

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S

Epistle
to the
Romans

55 A.D.

OUTLINES & DEVOTIONS

COMPILED BY
PASTOR STEPHEN HILDEBRANDT
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ROMANS

(27 lessons)

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ROMANS

PURPOSE

TO SHOW THAT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST, IMPUTED TO THE BELIEVER'S ACCOUNT ON THE BASIS OF FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST, IS THE ONLY REMEDY FOR MAN'S UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.

OUTLINE

- 1-11 THEOLOGY
- 1:1-17 INTRODUCTION & THEME
- 1:18-3:20 MAN'S UNRIGHTEOUSNESS
- 3:21-5:21 THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD
 - 6 FREEDOM FROM SIN
 - 7 FREEDOM FROM LAW
 - 8 FREEDOM FROM DEATH
 - 9 ELECTION & PREDESTINATION
- 10-11 ISRAEL'S FUTURE
- 12-16 APPLICATION



Paul

Hebrew Name: Saul

Born: ~ 10 A.D.

Conversion: ~33 A.D. (age 23)

Died: 68 A.D. (age 58)

Background / Character

• Hebrew, from the tribe of Benjamin	Rom. 11:1; 2 Cor. 11:22; Phil. 3:5
• A Roman citizen	Acts 22:28
• “unimpressive” looks	2 Cor. 10:10
• “contemptible” speech	2 Cor. 11:6
• “thorn in the flesh”	2 Cor. 12:7
• humility	1 Cor. 15:9; Eph. 3:8; 1 Tim. 1:15
• prolific author	13-14 Epistles

Early Life

10 A.D.	Born in Tarsus of Cilicia	Acts 21:39, 22:3
24	Educated under Gamaliel	Acts 22:3
29	Became a pharisee	Acts 23:6, 26:5; Phil. 3:5
30	✠ Christ crucified	Matt. 27:27-35
32-33	Ravaged the church	Acts 7:58-8:3; 9:1-2
33	Conversion	Acts 9:1-22
34-37	Taught by Christ in Arabia	Gal. 1:12-17

Missionary Journeys

47-48	First	Acts 13:1-14:28
49-51	Second	Acts 15:36-18:22
52-57	Third	Acts 18:23-21:26

Imprisonments

51	Philippi	Acts 16:23-40
57	Jerusalem	Acts 21:27-23:22
57-59	Caesarea	Acts 23:23-26:32
60-62	Rome	Acts 27:1-28:30; Phil. 1:7, 12-14
67-68	Rome	2 Tim. 2:9;
68	Beheaded in Rome	2 Tim. 4:6-7

Romans Introduction, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel.

Talk show hosts love to mock it, and the mainline media calls it narrow-minded, intolerant and ridiculous, but Paul proudly proclaims, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes” (Rom. 1:16-17); and again, “For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18). Read Romans 1:1-17

☐ Tuesday - None Are Righteous.

One day a man asked renowned British pastor Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892) what he had contributed to his salvation. Spurgeon replied, “I was the sinner, and Christ the Savior.” Popular opinion says that man is basically good, but God declares in His Word, “There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God; all have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one” (Rom. 3:10-12). The truth is that all of us are great sinners (1 Tim. 1:15), but do not despair, for Christ is a great Savior. “Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!” Read Roman 1:18-3:20

☐ Wednesday - The Righteousness Which is by Faith.

You may have many big problems in your life, but they are insignificant compared to one catastrophic problem that you face and it is this: [1] You have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23); [2] Your very best works cannot undo the eternal punishment that you deserve (Isa. 64:6; Rom. 6:23); and [3] No one can go to heaven without being perfectly righteous -- sinlessly perfect (Heb. 12:14). Who then can be saved? “But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested ... even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe” (Rom. 3:21-22). Friend, your sins must be taken away and Christ’s perfect righteousness imputed (credited) to your account, by your unconditional surrender and absolute faith in Jesus Christ’s substitutionary atonement on the cross. Read Romans 3:21-5:21

☐ Thursday - Freedom From Sin.

The Christian’s old sin nature was (past tense) crucified with Christ (Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20). It is an accomplished fact. However, in our daily practice, we forget or do not fully believe it, and so we still struggle with sin. Therefore, “consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 6:11). “For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace” (Rom. 6:14). Read Romans, chapters 6-8

☐ Friday - You Are A Chosen People.

If you are a Christian it is because God chose you before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4-5). “And these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified” (Rom. 8:30). God’s sovereignty over salvation and each individual’s personal responsibility to receive Christ are taught side-by-side in Scripture (John 1:12-13). Though this is a conundrum for man, it poses no difficulty for God. Read Romans, chapter 9-11

☐ Saturday - Righteousness in Daily Relationships.

The Christian life is not the old life fixed up, but a qualitatively new life (2 Cor. 5:17). That is why Jesus called it being “born again” (John 3:3). Furthermore, this metamorphosis continues throughout the rest of Christian’s life (2 Cor. 4:16). And so, Scripture commands, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2). By these things, “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith” (2 Cor. 13:5). Read Romans, chapters 12-16

Romans 1:1-17, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - The Gospel is Good News.

Romans 1:1

The book of Romans is the apostle Paul's *magnum opus* of the Gospel. The word "gospel" (10x in Romans) is the English translation of the Greek word *evangelium*, which means "good news." For we were like those on death row awaiting execution, justly convicted of sedition and the murder of the king's own son. But in an undeserved turn of events the king himself has not only signed our reprieve, but adopted us into his own family, and made us heirs of his kingdom. So then, the question is not whether the Gospel is good news, but rather is "good" a lofty enough superlative to describe this news!

Read Luke 2:10-11

☐ Tuesday - Your Calling into Full-Time Ministry.

Romans 1:1, 6

Paul was "called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God" (Rom. 1:1). But when did God set him apart? Before birth, the Bible declares! (Gal. 1:15). Likewise, the Lord said to the prophet Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I have appointed you a prophet to the nations" (Jer. 1:5). But surely such divine appointments are only for the Lord's choicest servants, such as prophets and apostles, right? No! Paul, writes to the Christians in Rome, "You also are the called of Jesus Christ" (Rom. 1:6). Christian, God has set you apart for full-time ministry, not as a prophet or apostle, but in your current occupation to proclaim His excellencies (1 Pet. 2:9).

Read 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12

☐ Wednesday - When the Saints Go Marching In.

Romans 1:7

In the book of Romans, Paul writes "to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints" (Rom. 1:7). The word "saints" is the Greek word *hagiois*, which means holy ones. The Bible ascribes this title to *all* true Christians. So, according to the Bible, the New Orleans' Saints are all of the Christians in New Orleans. Christian, you are declared righteous and called a saint, not on the basis of works, but by the righteousness of Christ which God imputed to your account, by grace through faith in His Son's substitutionary atonement on the cross (Rom. 3:21-22, 4:5; Phil. 3:9). Now, walk in a manner worthy of your calling as saints; that is, make your practice match your position. "Like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior" (1 Pet. 1:15).

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1

☐ Thursday - Famous for their Faith.

Romans 1:8

Paul begins His letter to the Christians in Rome with this commendation: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world" (Rom. 1:8). These first century Christians' faith in Jesus Christ was visible. Can your faith in Christ be seen? "Let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth."

Read James 2 :14-26

☐ Friday - Mutual Encouragement.

Romans 1:11-12

In his letter to the Christians in Rome, the apostle Paul poured out his heart, exclaiming, "I long to see you ... that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith" (Rom. 1:11-12). The Christian does not do nearly as well in isolation as he does in fellowship with other Christians. For within a healthy fellowship of believers there is mutual encouragement, where the Christian's faith is stimulated by the faith of others.

Read Hebrews 10:23-25

☐ Saturday - The Just Shall Live by Faith.

Romans 1:17

Four times in Scripture we read this statement: "The righteous man shall live by faith (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38). This is perhaps the most basic litmus test to determine if we are saved or not. Do we live by faith in God; that is, do our daily activities revolve around faith in Him?

