

ROMANS 12:1-16:27 The Gospel-Shaped Life

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ROMANS 12:1-2 YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP

<u>Observe</u>

- 1. Throughout Romans 1-11, Paul spoke mainly in indicative statements (statements of fact that reflect reality). What kind of statements do you see in these verses?
- 2. What does Paul want the Romans to do with their bodies according to v.1?

3. What does Paul want the Romans to not be conformed to?

- 4. What does Paul want to happen to the Romans instead? Is this a passive or active action?
- 5. What is the the result of being transformed by the renewal of their minds?
- 6. How does Paul describe God's will at the end of v. 2?

Learn

- In dualistic Greek philosophy, the body tended to be looked down upon as inferior to the immaterial and spiritual. However, these verses make clear that our human bodies are very important and even indispensable for living the Christian life.
- The word used for "spiritual" is *logikon*, which is better translated as "reasonable" or "understanding." In other words, the offering of our bodies in service to God is the only logical response to the Gospel.

<u>Think</u>

- 1. What is the significance that Paul's main kind of statement changes from indicative to imperative? How does this relate to the previous chapters?
- 2. Why is it important that Paul includes the phrase "by the mercies of God" before commanding the Romans to present their bodies as living sacrifices?

- 3. Compare and contrast the sacrificial system of worship under the Old Covenant with the sacrificial system of worship under the New Covenant.
- 4. Read 1 Corinthians 6 to better understand what it means to "present your body to God" as an act of worship. How would you explain the meaning of this phrase to a friend?
- 5. Notice that Paul uses a negative passive command ("Do not be conformed") and a positive passive command ("Be transformed"). Grammatically, the passive voice describes being on the receiving end of an action. Why is that significant when considering what Paul says here?

6. How might the world attempt to conform believers to itself?

- 7. Being transformed, according to v. 2, comes through the renewing of our minds. Look briefly at Psalm 19, 119, and Colossians 3:10. What has God given us to renew our minds, and how do you think that process occurs?
- 8. How does the renewal of our mind lead to better capacity to "test" and discern what God's moral will is? Explain the relationship that this ability has to Scripture.

APPLICATION

• These verses deal with the topic of "sanctification," the process by which we actually change morally and become more like Christ. A key aspect of this is our mind- when our mind is filled and informed with Scripture, the Holy Spirit works to help us walk rightly. When our mind is being conformed to the world, we should not expect much good "fruit" in our lives at all. Do you regularly read Scripture? What are the results in your life?

ROMANS 12:3-8 - MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER

OBSERVE

1. How should the Romans not think of themselves? How should they think of themselves instead?

2. What has God assigned to each Christian?

3. What kind of word picture does Paul use in v.4-5?

4. Do all members have the same function?

5. What is the relationship of believers in Christ, according to v. 5?

6. What has God given to each Christian according to v. 6? Are these all the same?

7. How should the gifts God gives us be used?

<u>Learn</u>

• The Apostle Paul mentions prophecy as a gift in v. 6. Some believe that prophecy refers simply to preaching God's Word; however, since there is such a clear Greek word for preaching (*kerusso*) it seems strange that Paul wouldn't simply use the word for "preaching" if that is what he wanted to refer to. It seems better to understand prophecy in its normal sense: delivering a message from God. However, this kind of New Testament prophecy became obsolete as a normal spiritual gift with the completion of the canon.

<u>Think</u>

1. What is the possible danger that Paul warns the Romans about in v.3? Why is this such a danger, and how might this affect a church?

- 2. What is the standard by which Christians are supposed to judge themselves? How does this standard compare to an over-inflated view of oneself and an overly low view of oneself?
- 3. What is the relationship between genuine humility and service in the Body of Christ?
- 4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. Why is it important that God gives a variety of gifts to Christians within the Body?
- 5. Consider the list of gifts that Paul provides in these verses. How might a church body be affected if there was nobody doing acts of mercy? Teaching? Contributing? Leading?

APPLICATION

• Apart from the "sign gifts" (tongues, prophecy, healing, etc), make a list of the spiritual gifts that are mentioned here in Romans 12:6-7, along with 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 and 1 Peter 4:10-11, then circle the ones you think you may be gifted with.



• Paul writes to Timothy to "fan into flame" the gift that God gave him for ministry (2 Tim 1:6). The idea here is the feeding and cultivation of spiritual gifts so they grow. This can only happen when these gifts are used (Rom 12:6). Are you using your gifts to serve the body of Christ? How? Why or why not?

