



ROMANS 10-12

■ WEEK 4 ■

For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God.

- Romans 10:4

The Gospel Fulfills God's Promise to Israel and All People – Israel plays a vital role in God's redemptive plan, affirming God's faithfulness to His promises to the Jewish people while paving the way for Gentiles and all others to follow Jesus in the future.

WEEK 4, DAY 1
■ **MONDAY** ■
ROMANS 10:1-15

SALVATION COMES THROUGH JESUS

Paul's message here is for the Jews who, at this time, were continuing to struggle with the fact that salvation is as simple as just "believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth that Jesus is Lord." They are still holding fast "with zeal" to having to keep God's law perfectly and missing the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection entirely. The Jews also struggled with the fact that the Gentiles were trusting in Jesus for salvation rather than a strict adherence to the law. In this passage, Paul points them back to Moses' words in Deuteronomy 30:11-14, which we can express with our mouths outwardly, a trust that has happened inwardly in our hearts.

You don't have to go up to heaven—because the Messiah has already come down to you. You don't have to go down into the depths—because the Messiah has already been raised from the dead. The strange, cryptic promises which spoke of the final undoing of the curse of exile have come true—in Jesus! He is God's fresh gift of grace, like the original law but in a completely new mode. This is Paul's own variation on the theme of Deuteronomy 30. But why is Paul going to these lengths to say all this in what seems to us such a roundabout way? And how then does faith, 'calling on the name of the Lord', and salvation itself, fit into all this? We must not forget, in reading this passage, that Paul is still addressing the question he raised at the start of the chapter. The desire of his heart is that his fellow Jews would be saved. But most of them have remained ignorant of God's covenant plan, fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah, the covenant plan through which the great promise of salvation in Deuteronomy 30 would come true.

N.T. Wright, *Paul for Everyone: Romans, Part 2: Chapters 9-16*

So, our obedience to the law should come from a zeal that knows the depth of what Christ has done for us, which is what the Jews were missing here. It isn't good news if we have to work our way into heaven because we know we will never be able to adhere to the law perfectly. When we grasp this gospel truth deep in our hearts, then we can share with our mouths that good news with others. Paul says, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news."



REFLECTION

The good news of the Gospel is that God, in His love and grace, has made a way for us to be reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ. God sent His Son, Jesus, to come to earth, live a sinless life, die on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, and rise from the dead, defeating death and offering eternal life. Our efforts do not earn this gift of salvation but are freely given to all who put their faith in Jesus. Reflect on your own heart. Do you believe this good news, or are you still striving to earn your salvation?

WEEK 4, DAY 2
■ TUESDAY ■
ROMANS 10:16-21, 11:1-10

FAITHFUL REMNANT

In this section, Paul points out that there has always been a “faithful remnant” of God’s people, that God had not forsaken His people, and that some of His people have turned their backs on Him. So what does Paul mean when he says, “God has put them into a deep sleep. To this day he has shut their eyes so they do not see, and closed their ears so they do not hear.” It’s important for us to know that Paul is pulling from both Moses’ warning to the Israelites (Deut. 29:4) and Isaiah’s warning (Is. 29:10) that they would have been familiar with to warn them against God giving them over to their selfish ways. If they continue to harden their hearts or disregard the truth of Jesus as the Messiah, there will be consequences.

Israel’s problem, Paul now argues, is not ignorance, but disobedience. Salvific (Saving) faith is available through hearing the “report” about Christ, but Scripture warned that Israel would reject this very report about Christ. Far from Jewish unbelief posing a credibility problem for Paul’s Jewish message, it simply fulfilled what the prophets had predicted. If Israel has rebelled against their own salvation, has God therefore rejected them? Paul is adamant that God has not; his own faith as a Jewish believer is itself a testimony that God has left a remnant. God foreknew both the present disobedience and the future when he chose Israel. In 11:8, Paul covers both law and prophets by conflating texts with similar warnings: in Isa 29:10 God gave them the “spirit of stupor,” closing their eyes (blinding them to the prophetic message); in Deut 29:4, God had not given them eyes to see nor ears to hear, “to this day.” Isaiah’s context involves judgment, God handing people over to the blindness they have chosen (Isa 29:9-14).