Read 2 Corinthians 13:5

Romans 1:18-32, Daily Devotions

☐ **Monday - Reconciled Unto God.** Romans 1:18
Scripture declares, “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness” (Rom. 1:18). Though God’s wrath looms like a dark cloud over the unconverted, you, Christian, need never again fear His fierce anger. For Christ has propitiated (satisfied) God’s wrath for all those who believe, by bearing their eternal punishment on the cross (Isa. 53:11). Let us therefore “exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation” (Rom. 5:11).
Read 1 John 4:10

☐ **Tuesday - Rejoice in the God of All Creation!** Romans 1:20
God has left proof of His existence in Creation. “For since the creation of the world [God’s] invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made” (Rom. 1:20). Yes, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament declares His handiwork” (Psa. 19:1). Christian, train your eye to look for the fingerprints of God in the beauty of Creation all around you, then rejoice in the God of all Creation!
Read Psalm 8:1

☐ **Wednesday - Give Thanks to the Lord Always!** Romans 1:21-30
Here, the apostle outlines four stages of man’s downward spiral away from God: [1] “For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks” (Rom. 1:21); [2] “they exchanged the truth of God for a lie” (Rom. 1:25); [3] “they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer” (Rom. 1:28); and finally [4] they became “haters of God” (Rom. 1:30). How does this horrible downward progression begin? Look again at the first step: “They did not honor Him as God or give thanks.” The on-ramp to the highway to hell (Mt. 7:13) is an unthankful heart. Christian, “in everything give thanks, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus” (1 Thess. 5:18).
Read Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:17

☐ **Thursday - Accountable to God.** Romans 1:19-21
The agnostic is not even honest with himself. He says that he does not know if God exists or not. But God, who knows every heart (Psa. 44:21), declares “that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them ... so that they are without excuse” (Rom. 1:19-21). It is not that men do not know God, but rather they do not want to be accountable to Him. But you, dear child of God, live each day in light of that final day, when you will stand before your God and give an account of every word (Mt. 12:36), action (2 Cor. 5:10), thought (Psa. 139:1-2), attitude (Jer. 12:3), and motive (Prov. 16:2).
Read Romans 14:12; Revelation 20:12

☐ **Friday - Check Your Sources.** Romans 1:21-22
The apostle speaks of those who “became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools” (Rom. 1:21-22). No matter how many letters you tack on the end of an atheist’s name (e.g. PhD), he is still a fool in spiritual matters (Psa. 14:1). “The wisdom of this world is foolishness before God” (1 Cor. 3:19). Christian, be careful where you get your information. The Bible is the only infallible rule for faith and practice.
Read Jeremiah 9:23-24

☐ **Saturday - Misery Loves Company.** Romans 1:32
The sinner eases his guilty conscience by inviting others to participate with him in his sinful actions. They “not only do the same [sinful activities], but also give hearty approval to those who practice them” (Rom. 1:32). Dear Christian, “if sinners entice you, do not consent ... do not walk in the way with them, keep your feet from their path (Prov. 1:10-15). “Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals” (1 Cor. 15:33).
Read Ephesians 5:1-12

Romans 2:1-16, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - The Hypocritical Judge.

Romans 2:1-3

In Romans, the apostle Paul writes, “Therefore you have no excuse, (everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things” (Rom. 2:1). Here we see the apostle’s exhortation, not against sound judgment, but against hypocrisy. The righteous man judges all things (1 Cor. 2:15), starting first with himself. Read Matthew 7:1-5

☐ Tuesday - Two Motivations to Repent.

Romans 2:4

The sinner brings the terrible consequences of his own sin upon himself: a broken home or a sexually transmitted disease because of immorality; or the loss of a job, reputation or friends because of dishonesty, temper, or greed. But God can use these consequences to bring about repentance (Psa. 119:67, 71, 75; Heb. 12:5-12). Yet at other times the Lord shows extraordinary kindness in order to draw us to repentance. And so, Scripture poses this question: “Do you think lightly of the riches of [God’s] kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?” (Rom. 2:4). Yet if good things happen, when our hearts are yet unrepentant, we must be careful that we do not mistake this for God’s endorsement of our sin. In such cases God’s kindness is meant to show, in stark contrast, the ugliness of our sin compared to His own goodness. And so, sometimes the Lord drives us with affliction, and other times He draws us with affection to repent and turn to Him. Read Psalm 34:8, 119:68

☐ Wednesday - What’s in Your Storehouse?

Romans 2:5

The Bible talks about storing up treasures in Heaven (Matt. 6:29; 1 Tim. 6:19), but it also talks about storing up wrath in Hell. To the unconverted, Scripture declares: “But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God” (Rom. 2:5). What’s in your eternal storehouse? Read Psalm 31:19

☐ Thursday - Doers of the Law.

Romans 2:13

Jesus said, “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who *does* the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter” (Matt. 7:21). “For it is not the hearers of the Law who are just before God, but the doers of the Law will be justified” (Rom. 2:13), not that we are justified by works of the Law (Rom. 3:20, 28; Gal. 2:16), but rather obedience to the Law of God is the heart’s response of those who are saved by grace through faith in Him (1 John 2:3-4). Read James 1:22, 25

☐ Friday - Conscience: Clear or Partly Cloudy?

Romans 2:14-15

“For when [unbelievers] who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them” (Rom. 2:14-15). God has written His moral law upon every human heart, of the converted and unconverted alike, so that we might know right from wrong. We call this the human conscience. But the conscience can become “seared” [desensitized] through repeated sin (1 Tim. 4:2). Yet by repentance and the forgiveness that comes through Jesus Christ, the conscience can be cleansed and resensitized (Heb. 10:22). How is your conscience today - clear or partly cloudy? Take it to the Lord in prayer. Read 1 Timothy 1:5

☐ Saturday - God Knows the Secrets of Your Heart,

Romans 2:16

Jesus said to the crowd, “For nothing is hidden that will not become evident, nor anything secret that will not be known and come to light” (Lk. 8:17). This will happen in the final judgment when “God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus” (Rom. 2:16). Christian, live each moment with the realization that you are *coram deo* - before the face of God. Read Psalm 90:8

Romans 2:17-29, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - God Disdains Purely External Religion. Romans 2:17

In the first century (as well as today), many Jews believed that because they were descendants of Abraham and because the Law came through the Jews that they were going to Heaven. But Jesus warned them that these things could not save them: “Do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham for our father’” (Mt. 3:9). Likewise, the apostle Paul, who was a “Hebrew of Hebrews” (Phil. 3:4-9), warned his countrymen that salvation does not come because “you bear the name ‘Jew’ and rely upon the Law and boast in God” (Rom. 2:17). And yet the same can be said for many in the Christian Church today. How many who have grown up in a Christian family, owned a Bible, and went to church are in Hell? Friend, these external things are of great advantage, but they cannot save you! God disdains purely external religion. Is your heart wedded to Christ?
Read Isaiah 1:11-18; 29:13

☐ Tuesday - Two Forms of Religious Hypocrisy. Romans 2:21-23

Religious hypocrisy comes in many forms. In Romans, Paul identifies two: [1] hearing without doing (Rom. 2:13; James. 1:22; 2 Tim. 3:7); and [1] preaching without practicing (Rom. 2:21-23; Mt. 23:1-3). And so he writes, “You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal?” Christian, learn to preach the Gospel first and foremost to yourself.
Read Matthew 6:1-6

☐ Wednesday - The Effect of Religious Hypocrisy. Romans 2:24

What response does religious hypocrisy stir up in the world? Paul explains, “For the name of God is blasphemed among [unbelievers] because of you” (Rom. 2:24). O what reproach we bring upon ourselves, Christianity, the church, and, yes, even Christ, when God’s own people play the hypocrite. Instead, “prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation” (Phil. 2:15).
Read 2 Peter 2:2; Matthew 5:16

☐ Thursday - The Secret Part of Christianity. Romans 2:25-29

Man-made religion is all for show (Mt. 23:27-28). It is a veneer, a facade, an empty shell (2 Tim. 3:5). It demands attention: Look at me! See how religious I am! (Mt. 6:5). It is like the one-tenth of the iceberg above the water, but without any foundation hidden beneath. It may even call itself “Christian,” yet even a good label cannot hide dead religion. But there is a secret, hidden, inward part to true Christianity. The Christian life is not only inward (Mt. 5:16; 1 John 3:18), but the inward part is the nine-tenths of the iceberg hidden beneath the surface that nobody sees except for God. It prays mostly privately (Mt. 6:5-6), and serves discreetly, “not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart” (Eph. 6:6-7).
Read 2 Corinthians 13:5

☐ Friday - Father Abraham Has Many Sons. Romans 2:28-29

The Word of God declares, “For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter” (Rom. 2:28-29). “Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham” (Gal. 3:7). “And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s descendants, heirs according to promise” (Gal. 3:29). Are you a son of Abraham?
Read Philippians 3:3

☐ Saturday - Praise From Men or Praise from God. Romans 2:29

Peer pressure and the need for the approval of other people has caused each of us to do things of which we were later ashamed. But never did a Christian commit an act he would later regret because he was seeking the approval of God (Rom. 2:29). “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God” (2 Tim. 2:15). Read Galatians 1:10

Romans 3:1-20, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Amazing Grace.