ROMANS 12:9-13 - GENUINE CHRISTIAN LIVING

<u>Observe</u>

1. What is Christian love supposed to be?

2. What is the Christian attitude towards what is evil and good?

3. How should Christians love and honor one another?

4. How should Christians serve the Lord?

- 5. How should Christians endure tribulation?
- 6. How should Christians pray?
- 7. How should Christians help one another?

<u>Learn</u>

- In English, we only have one word for "love," but in Greek, there are several. Paul uses two here: *agape* in verse 9 and *philadelphia* in v.10. Though there is not necessarily a wide discrepancy between these two Greek words, *agape* can have more of a sense of "unconditional" love while *philadelphia* is understood more as familial love.
- The word "contribute" in v.13 is *koinoneo*, which is the Greek word for fellowship. It describes a sharing and participating in something; here, the needs of others.

<u>Think</u>

1. Why do you think that genuine Christian love is the first thing Paul mentions in this list of attributes of the Christian life?

- 2. Why is there a need for Christian love to be "genuine"?
- 3. According to v.9, should Christians have strong moral convictions? If so, how should convictions affect the way we live?
- 4. Paul states that Christians should love each other with brotherly affection. What does this kind of love demonstrate about our relationships within the body of Christ?
- 5. Who is the one that Christians ultimately serve, and how should that affect the way that Christians serve?
- 6. How do the instructions in v.12 describe how Christians should respond to difficulties? What enables Christians to be able to respond this way?
- 7. Can these verses be carried out successfully apart from fellowship with other Christians? Explain.

Application

• Doctrine and theology are very important, but they should always result in Christian living. Notice how Paul spent the first 11 chapters talking about the Gospel and doctrine, and now in chapter 12, he describes how to live in light of that doctrine. How often do think about theology in connection to the way you live as a Christian? Why or why not?

Romans 12:14-21 - Responding to Enemies

Observe

1. Who are Christians supposed to bless?

2. What are Christians prohibiting from doing to those who persecute them?

3. What are Christians to do with those who weep? With those who laugh?

4. How are Christians to live with one another?

5. What should Christians think about when evil is done to them?

6. Should Christians avenge themselves?

7. How should Christians teach their enemies?

8. How do Christians overcome evil?

<u>Think</u>

1. What parallels are there in these verses with the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5-7) and the Sermon on the Plain (Lk 6)?

2. How do the instructions in these verses connect back to v.9?

3. Is there ever a time when a Christian should get revenge on another person? Explain

- 4. Who does Paul say Christians must leave vengeance to? What is different between how humans pursue revenge and how God avenges wrongdoing?
- 5. If Christians aren't supposed to seek revenge, what are they supposed to do in response to their enemies or those who persecute them?
- 6. How does v.20-21 help you understand the instruction to "bless" those who persecute the church?
- 7. How might the instructions in v. 16-18 have an impact on life within the church? Based on the Bible's teaching of human sinfulness, why are these instructions necessary?

APPLICATION

1. Consider times when others have wronged you (whether through persecution or not). How were you tempted to respond? How did you actually respond? If you had these verses in front of you when you responded, how might things have looked different?

2. Is there an area of life where you experience frequent conflict with another person? How might the Gospel change how you pursue peace with that person? How might you be able to bless them in a clear way?

ROMANS 13:1-7 THE CHRISTIAN AND AUTHORITY

<u>Observe</u>

- 1. What is each person to be subject to?
- 2. Who established the governing authorities?
- 3. What do those who resist governing authorities incur?

4. Who should fear rulers?

- 5. Who is the government supposed to serve?
- 6. Who is the government supposed to punish?
- 7. Should Christians pay taxes? Why?
- 8. How should Christians view those who hold authority?

<u>Learn</u>

- These verses are perhaps the most clear and extensive passage on how Christians should interact with the State. These verses delineate the divine design for political government, assigning its sphere of authority to the administration of justice upon those who have done evil. However, notice that the government is given no authority or responsibility regarding matters of worship or faith; these areas are the jurisdiction of the Church.
- At the time that Paul wrote Romans (57-59AD), the Emperor at the time was Nero. Though it was early in Nero's reign, Nero would go on to commit horrible atrocities against the Christians. Consider how Paul's words might take on extra weight under such circumstances.