Craig Keener, *Romans New Covenant Commentary*



REFLECTION

Our job is to be willing and ready to share the gospel, the good news of what Jesus has done for you; it’s as easy as just telling your story. There are no perfect words needed to share the gospel; it is just your personal experience. Even knowing that everyone will not be open and receptive to what we have to share, we are to share anyway. We aren’t responsible for how others respond; we only share, which should be done boldly and with humility. As you reflect on these passages, ask God to reveal people in your life who are open to hearing what Jesus has done for you. Pray for their hearts to be soft and their eyes to be open to what you have to share.

WEEK 4, DAY 3
■ WEDNESDAY ■
ROMANS 11:11-36

GRAFTED INTO THE FAMILY

As “apostle to the Gentiles”, Paul in this section wants to place all he has said so far in chapters 9-11 in terms of Jew-Gentile relationships. In Paul’s day, Israel was divided into a repentant minority and a hardened majority, but that is not God’s plan for the future. In the future, “all Israel will be saved” and God’s plan will be complete. In verses 17-24, Paul presents this anew through a metaphor: God has removed many Jewish branches from an olive tree and grafted Gentile branches into that tree. This should produce humility among the Gentiles, not pride, for the Gentiles are just as responsible as the Jews and can be removed in turn. Paul is afraid his readers will surmise from what he has said that the choice of the remnant and the hardening of the “others” is permanent, so there is no longer any hope for Israel, so his response in verses 11-16 takes four stages:

- Israel has been rejected, but this state is not permanent (v. 11a).
- The immediate purpose of this rejection is to bring salvation to the Gentiles (vv. 11b-12).
- The more distant purpose is to make Israel jealous through the Gentiles (vv. 11c, 14).
- This eventually will bring Israel back to God (vv. 14-16).

God’s incredible mercy and the conversion of people from every segment of humanity are more than Paul can handle, and so in the depths of religious ecstasy he composes a hymn to the grace and mercy of God. This final paragraph in Romans 11 is the most astounding promise yet, a truly apocalyptic revelation of the true future for Israel. It is the final piece of the puzzle, telling us not only that God will keep his covenant promises to his chosen people but also that there is a national future, a God-sent revival that will ensure an eternal reward for the faithful.

Grant Osborne, *Romans: Verse by Verse*



REFLECTION

Why does it matter that God is both kind and severe? In her study, *In View of God’s Mercies*, Courtney Doctor says: “If God is only kind, then the evil, sin, and wickedness in our world would go unpunished. But if God were only severe, we would all perish. I am eternally grateful that God will both destroy the wickedness in me and around me and, at the same time, that our Almighty God is so abundantly kind.” Reflect on this quote and meditate on Romans 11:33-36. What do these verses show us about the sovereignty of God and the vastness of His purposes for His people?

WEEK 4, DAY 4
■ THURSDAY ■
ROMANS 12:1-2

A LIVING SACRIFICE

Chapter 12 marks a turning point in the book of Romans. Paul has been setting up the heart of the gospel so that the church in Rome could understand salvation through Jesus, but now he is shifting his focus to how to live out their salvation. He moves from explanation to encouragement.

He (Paul) is about to give an outline of Christian living that should issue from a knowledge of and trust in the gospel he has been explaining. Thus, verses 1-2 are a summary of the whole of the Christian life! "Therefore," indicates that we give ourselves to God because of all Paul has been explaining in chapters 1 - 11; namely, that we are justified by grace alone through faith alone because of Christ alone. To be a "living sacrifice" is to be fully at God's disposal. It means, actively, to be willing to obey God in anything he says in any area of life; and, passively, to be willing to thank God for anything he sends in any area of life. Once you have a good view of God's mercy, anything less than a total, complete sacrifice of yourself to God is completely irrational! If you give yourself partially or half-heartedly, you are simply not thinking; you are not looking at what Jesus did. If what he did does not move you or break the ice over your soul, you must ask yourself if you have ever understood the gospel. We come to grips with the One who surrendered himself utterly for us only to the extent that we surrender ourselves utterly to him. It is the only sensible thing to do! Paul is laying out a radical way of living. It will require a transformed mind to pursue it. So he tells us: "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed". What does this mean? Two patterns are held up: the pattern of the world and the pattern of God's will. Paul tells us to recognize and reject the pattern of thinking, feeling, and behaving that characterizes the world, and to embrace God's will for all character and life. This requires us to make time regularly to meditate on who Jesus is and what he has done, and to reflect on what his will for us is in the circumstances he sends our way—how he would have us behave, and how he may be changing us.