Romans 3:10, 12

Here in the third chapter of Romans, the apostle declares, “There is none righteous, not even one” (Rom. 3:10, 12). Theologians talk about the “total” depravity of man, because sin affects the entire population (Rom. 6:23), and because it affects the *total* makeup of a man: his mind, will and emotions. (Gen. 6:5). This is what the great men and women of the Bible believed about themselves. The prophet Isaiah declared, “I am a man of unclean lips” (Isa. 6:5), and “all our righteous deeds are like a filthy rag (Isa. 64:6). Jeremiah lamented, “The heart is more deceitful than all else and is desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jer. 17:9). The apostle Paul mourned, “Wretched man that I am!” (Rom. 7:24). And how about you? Do you claim to be a Christian? Can you say with all honesty, “Amazing grace how sweet the sound, that saved a *wretch* like me”? Whatever we may claim to believe, we have not fully embraced the Gospel until we understand our own wretchedness. Read 1 Kings 8:46; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23

☐ Tuesday - Who Are You Going to Trust?

Romans 3:11

What is the meaning of life? “The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand” (Psa. 14:2), and this is His conclusion: “There is no one who understands” (Rom. 3:11). Fallen man has lost his way. “Believe in yourself,” “look within,” “search your heart,” the world encourages him. But the Lord, who knows the heart of man (Psa. 44:21), declares, “Lean not on your own understanding” (Prov. 3:5), “the heart is more deceitful than all else” (Jer. 17:9). And so for you, Christian, your spiritual success or failure each moment of this day boils down to this: Who are you going to trust, the Lord or yourself? Read 1 Corinthians 2:14

☐ Wednesday - The Good Shepherd Seeks His Sheep.

Romans 3:11

Each of us is born with a sin nature (Gen. 8:21; Psa. 51:5), and the result is that “there is no one who seeks for God, not even one” (Rom. 3:11). “As the bird with a broken wing is ‘free’ to fly but not able, so the natural man is free to come to God but not able” (Boettner). Almost every animal can find its way home, but a lost sheep is a lost sheep (Keller). Christ is the Good Shepherd (John 10:10) who has come to seek and to save that which was lost (Lk. 19:10, 15:3-6). Before you became a Christian you were dead in sin (Eph. 2:1). Dead men can’t seek anything; they are dead. But now you are alive in Christ -- your broken wing has been fixed! Now, seek first His kingdom and His righteousness (Mt. 6:33).
Read Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 11:6

☐ Thursday - Under the Law & Accountable to God.

Romans 3:19

“Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God” (Rom. 3:19). Since all have sinned (Rom. 3:23), then all stand condemned by the Law (Rom. 6:23). But if you are in Christ, then you are not under Law but under grace (Gal. 5:18). As a born-again child of God you keep the Law, not to stay saved, but as a tangible expression of your love for Him (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:3). Read Rom. 6:14-15

☐ Friday - What the Law Can & Cannot Do.

Romans 3:20

Repeatedly, God’s Word declares that the Law cannot save us: “By the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin” (Rom. 3:20). The Law never saved a single person. That was never its purpose. But “through the Law comes the knowledge of sin”; which means that the Law acts like a mirror into which we may look and see how dirty we have become. But the mirror of the Law cannot clean us up, and so we must turn to Christ and be washed by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5). While the Law is God’s *measure* for holiness, the Holy Spirit is the *means* of holiness.
Read Galatians 5:16-25

Romans 3:21-31, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Righteousness Imputed.

Romans 3:21-22

God is righteous and man is unrighteous. That's a problem. Since all of our "righteous" deeds are like filthy rags (Isa. 64:6), then another path to righteousness must be made or we are all dead men. "But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested ... even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe" (Rom. 3:21-22). If you believe in Christ, not only has your infinite debt been paid in full at the cross (Col. 2:14), but the perfect righteousness of Christ has been imputed (transferred) to your account! Dear Christian, God rejoices over you with shouts of joy (Zeph. 3:17), because in you He sees His own Son's righteousness deposited into your account. Let this be your guard against discouragement. Read Philippians 3:7-9

☐ Tuesday - The First Step.

Romans 3:23

Here is mankind's legacy: "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23); "Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins" (Eccl. 7:20); There is none righteous, not even one" (Rom. 3:10). "For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all" (James 2:10). Acceptance of one's own sinfulness is the first stepping stone on the narrow cobblestone path that leads to eternal life (Mt. 7:13-14). But "if we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). "Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Read 1 John 1:9

☐ Wednesday - The Gift of God.

Romans 3:24

Salvation is a gift. We are "justified as a gift by [God's] grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 3:24). Grace is unearned, unmerited favor. Has your Christian walk lost its passion or zeal? Reconsider the gift of God to you, bought with the most expensive price ever paid (1 Pet. 1:18-19), and given with the greatest love ever displayed (1 Jn. 3:1; Rom. 5:8).
Read Ephesians 2:8

☐ Thursday - God's Wrath Propitiated.

Romans 3:24-25

"God is angry with the wicked every day" (Psa. 7:11). "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men" (Rom. 1:18). But Christ has propitiated (satisfied, appeased) the wrath of God for all of those who believe in Him, by bearing our sin and eternal punishment on the cross (1 Pet. 2:24). And so we are saved, not by "good" works, but "by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood" (Rom. 3:24-25). "Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:1). As a child of God, we should fear God's discipline (Heb. 12:5-11), but never again His eternal wrath.
Read Romans 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9

☐ Friday - Justice and Mercy Meet at the Cross.

Romans 3:26

The Bible declares, "He who justifies the wicked ... is an abomination to the Lord" (Prov. 17:15). But isn't that precisely what God has done by saving us? Yes, but not by overlooking our offenses, but rather by punishing them in Christ at the cross (Col. 2:13-14), so that God remains "just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26). At the cross the tension between God's perfect justice and His great mercy is relieved, so that "lovingkindness and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Psa. 85:10).
Read Psalm 89:14

☐ Saturday - Justification by Grace Through Faith.

Romans 3:28

"For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from works of the Law" (Rom. 3:28). Let us then forsake all foolish notions of being justified by our works and trust boldly in Christ. Read Rom. 3:20, 4:5; Gal. 2:16, 21, 5:4; Eph. 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 1:9

Romans 4:1-25, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Have You Crossed the Line?

Romans 4:1-4

Abraham's father, Terah, was an idol worshipper in the city of Ur, in ancient Mesopotamia (Josh. 24:2). But God said to Abraham, "Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father's house, to the land which I will show you" (Gen. 12:1). And "by faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed by going out to a place which he was to receive for an inheritance; and he went out, not knowing where he was going" (Heb. 11:8). Abraham left his family, crossed the Euphrates River, and entered the land of Canaan, and the people there called him the "Hebrew" (Gen. 14:13), *Habiru*, the man "from the other side." There was a line running across the middle of Abraham's life; in his case it was a river. On one side was Ur which represented his old life. On the other side was Canaan representing His new life of faith in the one true God. Dear reader, is there a line running across the middle of your life? Have you crossed over from your old life of unbelief to absolute trust in God? Read 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20

☐ Tuesday - The Just Shall Live By Faith.

