

Insights From Romans

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Insights From Romans

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
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Romans

- God used the prophets of the Old Testament to tell the world about the gospel, years before it came (Romans 1:2).
- Jesus is the one who called the apostles. All those who were apostles were given that position by Him (Romans 1:5).
- Paul wrote this letter to people who were beloved of God and called to be saints (Romans 1:7). That means he wrote this letter to Christians.
- The faith of the recipients of this letter was so great that it was spoken of throughout the world. The Roman church was famous for its faith (Romans 1:8).
- The reason Paul wanted to visit the church at Rome was so he could give them a spiritual gift (Romans 1:11). The apostles could give spiritual gifts, but they had to see them in person to do so.
- Paul didn't have any fruit among the Gentiles who lived in Rome (Romans 1:13). He wanted to have fruit in as many places as he could.
- We must not be ashamed of the gospel (Romans 1:16).
- The gospel is the power of God (Romans 1:16).
- The gospel is the revelation of the righteousness of God (Romans 1:17).
- The righteousness of God can be seen in the fact that He pours out His wrath upon all ungodliness and unrighteousness (Romans 1:18).
- Those who claim to not believe in God are being

dishonest. God has revealed the truth of His existence to them through the universe that He created, but they've rejected that knowledge and chosen wickedness instead (Romans 1:18-20).

- Paul calls the trinity the "Godhead" (Romans 1:20).
- Because the wicked have rejected God and worshiped something else, He has given them over to sin (Romans 1:24). This means one of God's judgments on the wicked is giving them over to their sinful desires.
- Sexual immorality defiles a person and makes him unclean (Romans 1:24).
- God is blessed forever (Romans 1:25).
- There are times when God punishes the wicked by giving them a nature that lacks even natural affection (Romans 1:31).
- There are times when God punishes the wicked by giving them a nature that's stubborn, hostile, and impossible to get along with (Romans 1:31).
- The wicked aren't ignorant of God's judgment (in spite of what they claim) (Romans 1:32).
- The wicked take pleasure in those who sin (Romans 1:32).
- The wicked know that their actions are sinful, and they know that the penalty for their sin is death. In spite of that they still sin and take pleasure in wickedness (Romans 1:32).
- Those who judge others for sin are also condemning themselves, because they have also sinned (Romans 2:1).
- God's goodness isn't a license to sin. Instead God is giving

people time to turn from their sins and repent (Romans 2:4). We must not despise His goodness by refusing to repent.

- Those who don't repent are incurring a greater and greater debt with God. On the day of judgment, even more wrath will be poured out upon them (Romans 2:5).
- The judgment of God is righteous (Romans 2:5)
- The wrath of God is righteous (Romans 2:5).
- God will reward the saints with everlasting life (Romans 2:7). This means everlasting life is a gift from God.
- God will pour out His wrath upon the soul of everyone who does evil. Not a single evil person will be spared (Romans 2:9).
- God will punish the wicked Jews first, and the wicked Gentiles second (Romans 2:9).
- God will reward the righteous Jews first, and the righteous Gentiles second (Romans 2:10).
- Those who die without ever hearing the gospel will perish. The fact that they never heard the gospel won't save them (Romans 2:12).
- When people naturally keep God's law even though they've never heard the gospel, they're revealing that God has written His law upon their hearts (Romans 2:15).
- The day is coming when God will use Jesus to judge mankind's secret thoughts and actions (Romans 2:16).
- Those who preach righteousness must themselves be righteous. You must not preach about a righteousness that you don't have (Romans 2:22-23).

- The Jews were confident that having the law of God made them better than the Gentiles, but they didn't keep that law. Instead they were so lawless that the Gentiles saw their wickedness and blasphemed God's name (Romans 2:24).
- If you break any part of the Mosaic law then being circumcised doesn't help. At that point you're the same as being uncircumcised (Romans 2:25).
- If you seek righteousness from the Mosaic law then you must keep the entire law perfectly (Romans 2:25).
- The reason there's an advantage to being a Jew is because God committed His Word and His law to the Jews (Romans 3:2).
- God illustrates His righteousness when He judges wickedness (Romans 3:5).
- Even though our wickedness serves to glorify God, He is still just when He takes vengeance upon the wicked (Romans 3:4-8).
- Even though there are times when God uses people's wickedness to carry out His good will, sin is still sinful and we must not commit sin (Romans 3:8).
- There are no righteous people. Everyone is a sinner and everyone needs a Savior (Romans 3:9-11).
- Sinners are unprofitable, not precious. That means sinners don't deserve to be saved (Romans 3:12).
- The Mosaic Law makes the whole world guilty in the sight of God (Romans 3:19). No one can claim that they're not a sinner.

