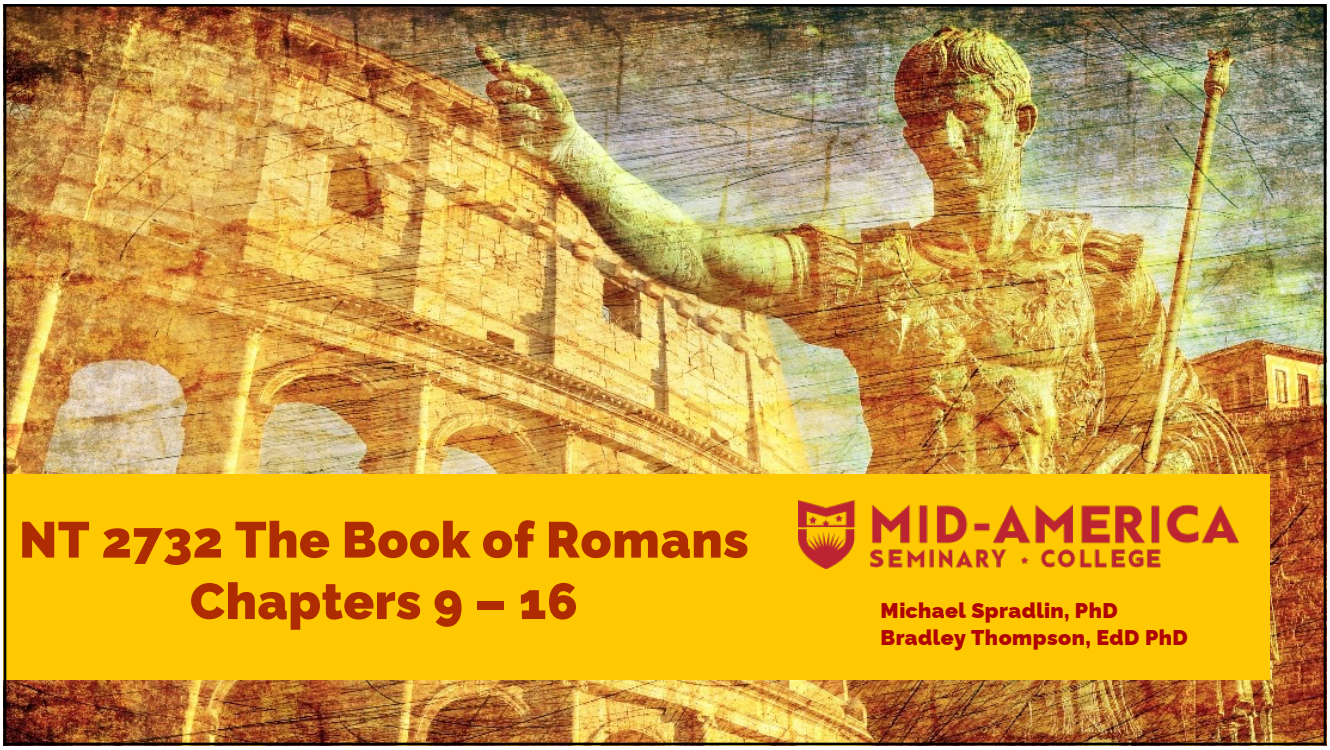

NT 2732 The Book of Romans
Chapters 9 – 16

MID-AMERICA SEMINARY • COLLEGE

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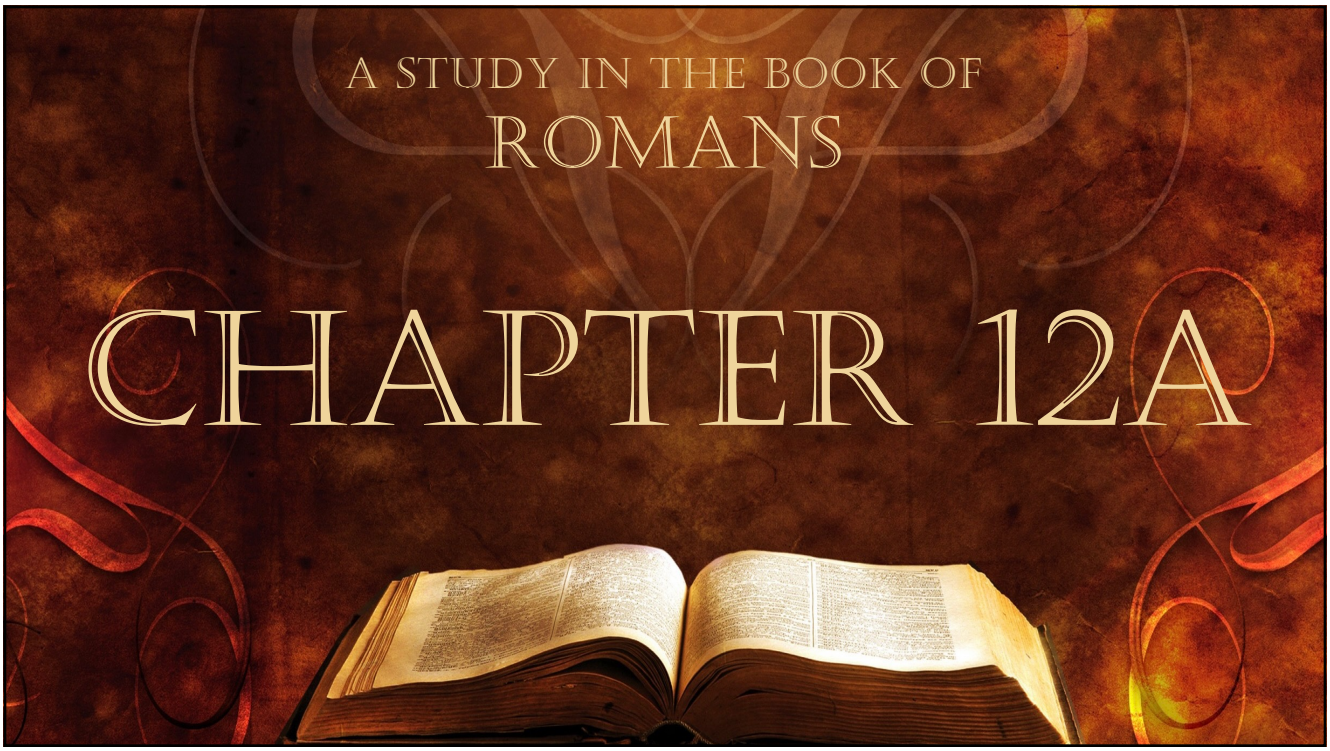

ROMANS

THE GOSPEL

Introduction — Personal (1:1–17)

	Saving the Sinner Depravity of humanity Grace of God Justification by faith Sanctification through the Spirit Security of the saint *CHAPTERS 1:18–8:39*	**Concerning Israel** Divine sovereignty and human will Past, present, and future of the nation *CHAPTERS 9–11*	**Concerning Christian Conduct** Social Civil Personal *CHAPTERS 12:1–15:13*
Emphasis	Doctrinal	National	Practical
Response	Faith	Hope	Love
Doctrine of God	Wrath	Righteousness / Glory	Grace
Doctrine of Humanity	Fallen / Dead	Saved / Struggling	Freed
Doctrine of Sin	Exposed / Conquered	Explained	Forgiven
Scope	Dead in sin / Dead to sin	Peace with God	Love for others
Theme	God's righteousness is given to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ.		
Key Verses	1:16–17		
Christ in Romans	Jesus is the focus of the gospel and the means of salvation by God's grace apart from works (1:1–4, 16–17).		

Conclusion — Relational (15:14–16:27)

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Chapter 12

Verse 1- *Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

This begins a new section of Paul's letter. He has concluded his discussion of the doctrine of salvation and begins to describe how Christians should live. How should we respond to God's great salvation?

The doxology in the previous four verses made it clear that God owes us nothing. He has forgiven our sins and shared His riches of glory. How should we respond? Don't make a sacrifice- be one.

Chapter 12

Verse 1- *Therefore I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.*

The basis of this exhortation part of his letter is based on the word "therefore." Does it refer to the immediately preceding argument (9-11) or to the larger argument for God's saving righteousness of all people (3:21-11:36). Sacrifices had to be judged acceptable, and God had done so through his death and resurrection. This is the only response to God giving us eternal life.

Chapter 12

Verse 2- *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

Believers shouldn't let the world "squeeze us into its mold" (Phillips). "*This world*" includes the beliefs, philosophies, the methodologies of our present age.

Paul tells his readers that if they do not allow themselves to be conformed (present passive imperative of *suschematizo*), then they will not be one with (*sun*) the schemes (*schema*) of the age.

Chapter 12

Verse 2- *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

How are we to fight the world? By renewing (*ana*- again + *kainos*- new) our minds. How often are we to do this? Daily.