Romans 4:3

Abraham (c. 2000 BC) lived five centuries before the Old Covenant was given through Moses (c. 1445 BC), and twenty centuries before the New Covenant was given through Christ. So then, on what basis was Abraham saved? "For what does the Scripture say? 'And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness'" (Rom. 4:3; cf. Gen. 15:6). From the Fall until the Final Judgment, God's plan of salvation remains the same: salvation is by grace through faith alone. And having been begun by faith, let us now, like Abraham, live by faith. Just as it is written, "The just shall live by faith" (Gal. 3:11).
Read Colossians 2:6

☐ Wednesday - God's Accounting Methods.

Romans 4:5

To "reckon" is to establish by counting or calculation. God is the ultimate Accountant; He counts everything. He knows the number of stars in the universe (Psa. 147:4), the number of hairs on my head (Mt. 10:30), and the number of my days on this earth (Psa. 139:16). On a moral level, God also reckons (counts) righteousness. According to God's calculations, the number of my righteous works, before I received Christ, was zero (Isa. 64:6). But God also reckons righteousness another way: by faith in Him. For Scripture declares, "But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness" (Rom. 4:5). And again it says that righteousness "will be reckoned to those who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead" (Rom. 4:24). "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Heb. 11:6), but "by it the men of old gained approval" (Heb. 11:2). Read Heb. 10:38

☐ Thursday - Father Abraham.

Romans 4:11

"Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness" (Rom. 4:3), "that he might be the father of all who believe" (Rom. 4:11). "Therefore, be sure that it is those who are of faith who are sons of Abraham" (Gal. 3:7). "And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise" (Gal. 3:29). "So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer" (Gal. 3:9). Father Abraham has many sons; I am one of them and so are you, if you believe in Jesus Christ.
Read Romans 4:13

☐ Friday - The Assurance of Things Hoped For.

Romans 4:18-20

"In hope against hope [Abraham] believed ... And without becoming weak in faith he contemplated his own body, now as good as dead since he was about a hundred years old, and the deadness of Sarah's womb; yet, with respect to the promise of God, he did not waver in unbelief, but grew strong in faith, giving glory to God" (Rom. 4:18-20). "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Heb. 11:1).
Read 2 Corinthians 5:7; Proverbs 3:5-6

Romans 5:1-11, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Jump for Joy!

Romans 5:1, 11

Paul opens and closes Romans 5:1-11 with these words: “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have *peace* with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1), and “We also exult in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the *reconciliation*” (Rom. 5:11). The word “exult” means to show or feel jubilation. It comes from a Latin word which means “to leap up.” Why should reconciliation/peace with God make us jump for joy? The answer is clear. To have Almighty God as an enemy is more fearful than all else (Mt. 10:28), for “it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb. 10:31). But to have that same all-powerful God on our side is the greatest of all blessings.

Read Romans 8:31; Psalm 118:6

☐ Tuesday - A New Beginning.

Romans 5:1-2

The apostle writes, “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have obtained our *introduction* by faith into this grace in which we stand” (Rom. 5:1-2). Justification by grace through faith is just the beginning of the Christian life. It is the starting line. Congratulations, you are in the race! Now, “let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus...” (Heb. 12:1-2). God is looking for strong finishers, not just good starters (2 Tim. 4:7).

Read 1 Corinthians 9:24

☐ Wednesday - A Positive Chain Reaction.

Romans 5:3-4

The apostle Paul knew all about trials and tribulation (1 Cor. 4:11-13; 2 Cor. 11:23-28). And this was his conclusion and response, “And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope” (Rom. 5:3-4). If we respond in the right way, then our trials will set off a great chain reaction, just as Paul describes here. How are you doing Christian? Are your trials making you better or bitter? Read James 1:2-4

☐ Thursday - What’s So Good About Being Good?

Romans 5:3-4

Once again we read, “And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope” (Rom. 5:3-4). Look at the last two links in this chain. How does proven character produce hope? Stop and think about that for a moment before you read on. The answer, at least in part, is this: There is an eternity yet to be lived, an eternity in which the Christian’s character will be rewarded (1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10), and the nature of those rewards is beyond all comprehension. “Surely there is a reward for the righteous!” (Psa. 58:11). Read Romans 8:18; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 2 Corinthians 4:17

☐ Friday - Fruit-Filled Evangelism.

Romans 5:5

There is a radical change that takes place in the heart of the true child of God. It is called the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). The child of God, filled with the Spirit of God, can love the unloving and be gracious to the ungracious. “When we are reviled, we bless” (1 Cor. 4:12). How? “The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us” (Rom. 5:5). With the Gospel as our message and the fruit of the Spirit as our method, we may yet see the hardest heart won to Christ.

Read Romans 12:14, 17, 21

☐ Saturday - Enemies Made Children.

Romans 5:8, 10

God adopted His children from among His enemies. Who does that? God sent His Son to die for you, Christian, when you had not one particle of love for Him. “While we were yet *sinners*, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8), and “while we were *enemies* we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son” (Rom. 5:10). “O what manner of love the Father has given unto us, that we would be called children of God” (1 John 3:1). Meditate today on God’s amazing grace.

Read Romans 8:32

Romans 5:12-21, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - The Biblical Principle of Headship.

Romans 5:12-21

From the beginning, God set forth the principle that one man could act on behalf of an entire company of people. And in accordance with this principle, the first man, Adam, was appointed as the representative of all of his descendents. His actions would not only affect him, but the whole human race. And so, when Adam sinned we were all condemned (Rom. 5:16, 18), which at first glance may seem unfair. But consider if God had not established this principle. In the course of time, as Adam and Eve, and Cain and Abel, and you and I gave in to temptation, then there would be nothing for us but the wages of sin ... which is death: physical, spiritual and eternal. The fact is that if Adam could not represent us in the Garden, then Christ could not represent you and I on the cross. And so, far from being unfair, this principle demonstrates the wisdom and providence of God who, from the very beginning of time, set forth a principle that would result in our salvation.

Read Romans 11:33

☐ Tuesday - In Adam / In Christ.

Romans 5:12-21

The effect of Adam's disobedience upon all of those "in Adam" (i.e. the entire human race) is that all "were made sinners" (Rom. 5:12, 19), resulting in judgment (Rom. 5:16), condemnation (Rom. 5:16, 18), and death (Rom. 5:12), so that "in Adam all die" (1 Cor. 15:22). Conversely, Christ was obedient even to the point of death on the cross (Phil. 2:8), and the effect of His obedience for all of those "in Christ" is grace (Rom. 5:15), justification (Rom. 5:16, 18), righteousness (Rom. 5:17, 19) and eternal life (Rom. 5:21). "For as *in Adam* all die, so also *in Christ* all will be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22). One is "in Adam" by physical birth, but only "in Christ" by spiritual rebirth. This then is the Christian message: You must be born again!

Read John 3:3

☐ Wednesday - Paradise Lost, Soon Restored.

Romans 5:12

When God created the earth it was "very good" (Gen. 1:31). He planted a garden and called it Eden, which translated means "delight" (Gen. 2:8). There was no death, no suffering, and no pain. It was paradise on earth. But through our first parent's rebellion, "sin entered into the world, and death through sin" (Rom. 5:12). But when Christ returns He will restore paradise (Rev. 2:7), and forever abolish death (1 Cor. 15:26). Then will come about the saying, "Death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Cor. 15:54). Therefore, "everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure" (1 John 3:3).

Read 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:4

☐ Thursday - The Many Sides of the Gift of Grace.

Romans 5:15-16

Here in Romans, chapter 5, the apostle Paul refers to the "free gift" of God (Rom. 5:15, 5:16, cf. 6:23). In general, God's free gift is His grace (Eph. 3:7, 4:7), but it is a "manifold grace" (1 Pet. 4:10). Manifold means many-sided. Here are the many sides of God's grace: [1] faith (Eph. 2:8); [2] justification (Rom. 3:24, 5:16); [3] imputed righteousness (Rom. 5:17); [4] eternal life (Rom. 6:23); and [5] the indwelling Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38, 10:45). All of these are called "gifts" of God in the Bible, and they are "irrevocable" (Rom. 11:29). Pause and give thanks to the Lord, dear Christian, for the indescribable gift of His manifold grace! (2 Cor. 9:15).

Read James 1:17

☐ Friday - Imputation of Sin & Righteousness.