- The righteousness of God doesn't come by keeping the Mosaic law (Romans 3:21).
- The prophets prophesied about a source of righteousness that was apart from the Mosaic law (Romans 3:21).
- The righteousness of God comes by the faith of Jesus (Romans 3:22).
- Jesus is the propitiation for our sins. He took our sin upon Himself and died in our place, suffering the punishment that we deserved. Since God punished Him for our sin, we are forgiven (Romans 3:25). The reason we're forgiven is because God punished Jesus for our sins.
- The blood of Jesus paid for our sins (Romans 3:25).
- It was a righteous thing for God to punish Jesus for our sins, because that's the only way our sins could be forgiven. It would have been unrighteous for God to simply ignore our sins and not punish them (Romans 3:25).
- We're saved by the sacrifice of Jesus, who kept the law on our behalf and then gave us His perfect righteousness when we were saved. This means the law is established instead of made void, because the law still had to be kept. However, the law was kept by Jesus instead of by us, so we're saved by His works, not ours (Romans 3:31).
- Those who are saved by their works are paying off a debt. There's no grace involved because they're simply getting what they earned through their own efforts (Romans 4:4).
- Those who aren't saved by their works are the recipients of God's grace, because they're being given something

that they didn't earn and could never earn (Romans 4:4).

- If we're the recipients of God's grace then we must be saved by faith, and not by works. If we were saved by our works then no grace would be involved (Romans 4:4).
- David spoke of how good it was to be justified in the sight of God apart from works (Romans 4:6-8).
- Righteousness is something that God imputes to us. It's a gift from God, not something that we earn (Romans 4:6).
- We don't have to be circumcised in order to be saved (Romans 4:10).
- Circumcision was a sign that Abraham was saved. It didn't save him, because by the time he was circumcised he was already saved (Romans 4:11).
- God promised Abraham and his descendants that they would be the heir of the world (Romans 4:13).
- If we receive righteousness through the law then we can't inherit the promise that God gave to Abraham, because that promise was made by faith and not by the works of the law (Romans 4:14).
- God has made Abraham the father of many nations. He is the spiritual father of all those who are saved by faith (Romans 4:17).
- Believing in God's promises brings Him glory (Romans 4:20).
- God is the one who raised Jesus from the dead (Romans 4:24).
- Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sins (Romans 4:25).

- Our salvation depends on both the death and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 4:25).
- In order to have peace with God we need to be justified (Romans 5:1).
- The only way we can have peace with God is through Jesus (Romans 5:1).
- The reason the trials of this life are a cause for rejoicing is because of the good fruit that they produce within us. We need that fruit, and trials is the means God uses to produce them (Romans 5:3-5).
- In order to develop hope we must have experience, which comes from patience, which comes from trials. That means the trials of this life, if endured, ultimately produce hope (Romans 5:4).
- Those who hope in God and believe in His promises won't be ashamed (Romans 5:5).
- The Holy Ghost works through us to demonstrate God's love to others (Romans 5:5).
- The love of God can be seen in the fact that Christ died to save wicked and ungodly people (Romans 5:8).
- The only way to be saved from God's wrath is through the blood of Jesus, which justifies us (Romans 5:9).
- Christians have been reconciled to God. Our reconciliation has been fully accomplished, which means we can have full assurance in our salvation (Romans 5:10).
- We were reconciled to God by the death of Jesus, and our salvation is preserved by the life of Jesus (Romans 5:10).

This means our salvation doesn't depend on our works. Instead it depends on the continued life of Jesus.