<u>Think</u>

- 1. In a general sense, summarize what the Christian attitude should be towards governing authorities.
- 2. According to these verses, what is the government responsible for?
- 3. Based on these verses, do you think the government in America operates within its bounds of authority, or has it overstepped its bounds of authority?
- 4. Based on your answer to #3, do these verses give Christians the license to violently rebel and revolt against the government?
- 5. Are there times when a Christian should disobey the government? Back up your answer with Scripture and find examples from the Bible.
- 6. Paul asserts that God has established the governing authorities. How should that affect the way Christians view and respond to the government?

APPLICATION

1. Examine your own heart toward the government and those who hold office. How have your words, thoughts, and actions towards those in office compared to what Paul says in v. 7?

Romans 13:8-10 - Love and the Law

<u>Observe</u>

- 1. Are believers to owe anyone anything?
- 2. What does the one who loves another fulfill?

3. Where are the commandments in v. 9 from?

4. What is the summary of these commandments?

5. How does Paul describe love's activity in v.10?

6. What is the fulfilling of the law according to v. 10?

<u>Learn</u>

• Verse 8 speaks of "owing no one anything," or as other translations word it, "Let no debt remain outstanding." The Bible does not speak well of debt, but it does not prohibit it, so long as debts are resolved in an ethical and responsible manner. Here, Paul prohibits Christians from being negligent in their borrowing.

<u>Think</u>

1. Read Proverbs 22:7. Why do you think Paul discourages Christians from leaving their debts unpaid? How could this affect their discipleship negatively?

- 2. What does Paul mean when he writes that the Jews have a zeal for God? How does this differentiate them from the Gentiles?
- 3. Does Paul reject the importance and validity of the Ten Commandments in this passage? Explain your answer.
- 4. Does the teaching that "love is the fulfilling of the Law" mean that we don't need to bother with any other commandments except to love one another?

- 5. What is the relationship between love and the Law?
- 6. Who should be the recipients of the Christian's love? In other words, who should we consider our "neighbor"? Use other verses to support your answer.
- 7. What does obedience without love look like?

APPLICATION

1. Paul establishes here that love must fill our obedience to God's commands. Based on what you read in these verses, do you think obedience without love can please and glorify God? Are there any areas in your life where you are trying to obey without love?

ROMANS 13:11-14 PUT ON JESUS CHRIST

<u>Observe</u>

1. What is it time for, according to v.11?

2. What is now nearer to believers than when they first believed?

3. What is gone, and what is at hand?

4. What should believers cast off?

5. What should believers put on?

6. What should believers now do, according to v. 13?

7. Who should believers "put on" according to v. 14?

8. What should believers make no provision for?

Learn

- The imagery of darkness and light is found all throughout Scripture. Darkness is characteristic of ignorance, sin, and estrangement from God, while light is associated with goodness, truth, and God's own essence.
- Christians often think of salvation as a past event that happens when one believes. However the Bible describes salvation as a past event (e.g. Eph 2:8-9), present process (e.g. 1 Cor 1:18), and a future completion that occurs at Christ's return (e.g. Rom 5:9).

<u>Think</u>

- 1. What do you think the wakefulness Paul mentions in v.11 refers to? How does the nearness of Christ's redemptive return emphasize an urgency to be "awake"?
- 2. Read 2 Corinthians 4:6 and 1 Peter 2:9. What do you think the transition from night to day (v.12) in the life of the believer refers to? What kind of impact on the Christian's daily life should this have?

- 3. Read Ephesians 6:10-20. Do you think there is a parallel between these two passages? Explain.
- 4. What is the source of our sinful actions and desires, according to v. 14? How should believers engage with this source?
- 5. Read Colossians 3. What do you think it means to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ"? How does this help keep us in the pursuit of godliness?

APPLICATION

1. Romans 13:14 teaches us two important things: 1) That we have no spiritual resources apart from Christ and 2) that we are called to take an active role in utilizing the things God has given us in not making provision for the flesh. Are there any particular struggles with sin that you are fighting in your own strength? Spend time in prayer asking Jesus for the help and strength to fight against your flesh by *His* grace and power.