Romans 5:19

"For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous" (Rom. 5:19). Adam's sin is imputed to every person at the moment of their physical generation (conception), and Christ's righteousness is imputed to every believer at the moment of their spiritual regeneration; that is to say, when one is born-again. Christian, you now stand before God in all of the righteousness of Jesus Christ! Now, walk in a manner worthy of your calling! (Eph. 4:1).

Read Leviticus 20:7; Ephesians 1:4

Romans 6, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Does a True Christian Love Sin?

Romans 6:1-2

The Bible clearly teaches that a truly born-again believer can never lose his or her salvation (Psa. 103:17; John 6:37-39, 10:27-29; Rom. 8:38-39, 11:29; Eph. 1:13; Phil. 1:6; Heb. 7:25; Jude 1:24-25). All of your sins, Christian -- past, present, and future -- were paid for in full at the cross (Col. 2:14). "Well, if I can't lose my salvation, then I can sin all that I want," someone might argue. But such thoughts come from a carnal mind, not a person who is born-again (cf. 1 Cor. 2:16). "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Rom. 6:1-2). Here is the litmus test of authentic Christianity: Do you love sin or do you love God? (Mt. 6:24). "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith" (2 Cor. 13:5). "We know that no one who is born of God continues a sinful lifestyle" (1 John 5:18, literal Greek translation).
Read Hebrews 10:26-27

☐ Tuesday - I Am Crucified With Christ.

Romans 6:2, 6, 11

Christian, once you were dead *in* sin (Eph. 2:1), but now you are dead *to* sin (Rom. 6:2). Here in Romans, chapter 6, the apostle assumes that every Christian understands this fact. "Knowing this," he says, "our old self was crucified with Him" (Rom. 6:6). This is our common confession, "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me" (Gal. 2:20). So then, "consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 6:11). And let us imitate the apostle (1 Cor. 11:1), who said, "I die daily" (1 Cor. 15:31).
Read Galatians 5:24, 6:14

☐ Wednesday - Servant of Sin or Righteousness?

Romans 6:16-18

Everybody serves some thing or some one. The apostle Paul explains, "Do you not know that ... you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness" (Rom. 6:16-18). Jesus declared, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin" (John 8:34), but "if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36). It is true, no one can serve two masters (Mt. 6:24); so serve today, no longer as slaves of sin, but now as servants of righteousness.
Read Romans 6:13

☐ Thursday - Fighting Against Sin.

Romans 6:14

God warned Cain, "Sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it" (Gen. 4:7). Like the wild beasts in Nero's arena to which many poor Christians were so cruelly subjected, so also sin is a wild beast ready to pounce, devour and destroy; and, as Luther writes, "were not the right man on our side, our striving would be losing" (*A Mighty Fortress*). But the Christian has a Champion (Jer. 20:11), Jesus Christ, who descends into the arena to slay every sin that besets the child of God. We still fight (1 Tim. 1:18, 6:12), but we fight by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. "For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace" (Rom. 6:14).
Read 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:10-13; 1 Peter 5:8

☐ Friday - Choose Your Own Benefits Plan.

Romans 6:21-22

Paul poses this question, "Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life" (Rom. 6:21-22). If you had a choice between an easy job for a horrible boss and terrible wages, or a more difficult job for a very gracious boss, outstanding rewards and a dynamite benefits package, which would you pick? That's the decision between serving sin or God. "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).
Read Romans 6:23

Romans 7, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - The Newness of the Spirit.

Romans 7:6

The apostle Paul writes, “But now we have been released from the Law ... so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter” (Rom. 7:6). The Christian is not “under the Law” (Rom. 6:14); that is to say, he does not obey the law in order to be saved or to stay saved. No, rather, the Christian’s obedience and service are motivated by love for the Lord (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3). He walks by the Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 25), and serves by the Spirit (Rom. 7:6). And, as a by-product of the Spirit’s operation in his life, flows the fruit of the Spirit of love (Gal. 5:22), which is the fulfillment of the Law (Rom. 13:8-10; Gal. 5:14; Jam. 2:8).

Read Galatians 5:18; John 13:35

☐ Tuesday - Purpose of the Law.

Romans 7:7

Once again in Romans, the apostle reminds us of the purpose of the Law, saying, “I would not have come to know sin except through the Law” (Rom. 7:7, cf. 3:20). The strength of the Law is its ability to reveal sin, but the “weakness” of the law, as Paul later calls it, is its inability to help us overcome sin (Rom. 8:3). Despite its promises of blessing for obedience and threats of curses for disobedience (Lev. 26; Deut. 28), the Law cannot effect any permanent inward change. Knowing this, what do you do when you catch yourself in some sin? Do you promise God that you will try to do better next time and stick closer to His commandments? If that is what you do, then you do not need Christ! Jesus is calling today for your unconditional surrender.

Read Matthew 16:24

☐ Wednesday - The Flesh is Weak.

Romans 7:18

The Christian life is a call to continual change (Eph. 4:22-23); and yet, as we have already seen, the Christian cannot change himself. Paul recognized this defect: “The wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not” (Rom. 7:18). Christ also spoke of this weakness in man, when he proclaimed, “The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak” (Mt. 26:41). Yet God has not left us as orphans (Jn. 14:18), to fend for ourselves, but has given us His Spirit to strengthen us. So then, “walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16).

Read Philipians 4:13

☐ Thursday - Your New Identity in Christ Jesus.

Romans 7:22

In his epistles, Paul repeatedly talks about the “inner man” (Eph. 3:16; 2 Cor. 4:16). Here, in Romans 7, Paul uses the term again, when he declares, “I joyfully concur with the law of God in the *inner man*” (Rom. 7:22). Who or what is the inner man? It is what Paul describes elsewhere, “Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a *new creature*; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come” (2 Cor. 5:17). That new creature, the new you, is the inner man that Paul is talking about. It is your new, born-again, spirit-led nature, your new identity in Christ. Next time your friends ask you, “What’s new?” Say, “I am!”

Read Romans 8:5-15

☐ Friday - War Between Your Ears.

Romans 7:23

There is a war raging within every Christian, and it takes place between your ears. It is the battle between the flesh and the Spirit to take control of your mind. In his own life, the apostle Paul declared, “But I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my *mind*” (Rom. 7:23). We fight this battle by “taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (2 Cor. 10:5), and by being “transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Rom. 12:2), through the Word of God (Heb. 4:12). Today, let us fight the good fight!

Read 1 Peter 2:11; Gal. 5:16-17; Romans 13:14

☐ Saturday - Wretched Man That I Am!

Romans 7:24

Earlier in Romans 7, Paul declares, “For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh” (Rom. 7:18). And here he calls himself a “wretched man” (Rom. 7:24). Elsewhere Paul refers to himself as “the chief of sinners” (1 Tim. 1:15), and “the least of the apostles” (1 Cor. 15:9). The poor guy obviously suffered from very low self-esteem. Undoubtedly that is why God used him so mightily. Christian, you and your self-esteem must decrease and Christ must increase (John 3:30).

Read 1 Peter 5:5-7

Romans 8:1-12, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - No Condemnation in Christ!

Romans 8:1

Earlier in Romans, the apostle brought us before the Supreme Court of Heaven, and the Chief Justice announced His verdict: “All have sinned” (Rom. 3:23) and “the wages of sin is death!” (Rom. 6:23). Tried, convicted, and condemned to die, we sat as those on death row awaiting execution. The prosecution’s case was airtight. There would be no appeals, no retrial, and no stay of execution, only the “terrifying expectation of judgment” (Heb. 10:27). But as Paul has so expertly laid down the plan of salvation in the Book of Romans, we learned that Christ was condemned and executed in our place (Rom. 3:23-25) with this astonishing result: “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Rom. 8:1). This truly is why the Gospel is called “good news”!

Read Psalm 102:18-20

☐ Tuesday - Set Free to Glorify God.

Romans 8:2

The apostle declares, “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death” (Rom. 8:2). The “law” (i.e. principle or operation) of the Spirit has set the Christian free from slavery to sin. Does this mean that the Christian never sins? No! (Rom. 7:14-24; 1 John 1:8-9). But it does mean that now, Christian, you are free not to sin, and you are free to glorify God. These things you could never do before you were born-again (Rom. 8:7-8). Now therefore, “whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Cor. 10:31). Read John 8:32, 36; 1 Peter 2:16; Galatians 5:1, 13

☐ Wednesday - The Law is Fulfilled in Us.