- The only way we can have joy in God is through Jesus (Romans 5:11).
- Atonement is something that we've already received (Romans 5:11). It's not something which still needs to be done, and it's not something we accomplish ourselves.
- Sin entered the world through just one man (Romans 5:12). There was a time when there was no sin in the world.
- Death entered the world through sin (Romans 5:12). This means all death is the result of sin. It also means there was a time when there was no death in the world.
- Just as the sin of Adam condemned all of mankind to death, the free gift of Christ gives everlasting life to all who believe. Just as condemnation came through one man, so salvation comes through one man as well (Romans 5:15). The reason the sacrifice of one man can save mankind is because the sin of one man condemned mankind.
- In order for salvation to be possible, Adam must be a real person who actually existed. He had to sin, there had to have been no death before his sin, and we must all be his descendants. This means the first three chapters of Genesis must be literally true, and not just a myth or fairy tale, or else salvation is impossible (Romans 5:15).
- God has given Christians righteousness (Romans 5:17). This means righteousness is a gift from God. It's not something we earn, or obtain by our own efforts.
- Those to whom God has given grace and righteousness

will reign in life through Christ (Romans 5:17).

- The reason all of mankind are sinners is because Adam was disobedient (Romans 5:19). This means we inherit the sin of Adam. We're made sinners by what he did.
- Just as we are made sinners by the disobedience of one (Adam), so we are made righteous by the obedience of one (Jesus) (Romans 5:19).
- God didn't give the Mosaic Law to save people from sin. Instead He gave it to make sin abound (Romans 5:20).
- Even though God gives His abundant grace where sin abounds, we still must seek to avoid sin. The abundant grace of God doesn't give us a license to sin, or encourage us to sin, or justify sin (Romans 6:2).
- When God saves us He makes us dead to sin. He changes our relationship with sin (Romans 6:2). Because of this we must not live in sin any longer.
- Baptism is a metaphor for the death and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:4).
- Through Christ we've been conformed to His death (Romans 6:5). This means we're dead to sin.
- Through Christ we've been conformed to His resurrection (Romans 6:5). This means we must walk in God's ways and pursue righteousness and holiness.
- Christians are fundamentally different from those who aren't saved. God has transformed us and set us free from sin. Not only are we justified in God's sight, but we're also dead to sin. As a result of this transformation we're capable of walking in God's ways, because He's changed us (Romans 6:5).

- Those who aren't saved still serve sin. This is because their body of sin hasn't been put to death, and so they're not dead to sin (Romans 6:6).
- Christians have been set free from sin (Romans 6:6-7).
- The bodily resurrection of Christ points to a future bodily resurrection of Christians (Romans 6:8).
- As long as we're in our mortal body, sin is still a temptation (Romans 6:12).
- We have the power to say no to sin. We can choose to not allow sin to reign in our body, because we're dead to sin (Romans 6:12-13). This means that for Christians sin is a choice, because we have the power to say no.
- If we were still under the law then sin would have dominion over us, but we're not under the law (Romans 6:14).
- We can't be under the law and under grace at the same time (Romans 6:14).
- Those who aren't saved are the servants of sin (Romans 6:17).
- Christians should be ashamed of the sins they committed in the past (Romans 6:21). This is because sin is a shameful thing.
- The fruit of salvation is holiness (Romans 6:22).
- Eternal life can only be obtained through Jesus (Romans 6:23).
- The law only has dominion over a person as long as he's alive (Romans 7:1).

- Since Christians are dead to the Mosaic law, that law no longer has dominion over us (Romans 7:4).
- The reason Christians are dead to the Mosaic law is because we died with Christ and were buried with Him (Romans 7:4-6).
- The fruit of the law isn't righteousness. Instead it's sin and death (Romans 7:5).
- The law is holy, and just, and good (Romans 7:12).
- The problem isn't with the law. The problem is with us (Romans 7:13).
- Since the commandments of God are what define sin, sin uses the power of the law to kill us (Romans 7:13).
- Those who are carnal can't keep a spiritual law. It's impossible (Romans 7:14).
- Those who are slaves to sin may hate sin, but they can't stop sinning (Romans 7:15).
- People aren't naturally good. Instead they're naturally evil, because they have a sin nature that keeps them from doing the things they want to do, and makes them do things that they don't want to do (Romans 7:20).
- Jesus is the one who delivers us from the power of sin (Romans 7:25).
- Those who are in Jesus are still under a law, but it's the law of the Spirit and not the Mosaic law (Romans 8:2).
- God is the one who sent Jesus into this world to save us (Romans 8:3).
- In order for us to be saved, the righteousness of the

Mosaic law had to be fulfilled. However, it was fulfilled by Jesus and then imputed to us. We don't fulfill the law ourselves because we're incapable of doing so (Romans 8:4).

