely called "Christian") and their offices – whatever they may call them – are not Biblical. The physical edifice of "Church" as well as the political structure are altogether anti-christ. They borrow terms from Scripture, but fraudulently apply them to the pagan religion of Mithraism.

3. Divisions, in a society like America, are necessary in order to separate people from their pagan orientations. However, anyone who causes divisions within the Body of Christ is to be "marked" and avoided.

4. The religions spawned by the Beast System teach people to "serve their own bellies" (Rm. 16:18). The true faith of Jesus, by contrast, teach people to reject the impulses of their bellies and to follow the higher, noble path set forth by Jesus.

5. Another common tennet of the religions spawned by the Beast System is the doctrine of mixture and compromise: mixture of laws, mixture of principles, mixture of good and evil, mixture of culture and race, etc.. Paul, on the other hand, teaches us to be "unmixed" and separate and holy ("holy" means to be separate).

6. A "mystery" is not unknowable. It is merely and unknown which has not yet been revealed. Paul says that the "mysteries" that were not understood before are now being manifested (revealed) in this New Covenant age (eon).

ANSWERS:

pg. 3

No. I'm saying that churches themselves are bad things. An office of an organization cannot be sanctioned when the organization itself is wrong.

pg. 4

It is a mistake to attempt to make Bible protocol apply to church. Churches are an invention of Constantine, centuries after the Bible was written. Remember, Paul was writing to people within the ecclesia. He was not writing to churches, nor was he relating to church structure in anyway. Church is pagan and has no relevance to Paul's teachings.)

pg. 5

The sin of Adam and Eve was not in learning the difference between good and evil. Rather, it had to do with ignoring God's commandment and taking it upon themselves to MIX both good and evil together to come up with their own definition of sin ... regardless of the definition given to them by God.

When it comes to law, God does not want man "thinking for himself" ... any more than an adolescent's parents would want him to ignore them and make up his own rules.

pg. 6

I am not saying we can know all mysteries. Mysteries are knowable only in part ... like all other things ... because for man, all knowledge is "in part." No one knows it all.

9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

1 Corinthians 13:9

The word "mystery," in Scripture, was used to indicate a new truth that was in the process of being revealed. It is the nature of God to manifest or reveal truths to his people ... not obscure or hide them.

END OF ROMANS CHAPTER SIXTEEN

REVIEW OF ROMANS

Chapters 1-5

In chapters 1 through 5, Paul instructs the Roman ecclesiastics that they were saved by virtue of Christ ... not by their own merit, but through God's grace. Furthermore, they (who are saved) ought not to think of themselves too highly or better than other people. Rather they ought to see themselves as blessed by the grace they received. They owed their salvation to Christ, not to themselves or their ancestors.

Chapters 6-8

In chapters 6 through 8, Paul tells the Israelites to suppress their natural tendencies to sin. Rather, they should follow Christ's example through His inspiration. We are not to pursue our own natural carnal desires because they are destructive. Man's natural tendencies lead him wrong. Rather, we should follow the path that God has laid down which leads to prosperity and blessing.

Chapters 9-11

In chapters 9 through 11, Paul explains Israel's purpose and commission. He says that Israel was chosen for a particular purpose on Earth. That purpose was to show the blessings of God and to reflect that light to the nations, and thus lead them to God. However, some people today teach that God's interest in Israel was because they were a superior people ... not just a separate people. This reasoning contends that Israel's superiority qualifies them, and them alone, for salvation. This doctrine of superiority is an illusion based on the pagan minds of men ... not upon Scripture. Scripture is clear. Israel was to be a light to everyone around them. We are to accept God's grace, and witness to His glory ... not our own.

Chapters 12-13

Chapters 12 and 13 teach us to serve Christ alone ... and not serve men. We are not to worship men or governments devised and created by them.

Chapters 14-16

In chapters 14 through 16, we were taught etiquette of how to treat our brethren with love and fairness.

I hope this study of the Letter To The Romans has better acquainted you with the apostle Paul whom God sent to proclaim the Kingship of his Son, Jesus.

May truth and peace be yours through Christ our King.