Romans 8:3-4

Romans 8:3-4 states, “For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us...”. Did you get that last part? In Christ the requirement of the Law is “fulfilled in us” who believe! But the Christian might think to himself, “I have not fulfilled the Law of God, for my practice is still far from perfect.” True enough (Rom. 7:14-24). But even though your practice has not risen to the level of your position, nevertheless, Christ’s righteousness has been imputed to your account on the basis of faith in Him (Rom. 4:5). As a result, you stand fully justified, and in this way the Law of God is fulfilled in us in Christ. So then, Christian, now that your *position* before God has been established, let’s get to work on your *practice*.

Read Ephesians 4:1

☐ Thursday - We Walk According to the Spirit.

Romans 8:4

According to Romans 8, a true Christian is one who is “in the Spirit” (v. 9), who is indwelt by the Spirit (v. 11; cf. 1 Cor. 3:16), and who “walks according to the Spirit” (v. 4). Furthermore, all Christians are baptized in the Spirit at conversion (John 7:38-39; 1 Cor. 12:13), as God’s permanent seal of ownership upon the believer’s life (Eph. 1:13), and the mark of his adoption, “For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” (Rom. 8:14).

Read Galatians 5:16, 25; Ephesians 4:30

☐ Friday - Two Mind-Sets.

Romans 8:5-7

Here the apostle identifies two mind-sets, two lifestyles, two world views: “For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God” (Rom. 8:5-7). The application is this: “Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth” (Col. 3:1-2).

Read Galatians 6:8

Romans 8:13-17, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - A Battle to the Death.

Romans 8:13

The Word of God declares, “For if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (Rom. 8:13). The battle with the flesh is a fight to the death. Either you or your sin must die. And so, we cannot deal gently with our own transgressions. What did Jesus mean when He said to pluck out our eye or cut off our hand if they offend us? (Matt. 18:8-9). These are metaphors to explain how brutally we must deal with our own sins. Christian, your sins must be put to death, not once, but every day. The apostle Paul declared, “I die daily” (1 Cor. 15:31).
Read Matthew 16:24

☐ Tuesday - The Sanctifying Work of the Spirit.

Romans 8:13

Once again we read, “If you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live” (Rom. 8:13). Notice, *how* the Christian is to put to death the deeds of the body: [1] Personal desire or resolve do not work (Mt. 26:41; Rom. 7:18-24). [2] Rules and regulations are of “no value against fleshly indulgence” (Col. 2:20-23). No, the only hope for the Christian in his personal fight against sin is the sanctifying power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9). “But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16).
Read Galatians 5:16-17

☐ Wednesday - The Spirit is Leading the Fight.

Romans 8:13-14

Paul, the apostle writes, “. . . if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. *For* all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God” (Rom. 8:13-14). The word “for” connects verses 13 and 14 in this way: Putting to death the sinful deeds of the body (v. 13), proves that one is being led by the Spirit of God, which in turn proves that one is a child of God (v. 14). In other words, the evidence that we are true children of God is that the Holy Spirit is leading us into an all out war with our sin.
Read 1 Peter 2:11

☐ Thursday - No More Fear.

Romans 8:15

“For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Rom. 8:15). The “spirit of adoption” mentioned here is the Holy Spirit (cf. Gal. 4:6) whose work in the Christian’s life is to replace any remnants of the fear of God’s wrath with joyful affection for God as his Father. And even though God disciplines His children for their sanctification (Heb. 12:5-11), the Christian need never fear God’s wrath (Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10, 5:9). But removing such fear does not strip the Christian of any motivation for godly living, for now the overwhelming sense of God’s lovingkindness leads him to repentance (Rom. 2:4). While the fear of punishment can produce outward obedience, only love for God can produce real inward repentance and holiness. Read 1 John 4:18; Romans 2:4

☐ Friday - Abba! Father!

Romans 8:15

The apostle declares, “For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Rom. 8:15). In ancient times, the king’s wrath fell swiftly upon any who approached his throne without summons (cf. Esther 4:11). But the Christian has no such fears, for he is the King’s favorite child (Psa. 5:12). And so, with joyful confidence, yet reverence, the Christian may approach the throne of His Heavenly Father, which is no longer a throne of judgment and wrath, but to him has become a throne of grace, and there he calls to Him, “Abba, Father!”
Read Hebrews 4:16

Romans 8:18-25, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Glory Beyond Compare.

Romans 8:18

In 2 Corinthians 12:1-4, Paul describes an experience in his life in which God showed him Heaven. Though the apostle describes this account in the third person, it is evident that he is talking about of himself (cf. 2 Cor. 12:7). Here in Romans 8, the apostle declares, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us” (Rom. 8:18). Now that’s an amazing statement, because Paul suffered a lot (1 Cor. 4:9-13; 2 Cor. 11:23-28; Gal. 6:17). Yet compared to the eternal Paradise that he had seen and looked forward to, he called his trials “momentary light affliction” (2 Cor. 4:17). If you are a Christian, then you will experience hardship (John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Cor. 1:5; 2 Tim. 3:12). That is the norm for the Christian life (1 Pet. 4:12, 5:8-9). But when your heart is overwhelmed, “turn your eyes upon Jesus,” as the hymn declares: “And the things of earth” (including how big your trials seem), “will grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.”

Read 1 Corinthians 2:9; 1 Peter. 4:19

☐ Tuesday - Paradise Restored.

Romans 8:19-22

After God created the universe, He saw all that He had made and pronounced, “It is very good!” (Gen. 1:31). But when Adam and Eve fell in Eden, not only did it plunge the whole human race into sin and depravity, but all of creation became subject to corruption (cf. Gen. 3:17-18). And so today we may admire the majesty of the Rocky Mountains, or the grandeur of the mighty Atlantic Ocean, but the beauty of this present earth pales in comparison to God’s original creation. Yet there is coming a day in which God will create a new heaven and earth from the burned out ashes of this present universe (2 Pet. 3:10-13), and it will literally be heaven on earth. And then “creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God” (Rom. 8:21). Christian, do not store up for yourselves treasures upon the earth (Mt. 6:19-20), for this present world is passing away (1 John 2:17). The best is yet to come.

Read Colossians 3:1-4

☐ Wednesday - First Fruits of the Spirit.

Romans 8:23

Do you ever just make yourself sick by your poor performance? The apostle declares, “And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body” (Rom. 8:23). The Holy Spirit causes us to “groan within ourselves” to be released from these imperfect bodies (Rom. 7:24), and be clothed with a new glorified body. Cheer up, Christian! “He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6).

Read 1 Corinthians 15:51-53

☐ Thursday - Adopted or Awaiting Adoption?

Romans 8:23

Paul has already stated that we “have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’” (Rom. 8:15-16), but here declares that we are “waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons”(Rom. 8:23). The former refers to our present position and security as sons of God, and the latter to the fullest realization of that privilege throughout eternity!

Read John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:3-6

☐ Friday - We Walk By Faith Not By Sight.

Romans 8:24-25

The apostle writes, “For in hope we have been saved, but hope that is seen is not hope; for who hopes for what he already sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we wait eagerly for it” (Rom. 8:24-25). The Christian world is eagerly awaiting Christ’s return, a hope that is yet unrealized. And yet we consider Him faithful who promised that He would come again. By faith we believe that “soon and very soon we are going to see the King!”

Read 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Peter 1:6-9; John 20:29

Romans 8:26-39 Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - God Causes All Things.

Romans 8:28

The Bible declares, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28). God is against the evildoer (Psa. 34:16); that is, all things work against him. He may attain wealth and power, live long and be loved by this world, but ultimately his fame and fortune will either destroy him in this life, or stand in judgment against him in the next. In contrast, God works all things together for the Christian's eternal good and God's eternal glory. But if the Christian sees trials and suffering in this life for his service and sacrifice for Christ, he knows that God is using even these things to build an eternal reward beyond all comprehension. (Rom. 8:18; 1 Cor. 2:9; 2 Cor. 4:17). Read Psalm 5:12; 84:11

☐ Tuesday - Secured by an Unbreakable Chain.