- The way that Christians live (by walking in the Spirit) is fundamentally different from the lost, because the lost lack the Spirit and therefore walk according to the desires of their sinful flesh (Romans 8:4-5).
- Those who walk in the Spirit seek the things of the Spirit (Romans 8:5).
- It's very bad to desire the things of this world and seek after them, because the things of this world end in death (Romans 8:6).
- Those who are lost are at war with God, because they have a carnal mind (Romans 8:7).
- God isn't pleased with those who are lost, because they're His enemies and are in rebellion against Him (Romans 8:8).
- The Holy Spirit dwells within Christians but doesn't dwell within the lost (Romans 8:9).
- Those who lack the Holy Spirit aren't Christians (Romans 8:9). This means one of the defining characteristics of Christians is that the Holy Spirit dwells within them.
- The reason Christians can do what's right in God's sight is because Christ dwells within us and makes it possible (Romans 8:10).
- The day is coming when God will use the Holy Spirit to raise Christians from the dead (Romans 8:11).

- Those who live after the flesh will die. Those who are carnally minded, and who pursue the things of this world, will find death instead of life (Romans 8:13).
- The way to put to death the carnal and sinful deeds of the body is through the Spirit. Since the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we can use the Spirit to walk in God's ways (Romans 8:13).
- The only people who are the children of God are those who are led by the Spirit of God (Romans 8:14). The only people who are led by the Spirit are those who have the Holy Spirit.
- God has adopted us into His family (Romans 8:15). That's why we can call Him our Father.
- Since we're the children of God, that means we're joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:17).
- Christians are those who suffer with Christ (Romans 8:17). Suffering is part of the Christian walk.
- Christians will be glorified with Christ (Romans 8:17).
- When we suffer, we can have hope because God has promised that the glory which will one day be revealed in us is far greater than anything we've suffered (Romans 8:18).
- There's glory within us that hasn't yet been revealed (Romans 8:18).
- The creatures of this world (the animal kingdom) are waiting for the sons of God to be made manifest (Romans 8:19).
- The animal kingdom has become corrupted. It's not what

it once was (Romans 8:21). However, this won't always be the case. One day it will be freed from corruption and will experience the same glorious liberty that the sons of God will experience.

- The animal kingdom will be changed when the sons of God are made manifest, and the glory that's within us is revealed (Romans 8:21).
- Christians are waiting for the day our body is redeemed from corruption and suffering. We're waiting for the resurrection (Romans 8:23).
- Paul refers to the resurrection as our day of adoption (Romans 8:23).
- Faith is hope. It's believing in something that God has promised, but which hasn't happened yet (Romans 8:24).
- Faith can only exist before the promise comes to pass. Once we've seen it, the opportunity to have faith is over (Romans 8:24). Those who wait to believe until the promise is fulfilled have missed the opportunity to have faith. For them, faith is impossible because it's too late.
- Patience is part of faith, because faith consists of patiently waiting for God to keep His promises and do the things He promised to do (Romans 8:25).
- The Holy Spirit helps us in the areas where we're weak (Romans 8:26).
- The Holy Spirit makes intercession for the saints (Romans 8:27).
- We must have faith, because the things that happen to us are working to accomplish the good will of God (Romans 8:28).

- God predestined us to be conformed to the image of His Son. One day we'll have the same character and will as Jesus (Romans 8:29). The reason this will happen is because God is going to make it happen, not because of anything we've done or will do.
- Jesus is the firstborn. He is the first among many, because it's God's will that Christians be conformed to His image (Romans 8:29).
- God doesn't want us to follow after our own heart. Instead He wants us to have the same heart as Jesus (Romans 8:29).
- God is wholly responsible for our salvation. He predestined us, called us, justified us, and glorified us. We play no role in any of those things, for He did all of it (Romans 8:29-30).
- God is for us. We can see this in the fact that He predestined us, called us, justified us, and glorified us (Romans 8:31).
- The reason God is for us isn't because of anything we've done. It's because God made the sovereign choice to love us. Since God predestined us to be saved, He will surely finish the work that He started (because He always keeps His promises) (Romans 8:31).
- Since God gave Jesus to save us, He will surely give us everything else as well (Romans 8:32). The gift of Jesus is greater than everything else put together.
- Since God has chosen to save us, and since Jesus has justified us, we can't be condemned. Our salvation is assured (Romans 8:33).

