

Through the Bible

# ROMANS II

Zac Poonen

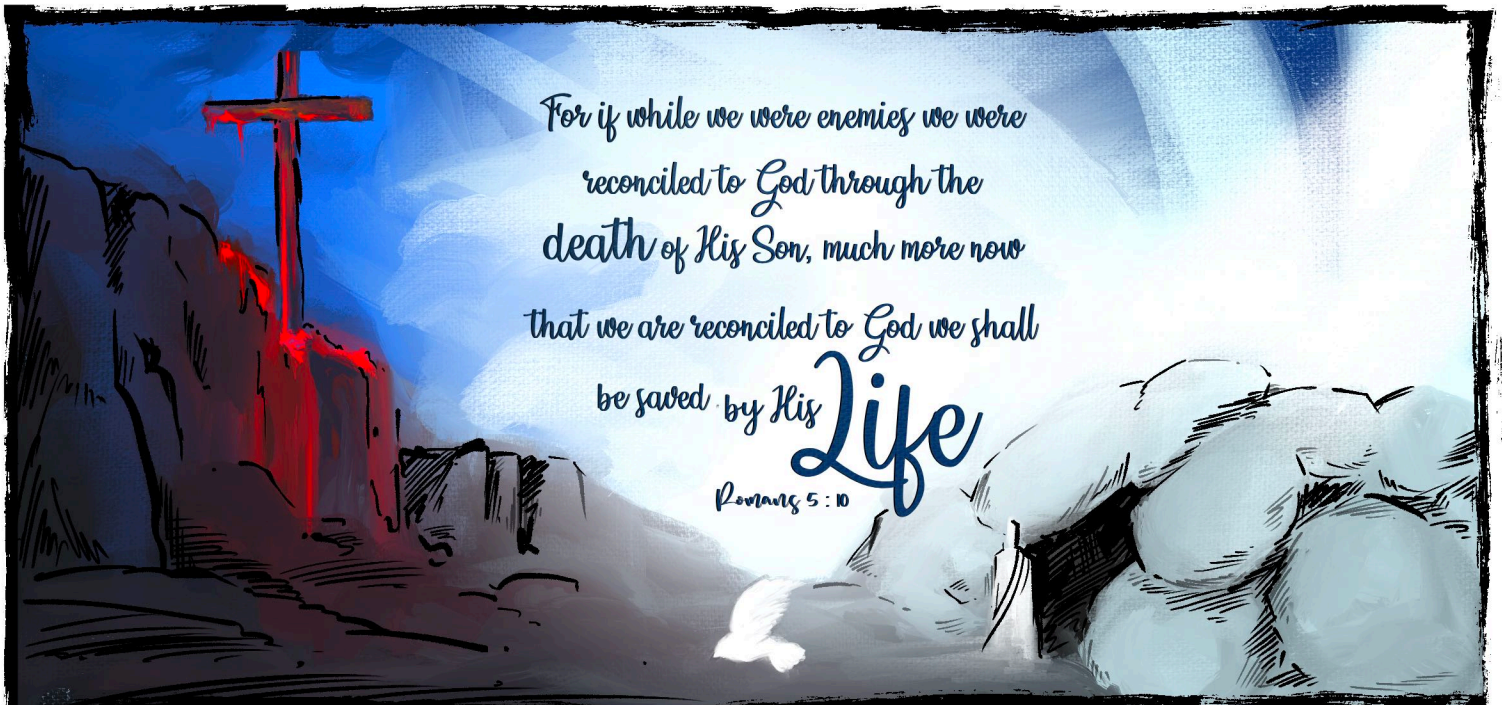


Illustrations by Vinay Kuruvilla

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**CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH**

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For if while we were enemies we were  
reconciled to God through the  
death of His Son, much more now  
that we are reconciled to God we shall  
be saved by His **Life**

Romans 5:10

THERE ARE TWO SALVATIONS GOD OFFERS US ON THIS EARTH. BY CHRIST'S DEATH WE ARE SAVED FROM THE **PENALTY** OF SIN. BY HIS **LIFE** WHICH HE IMPARTS TO US THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WE CAN BE SAVED FROM THE **POWER** OF SIN.



SINCE SALVATION IS A **FREE GIFT** SOME PEOPLE MAY THEN SAY, "O, IN **THAT CASE IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW WE LIVE!**" UNDER THE **LAW**, THE ISRAELITES TOOK SIN **SERIOUSLY**. UNDER **GRACE**, WE SHOULD TAKE SIN **MORE SERIOUSLY**.

Therefore we have been buried with  
Him through **baptism** into death

Romans 6:4

so that as **Christ** was  
raised through the **Glor**  
of the **Father**,



so we too  
might walk in  
**newness**  
of **life**

WHEN WE COME UNDER **GRACE**, OUR ATTITUDE BECOMES:  
"HOW SHALL WE WHO **DIED** TO SIN STILL **LIVE** IN IT?" (VERSE 2). WE WERE **BAPTISED** INTO HIS **DEATH** (VERSE 3). IN BAPTISM, AS A PERSON IS **BURIED** UNDER THE **WATER** AND THEN **RAISED UP**, HE IS **TESTIFYING** TO A **DEATH** TO AN **OLD LIFE** AND TO A **RESURRECTION** TO A **NEW ONE**.

