

Just A Minute! *With Scripture*

The King James Bible is used for all references. Verses may be made bold or numbered for emphasis.

Theme: Application of Romans 9-11

God's Quiet But Powerful Voice Speaks To Us By His Word

This world and the lusts of our flesh scream at us all day long. However, God does not! He doesn't raise His voice to say, "Pay Attention!" "Don't Do that!" or "Good job!" Instead, He provides all we need to know in His Word to make wise choices. We are to read it, meditate on it, and practice living it. Also, it is important to recognize the context of where we are reading as not all of the Bible is written to or about us. For example, Romans 9-11 reviews details about Israel.

Thus, in order to utilize the Word in our lives, we need to be careful where we get our doctrine from, to apply it properly. This is called rightly dividing the Word: *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."* (II Tim.2:15) Genesis 12 through Acts and Hebrews through Revelation were written to Israel. Romans through Philemon was written to teach the Body of Christ. These are Paul's epistles, which is sound doctrine written specifically to us for living.

As we read the Word to listen to God speaking to us, it is helpful to meditate on the details of the verses. Think about what it is teaching and consider how it can be applied to the details of life i.e. "How is this relevant and applicable for me?" or "What would this functionally look like in my life?"

Regular time reading and meditating on the Word renews our mind. This is how Scripture is deposited in our inner man, becoming our guideline or rule to lead us. *"Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."* (Phil. 3:16)

God does not tap us on the shoulder to notify us when we need to do or change something. Instead, His Spirit quietly works His powerful, wise doctrine in our inner man to help us assess what we are doing to self-correct or make good decisions. Scripture's voice speaks to us from within as we proceed thru our day. This is God talking...are we listening?

The world, on the other hand, can easily sidetrack us from reading and meditating on the Scripture, drowning out what has already been placed in us if we are not tuned in to God. **To Do:** Purpose to walk by faith in the Word, listening carefully to God's quiet voice, making time to really hear what He's teaching.

A Secret Mystery Plan With Such a Hope

As we read *Romans 9-11*, we see it clarifies that God made a change in how He was dealing with man. He had a two-fold purpose, since *Genesis 1:1*: *"In the beginning God created 1) the heaven and 2) the earth."*

The first purpose addressed is the focus about the earth. From *Genesis 12* thru to the book of *Acts*, God worked with and through the Nation Israel & their promised **Kingdom on earth**.

A secret purpose was revealed through Paul among all nations, to form the Body of Christ for the **Heavenly kingdom**. *"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery..."* (Ephesians 3:1-2)

Israel's program was set aside temporarily as God proclaimed the dispensation of Gentile grace, and its purpose to us. *Ananias was instructed about Paul, the new Apostle: "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel."* (Acts 9:15)

God's purpose for believers in this time of grace is that we grow up spiritually, manifest Christ in our lives, and live eternally with Him. As we think about our blessed hope and an incredible future, we can rest knowing we have a new home and body above. *"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."* (II Cor. 5:1)



Search it out!

Choose Something to Study in This Section

Romans 9: Noticing Transitional Verses at the End of a Chapter

Examine verses!



The study tool 'transitional verses' is found on Page 27 in "Exploring the Bible Using Study Tools," purchased through Amazon. It can help the student to understand how the Bible progressively teaches us the grace message.

Transitional Verses: Based on what was just taught, these verses prepare the reader for what is to be taught next, found near the end of a book or chapter.

1. Understanding transitional verses: a) Read Acts 28:28 and notice how it sets up *Romans*, the first book of Paul's ministry to the Gentiles. b) Read *Romans 1:32*, which introduces *Romans 2*. (The topic in Chapter 2 is about God's righteous judgment.)

2. The transitional verse for Romans 9: Look at the end of *Romans 8* to realize what Paul knew would be

next in the reader's thinking. Chapter 8 confidently finishes with Verses 38-39: God has great, unwavering love for us, the Body of Christ. This is the transitional verse for Chapter 9. The thinking of the reader would be, "What about Israel and their promises? Does God still love them since He set them aside? And, if He doesn't, surely He can't love us." The answer: "He does love them." Rom. 9-11 explains God only temporarily set unbelieving Israel aside. He will resume and complete His prophecies; they will lose nothing promised.

3. Finding transitional verses: a) Look at the end of *Romans 7* for the verse that sets up *Romans 8*. b) Read the end of *Romans 12* and find the verse that sets up *Romans 13*, which teaches about authority. Can you find other transitional verses as you read Scripture?

***Newer students: Focus on 'reading' Scripture rather than on using many new study insights.**

Practically, What Ought We be Doing Knowing the Time is Short?

Paul relays to the Romans that this mystery time of grace to the Gentiles (all nations) is short-lived: "*For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*" (Rom. 11:25) At an unspecified time, this present time of grace will end with the Rapture of the Church: "*In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*" (I Cor. 15:52) God will then turn back to complete His program and prophecies to His Nation Israel. **To Do:** Read about this in *Romans 11*.