- Christ makes intercession for us (Romans 8:34).
- We must not interpret the trials of this life to mean that Christ doesn't love us. His love remains unchanging (Romans 8:35).
- We're greater than conquerors when we patiently endure the trials and sufferings of this life, and continue to have faith in God's love (Romans 8:37).
- Nothing that happens in the life to come can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38). No future event in the endless ages of eternity will ever change God's love for us.
- Paul longed for the salvation of his fellow Jews so greatly that he had tremendous heaviness and sorrow. He desired it so passionately that he almost wished that he could be lost if it meant that they would be saved (Romans 9:3).
- There's a physical Israel (the physical descendants of Jacob) and a spiritual Israel (those who are the descendants of Abraham by faith) (Romans 9:6).
- God's decision to save Jacob but not Esau had nothing to do with anything they had done, or anything they would do in the future (Romans 9:11-18). Instead it illustrates the fact that we're not saved by our works. God is the one who decides who is saved and who is not.
- God decided how the lives of Jacob and Esau would turn out. Their fates had nothing to do with them, and everything to do with God's sovereign will (Romans 9:12). This means God is the one who decides how our lives will turn out. He controls our future, and He determines it before we're born.

- The reason God hated Esau wasn't because of anything Esau had done, or would do. Instead it was God's sovereign choice, which was made before Esau was born (Romans 9:13-16).
- It's not true that God loves everyone. There are some people (like Esau) that He hates (Romans 9:13).
- God doesn't owe anyone His love. He has the sovereign right to choose to love some people but hate others (Romans 9:11-14).
- God chooses to have mercy on some people but not others (Romans 9:15).
- If God doesn't show mercy on someone then that person won't be saved (Romans 9:16).
- God put Pharaoh in power in order to glorify Himself (Romans 9:17). That means there are times when God uses wicked rulers to glorify Himself and spread His name throughout the world.
- God hardens some people so they won't be saved (Romans 9:18).
- Sometimes it's God's will for someone (like Pharaoh) to not be saved, because He will use that situation to bring glory to Himself (Romans 9:18).
- The fact that God didn't show mercy to someone doesn't make their sin acceptable. God still holds them accountable (Romans 9:19).
- It's impossible to resist God's will (Romans 9:19).
- We have no right to criticize God (Romans 9:20).
- It's not wrong for God to create some people and have

mercy on them, and then create others and not have mercy on them. That's His right as creator (Romans 9:20).

- God has mercy on some people and gives them honor (Romans 9:21).
- God hardens some people and gives them dishonor (Romans 9:21).
- One of the reasons God created the universe was to reveal His wrath and His mercy (Romans 9:22-23). Both of those divine attributes were impossible to reveal before the universe was created, because there were no beings who had sinned and deserved God's wrath.
- God created vessels of wrath. He created people (like Pharaoh) who He hardened so that they wouldn't be saved (Romans 9:22).
- God created the universe to demonstrate attributes of His character which had previously been hidden for all of eternity (such as His mercy, His compassion, His justice, and His wrath) (Romans 9:22).
- God uses the wicked to reveal hidden attributes of His character, and thereby bring glory to Himself (Romans 9:22). This means the wicked glorify God by being recipients of His wrath.
- God predestined the wicked to destruction (Romans 9:22).
- God is using both the righteous and the wicked to bring glory to Him (Romans 9:23).
- God revealed in the Old Testament that one day He would save the Gentiles. The salvation of the Gentiles was always part of His plan (Romans 9:25).