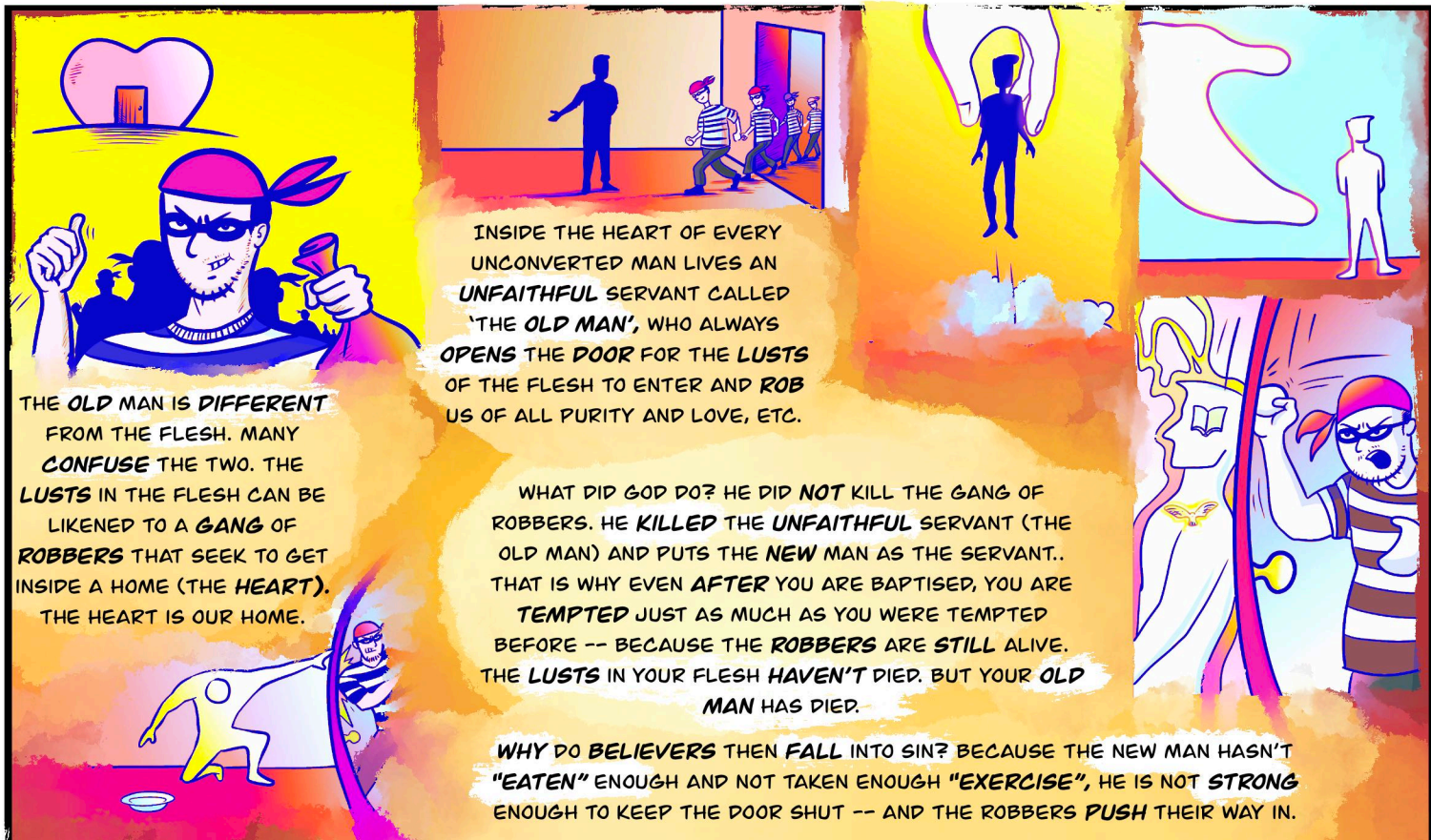
Our old self was  
**crucified**



with **Jesus**

Romans 6:6

THE OLD MAN (THE **WILL** TO SIN) HAS BEEN **CRUCIFIED** WITH CHRIST AND IS **BURIED** AND **GONE**. JUST AS WE CAN'T GET **FORGIVENESS** OF SINS UNTIL WE **ACCEPT** THAT OUR **SINS** WERE LAID ON **CHRIST** UPON THE **CROSS**, WE **CANNOT** EXPERIENCE THE **REALITY** OF BEING **DEAD** TO **SIN**, UNTIL WE **ACCEPT** IT AS **TRUE**. THIS IS NOT SOMETHING WE HAVE TO **DO**. GOD HAS **ALREADY** **SLAIN** OUR **OLD MAN** ON THE **CROSS**.

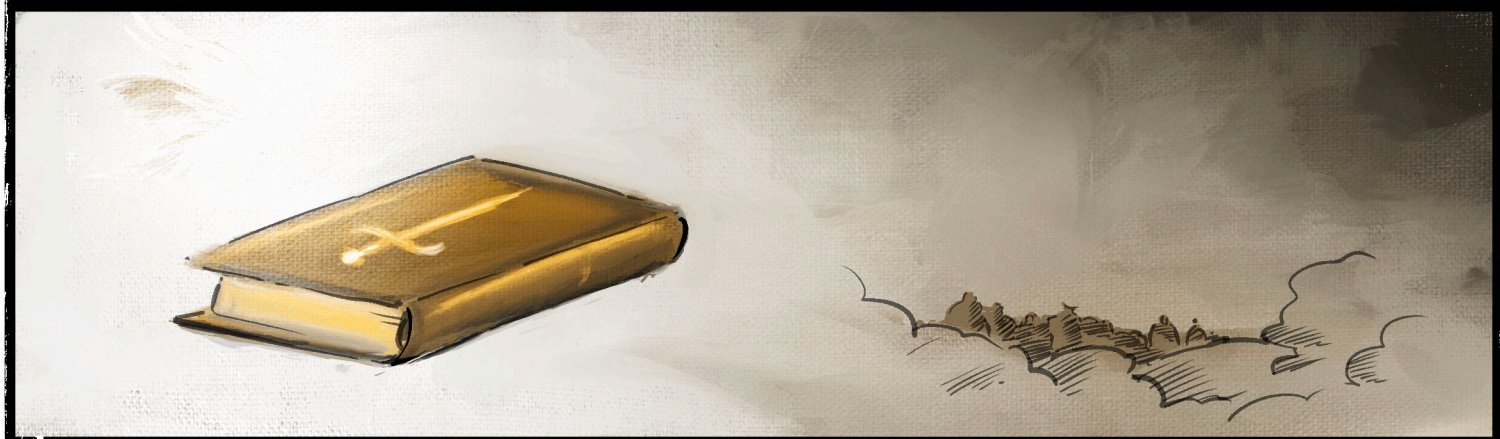


THE OLD MAN IS DIFFERENT FROM THE FLESH. MANY CONFUSE THE TWO. THE LUSTS IN THE FLESH CAN BE LIKENED TO A GANG OF ROBBERS THAT SEEK TO GET INSIDE A HOME (THE HEART). THE HEART IS OUR HOME.

INSIDE THE HEART OF EVERY UNCONVERTED MAN LIVES AN UNFAITHFUL SERVANT CALLED 'THE OLD MAN', WHO ALWAYS OPENS THE DOOR FOR THE LUSTS OF THE FLESH TO ENTER AND ROB US OF ALL PURITY AND LOVE, ETC.