2 Corinthians 4:16- *Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer person is decaying, yet our inner person is being renewed day by day.*

This is the basis of our transformation *(metamorphousthe).*

Chapter 12

Verse 2- *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.*

The purpose of our transformation is so that we can know what God thinks is good. Good is not an adjective but a noun- God's will is good.

Chapter 12

Verse 3- *For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*

Followers of Christ need to see themselves as they really are. Even secular developmental theorists realize the difficulty in doing so. It takes the grace of God to not think higher of ourselves (*hyperphronein* = over + esteem/think) than we should. Natural abilities and spiritual gifts are given by God (as with everything else we have), so how can we honestly be proud of them without giving God credit?

Chapter 12

Verse 3- *For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think; but to think so as to have sound judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith.*

The opposite of pride is sound (*sōphronein*- sober-minded-unclouded, clearly understanding). The faith Paul writes about is not in quantity but in quality. The measure of our faith speaks to the purpose we are to serve in the body.

Chapter 12

Verse 4- *For just as we have many parts in one body and all the body's parts do not have the same function,*

Paul uses the body as an analogy of the church in other letters (1 Corinthians, Colossians, Ephesians). Christ is the Head of the body, and we are members of it. Even though we are different, we are all needed and a part of each other.

Chapter 12

Verse 5- *so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts of one another.*

There have been 7,500 human body parts identified, both visible and microscopic (britannica.com). Like the human body, each member of the body of Christ has a specific and needed function. Even thought we might look, act, and feel different from each other, we are all part of the same structure.

Chapter 12

Verse 6- *However, since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, each of us is to use them properly: if prophecy, in proportion to one's faith;*

Paul emphasizes the contrast in the body. Even though we are all the same, we are all different too.

God has given us spiritual (grace) gifts to edify the body of Christ.

Spiritual Gift –

The extraordinary grace given to believers by the Holy Spirit for the edification of the body of Christ, the church, and for the conviction and conversion of believers according to the sovereign will of God.

Purpose of Spiritual Gifts

- Not primarily given to **benefit** the individual, but the **entire body**.
- Given to **carry out every essential function** of the body.

Talent or Gift?

- Ps. 139 – God fashioned us & gave talents
- Spiritual gifts are separate from talents & abilities.
- Spiritual gifts often complement talents & abilities.
- Spiritual gifts (like talents) are developed further by their use.

Some Errors to Avoid

- Confusing Spiritual Gifts with spirituality
- “That’s NOT my gift” is an unreasonable excuse from doing what is needed.
- Knowledge is NOT so important that we neglect service.

Spiritual Gifts

- https://gifts.churchgrowth.org/spiritual-gifts-survey/gifts-survey/
- There is not one gift given to every believer.
- No one believer has every gift.

"But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills." (1 Cor. 12:11)

"What is the outcome then, brethren?
When you assemble . . .
let all things be done for
edification." (1 Cor. 14:26)

- 1 Corinthians 12 &14
- Romans 12
- Ephesians 4
- 1 Peter 4
- And many other shorter passages

Chapter 12

Verse 7- *if service, in the act of serving; or the one who teaches, in the act of teaching;*

Service- Those with the gift of service/helps **recognize practical needs in the body and joyfully give assistance** to meeting those needs. Christians with this gift do not mind working behind the scenes.

Rom. 12:7 “if service, in his serving” (also 1 Cor. 12:28).

Chapter 12

Verse 7- *if service, in the act of serving; or the one who teaches, in the act of teaching;*

Teaching- Those with this gift instruct members in the truths and doctrines of God's Word for the purposes of building up, unifying, and maturing the body.

1 Cor. 12:28 "teachers"

Rom. 12:7 "or he who teaches, in his teaching"

Eph. 4:11 "and some as pastors and teachers"

Chapter 12

Verse 8- *or the one who exhorts, in the work of exhortation; the one who gives, with generosity; the one who is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

Exhortation- Possessors of this gift encourage members to be involved in and enthusiastic about the work of the Lord. Members with this gift are good counselors and motivate others to service. Exhortation exhibits itself in preaching, teaching, and ministry.

Rom. 12:8 "or he who exhorts, in his exhortation"

Chapter 12

Verse 8- *or the one who exhorts, in the work of exhortation; the one who gives, with generosity; the one who is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

•Giving- Members with the gift of giving **give freely and joyfully** to the work and mission of the body. Cheerfulness and liberality are characteristics of individuals with this gift.