- The reason the Jews aren't saved is because they tried to obtain righteousness through their works, by keeping the Mosaic law. They didn't seek righteousness by faith (Romans 9:30-32)
- The gospel of salvation by faith is a stumblingstone to the Jews, and is offensive to them (Romans 9:33).
- Zeal must be accompanied by knowledge, or else the zeal will be misplaced and won't accomplish what it's intend to do (Romans 10:2).
- Those who are trying to obtain righteousness through works haven't submitted themselves to God. They're in rebellion against Him (Romans 10:3). This means salvation by works is the opposite of the righteousness of God. It's actually rebellion against Him.
- If we make a verbal confession that Jesus is the Messiah, and if we submit to Him as our Lord, and if we believe that Jesus died, and if we believe that God raised Jesus from the dead, then we will be saved (Romans 10:9-10).
- The doctrines of Christ are central to the gospel. In order to be saved you must believe specific things about Christ (Romans 10:9-10).
- In order to be saved there must be both a belief and a confession (Romans 10:10). It's not enough to believe the gospel without ever admitting it, or to confess the truth without actually believing it.
- People can only call upon Christ for salvation once they've believed on Him (Romans 10:14). However, before people can believe they must be told who He is and what He's done. This means people who have never heard of Christ can't be saved.

- Preachers need to preach the word of God, because that's where faith comes from (Romans 10:17).
- The problem isn't that the Jews haven't heard the gospel. The problem is that the Jews didn't believe it (Romans 10:18).
- Since the Jews rejected the gospel, God is going to use the Gentiles to provoke them to jealousy (because the Gentiles will accept the gospel and obtain righteousness) (Romans 10:19).
- The Jews are God's people. He hasn't cast them away (Romans 11:1).
- God has always reserved a remnant in Israel for Himself (Romans 11:5). The reason there's always a remnant is because of election. God chose to have grace on a portion of Israel, and that's why they're saved.
- God blinded the rest of Israel so they wouldn't be saved (Romans 11:7-8). There are times when God deliberately chooses to blind people to the gospel so that they won't be saved.
- God has used Israel's blindness to bring salvation to the Gentiles (Romans 11:11).
- If the fall of Israel was a blessing to the Gentiles (since God used it to save us), then the salvation of Israel will result in a far greater blessing (Romans 11:12).
- Paul hoped that his ministry among the Gentiles would make the Jews jealous, and would lead some of them to salvation (Romans 11:14).
- The Gentiles have been grafted into God's family. There was a time when we weren't part of His family, but He

adopted us (Romans 11:17).

- God is severe toward those who don't believe in Him (Romans 11:22).
- If God saved the Gentiles, who weren't His people, then He will surely save the Jews who are His chosen people (Romans 11:24).
- Paul didn't want Christians to be ignorant, because ignorance leads to people being conceited and wise in their own eyes (Romans 11:25).
- God is going to continue to blind the nation of Israel while He gathers a people for Himself from among the Gentiles. Once He's finished doing that, He will put an end to Israel's blindness (Romans 11:25-26).
- One day God will save the entire nation of Israel (Romans 11:26).
- God isn't going to revoke the gifts or the calling that He gave the Jews (Romans 11:29).
- The blinding of Israel and the salvation of the Gentiles is an example of God's deep wisdom and knowledge (Romans 11:33).
- It's impossible for us to discover the ways of God on our own. If He didn't reveal them then we would never be able to find them out, because He's vastly wiser and more knowledgeable than we are (Romans 11:33-34).
- None of us can provide counsel to the Lord, because He's much wiser and more knowledgeable than we are (Romans 11:34). Those who think they know better than God are wicked fools.
- It's impossible for anyone to put God in their debt. The

Lord will never owe any of us anything (Romans 11:35).

- Since Christ has redeemed us at the cost of His own life, we must dedicate ourselves to His service (Romans 12:1).
- We don't belong to ourselves. Instead we belong to God (Romans 12:1).
- We must not be conformed to this world. We must not be like the world, or live like the world, or do what the world does, or have the same values as the world, or have the same desires as the world (Romans 12:2).
- Part of our transformation is renewing our mind. Our mind needs to be transformed so that we do what's acceptable to God instead of what's acceptable to this world (Romans 12:2).
- Generosity is a spiritual gift (Romans 12:8).
- Mercy is a spiritual gift (Romans 12:8).
- We must abhor that which is evil (Romans 12:9).
- We must cling to that which is good (Romans 12:9).
- We must not be lazy (Romans 12:11).
- We must be fervent, and serve the Lord with passion (Romans 12:11).
- We must bless those who persecute us, and not curse them (Romans 12:14). This is actually an act of judgment upon them because it heaps coals of fire on their head (Romans 12:20).
- God never promised that our life would only consist of rejoicing (Romans 12:15).
- It's not wrong to share our sorrows with other Christians

(Romans 12:15).