WHAT DID GOD DO? HE DID NOT KILL THE GANG OF ROBBERS. HE KILLED THE UNFAITHFUL SERVANT (THE OLD MAN) AND PUTS THE NEW MAN AS THE SERVANT.. THAT IS WHY EVEN AFTER YOU ARE BAPTISED, YOU ARE TEMPTED JUST AS MUCH AS YOU WERE TEMPTED BEFORE -- BECAUSE THE ROBBERS ARE STILL ALIVE. THE LUSTS IN YOUR FLESH HAVEN'T DIED. BUT YOUR OLD MAN HAS DIED.

WHY DO BELIEVERS THEN FALL INTO SIN? BECAUSE THE NEW MAN HASN'T "EATEN" ENOUGH AND NOT TAKEN ENOUGH "EXERCISE", HE IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THE DOOR SHUT -- AND THE ROBBERS PUSH THEIR WAY IN.



IF YOU DON'T READ GOD'S WORD AND MEDITATE ON IT SUFFICIENTLY AND GOD'S WORD DOES NOT ABIDE IN YOU, OR IF YOU ARE NOT FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, YOU ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THOSE LUSTS OF THE FLESH OUTSIDE.

Consider yourself to be dead to sin

but alive to God in Christ Jesus



JUST AS I ACCEPTED THAT CHRIST DIED FOR MY SINS, I NOW ACCEPT THAT MY OLD MAN HAS BEEN CRUCIFIED ON THAT CROSS AND I HAVE DIED TO SIN. I AM GOING TO CONSIDER MYSELF DEAD TO SIN AND ALIVE TO CHRIST.

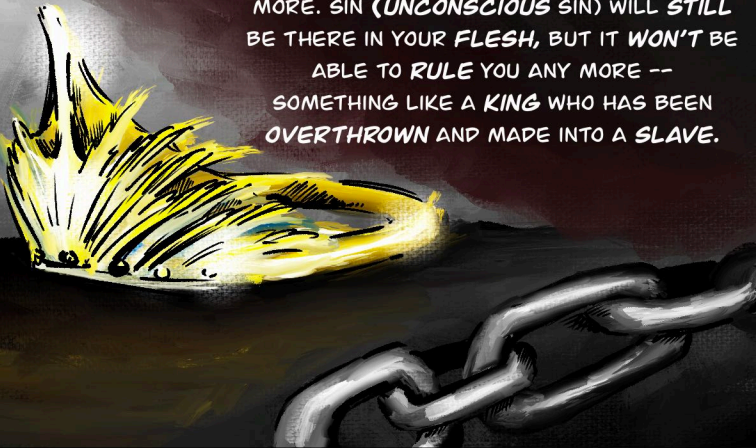
Sin will now **no longer rule** you because now you are under **Grace**, not under law.

Romans 6 : 14

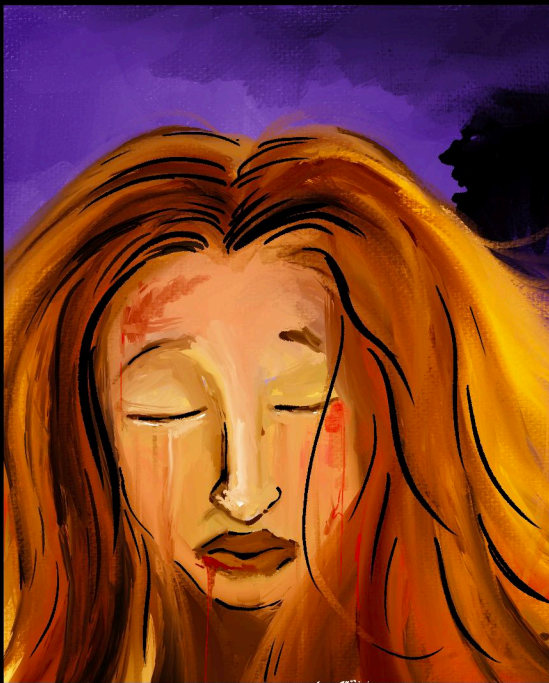
LAW MEANS I DO SOMETHING FOR GOD. GRACE MEANS GOD DOES SOMETHING FOR ME. WHAT A DIFFERENCE! WHEN A 3-YEAR-OLD BOY TRIES TO WRITE THE ALPHABET PERFECTLY ALL BY HIMSELF, THAT'S LAW. IT WILL NEVER BE PERFECT. GRACE IS WHEN HIS FATHER HOLDS HIS HAND AND WRITES THE ALPHABET PERFECTLY WITH NO MISTAKE OR ERROR. YOU WON'T MAKE A MISTAKE IF YOU LET YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER HOLD YOUR HAND. **SUBMIT AND YIELD TO HIM.**



THEN SIN WILL NOT REIGN OVER YOU ANY MORE. SIN (UNCONSCIOUS SIN) WILL STILL BE THERE IN YOUR FLESH, BUT IT WON'T BE ABLE TO RULE YOU ANY MORE -- SOMETHING LIKE A KING WHO HAS BEEN OVERTHROWN AND MADE INTO A SLAVE.



IN CHAPTERS 6 AND 7, WE SEE THESE THREE SPIRITUAL "MARRIAGES" -- FIRST TO THE OLD MAN, THEN TO THE LAW AND FINALLY TO CHRIST.



THE OLD MAN CAN BE LIKENED TO A WICKED HUSBAND. THIS BATTERED WIFE LONGS TO BE FREE OF THIS WICKED HUSBAND.



ONE DAY HER HUSBAND -- THE OLD MAN IS DEAD. SHE IS BORN AGAIN! NOW SHE IS FREE TO MARRY AGAIN.



BUT INSTEAD OF MARRYING CHRIST SHE MAKES THE MISTAKE OF MARRYING THE LAW. THE LAW IS PERFECT, AND SO IT IS EASY TO MISTAKE THE LAW FOR CHRIST, BECAUSE IT DEMANDS PERFECT RIGHTEOUSNESS.



BUT MARRYING THE **DEMANDING** LAW AFTER BEING MARRIED TO THE OLD MAN NOW LOOKS LIKE HAVING JUMPED OUT OF THE **FRYING PAN** AND INTO THE **FIRE**. HE IS A **GOOD** MAN, BUT HE IS SO **DEMANDING**. HE **NEVER** ASKS FOR **ANYTHING EVIL**, BUT YOU CAN **NEVER MEASURE UP** TO HIS **STANDARDS**. THEN SHE REALISES THAT SHE HAS MARRIED THE **WRONG** MAN.