Is it enough to merely know the elements of the grace message? Absolutely not! Knowing this ought to affect our thinking and living, such as dealing with others. We certainly need to understand various aspects of grace. Yet, God desires that we go on to live grace teachings in the details of life. This allows Christ to live through us to affect our understanding, attitude, and behavior to edify others: "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*" (Colossians 3:16)

What would this look like in a relationship? As we progress through the doctrine of grace by faith (*Romans-Philemon*), we will be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Rom. 12:2). Next, we will begin to view God, life, this world, and our own thoughts and behavior in a new way. Our desire will be to please our Lord, rather than ourselves, using opportunities to serve Him by responding to others in love. This will affect those in our circle of influence, as they see Christ living in us. This looks different in each saint and situation, depending on if we yield and what we really believe. Examples:

Between Saints: Yielding to God's way in order to function in a relationship will produce changes in what we think, do, and say, enabling us to develop patient endurance in the midst of challenges and unfairness. In an argument, we will submit ourselves to prefer the other. While discussing an issue, we can endure someone's fleshly response, knowing we can also sometimes walk after the flesh. Christ patiently allows us free will to make mistakes, grow, or not grow.

Between a Saint and Unbeliever: As we learn God's grace, we are taught to love others, even our enemies, with the desire that Christ will use us as a vessel of honor to bring them to Christ (I Thess. 4:4). The approach is overcoming evil with God's grace and love: "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 with evil, but overcome evil with good." (Rom. 12:20-21)

Think on this: The Rapture could happen any day. How important is it to live godly and share the gospel to the lost?

Seeing Others As Who They Are and Dealing With Them in Love

As Paul wrote Romans 9-11, we see that he knew to deal with various groups of people individually. At that time, there were unsaved Gentiles, Gentile saints, rebellious Jews, and the Remnant of Israel. In each, he considered their needs and approached them differently. For example, he realized that his ministry to the Gentiles was a provoking ministry to rebellious Israel: *"If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them."* (Rom. 11:14) Then, we see in I Corinthians how he strategically decided to keep his teaching focused on what these carnal Gentile saints needed. He focused on the death, burial, and resurrection: *"For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified."* Why did Paul alter his teaching approach? *"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ."* (I Cor. 2:2, 3:1) What can we learn?

We too can learn to be more aware. Do we view others as God sees them, treating them accordingly? There are unbelievers who have not yet trusted Christ as their Savior, but also believers (saints) saved by Christ's blood. Our approach is to meet the needs of each group of people in love.

1) Unbelievers: We minister the gospel to the lost and allow Christ to shine out of us unto them, not speaking evil of them, but teaching. It is to be with an individualized approach, considering what they need, just as a parent does with their children. Speaking patiently, with a love motive can help them in their response, that is, to desire to listen and then realize their lost condition and need for the Savior.

2) Believers: To this group, we are to teach, encourage, and edify in brotherly love (Rom. 12:10, 14:19). Each person is to be dealt with uniquely as they are at different points in maturity, and have varied backgrounds, needs, insights, sensitivities, and strongholds. It may take time to hold forth the Word to allow saints to be fully persuaded (Rom 14:5). *"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ."* (Eph. 4:15) We never want to coerce or pressure others to believe what 'we' think is right, but believe the Authority of the Word. Sometimes this process requires patient endurance in love, while they consider the verses and set aside long-standing tradition and false teaching.

It is easy for us to get a high-minded attitude of 'us' and 'them' as we deal with other Christians. We may think we have the Truth, and 'they' are blind and in error. However, saints are simply in different places in their spiritual maturity and understanding. If they trusted Christ, they are our family: brothers and sisters. *"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we are Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."* (I Cor 12:12-13) We can hold to the Truth, but also be tolerant in love to all members of the Body, even if they are different. Recognize the weaker brethren's needs, allowing them grace to come to conviction: *"To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."* (I Cor. 9:22)

We are all cherished by God: whether physically young or elderly, male or female, weak in the faith or spiritual elders, carnally minded or spiritually minded, living for themselves or involved in ministry, belong to a denomination or attend a Bible Church, etc. *"And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness."* (I Cor. 12:23) We can love them where they are, seeing it as a wonderful ministry opportunity to encourage and edify others. Spending the time they need to see the Truth in love can take more time and effort than we want or thought would be necessary. Are we willing to let our love abound yet more and more? (Philippians 1:9)

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Stamp

To:

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

Learning to 'Be Able'

Abel learned how to be pleasing unto the Lord. As saints, isn't that what we desire in the depth of our hearts? He obeyed what God said: *“And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering.” (Gen 4:4)* Simply, he came to God, God's way; not by works of his flesh, as did his brother Cain.

We do not want to be a Cain, 'unable' to please God: *“If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door...” (Gen. 4:7)* Through sound doctrine in Romans through Philemon, Paul unfolds everything we need to be acceptable and abound to walk in perfect alignment with God's way: *“Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.” (Col. 1:28)*

As a believer, we want to 'be able' to please Him. Like the play on words goes, we can learn to be an Abel in our walk. The Spirit gives us the mind of Christ to 'be able' to bring forth the glory of His character in our life. As we grow to trust and yield, God 'enables' us. **To Do:** Think on the verses where 1) God is able 2) we're not, 3) but, we become able as we yield.

1) God is able: *Romans 4:21: “And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, **he was able** also to perform.”* Also read: *Romans 11:23, 14:4, Ephesians 3:20, Philippians 3:21, II Timothy 1:12.*

2) We're NOT able in our flesh: *I Corinthians 3:2: “I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto **ye were not able** to bear it, **neither yet now are ye able.**”* Also read: *I Cor. 6:5, II Timothy 3:7.*

3) We're enabled in Christ: *I Cor. 10:13: “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that **ye are able**; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that **ye may be able** to bear it.”* Also read: *Romans 15:14, II Corinthians 1:4, Ephesians 3:18, 6:11 & 16, II Timothy 2:2, 3:15, Titus 1:9.*

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