Romans 8:30

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16), the apostle proclaims, "And those whom [God] predestined, He also called; and those whom He called, He also justified; and those whom He justified, He also glorified" (Rom. 8:30). Notice in this chain that all whom God predestined [before the foundation of the world, Eph. 1:4-5] are ultimately glorified, i.e. go to heaven. Just as Jesus said, "Of those whom You have given Me, I lost not one" (John 18:9). And so, by this mighty and unbreakable chain, God has eternally secured your salvation, Christian. IF you are a Christian (present), that means you were predestined (past), and you will be glorified (future). Better start gettin' ready for Heaven! (1 John 3:3). Read Psalm 103:17; John 6:37-39, 10:27-29; Rom. 8:38-39, 11:29; Eph. 1:13, 4:30; Phil. 1:6; 1 Cor. 1:8; 2 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 7:25; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 1:24-25

☐ Wednesday - One With God is a Majority.

Romans 8:31

"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31). Goliath, the 9 ft. 9 in. giant, was no match for young David, plus God (1 Sam. 17). The 450 false prophets of Baal were no match for Elijah, plus God (1 Kgs. 18:17-40). The Aramean chariots that circled the city were no match for Elisha, plus God (2 Kgs. 6:8-23). You may look at yourself and ask, "What can one man do?" One man plus God can do anything (Lk. 1:37). We are weak, but He is strong! "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). Read Psa. 27:1-3; Isa. 12:2

☐ Thursday - All Things in Christ.

Romans 8:32

Christian, right now what are you praying for God to do in your life? If it is for your eternal good and God's eternal glory, He will do it. "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him over for us all, how will He not also with Him freely give us all things?" (Rom. 8:32).
Read 1 John 5:14-15

☐ Friday - Christ Intercedes for the Elect.

Romans 8:34

"Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us" (Rom. 8:34). Unlike many of our misfired prayers, Christ's prayers are always received and always effective (John 11:41-42). If Christ were unfaithful in this high priestly duty, then perhaps I might lose my salvation. But Christ is a faithful High Priest, "Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25). On Christ the solid Rock I stand!
Read Luke 22:31-32; John 17:9

☐ Saturday - Unfailing Love.

Romans 8:38-39

The apostle writes, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Rom. 8:38-39). Once your sins completely separated you from God (Isa. 59:2). But now, in Christ, nothing can separate you from His everlasting love. True love, God's love, never fails.
Read Jeremiah 31:3

Romans 9, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Sons of Abraham, By Faith.

Romans 9:6-8

God's Word declares, "They are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants ... That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants" (Rom. 9:6-8). Three world religions have descended from Abraham: [1] Judaism, through Isaac (Gen. 17:21), [2] Islam, through Ishmael (Gen. 17:20), and [3] Christianity, through faith in the God of Abraham (Gal. 3:6-7, 29). But it is only by this last association that any are saved. Nevertheless, any Jew, or Moslem, or Gentile who turns to Christ in faith can become the true spiritual seed of Abraham (Gal. 5:6). This is the message of the Gospel (Jn. 3:16), and the basis for the great commission (Mt. 28:19). Read Luke 3:8; Romans 2:28-29, 4:13-14, 8:14, 10:12-13; Galatians 3:7, 3:9, 3:29, 6:15-16; 1 Peter 2:9-10

☐ Tuesday - The King of Hearts.

Romans 9:15-16

"For [the Lord] says to Moses, 'I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.' So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy ... So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires" (Rom. 9:15-16, 18). God is sovereign over the human heart, for again it says, "The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes" (Prov. 21:1). Let this then be the Christians' praise, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again" (1 Pet. 1:3). Read John 1:12-13, 5:21; Acts 13:48; Ephesians 1:4-6; James 1:18

☐ Wednesday - He is the Potter, We Are The Clay.

Romans 9:21-23

The apostle declares, "Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for common use? What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction? And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory" (Rom. 9:21-23). Look here, Christian, you are called a "vessel for honorable use" and a "vessel of mercy." For you have been fashioned by the hand of God into a sacred and holy vessel into which God has poured out His choicest mercies. Read Isaiah 64:8

☐ Thursday - You Are The People of God.

Romans 9:25-26

Here we read, "I will call those who were not my people, 'My people,' and her who was not beloved, 'beloved.' And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they shall be called sons of the living God." (Rom. 9:25-26). Christians, "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may *proclaim the excellencies of Him* who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy" (1 Pet. 2:9-10). Considering our calling, this must be first on today's "To Do List": Proclaim God's excellencies. Read Ephesians 2:11-22

☐ Friday - Jesus is the Rock.

Romans 9:33

"Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed" (Rom. 9:33). Christ is the Rock (Deut. 32:4, 31; Psa. 19:14, 61:2): [1] a stumbling stone to the unbeliever, but [2] the chief cornerstone to those who believe and are saved. Read 1 Peter 2:4-8

Romans 10, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Jesus is Lord!

Romans 10:9

In the first century, emperor worship was enforced in varying degrees throughout the Roman Empire, and the people were forced to confess, "Caesar is Lord." But Christians resolutely refused and instead declared, "Jesus is Lord!" This was considered treason and as a result many Christians lost their jobs, their possessions, their freedom, and some lost their lives (Heb. 10:34; Rev. 2:13). Yet this is still the litmus test of authentic Christianity, "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" (Rom. 10:9). Twenty centuries later, this must be our confession too!

Read Matthew 10:32-33

☐ Tuesday - The Cure for Disappointment.

Romans 10:11

There are many disappointments in this life. People make promises that they will do certain things or be in a certain place and then don't follow through. Someone that you thought was a friend turns his back on you. Certain things that you were counting on in the future have fallen through. But even though people and circumstances in this world often disappoint us, Scripture gives us this assurance: "Whoever believes in [Christ] will not be disappointed" (Rom. 10:11). Friend, you can trust in the Lord with all your heart (Prov. 3:5-6). He will never let you down. Read 2 Cor. 1:20; Hebrews 6:16-19

☐ Wednesday - One Of The "Whoevers."

Romans 10:12-13

The apostle proclaims, "For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him; for 'whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved'" (Rom. 10:12-13). As in John 3:16, much is made of the word "whoever," and for good reason. This is a real offer of eternal life to all mankind! But there is a problem: man is dead in sin (Eph. 2:1). What can dead men do? Nothing! (Rom. 3:9-12; 8:7) This general offer would be about as effective as a man handing out party invitations in a graveyard, if it were not for one huge difference. God is able to raise and renew those who are spiritually dead! Christian, give thanks to the One who has the power to raise the dead and who called you with an effectual call out of the graveyard of sin and death.

Read Ephesians 2:1-9

☐ Thursday - Beautiful Feet.

Romans 10:14-15

Concerning the *Great Commission* and the Lord's commandment to all Christians to make disciples (Mt. 28:19), the apostle Paul explains, "How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news of good things!'" (Rom. 10:14-15). Every Christian is called to be a preacher, maybe not as a full-time profession, but in everyday practice. Christian, preach the Gospel first to yourself, then to your family and friends. Shod your feet with the preparation of the Gospel" (Eph. 6:15), and then get them moving. We've got good news to share!

Read Isaiah 52:7

☐ Friday - The Spirit and The Word.

Romans 10:16

Faith is given by God (Eph. 2:8; Rom. 12:3; Acts 13:48), as a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22), and yet the Spirit of God never operates upon the human heart apart from the Word of God. Therefore, the apostle reminds us, "So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ" (Rom. 10:16). And as the hungry heart of every true disciple cries out, "Lord, increase our faith!" (Lk. 17:5), the Lord produces new faith by sending forth the Holy Spirit to illuminate the minds of those who read or hear His Word. The Lord declares, "Behold, I will pour out my Spirit on you; I will make my words known to you" (Prov. 1:23).

Read Joshua 1:8

Romans 11, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - The Narrow Way.