You were made to **DIE** to the **Law** so that you might be joined to another, to **JESUS** who was raised from the dead

Romans 7 : 4



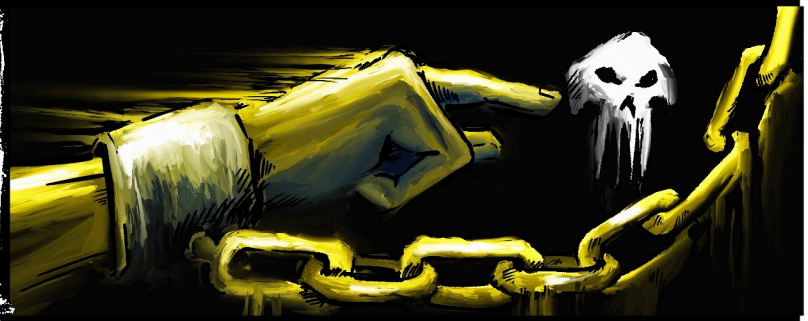
SO **WHAT** CAN SHE DO **NOW**? THE **LAW -- GOD'S LAW -- CAN NEVER DIE!** "THE **MARRIED WOMAN** IS **BOUND** TO HER **HUSBAND** AS **LONG** AS HE IS **ALIVE**" (7:2). THEN **GOD** DOES SOMETHING **WONDERFUL**. HE MAKES THE **WOMAN** **DIE**, AND THAT **BREAKS** THE **MARRIAGE-VOW**. NOW THAT YOU HAVE **DIED** WITH **CHRIST**, YOU ARE **NOT** **BOUND** TO THE **LAW** ANY MORE.



AND **GOD** RAISES YOU FROM THE **DEAD** SO THAT YOU CAN BE **MARRIED** TO **CHRIST**. THAT IS THE **THIRD** **MARRIAGE --** AND IT IS A **GLORIOUS** ONE! **CHRIST'S** **STANDARDS** ARE **HIGHER** THAN THE **LAW**. BUT THERE IS A **BIG** **DIFFERENCE** BETWEEN **CHRIST** AND THE **LAW**. HE WANTS US TO DO EVERYTHING IN **PARTNERSHIP** WITH **HIM**. THE **LORD** **WON'T** **CONDEMN** YOU AND **REJECT** YOU LIKE THE **LAW** WOULD. HE SAYS, "**NEVER MIND**, WE WILL **WORK** TOGETHER AND YOU WILL **IMPROVE**."

IF WE TAKE THE EXAMPLE OF **WASHING CLOTHES**, THE **LORD** IS **DETERMINED** TO **WORK** WITH YOU UNTIL THERE IS NOT A **SINGLE STAIN** LEFT ON **ANY** OF THE **WASHED CLOTHES --** HE WILL **WORK** WITH YOU UNTIL YOU **ATTAIN PERFECTION**.

LEGALISTIC CHRISTIANS HOWEVER LIVE BY RULES AND REGULATIONS AND AS A RESULT THEY LIVE IN PERPETUAL SELF-CONDEMNATION AND MISERY AND BONDAGE. AND THEY MAKE OTHERS AROUND THEM MISERABLE TOO, IMPOSING THEIR RULES ON THOSE OTHERS AND BRINGING THEM INTO BONDAGE TOO. GOD'S CHILDREN, HOWEVER, ARE TO LIVE IN "A GLORIOUS LIBERTY" (ROMANS 8:21).

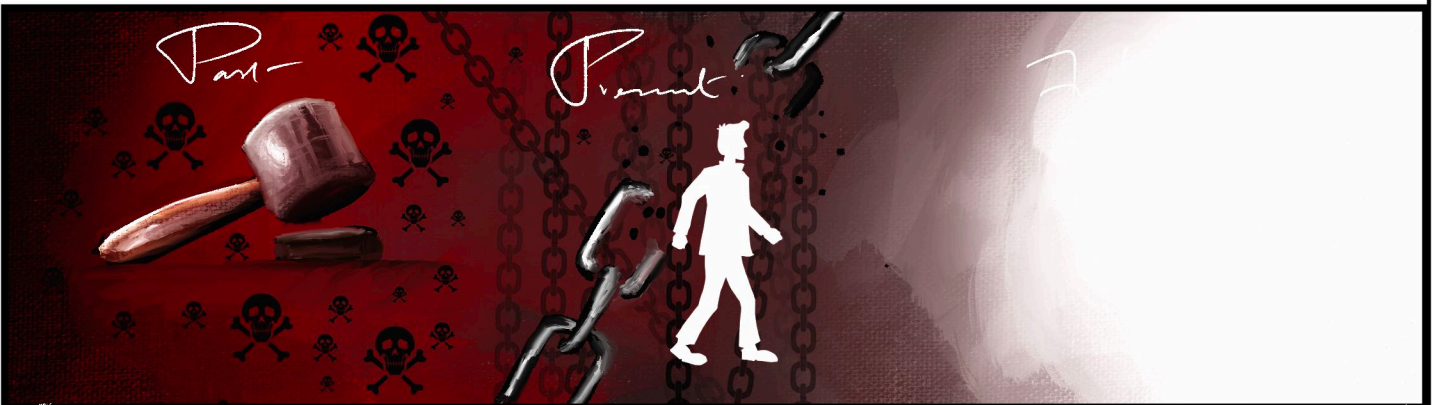


I agree that the law is good, but I am not doing what I want to do. The good that I wish, I don't do, but I practice the evil that I don't want to do.

Romans 7 : 16, 19



IN THE LATTER PART OF CHAPTER 7, PAUL SPEAKS OF THE STRUGGLE THAT GOES ON WITHIN US AFTER WE ARE BORN AGAIN. HE IS NOT SPEAKING OF DELIBERATE SIN. THIS WHOLE SECTION (7:15--25) IS DEALING WITH THOSE AREAS IN OUR LIFE WHERE WE WANT TO DO THINGS PERFECTLY, BUT WHERE WE SLIP UP AND FALL, DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS. YOU REGRET IT IMMEDIATELY. THAT WAS NOT A SIN THAT YOU PLANNED TO COMMIT. YOU DIDN'T WANT TO FALL AT ALL -- BUT YOU FELL. THAT WAS NOT YOUR OLD MAN. IT WAS YOUR NEW MAN WHO WAS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THE DOOR SHUT.