ROMANS 14:1-12 - CHRISTIAN LIBERTY PT 1

OBSERVE

- 1. How should Christians respond to the one who is "weak in faith"? What should they avoid?
- 2. How has God responded to the one who is weak in faith? Who ultimately does the weak in faith Christina belong to?
- 3. How did some Roman Christians view "days"? How did others view the same thing?
- 4. How did some Roman Christians view "eating"? "Abstaining"?
- 5. Do Christians live or die to themselves? Who do they live or die to?
- 6. Why did Christ die and live according to v. 9?
- 7. What will all believers stand before? Who will they give an account to?

<u>Learn</u>

- Romans 14-15 deal with a topic called "Christian liberty" or "liberty of conscience." The main idea behind this concept is that there are some issues where the Bible does not speak definitively about, and these areas should be handled according to the personal conscience of each Christian. One example is the use of alcohol; while the Bible does condemn drunkenness outright, the Bible never commands total abstinence. However, some Christians may choose to never drink alcohol for various personal reasons, while others choose to drink alcohol in responsible moderation.
- Paul describes how Christians may differ as to the importance of "days." Some Christians have understood this to refer to an elimination of the Sabbath, but it's far more likely that Paul is talking about the uniquely Jewish feasts and festivals that the Gentiles would not have any reason to keep.

<u>Think</u>

- 1. How would you define a Christian who is "weak in faith" in the sense that Paul is describing here?
- 2. Does weak faith make a person any less of a Christian?
- 3. Based on these verses, will Christians have different opinions on certain topics? Why might that be important to keep in mind in the context of the church?
- 4. Explain how Paul's statement that all Christians ultimately belong and are accountable to the Lord affects the way Christians should view each other when it comes to different opinions on things the Bible is not clear about.
- 5. Is it possible for Christians to have different positions on a topic and yet still both glorify God in their convictions? When might that not be possible?
- 6. What are some modern issues of "Christian liberty" that are often encountered with the church? How can we discern whether or not there is room for difference between Christians on a given issue?

ROMANS 14:13-23 CHRISTIAN LIBERTY PT 2

<u>Observe</u>

1. What should Christians not do? What should they decide to do instead?

2. What does Paul know according to v. 14?

3. What happens if someone considers a food unclean?

4. What is the Kingdom of God NOT a matter of? What IS it a matter of?

5. What is the status of a person who serves Christ?

6. What should believers pursue?

7. What should believers avoid doing for the sake of food?

8. What is wrong, according to v.20?

9. What should be kept between ourselves and God?

10. What is sin, according to v. 23?

<u>Learn</u>

• The context of these verses seem to be focused on the communal fellowship meals that the church would enjoy together. Paul is less concerned with what individual believers might eat in their homes and more concerned about the interaction of weak and strong believers over this issue of food.¹

¹ Ben Witherington III and Darlene Hyatt, <u>Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Socio-Rhetorical</u> <u>Commentary</u> (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2004), 339.

<u>Think</u>

- 1. Consider the Gentile/Jewish makeup of the Roman church. How does this aspect of the context help you understand what Paul is saying here?
- 2. What "stumbling block" might there be between Jews and Gentiles?
- 3. What role does a believers' conscience play in these verses? Read 1 Corinthians 8 to help you.

4. Does Paul seem to put the emphasis on individual liberties and rights or love? Explain your answer.

- 5. How might food "destroy" a fellow believer, or the work of God?
- 6. What does Paul mean when he writes that the "faith" we have should be kept between us and God? Does that mean we should not evangelize?
- 7. What is role does faith play in matters of Christian liberty? What does it mean then to "sin against one's conscience"?

Romans 15:1-13 - Live in Harmony

<u>Observe</u>

1. What is the obligation of the "strong" Christian?

2. Who should believers seek to please? Who is their model for this?

3. Why were things written "in former days"?

4. What does Paul pray that God would grant the Roman Christians?

5. What should this harmony result in according to v. 6?

6. What should believers do in light of this, according to v. 7?

- 7. Who has Christ become a servant to? Why?
- 8. What is God the God of according to v.13? What then should believers have?

<u>Think</u>

- 1. How does Romans 15:1 connect back to the previous verses?
- 2. Why is v. 1 so important for the Roman (and any other) Christians to live out in the life of the local church?

- 3. What opportunity might be lost if we do not bear with our neighbor and seek to avoid offending them over secondary matters, according to v.2?
- 4. Consider the earthly ministry of Christ, referenced in v. 3. How does this connect to the way Jesus's disciples are supposed to live with one another?