Rom. 12:8 “he who gives, with liberality”

Chapter 12

Verse 8- *or the one who exhorts, in the work of exhortation; the one who gives, with generosity; the one who is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

•Leadership- Leadership aids the body by leading and directing members to accomplish goals and purposes of the church. Leadership **motivates people to work together in unity toward common goals**.

Rom. 12:8 “he who leads, with diligence”

Chapter 12

Verse 8- *or the one who exhorts, in the work of exhortation; the one who gives, with generosity; the one who is in leadership, with diligence; the one who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*

•Mercy- **Cheerful acts of compassion** characterize those with the gift of mercy. Persons with this gift aid the body by **empathizing** with hurting members. They keep the body healthy and unified by keeping others aware of the needs within the church.

Rom. 12:8 “he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness”

Chapter 12

Verse 9- *Love must be free of hypocrisy. Detest what is evil; cling to what is good.*

Spiritual gifts are useless without love, and the opposite of love is hate. They must be used genuinely, without hypocrisy (*anypokritos*). The way to be genuine is to hate the things that are evil (fairly easy to discern) by clinging (*kollao*- glue) to what is good.

Chapter 12

Verse 10- *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor,*

This verse begins a list of ten spiritual family obligations we have to each other. We are to show love to the world, even those who hate us, but we are to show brotherly love, and close affection to those who are also believers. (BTW, this is impossible without the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives).

We honor each other by showing genuine respect and putting the needs of others before our own.

Chapter 12

Verse 11- *not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord;*

Whatever we do for the Lord or for each other in the kingdom of God should be done with enthusiasm and care.

Diligence speaks to our actions, and being “fervent (*zeontes*-being hot) in spirit” concerns our attitude.

Whether we’re serving or giving, we must remember the ultimate aim is for the Lord, not His imperfect church.

Chapter 12

Verse 12- *rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation, devoted to prayer,*

Paul is not commanding believers to be happy. This is Paul reaching back to the doctrinal part of his letter and making a practical application:

5:2- through whom also we have obtained our introduction by faith into this grace in which we stand; and we exult in hope of the glory of God.

Chapter 12

Verse 13- *contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality.*

The root word for "contributing" is the same as "fellowship (koinōnountes). We are to help meet the physical needs of other believers as they world mistreats them for their faith.

Associated with this idea is the need for hospitality (*philoxenian*- "love for strangers"). We are to add emotional support to financial and physical support for those who are believers. This could mean lodging, food, or clothing.

Chapter 12

Verse 14- *Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.*

Paul now begins another part of his list by discussing something that would be completely foreign to those who have not experienced the saving power of Christ. Not only are believers to not hate and retaliate against those who persecute them, they are to bless their enemies. He remembers the words of Jesus:

"But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who are abusive to you. Whoever hits you on the cheek, offer him the other also; and whoever takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic from him either. Luke 6:27-28

Chapter 12

Verse 15- *Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.*

It is certain that good and bad will continue in the lives of those following Jesus.

Unless we are filled with jealously or envy, it is not difficult to rejoice with those who are experiencing good times, but we are to empathize with those who are experiencing difficulty.

Jesus was an example of this as he wept at times in his ministry (with Mary over the death of Lazarus- John 11:33-35).

Chapter 12

Verse 16- *Be of the same mind toward one another; do not be haughty in mind, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.*

It can be difficult to treat people equally when they are unequal in talents, gifts, and relationships. We tend to gravitate to people like us, but sometimes when think of ourselves better than those who are different (economically, socially, etc.). It is easier to relate to those who are not lowly, but during Paul's day, most believers were lowly in station, wealth, etc.

We should rely less on our own thinking and more on what they Lord says in His Word.

Chapter 12

Verse 17- *Never repay evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all people.*

Wanting revenge and retribution are natural. The *lex talionis* (law of retaliation- "an eye for an eye") of the Old Testament was for civil justice, not personal revenge. In an unexpected way, it made sure the punishment was not too severe. For example, if you blinded someone, you would be blinded in return, not put to death as revenge.

Instead of seeking revenge, we should outwardly show our respect for that which is obviously good.

Chapter 12

Verse 18- *If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all people.*

This is not a statement supporting pacifism. There are times when we will not be at peace with those around us. As we saw from the last verse, peace is a two-way street, but we must go to great lengths to get along with others. This could be an avenue for them to hear the gospel.