IN CHAPTER 8, WE READ OF FREEDOM FROM SIN IN THREE TENSES -- PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE. WE ARE FREED FIRST OF ALL FROM THE PENALTY OF SIN -- "NO CONDEMNATION" (VERSE 1). THEN WE ARE FREED FROM THE POWER OF SIN (VERSES 2--17). AND FINALLY, WE WILL ONE DAY BE FREED FROM THE VERY PRESENCE OF SIN (VERSES 18--25).

IN VERSE 2, WE READ OF TWO LAWS. "THE LAW OF SIN AND OF DEATH" OPERATES JUST LIKE THE LAW OF GRAVITY -- ALWAYS PULLING US DOWN. WHAT FREES US FROM THIS LAW IS "THE LAW OF THE SPIRIT" -- IT IS A LIFE -- "THE VERY LIFE OF CHRIST JESUS", NOT A LIST OF COMMANDMENTS



IF I HOLD A BOOK IN MY HAND, IT WILL NOT FALL TO THE GROUND. THE POWER IN MY HAND OVERCOMES THE POWER OF GRAVITY AND PREVENTS THE BOOK FROM FALLING. THAT IS HOW THE LORD KEEPS US FROM FALLING TOO (JUDE 24)

BUT **UNLIKE** A **BOOK** THAT HAS **NO POWER OF CHOICE**, WE HAVE TO **COOPERATE** WITH THE **LORD** -- BECAUSE WE HAVE A **WILL** OF OUR OWN. WE CAN **CHOOSE** TO **JUMP** OUT OF THE **LORD'S HAND**, AND THEN WE WILL **CERTAINLY FALL**. BUT IF WE **SUBMIT** TO THE **LORD COMPLETELY**, HE WILL **KEEP** US FROM **FALLING**. SO, I AM **NOT** SAYING THAT A **BELIEVER** WILL **NEVER** FALL. WHAT I **AM** SAYING IS THAT A **BELIEVER** **NEED NOT** FALL.



God makes all things work  
together for good to those who

love Him to those who are  
called according to His purpose

Romans 8 : 28



THIS VERSE IS LIKE A **WATER FILTER**. IF YOU POUR **DIRTY WATER** INTO A **WATER-FILTER**, IT COMES OUT AS **CLEAN WATER** AT THE **OTHER END**. IN THE SAME WAY, WHEN SOMEONE **TRIES TO HARM US**, THAT WILL WORK FOR OUR **GOOD**. THIS IS WHY **EPHESIANS 5:20** AND **1 THESSALONIANS 5:18** SAYS " **ALWAYS GIVE THANKS FOR ALL THINGS**." WHETHER PEOPLE SEEK TO DO **GOOD** TO US OR TO **HARM US**, **EVERYTHING** WILL WORK FOR OUR **GOOD** FINALLY -- **ALWAYS**.

IN CHAPTER 7, THE WORDS "I", "ME", "MINE" OCCUR MANY TIMES: IT IS ALL ABOUT "ME" AND "MY STRUGGLE" AGAINST **SIN**. BUT IN CHAPTER 8, THE **HOLY SPIRIT** IS MENTIONED 17 TIMES. THERE IT IS ABOUT **LIFE** IN THE SPIRIT. WHEN WE COME INTO THIS LIFE OF **SUBMISSION** TO THE **HOLY SPIRIT**, THEN OUR **FATHER** BEGINS TO WORK IN ALL THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF OUR LIFE TO MAKE EVERYTHING **WORK** FOR OUR **ETERNAL GOOD**.



AND THAT "**GOOD**" IS MENTIONED IN THE NEXT VERSE -- **ROMANS 8:29** -- YOU WILL BE MADE **MORE LIKE JESUS HIMSELF**. THERE IS **NO GREATER GOOD** THAT **ALMIGHTY GOD** CAN DO FOR YOU THAN THAT. **IF**, HOWEVER, YOU HAVE YOUR **OWN PRIVATE AGENDA**, THEN THE PROMISE IN **ROMANS 8:28** IS **NOT** FOR YOU. THE **VAST MAJORITY** OF **CHRISTIANS** DO **NOT** LIVE IN THE **GOOD** OF **ROMANS 8:28**, BECAUSE THEY HAVE THEIR **OWN PLANS** FOR THEIR LIVES AND THEY **ONLY** WANT **GOD** TO COME AND **BLESS** THEM.





IN CHAPTER 9, WE READ OF GOD'S **SOVEREIGN** ELECTION OF ISRAEL. WE MUST **NOT MISUNDERSTAND** GOD'S ELECTION, AS THOUGH IT MEANS THAT HE **PREDESTINES** SOME PEOPLE TO GO TO HEAVEN AND SOME TO HELL. THAT IS A **FALSE TEACHING**. GOD WANTS **ALL** PEOPLE TO **REPENT** AND TO BE **SAVED** AND TO **DWELL** WITH HIM IN HEAVEN **FOREVER**. BUT HE WILL **NOT COMPEL** ANYONE. HE CHOOSES US, BASED ON HIS **KNOWLEDGE** IN **ADVANCE** AS TO WHO ALL WILL **ACCEPT CHRIST** AS THEIR LORD



RATHER, GOD HAS A **SPECIFIC MINISTRY** FOR EACH OF US AND HE DETERMINES **SOVEREIGNLY** WHAT **GIFTS** TO GIVE US.



HE PREPARES US FROM OUR BIRTH TO **ACCOMPLISH A SPECIFIC PURPOSE** FOR HIM ON EARTH. EVEN **PHARAOH** (9:17) WAS **RAISED UP** TO FULFIL A **PURPOSE**. PHARAOH **OPPOSED** GOD AND DID **NOT REPENT**. SINCE HE **HARDENED** HIS HEART, GOD **DEMONSTRATED** HIS POWER THROUGH THE **HARDENING** OF PHARAOH'S HEART. **YOU CAN'T DEFEAT GOD**.