Timothy Keller, *Romans 8-16 For You*



REFLECTION

Ask God to reveal an area that you still need to surrender in order to be a "living sacrifice" for Him. Spend time with the Lord today, evaluate what is consuming your mind, and make a list. Then, surrender those things to the Lord so that He can transform those thoughts to align with His will for your life and shape you into who He wants you to be.

WEEK 4, DAY 5
■ **FRIDAY** ■
ROMANS 12:3-8

MANY PARTS, ONE BODY

In today's passage, Paul shifts from our personal walk with Jesus to the part we individually play in the larger body of the church. Paul here is emphasizing that the church is one unified body made up of many individual parts that are intended to use their gifts in order to serve one another and help the church serve the world.

With a transformed and renewed mind under the control of the Spirit, it is impossible to be arrogant and self-centered. In humility and a spirit of giving we will use our gifts and strengths to minister to each other. In verses 4-5 Paul presents a theology of spiritual gifts similar to that in 1 Corinthians 12:12-26. The central metaphor is one of the most important pictures of the church, the body of Christ. The body is a single mechanism that depends on all the members functioning together to work, yet at the same time each member performs a different task. All of us members are meant to "form one body," the church, and to work together in unity to function as the church. As the members come together as one body, "each member belongs to all the others," so that there is both unity and diversity in the church. In this passage Paul is telling us four things:

1. *We have gifts and abilities.*
2. *The gifts vary among us.*
3. *God and the Spirit distribute them to us.*
4. *The gifts are not intended to benefit the individuals who possess them but to benefit the body of Christ.*

We are the many who live as one, for we take all our individual gifts and place them at the service of those around us.

Grant Osborne - Romans: Verse by Verse



REFLECTION

Do you see yourself as an important part of the body of Christ that has useful gifts to serve others? Spend some time today with this list in Romans 12, and also Paul's list in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. What gifts do you sense that God might want you to share with others in your church or in your community? This self-reflection will help you understand your role in the church and community, and how you can use your gifts to serve. Stop by the Info Table on Sunday or check out graceclarksville.com/volunteer or graceclarksville.com/local-outreach to see some areas where you can begin to use your gifts to serve the Lord.

WEEK 4, DAY 6
■ SATURDAY ■
ROMANS 12:9-21

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

In this short passage, Paul lists a substantial list of ethical behaviors for believers, and all of them draw on the specific teachings of Jesus. At the beginning of chapter 12, Paul focuses on our relationship with God. He moves to our relationship within the context of church and now moves to how we should be in our relationship with others. "If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all." - Romans 12:18

John Stott, in his book, *The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World* summarizes these verses with this:

What a comprehensive picture of Christian love Paul gives us! Love is sincere, discerning, affectionate and respectful. It is both enthusiastic and patient, both generous and hospitable, both benevolent and sympathetic. It is marked by both harmony and humility. Christian churches would be happier communities if we all loved one another like that. It is even better to be positive, to bless, to do good, to seek peace, and to serve and convert our enemy, because if we thus repay good for evil, we reduce the tally of evil in the world, while at the same time increasing the tally of good. To repay evil for evil is to be overcome by it; to repay good for evil is to overcome evil with good. This is the way of the cross. 'Such is the masterpiece of love.'



REFLECTION

What stood out to you in today's verses? Is there one of these directives that pricked your heart? Ask God to reveal if there is a relationship where you need to practice something you read in these verses.

WEEK 4, DAY 7
■ SUNDAY ■

REST & REFLECTION DAY

Join us for worship today and prepare your heart to engage with next week's study of God and His word. Use your time today to rest, pray, and reflect on this week's readings.

Take notes on this week's sermon on page 60.



REFLECTION NOTES & QUESTIONS

This week, we looked at Romans 10-12. Paul is laying out the basics of the good news that Jesus is the way to salvation and then he moves into how the gospel should impact our relationships and our everyday life. Reflect back on the week and on how the truths we studied this week shape our lives.

Reflect/journal your thoughts on this or these following prompts:

- Write down what you learned about who God is this week.
- What is something you looked at this week that you want to receive from God in greater measure? Why?
- How can you begin to apply this truth about God to your walk with Him?