- We must not show partiality (Romans 12:16).
- We must be honest to those who are within the church, and to those who are outside it (Romans 12:17).
- We should try to be at peace with others, as much as possible (Romans 12:18).
- The way to overcome evil isn't by taking revenge or returning evil for evil. Instead it's by blessing our enemies, and by doing good (Romans 12:19-21).
- Everyone should submit themselves to those who are in authority over them (Romans 13:1).
- The people who wield authority have been put into that position by God (Romans 13:1).
- Those who rebel against authority are rebelling against God, because He's the one who established that authority (Romans 13:2).
- Paul taught the importance of submitting to authority at a time when the Roman empire was brutally oppressing Christians. That means we must submit to authority even if it's wicked or the enemy of the gospel (Romans 13:2).
- The purpose of authority is to oppose evil (Romans 13:3). That means those who are in authority have a responsibility to fight evil.
- God has given the government the right to fight against evil and put evildoers to death (Romans 13:4).
- God has given the sword to the government, not to the church. The government has the right to put people to death, but the church does not (Romans 13:4).

- Although individuals aren't allowed to avenge themselves, the government has a responsibility to avenge its citizens (Romans 13:4). Those who have been hurt by evil need to be avenged, and God ordained the government to be the one who carries out that vengeance.
- It's right and proper for people to look to the government to save them from evil, and to prosecute those who carried out evil. That's why government exists (Romans 13:4).
- For Christians, rebelling against the government isn't an option. This includes rebelling against very wicked governments (such as the one that existed at the time the apostle Paul wrote this book) (Romans 13:5).
- We must pay taxes to the government (Romans 13:6). Christians don't have the right to refuse to pay them.
- We must honor those who deserve to be honored (Romans 13:7).
- It's wrong to withhold something from those who deserve it (Romans 13:7).
- Those who love one another have fulfilled the law (Romans 13:8).
- The law is a set of commands that teach us how to love one another. The law is a picture of love (Romans 13:8-10).
- Adultery is the opposite of love (Romans 13:9).
- Stealing is the opposite of love (Romans 13:9).
- Love is the opposite of evil (Romans 13:10).

- Since our time in this world is short, we must use whatever time we have left to be faithful to God and do what's right. We must not say that since time is short we might as well do whatever we want and live a life of sin. The lateness of the hour must motivate us to righteousness, not sin and self-indulgence (Romans 13:12-13)
- We must not spend our time fulfilling the desires of the flesh. Instead we must overcome them (Romans 13:14).
- The church should accept Christians who are weak in the faith, but only if they don't try to dispute the faith or cast doubt on it (Romans 14:1).
- Christians who believe that eating meat is wrong, and therefore only eat vegetables, are weak in the faith (Romans 14:2). This means that only eating vegetables isn't a morally superior position.
- Christians must be careful about judging other people on the basis of personal convictions. We must not despise other Christians who have different convictions than we do, if God has accepted them (Romans 14:3).
- Christians stand or fall based on what God thinks, not on what other people think (Romans 14:4).
- There's nothing wrong with treating each day of the week as the same, and not setting aside any day as a holy day (Romans 14:5-6).
- Christ died and rose again so that He might be the Lord of the living (Romans 14:9).
- Christ died and rose again so that He might be the Lord of the dead (Romans 14:9).