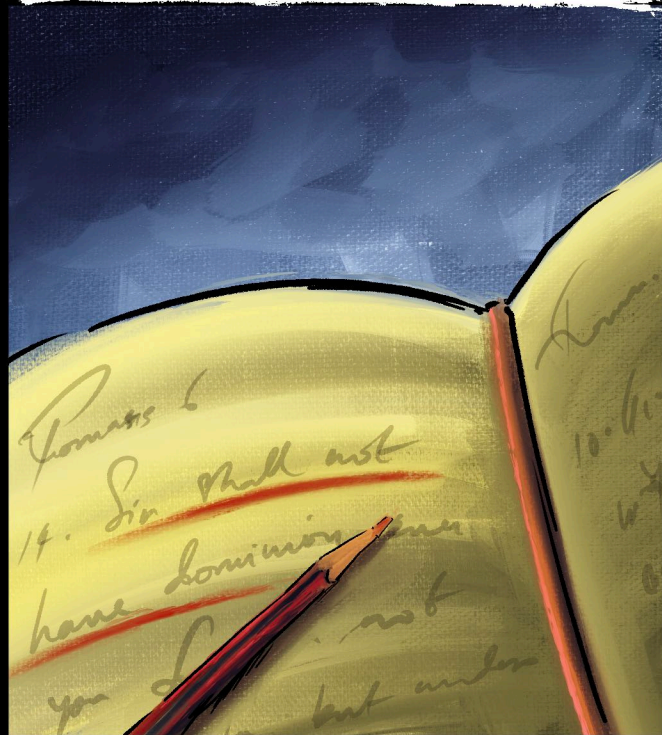


IN CHAPTER 10 PAUL SPEAKS ABOUT THE **RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD**. THE JEWS DID **NOT ACHIEVE** RIGHTEOUSNESS (9:31), BECAUSE THEY **SOUGHT** AFTER IT IN THE **WRONG WAY** -- THROUGH THE **LAW**.

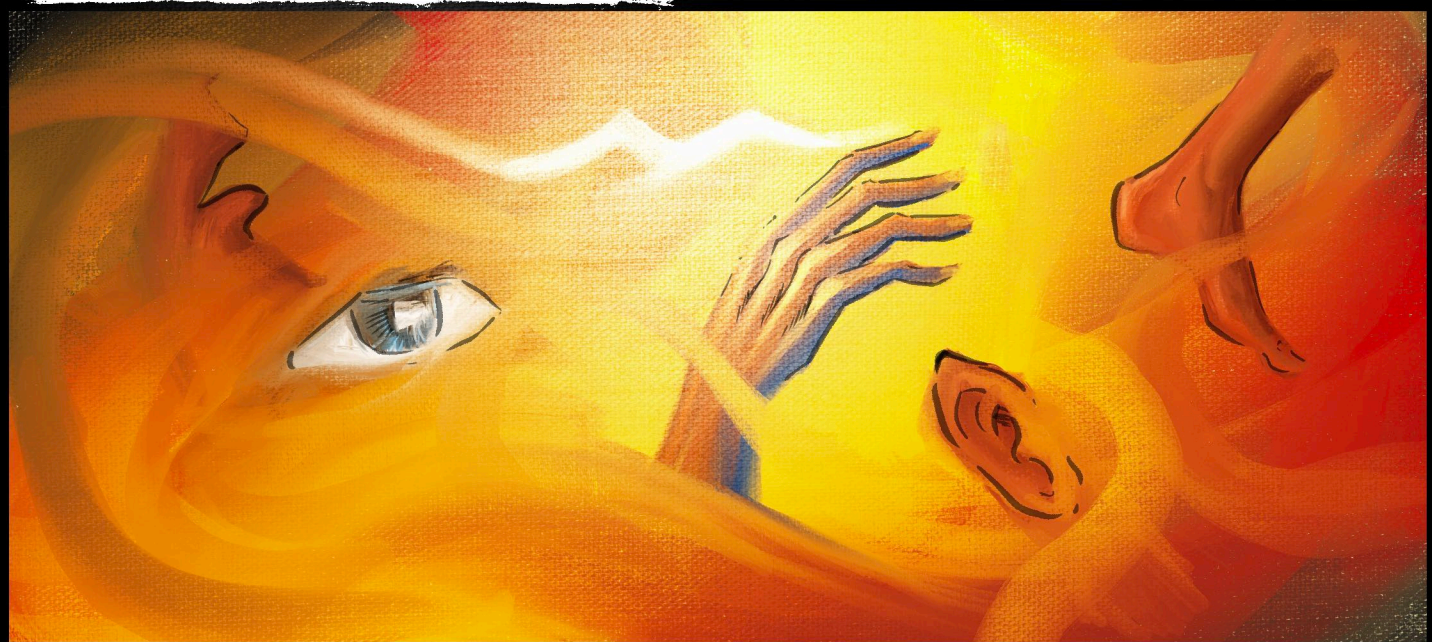


**HOW CAN WE HAVE GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS?** VERSES 6 TO 8 OF CHAPTER 10 TELL US. IT IS **NOT SOMETHING OUTSIDE** US. IT SAYS HERE THE **WORD OF FAITH** IS IN OUR **MOUTH**. "IF YOU **CONFESS** WITH YOUR **MOUTH JESUS** AS **LORD** AND **BELIEVE** IN YOUR **HEART** THAT **GOD RAISED** HIM FROM THE **DEAD**, YOU SHALL BE **SAVED**" (VERSE 9).

AS WE SEE IN VERSE 17: "FAITH COMES BY HEARING AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF CHRIST." YOU CAN ASK GOD FOR WHAT HE HAS PROMISED IN HIS WORD. ESPECIALLY THE NEW TESTAMENT PROMISES.