5. What are the things written "in former days"?

- 6. Given your answer to #5, why has God given this to the church? How should this affect the way Christians view the Old Testament?
- 7. The word for "welcome" in v.7 describe showing hospitality. What is the role of hospitality in the Church supposed to be and look like?
- 8. What does Paul mean when he writes that Christ became a "servant to the circumcised"?
- 9. Think back to the previous chapters in Romans (1-11) that we've studied so far. How does Christ's ministry to the Jews relate to Gentiles glorifying God for His mercy?

10. Explain the impact that these verses should have on the Roman church.

APPLICATION

1. In our day and age, Christians have a variety of different opinions about many things. In the past, how have you responded to believers who are "different" than you? How might these verses change the way you respond to those who visit FBC?

ROMANS 15:14-21 - PAUL'S APOSTOLIC WORK

Observe

1. What does Paul believe about the Romans according to v.14?

2. Why does Paul now write to them according to v. 15?

3. What position enables Paul to do this, according to v.16? And what is the goal?

4. What does Paul venture to speak of?

5. What is Paul's ambition?

6. Where does Paul want to preach? Why?

<u>Think</u>

- 1. Sometimes Christians think that only pastors can instruct Christians in discipleship. How does that notion line up with 15:14?
- 2. According to v. 16, what is the ultimate goal of Paul's apostolic ministry and evangelism?

3. Read Acts 10:34-11:18. Even though Peter is the apostle mentioned, how does this passage from Acts illustrate what Paul describes as the goal of his ministry?

- 4. How is the Trinity found in v. 16? What does that tell you about salvation?
- 5. What are the three ways that Paul worked to bring the Gentiles to faith? Find examples from the book of Acts.

- 6. Why might Paul be hesitant to build on another's foundation? How might this interfere with his primary calling to reach Gentiles?
- 7. Where does Paul quote from in v.21? How does this original context of this quotation help support Paul's goal to reach the Gentiles?

APPLICATION

 Paul writes that healthy Christians are "full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another." The implication seems to be that Christians should be able to instruct one another in a wise way using biblical truth. When people come to you with problems, do you tend to answer them with your opinions or with Scripture? How can you be more biblical in your "instruction" of others?

ROMANS 15:22-33 - PAUL'S DESIRES FOR ROME

- 1. Does Paul have any more room for work in these regions?
- 2. Where is Paul intending to go?
- 3. Where is Paul currently going, and why?
- 4. What did Macedonia and Achaia do? What is Paul's reasoning for why this should be the case?
- 5. What is Paul's appeal to the Roman Christians?
- 6. What is Paul's concern in v.31?
- 7. What does Paul hope for in his visit to Rome?

Learn

- It appears that the church in Jerusalem was in financial need, and the believers in Macedonia and Achaia (though poor) had given generously to help relieve the Jewish Christians. Read 2 Corinthians 8-9 for more context.
- Rome would have been a stop on the way to Spain, and Paul hoped to see the Roman Christians while he journeyed to Spain for missionary work.

<u>Think</u>

- 1. Keep in mind that Paul did not plant the Roman church. Thinking back to v.20, what is "the reason" why Paul has not yet come to Rome?
- 2. What does Paul mean when he writes that the Gentile believers in Achaia and Macedonia owe financial relief to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem?
- 3. How might knowledge of the financial gift of the Gentile Christians in Macedonia and Achaia to the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem helped the relationship between Gentile and Jewish Christians in Rome?
- 4. Why does Paul place such an emphasis on the humility of the Gentiles towards the Jews? What might the Gentile believers in Rome be forgetting?

- 5. In what way is the Trinity mentioned in v.30?
- 6. What ultimately is Paul seeking from the Romans in regarding himself in this passage?
- 7. How does the benediction in v.33 relate back to the rest of chapter 15?

Romans 16:1-16 - Paul's Brothers and Sisters Observe

- 1. Who does Paul commend in v. 1? How does he describe her?
- 2. Who does Paul greet in v.3? What did they do? What is in their house?
- 3. Who does Paul greet in v.7? How does he describe them?
- 4. How does Paul instruct the Christians in Rome to greet each other in v. 16? Who greets them?