- Although the sins of Christians have been forgiven, we will still have to stand before God and be judged. He will hold us accountable (Romans 14:12).
- Since God is going to hold us accountable, we must not judge one another on the basis of different personal convictions. This applies both to those who are weak in the faith, and those who are strong in the faith (Romans 14:13).
- No food is unclean in and of itself. The dietary restrictions in the Mosaic Law no longer apply (Romans 14:14).
- If a person believes that certain food is unclean, then that food becomes unclean to that person (Romans 14:14).
- It's not enough to only do things that are good. We must also be aware of our how actions will impact other people, and whether the good thing we've done will cause people to do evil (Romans 14:16).
- It's better to sacrifice things that we enjoy (such as food or drink), than to use our liberty in a way that causes someone else to sin (Romans 14:19).
- Those who have doubts about something and do it anyway are sinning, because they're not acting on the basis of faith. Since they believe that what they're doing might be a sin, they are committing a sin (Romans 14:23). We must not do anything that we have doubts about.
- We must not spend our life pleasing ourselves. Instead we must seek to do good to those who are around us, even if that means limiting what we do so that we don't cause problems for others (Romans 15:1).
- Christians must all have the same mind in Christ. The Lord

wants us to be unified in the doctrines of Christ, in the doctrines of the Bible, and in faith (Romans 15:6).

- It glorifies God when we receive those who are weak in the faith and seek to help them (Romans 15:1-7).
- It glorifies God when we put others before ourselves (Romans 15:7).
- God has confirmed the promises that He made to the Jews. Those promises haven't been revoked or given to others, but will surely come to pass (Romans 15:8).
- The prophecies found in the book of Isaiah were made by Isaiah, not by someone else who was writing at a later date (Romans 15:12).
- There are times when God works through the deeds of the saints to save people (Romans 15:18-19).
- Paul didn't want to preach the gospel in places where it had already been preached. Instead he sought to preach the gospel in places where it had never been preached before (Romans 15:21).
- Paul had been greatly hindered in his attempts to visit Rome (Romans 15:22).
- The next place Paul was planning on visiting was Jerusalem (Romans 15:25).
- The churches of Macedonia and Achaia wanted to meet the financial needs of the church of Jerusalem. This wasn't done out of necessity, but out of joy (Romans 15:25-27).
- Since we've been made partakers with the Jews in spiritual things, we have a duty to minister to Christian

Jews when it comes to carnal things (such as financial needs) (Romans 15:27).

- Those who are blessed spiritually by someone have a duty to help that person in the carnal things of this life. If someone has blessed you spiritually then you're in debt to them, and should seek to help them when they need it (Romans 15:27).
- Although the Gentile churches took up a collection for the suffering Jewish Christians, the fruit of that offering wasn't going to be sealed until the moment it was given to those Jewish Christians (Romans 15:28). That means our fruit is sealed when our offerings actually make it to the intended recipient, not when we give them.
- It's important to understand what's happening to the money that we give. If it's not being used wisely then it isn't bearing fruit and is simply a waste (Romans 15:28).
- Paul asked the recipients of this letter to pray that God would deliver him from the unbelievers who lived in Judaea (Romans 15:31). However, that prayer wasn't granted and he was arrested (Acts 21:33). Yet God did use Paul's imprisonment to transport him to Rome, so in the end he got what he wanted: he was able to visit Rome and meet with the Jews who lived there (Acts 28:17).
- It's not wrong for one church to give a financial gift to a church that's struggling (Romans 15:31). It's also not wrong for the struggling church to accept that gift.
- Paul recognized the people who helped him (Romans 16:3).
- Priscilla and Aquila risked their lives for Paul (Romans 16:4).

- Epaphroditus was the first person in Achaia to come to Christ (Romans 16:5).
- It's not wrong to publicly praise people for the good things they've done (Romans 16:6).
- Paul didn't forget people. Even when people were far away, he remembered them and cared about them and sent his greetings to them (Romans 16:14).
- There are some people who cause divisions in church by bringing in false doctrines or sinful practices (Romans 16:17). Those people need to be avoided.
- Those who bring false doctrines or sinful practices into the church use deceptive words to deceive those who are simple minded (Romans 16:18).
- We don't need to have a deep knowledge of evil. It's enough to have discernment so we can recognize evil and avoid it (Romans 16:19).
- One day God will bruise Satan under the feet of the church (Romans 16:20).
- Although Paul wrote this letter, he actually dictated it to Tertius, who physically wrote it down (Romans 16:22).
- God has the power to establish us in the faith (Romans 16:25).
- The gospel used to be a mystery. God kept it hidden from the foundation of the world, and it was only revealed after the resurrection of Christ (Romans 16:25).
- God is everlasting (Romans 16:26). He has always existed and He will always exist.
- God has made the gospel known to all nations (Romans

16:26). He wants all nations to believe in Him.