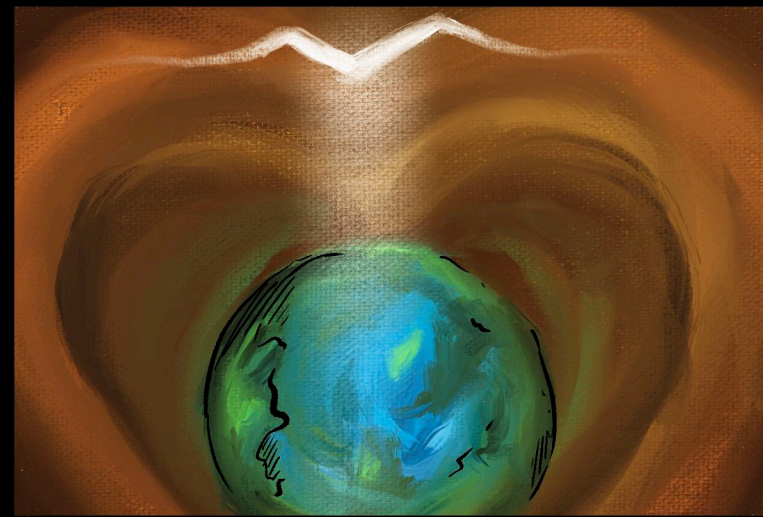
CHAPTER 11 SPEAKS ABOUT GOD'S FAITHFULNESS. WE ARE TOLD NOT TO BE PROUD JUST BECAUSE GOD HAS BEEN GOOD TO US. "DO NOT BE CONCEITED, BUT FEAR, BECAUSE IF GOD CUT OFF THE NATURAL BRANCHES, WILL HE SPARE YOU?" (VERSES 20, 21). WE CAN BE PART OF GOD'S TREE AND THEN BE CUT OFF. WE ARE GIVEN THIS WARNING AGAIN AND AGAIN IN SCRIPTURE (SEE LUKE 11:35; HEBREWS 3:12, ETC.). PRIDE IS ALWAYS THE CAUSE OF THIS CUTTING OFF. THOSE WHO REMAIN IN HUMILITY NEED NEVER FEAR.



CHAPTER 12: IN VIEW OF SUCH A FANTASTIC GOSPEL AND GOD'S TREMENDOUS MERCIES, WHAT SHOULD OUR RESPONSE BE? FIRST OF ALL, WE MUST PRESENT OUR BODIES TO GOD DAILY AS A LIVING SACRIFICE (VERSE 1). GOD DOESN'T WANT OUR MONEY, HE WANTS OUR BODY. THIS IS SIMILAR TO THE OLD TESTAMENT BURNT OFFERING



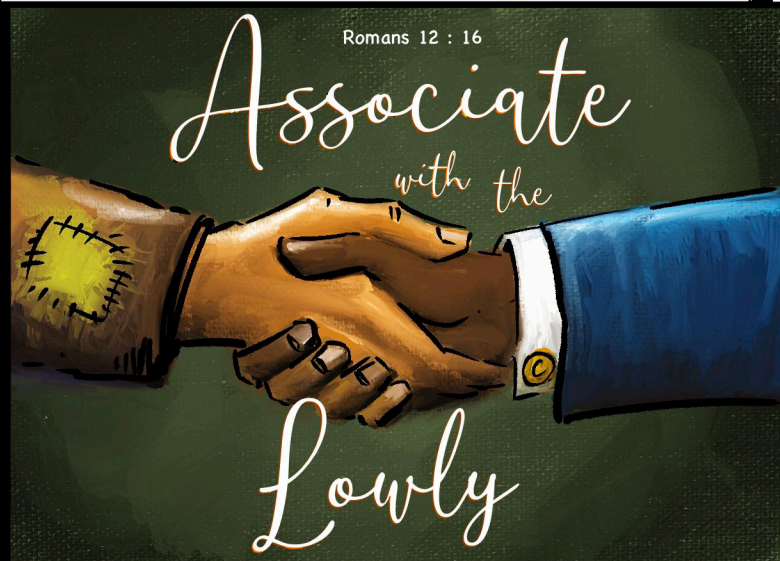
THEN, SECONDLY, WE MUST GIVE HIM OUR **MINDS** TO BE **RENEWED** (VERSE 2). THIS TAKES PLACE AS WE **ALLOW** OUR **MINDS** TO BE **SATURATED** WITH THE **WORD OF GOD**. IN THE **PAST**, WE USED OUR **MINDS** TO THINK ALONG **WORLDLY LINES**. NOW **GOD** WANTS TO **CHANGE** OUR WAY OF **THINKING**, SO THAT WE BEGIN TO THINK THE WAY **HE THINKS**. THUS OUR **MIND** IS **GRADUALLY RENEWED**. AS WE **READ** AND **OBEY** **GOD'S** **WORD**, THE **HOLY SPIRIT** TRANSFORMS US INTO THE **LIKENESS OF CHRIST** BY **RENEWING** OUR **MINDS**.



TRANSFORMATION TAKES PLACE ON THE **INSIDE** FIRST. "BE NOT **CONFORMED** TO THIS **WORLD**" (VERSE 2) TEACHES US THAT **WORLDLINESS** ORIGINATES IN OUR **MINDS**. WE MAY **DRESS** VERY **SIMPLY** AND YET **LOVE MONEY** GREATLY. **MAN** LOOKS AT THE **OUTWARD APPEARANCE**, WHEREAS **GOD** LOOKS AT THE **HEART**.



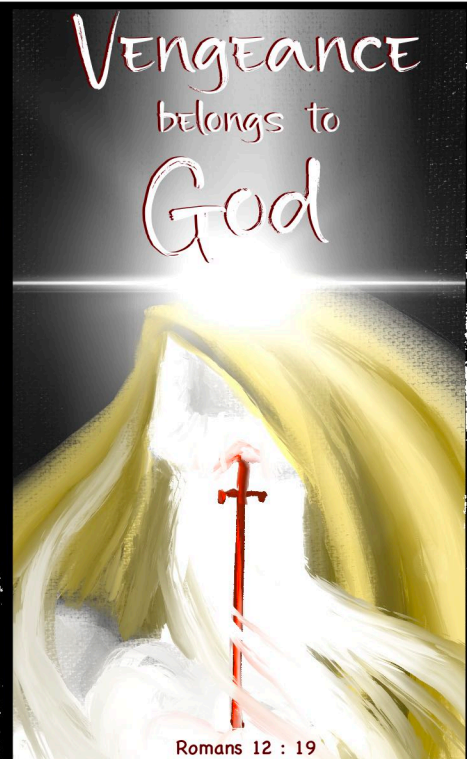
CHAPTER 12 - THE **GOAL** OF THE **GOSPEL** IS NOT **INDIVIDUAL** SALVATION BUT BECOMING A PART OF **CHRIST'S BODY** -- WHERE WE **EXERCISE** THE **GIFTS** **GOD** GIVES US -- **PROPHECY**, **SERVICE**, AND **GIFTS** **MANY** MAY NOT SEEK FOR - LIKE **GENEROSITY**.



