

It's Your Eternal Future... So What Will You Do?

A new year is upon us and it's natural to reflect on goals. Ask yourself: "What's important to do in the coming year spiritually & how will it be accomplished?"

Time has a way of slipping away, sabotaging even the best plans. Make goals happen in spite of circumstances. The key is to think differently... on eternity.

God desires you to be 'conformed to the image of His Son.' How? It takes forethought, making time for the Word to 'dwell' or feel at home to live within you. (Romans 8:11,29)

Stay focused on the spiritual realm: *"...And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, **will of God.**"* (Rom.12:2)



Thought for the Month: Who is Winning In Your Life?

Deciding to regularly read the Word and pray is against what our flesh 'wants' to do. There are endless reasons and excuses NOT to do it and it is easy to justify our fleshly thinking.

God says, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* So, we are to 'just do it,' even when our flesh or its priorities scream 'NO'. (Romans 10:17) Who wins if you don't make the time?

Is God 'able' to help you? Of course. He uses the Holy Spirit and power of Scripture. Romans 4:21 teaches you to be 'fully persuaded. **GOD IS ABLE!!**

Just A Minute! With Scripture

The King James Bible is used for references. Verses may be underlined/made bold for emphasis.

Romans 13: What is Submission?



"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation." (Romans 13:1-2)



Submission can be defined as yielding in humbleness with a resigned will; obedience without murmuring. In other words, God desires man to 'accept' the powers 'He' has set in place in this world. (This is NOT saying God placed 'particular people' in the positions of power.) Without ordained structure there would be chaos as was in the old times: *"In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes."* (Judges 17:6) Graciously for us, God set up 'powers' to maintain order. The first systems of authority were developed in Genesis: marriage, family, and government. Each position has responsibility and power to keep orderliness, glorify God, and fulfill His purpose. Some leaders are believers, others are not; a few are good, many serve themselves.

Honestly, the biggest challenge for us as believers is 'sin in our members.' (Rom. 7:17-20) Responding in love as a living sacrifice is **not** natural to the flesh. Unless God Himself reigns, struggles abound. (A husband or parent who is unfair, a president who makes grievous mistakes, or an incompetent boss.) How can we be in subjection to flawed authority?

It is a walk of faith: maturity teaches reliance on God as our total provision, working in the inner man, 'forming Christ' in us by His Word. How this is done: *"...ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine delivered you. (Romans 6:17)* **Continued on Page 3.**





Roman Epistle: Designed to Establish the Body of Christ



Romans 13: Student Study Insights

Romans 12-16 teaches a new form of 'service and worship' in the dispensation of grace for the Church. Specifically, Chapter 13 instructs saints on how to respond to authority & responsibilities. Since believer's are no longer 'under the law,' Paul provides a 'new way,' enabling saints to manifest godliness without the law. Study for more details:

1. Find main issues: Read Romans 13 twice to find how the chapter is broken into sections. Assign topics for each group of verses.

2. Determine what the Scripture says, and what it does not say: Verse 1 says, "...the powers that be are ordained of God." a) Define 'powers' and 'ordained.' b) Evaluate for yourself if powers refer to 'the position,' 'the person,' or both. c) Does it really matter? Explain.

3. Clarify words that 'seem' confusing or inconsistent with grace: Paul makes clear, bold statements about how to deal with authority. a) He begins with a grace word. What is it and why did he use it? b) Verse 2 ends with a strong deterrent to those who resist God's ordained power. Since no one loses salvation, what is this 'damnation?'

**Newer students: Focus on 'reading' Scripture rather than on studying new insights. When you're ready, try answering a few questions above.*

4. Notice related terms: Think about the terms: 'rulers,' 'minister of God,' and 'revenger.' Define and assess why they're important to understand.

5. General instruction precedes application: What does "For for this cause..." mean in Verse 6? How does it help you understand the specific application for living provided in Verses 6-7?

6. Look for 'grace' as Paul teaches doctrine: Today we are under grace, NOT legalism. a) Paul relays a new way of functioning in Verses 8-10, replacing the **last five** commandments. Describe this 'grace way.' b) Go back to Exodus 20 to read the **first half** of the Law. Has Paul laid out teaching that replaces these commandments too? See if you can find it in the first half of Romans 13.

7. Notice references to time: a) Read Verses 11-13 to find each mention of time. Why was this done? b) How are we to 'know the time?' c) What's the reason for the terms 'night' and 'day' and to what do they refer?

8. Pay attention to contrasting phrases: Read and meditate on Verses 12-14 to define and understand: "cast off" and 'put on.' Does 'looking ahead' in Paul's letters for these or similar phrases help in understanding? (Ephesians 4:22-32, 6:11, and Colossians 3:8-10.)

Do You Believe the Truth?

Acts 17:11 "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Everyone can benefit from re-evaluating what's believed periodically, even if you've been a saint a long time or are privileged to sit under a 'Grace' teacher. God gave you the Spirit, so "...that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." 'These deep things' are revealed as you study, yield, and are 'led by his Spirit' in the Word. (I Cor. 2:10-12, Rom. 8:14)

For example, examine the Old Testament or Gospels. Assess for yourself: who's speaking & to whom and, is it law or grace? Do your beliefs line up with what the Word says? Could there be some error or lack of clarity in some areas of thinking? Sometimes a saint can mix 'religious ideas' or instructions written 'to Israel,' with Paul's 'grace teaching' without realizing it. Take a fresh look at Scripture to 'tweak' inaccurate or incomplete understanding.