From church history, we know that the apostles were all put to death. There is a limit to the peace others will accept.

Chapter 12

Verse 19- *Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written: "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord.*

Here, Paul quotes Deuteronomy 32:35:

Vengeance is Mine, and retribution; In due time their foot will slip. For the day of their disaster is near,

Not taking vengeance requires us to do nothing in return for evil being done to us, but Paul doesn't leave the matter there!

Chapter 12

Verse 20- *"But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him a drink; for in so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."*

Instead of inaction being the limit of our response to others mistreating us, we are to minister to them as if they hadn't harmed us.

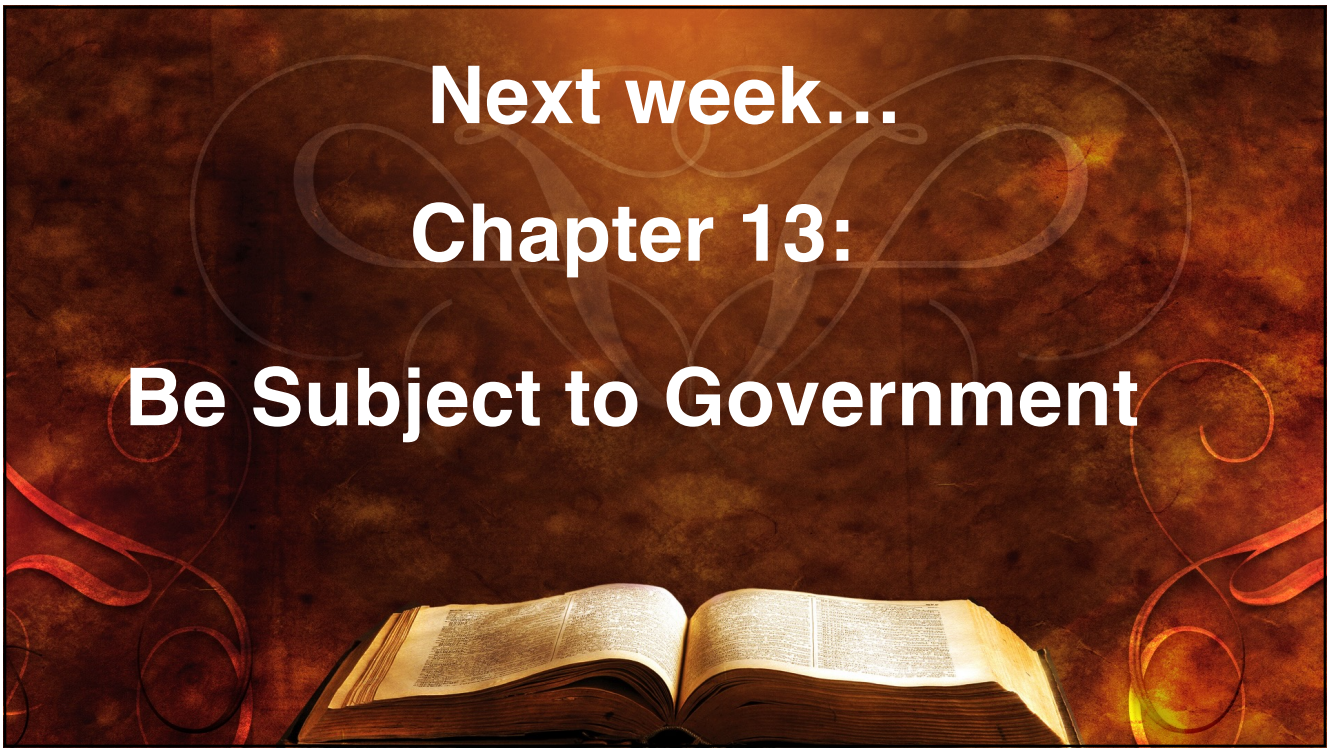
The result of treating others correctly when they have harmed us is that shame is brought on them for abusing us. (An Egyptian custom of showing public contrition was carrying a pan of coals above their head.) Proverbs 25:21-22

Chapter 12

Verse 21- *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*

Paul stresses two important truths in this verse. First, evil is going to be done to us, but we shouldn't be overwhelmed by it. Second, we shouldn't allow our feelings of being overcome to prompt us to do evil back. In both cases, we should focus on good, not deeds, but the nature of God.

We follow Jesu, and He is good, so we should act like Him and allow Him to take care of the wrong done to us.


Next week…
Chapter 13:
Be Subject to Government