Romans 12 : 16

Associate  
with the  
Lowly

THE REST OF CHAPTER 12 SPEAKS ABOUT HOW WE ARE TO **RELATE** TO OTHER PEOPLE IN THE **BODY OF CHRIST**. "DON'T BE **HAUGHTY** IN YOUR **MIND** BUT **ASSOCIATE** WITH **LOWLY** PEOPLE" (VERSE 16). WE MUST **MINGLE** WITH **EVERYONE** IN **CHRIST'S** **BODY**, BUT **ESPECIALLY** WITH THE **POOR** -- FOR **GOD** HAS **CHOSEN** THE **POOR** OF THIS **WORLD** TO BE **RICH** IN **FAITH** (JAMES 2:5).



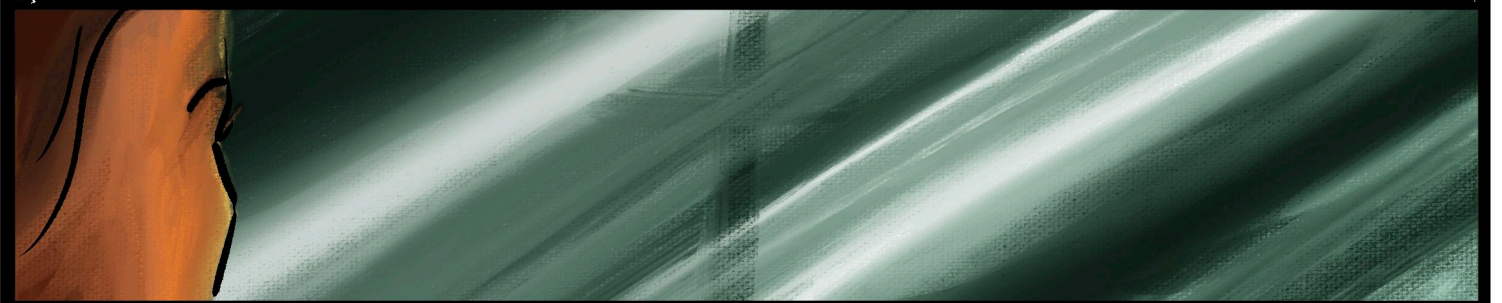
VENGEANCE  
belongs to  
God

Romans 12 : 19

"NEVER TAKE **REVENGE** ON ANYONE FOR **VENGEANCE** BELONGS TO **GOD** (VERSE 19). JUST LIKE **WORSHIP** AND **GLORY** BELONG TO **GOD** ALONE, **VENGEANCE** ALSO BELONGS TO **GOD** ALONE. WE HAVE **NO** MORE **RIGHT** TO TAKE **VENGEANCE** ON **OTHERS** THAN WE HAVE TO RECEIVE **WORSHIP** OR **GLORY** FROM **OTHERS**.

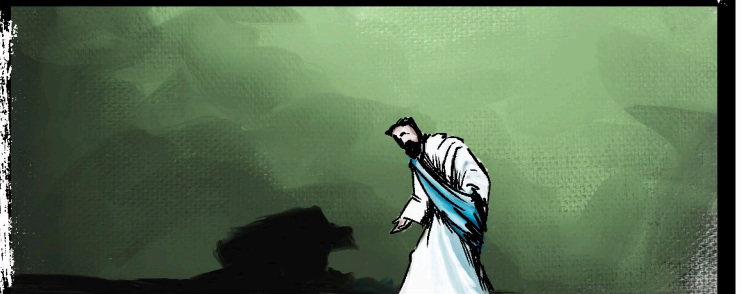


CHAPTER 13 SPEAKS ABOUT **SUBMISSION** TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES. THE GOSPEL TEACHES US TO SUBMIT TO **GOD FIRST** OF ALL (12:1, 2); THEN TO **ONE ANOTHER** IN THE **BODY OF CHRIST** (12:3--21); AND FINALLY TO **SECULAR AUTHORITIES** -- BECAUSE THEY ARE "SERVANTS OF GOD" (13:4, 6). THAT IS WHY WE PAY OUR **TAXES** AND **OBEY THE LAWS** OF OUR COUNTRY.



CHAPTERS 14 AND 15 SPEAK ABOUT **ACCEPTING** ONE ANOTHER IN CHRIST'S BODY. AS BELIEVERS, WE **DON'T** ALL THINK **ALIKE** IN EVERY MATTER. ONE DAY WHEN **CHRIST RETURNS** AND OUR **MINDS** BECOME **PERFECT**, WE WILL **AGREE 100%** ON EVERY DOCTRINE. **BUT NOW** WE ALL HAVE **DIFFERENT OPINIONS** ON THESE MATTERS, BECAUSE EVEN IF WE ARE **SINCERE** AND **WHOLEHEARTED**, OUR MINDS HAVE STILL BEEN **WARPED** BY THE EFFECTS OF **SIN**. WE SEE **EVERYTHING DARKLY** THROUGH A **GLASS**.

THERE ARE **CLEAR** AND IMPORTANT TRUTHS IN SCRIPTURE -- JESUS CHRIST IS **FULLY GOD** AND **FULLY MAN** AND HE **DIED** FOR THE **SINS** OF THE WORLD AND **ROSE** AGAIN AND IS THE **ONLY WAY** TO GOD THE **FATHER**. ON **SUCH** DOCTRINES, WE DO **NOT YIELD** ONE BIT. BUT THERE ARE **OTHER** DOCTRINES THAT ARE **NOT FUNDAMENTAL**. DO YOU SEE A BROTHER WHO IS **WEAK** IN THE FAITH? **ACCEPT** HIM - "JUST AS **CHRIST ACCEPTED YOU**" (15:7) - **WEAK** AND **FOOLISH** ARE WE WERE.



WHEN OUR HEARTS ARE **ENLARGED** TO **ACCEPT ALL** WHOM **GOD** HAS **ACCEPTED**, JUST AS THEY ARE, THEN WE COME TO THE **CULMINATION** OF THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL. "IN **ONE ACCORD** (WITH OTHERS IN CHRIST'S BODY) AND WITH **ONE VOICE**, WE **GLORIFY GOD**" (15:6).



THE LAST CHAPTER, CHAPTER 16 INCLUDES GREETINGS FROM PAUL TO **DIFFERENT BELIEVERS** IN ROME. IN THE CHURCH IN ROME, THERE WERE **FIVE HOUSE CHURCHES** (VERSES 5--15). THEY **DIDN'T** ALL MEET **TOGETHER** IN ONE HALL AS A **MEGA-CHURCH**. THE CHURCH IN ROME WAS VERY **LARGE**, BUT THEY MET IN **DIFFERENT HOUSES** IN **SMALL GROUPS**.