Learn

- Paul writes that he commends Phoebe to the Romans; it appears from the context of the verses that she is the one delivering Paul's letter to the Romans.
- Paul describes Phoebe as a "servant," or in the Greek, a *diakonos*. Some Christians appeal to this verse in support of having female deacons. On the other hand, the word *diakonos* is used to refer to servants in general and may not refer to a church office at all (this is the position FBC takes).
- Many of the names mentioned in this portion of Romans are either the common names of slaves or servants in imperial households as well as freedmen (former slaves).
- •

<u>Think</u>

1. How many people are mentioned in these verses?

2. Look at the end of some of Paul's other epistles: 2 Timothy, Philippians, and Colossians. What is similar and what is different with how these letters end compared to Paul's epistle to the Romans?

- 3. How many of the names in Paul's list do you recognize? Where are these other names mentioned in the Bible?
- 4. Think back to the "Learn" section about the frequency of slave (and freed slave) names in Paul's list. What does that tell you about the spread of the Gospel in the early days of the church?
- 5. What can we learn about how Paul viewed these other Christians from these verses?

APPLICATION

1. When we read these verses, we can see Paul's gratitude and love for the Christians mentioned. One aspect that shines through very clearly is how these brothers and sisters were used by God to encourage and help Paul. Think back through your life — who are one or two people who the Lord has really used to encourage and help you? Write about these individuals and take a moment to thank God for them. If they are still living, take a moment to let them know how grateful you are in the Lord for them!

Romans 16:17-23 - Warning & Encouragement

<u>Observe</u>

- 1. Who are the Romans to watch out for?
- 2. What do these people do?

3. Do these people serve Christ? What is their main goal?

4. What is Paul's cause for joy in v. 19?

5. What does Paul desire for the Romans in v 19?

- 6. What is God the God of according to v.20>
- 7. What will happen to Satan?
- 8. Under whose feet will this happen?

9. What did Tertius do, according to v.22?

<u>Learn</u>

• Verse 22 contains a reference to Tertius, who identifies himself as the writer of this letter. That doesn't mean that Tertius is responsible for the content, but that he acted as an amanuensis, somebody who writes down another's words for them.

<u>Think</u>

1. What do you think Paul refers to by "divisions" and "obstacles"? Has this danger gone away in the modern church?

- 2. Given that the "divisions" and "obstacles" in v.17 are in reference to doctrine, how important should the study of theology and sound doctrine be? Why?
- 3. Considering v. 17-18 together, what are some of the marks of false teachers? Look also at Jude and 1-2 Timothy— do the marks mentioned there line up with what we see in v. 17-18?
- 4. What does it mean to be "wise as to what is good"?
- 5. What does it mean to be "innocent as to what is evil"?
- 6. Explain the connection between v.20 and Genesis 3:15. How are believers included in this connection in v.20?

APPLICATION

 Sometimes Christians can minimize the value of clear and sound doctrine and theology, having the mindset that those things distract from Christ and that all that really matters is Jesus. But while Jesus is the center, Paul seems to imply that this perspective is "naive" and makes one susceptible to false teaching (v.18). Have you valued the study of sound doctrine, or have you viewed is as unnecessary for the Christian life? Why or why not?

ROMANS 16:24-27- THE FINAL DOXOLOGY

Observe

- 1. What is God able to do?
- 2. According to what in v.25?

3. What has been disclosed? To whom, and how?

4. According to what in v. 26?

5. What is the goal of God's eternal command?

- 6. How does Paul describe God in v. 27?
- 7. What is ascribed to God? For how long?
- 8. Through whom is this glory ascribed?

<u>Think</u>

- 1. V.25-27 is a doxology— where else have we seen doxologies like this in Romans?
- 2. Compare v.25-27 with Romans 1:1-7. What are the similarities between the beginning and end of this letter?

- 3. What does Paul see as the message that strengthens the church? In light of this, who is the Gospel for, and how should this affect the content of Christian preaching?
- 4. Read Ephesians 3. What is the "mystery" that has been disclosed? Why is it important that this mystery has been made known to the nations?
- 5. Think back through the entire book of Romans. How have we seen God's wisdom addressed in this letter? How have we seen the His eternal nature (and the eternal nature of His command) address in this letter?
- 6. Paul speaks of "the obedience of faith." Given that faith is something that rests and receives God's grace in Christ, do you think Paul is talking about justification or sanctification here, and why?
- 7. What is significant about the Paul's ultimate focus in v.27? How have we seen that theme traced through Romans?

APPLICATION

1. Share with the group three major things that you learned while studying through Romans!