Reflection on what you believe provides assurance you are standing on the solid ground of 'sound doctrine.' God can use this refining process to gloriously progress you to grow in your faith and conviction. To God Be The Glory!





Romans 13: How Are We to Submit

“Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers....” The phrase, ‘every soul,’ refers to each individual; no one is exempt. (Rom. 13:1) Yet, it also infers an attitude of obeying without murmuring from the depth of one’s being. Submission relates to ‘all’ higher powers as every one is ordained by God.

Life produces many occasions to experience ‘injustice.’ Clinging to things ‘you feel is your right’ or the idea that ‘everything should be fair,’ overlooks the fact we live in a fallen creation. This grieves the soul, creating bitterness & anger.

Defiance can become a form of legalism. The authority doesn’t ‘measure up’ to our expectation so frustration develops, producing ‘resistance’ as a consequence to a leader not meeting ‘our standard.’ Romans 13:2 says, *“Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God...”*

Resistance can be defined as disputing, arguing or opposing a decision or an authority figure. It is the opposite of submission: determined surrender and compliant resolve to obey. Accepting decisions ‘only’ when we agree is not submission to authority. (In grace, use available options to give input for decision-making, but when submission remains challenging, recall Romans 12.)

Romans 12:19 shows that God fully provides: *“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”* As we gain clarity, this provision can be an enormous help to trust that God ‘will make all things right’ in His time. Instead of revenge or resistance, we can yield and turn it over to Him.



Example: A Christian soldier expects the unexpected, realizing life does not cater to ‘him.’ He puts ‘self’ aside to obey his commanders who are responsible for team objectives. The young man learns to accept a superior’s flawed decisions, trusting God knows all things and is the perfect avenger. (Romans 14:8-10) All grievances are given to the Lord, enabling him to obey, forgive, and walk by faith. Ultimately, all authorities give an account before God.

*Note: Expect that all the unsaved/ungodly will live contrary to God’s ways. However, obtain wise Bible counsel if there’s an abusive spouse or an authority requiring ‘you’ to live against God’s Truth. As Peter said, *“...We ought to obey God rather than men.”* (Acts 5:29)

Heart Submission & Romans

God provides the ‘how to’ in Romans 1-12, enabling you to deal with adversarial leaders. He teaches about making choices, selfless love, and how to be a living sacrifice, even in difficult circumstances.

The concrete instruction in Romans 12:20-21 ‘seems’ impossible in the flesh: *“Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”* (What has Paul already taught in Romans?)

‘God is able’ in you to respond in grace. The instruction is to not only love and forgive your enemies, but do them good, though they ‘don’t deserve it.’ The mind of Christ provides an eternal perspective. Choose ‘the path of faith’ as you hit the ‘Y’ in the road, yielding unto God, not the flesh. (Rom. 6-8)

Self & Flesh God’s Way



As Christ’s life in you generates this love response, you yield in a ‘walk of faith’ and Christ is exalted. Paul learned, *“...that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.”* (Philippians 1:20) **That is, after all, why we’ve been left here! To God be the glory!**

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Stamp

To:

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..." (Romans 3:24)



'On A Personal Side'

We welcome feedback and questions.

From Our Readers

"Thank you for including me on your email list." (Facebook)

"Anyone spiritual can't help but be brought back on track by 'Just A Minute.'" (Florida)

"Good afternoon. Please add me to your monthly newsletter list." (Michigan)

"I have my 'Newby's Bridge' and I love it! I am actually going to pass it around to some teens I'm working with at the high schools. I am enjoying the other newsletters too." (Arizona)

"We would be honored to have you send the newsletter." (Illinois)

"I read your first book and became convicted to change the Bible I use to KJV." (Virginia)

"I like the bigger print of the newsletter; not as crowded. The layout works well." (Florida)



(Applying Pauline Truth)

Christian Life Coach Support Services

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Life Coaching (Applying Pauline Truth)

Coaching is a helping service, which includes Bible instruction, mentoring, support, and applying Scripture to life situations for personal growth. The Scripture is used as our primary resource. Options: In-person/phone/skype. Coaching and teaching: individuals, couples, and groups (support groups/retreats/presentations).

Home Church-Bible Study: Join our 'Grace' ministry in the Richmond Area. Call (above) for directions.

Friday Home Family Bible Study/Church: 7-9 pm

Wednesday Ladies Study: 10:30-12 pm at LaPrade Library

Friday Women's Home Study: 1-3 pm

Newsletter

Just A Minute: Monthly Grace newsletter providing Bible study, edification, and life application to sound doctrine.

Newby's Bridge: A quarterly bulletin designed to instruct the 'newby,' that is, an unbeliever, or a Christian who has not had much opportunity to grow in sound doctrine.

Books

"What to Appreciate As We Approach God's Word"

"How the Bible is Practical and Able to Mature Believers"

"Growing Up In Christ To Become A Mature Believer"

"Romans Study Guide" (Available early 2017)

2017 Women's Retreat

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Mark your calendars: March 10-12
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New Book Available

Our newest book (54 pages) can now be ordered: **"Growing Up In Christ To Become A Mature Believer"** It was written to provide concrete direction on how to progress in your faith to mature. There is a practical review of key issues from the book of Romans. It defines terms in a way to help someone new to Bible study to grow. **To order:** Email or call using contact info above. (Donations accepted to cover printing and shipping.)

*A companion book, to the one above, will be available in early 2017, "Romans Study Guide." It contains chapter-by-chapter study questions on the book of Romans with study tools.

Romans 15:13 "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost."

Request email/postal subscriptions/past issues or forward questions and ideas using contact information above.