Romans 11:2-5

Elijah cried out against Israel, “Lord, they have killed Thy prophets, they have torn down Thine altars, and I alone am left, and they are seeking my life.” But the Lord replied, “I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal” (Rom. 11:3-4). In every generation there are many that speed along the six lane highway to hell, but relatively few that choose the narrow road that leads to eternal life (Mt. 7:13-14). And so, along the narrow, sometimes lonely path that leads to heaven, we should expect not a great many travelling companions. Yes, and through certain narrow passages along our journey, we must walk single-file and sometimes all alone. But in those places where the path widens out, if there are other pilgrims just ahead, make every effort to catch up to them. For the Lord provides these special times of fellowship and refreshment to encourage us along our way. Read Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

☐ Tuesday - The Causes and Cure for a Hard Heart.

Romans 11:8

We have already read in Romans, God “has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires” (Rom. 9:18), and here we read, “Just as it is written, ‘God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day’” (Rom. 11:8). But when God hardens a person’s heart, He does not tempt them to do evil, for “God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone” (James 1:13). No, rather He gives them over to their own evil desires (Rom. 1:24, 26, 28). This is what we see concerning pharaoh: God hardened pharaoh’s heart (Ex. 9:12, 10:1, 10:20, 10:27, 11:10, 14:8), and pharaoh hardened his own heart (Ex. 8:15, 8:32, 9:34). And so, as the heart slowly hardens, sins that once made the palms to sweat and the heart to beat faster cease to offend the conscience. But there is only one remedy for such a condition: Run to the Great Physician! Only confession, repentance and the grace of God can make a hard heart soft.

Read Psalm 51

☐ Wednesday - True Branches.

Romans 11:17-24

Here, the apostle Paul likens a person’s relationship with Jesus Christ to an olive tree. But just as in Old Testament Israel, so also in the New Testament Church, a person can appear to be attached to the Lord and His people and even enjoy some benefits of that attachment, but really not be a true believer at all (Rom. 11:20; Jn. 15:6). Only those who abide (believe) demonstrate they are true branches (1 John 2:19). Read John 15:1-8

☐ Thursday - Infinite Wisdom & Knowledge.

Romans 11:33

Is there a problem in your life right now that you just can’t seem to solve? Have you racked your brain and still can’t figure out the answer? Do not despair, Christian, there is One you can go to who understands your problems perfectly. He knows the answer: He is the answer. He is the Lord and “His understanding is infinite” (Psa. 147:5), “inscrutable” (Isa. 40:28), beyond measure. Take your problems to Him, He is “perfect in knowledge” (Job 36:4, 37:16). You and I only see part of the equation, but He sees all of the variables; He has all of the data. “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!” (Rom. 11:33).

Read Isaiah 55:9; Proverbs 3:5-6

☐ Friday - To God be the Glory.

Romans 11:36

What does it mean to be a Christian in everyday practice? Well, it means a lot of things, but first it means that one is not self-centered but Christ-centered. Can you honestly say, “For to me to live is Christ”? (Phil. 1:21). Do your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers or schoolmates know that the Lord is the main attraction, the focal point, and the centerpiece of your life? Do your words, thoughts and actions reflect Him? These are good tests to see if we are truly in the faith (2 Cor. 13:5). Let this be our standard operating procedure: “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen” (Rom. 11:36). Read Romans 14:7-8; 1 Corinthians 10:31

Romans 12:1-2, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Unconditional Surrender.

Romans 12:1

Paul writes, "Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship" (Rom. 12:1). The word "present" in this verse means "present once and for all;" i.e. to consecrate yourself completely to God. Friend, you cannot walk with one foot on the narrow path and the other on the broad road (Mt. 7:13-14), for these are one-way streets heading in opposite directions. And so, God's Word repeatedly calls out to us, "How long will you hesitate between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him" (1 Kgs. 18:21); "Choose today whom you will serve" (Josh. 24:15); "No one can serve two masters" (Mt. 6:24). Remember, Christ turned half-hearted followers away (Lk. 9:57-52), and called luke-warm Christianity nauseating (Rev. 3:16). Will you surrender everything to Christ today?

Read Deuteronomy 6:5

☐ Tuesday - A Living Sacrifice.

Romans 12:1

Here we find yet another New Covenant commandment: "Present yourself as a living sacrifice!" (Rom. 12:1). Christian, God sent His dearly beloved Son to *die* in sacrifice for you. Now, He calls for this response: *Live* in sacrifice for Me! Does your Christianity cost you anything? David declared, "Far be it from me to offer to the Lord that which cost me nothing" (2 Sam. 24:24), and for such an attitude he was called "a man after God's own heart" (Acts 13:22).

Read Matthew 16:24-25

☐ Wednesday - What is True Worship?

Romans 12:1

Singing songs at church on Sunday morning is only the tip of the iceberg of what the Bible calls "worship," because true worship is not an isolated activity, but rather a quality of life. It is presenting ourselves to God as a living sacrifice every moment of every day, which the Bible calls "our spiritual service of worship" (Rom. 12:1). It is rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, and in everything giving thanks (1 Thess. 5:16-18), through the daily, routine activities of life. And then when we assemble together, corporate worship will never feel mechanical nor forced, but rather the overflow of a heart that has been enjoying the Lord all week long.

Read John 4:23-24

☐ Thursday - Do Not Be Conformed to This World.

Romans 12:2

Remember, Christian, once "you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world" (Eph. 2:1-3). And even now the world tries to press you back into its mold, to look like them, sound like them, and think like them. But you are a new creation in Christ! (2 Cor. 5:17). Therefore "do not be conformed to this world" (Rom. 12:1). You are a Christian, not a clone!

Read Ephesians 5:6-12; 1 John 2:15-17; 3 John 1:11

☐ Friday - Be Transformed.

Romans 12:2

The Christian life is a transformation. It starts by being "born-again" (John 3:3; cf. 2 Cor. 5:17), and it ends by one final transformation of our natural bodies into incorruptible new glorified bodies (1 Cor. 15:51-53). In-between these two epic events the Christian life is marked by continual transformation. And so here the apostle Paul writes, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:2), written in the present passive voice which literally reads, "Continue to let yourselves be transformed." The One who transforms us of course is God (Phil. 1:6), through the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18). But we must stay in step with the Spirit's work in our lives, by daily renewing our minds in the written Word of God which He inspired (2 Tim. 3:16).

Read 1 Peter 2:2

Romans 12:3-8, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Greater Grace to the Humble.

Romans 12:3

Pride was the first of all sins; it tempted the Tempter (Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:17). But you, man or woman of God, “Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God” (1 Pet. 5:6), for God is opposed to the proud, but He gives “greater grace” (Greek: *mega* grace) to the humble (James 4:6). Therefore, the apostle exhorts, “I say to every man among you not to think more highly of himself than he ought to think” (Rom. 12:3).
Read Matthew 23:12; Philippians 2:3-8

☐ Tuesday - The Source of Faith.

Romans 12:3

The Apostle Paul explains to the Christians in Rome, “God has allotted to each [of His children] a measure of faith” (Rom. 12:3). Faith, then, is not a work of the flesh, but a fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:19-23). It is the gift of God (Eph. 2:8). Jesus Himself is called the “Author and Perfector of faith” (Heb. 12:2). To Him the disciples cried out, “Increase our faith!” (Lk. 17:5), for He sovereignly gives and grows faith in His people (Acts 13:48). Christian, is your faith sagging? Look to Christ! Meditate today upon His Word by which He imparts faith into the hearts of His true disciples (Rom. 10:17).
Read 1 Peter 2:2

☐ Wednesday - Pulling Together.

Romans 12:4

Here Paul explains the concept of church membership to the Christians in Rome, “For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another” (Rom. 12:4-5). Jesus called out to his future disciples, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Mt. 4:19). But the model for ministry that Christ taught them was not one man holding a fishing pole, but rather a whole team pulling together on a net. The effectiveness of the local church is multiplied when its members work together. None of us can do what all of us can do.
Read Romans 12:10-11

☐ Thursday - The Church Likened to the Human Body.

Romans 12:4-5

In the Bible, the local church is likened to a building (1 Pet. 2:5; Eph. 2:19-22), but its structure is weakened and incomplete without each individual brick. Here in Romans 12:4-5, the church is compared to a human body (cf. 1 Cor. 12:12-27), but a human body in which only ten or twenty percent is functioning is a vegetable! Even if seventy or eighty percent of that body is functioning, we would say that it is severely handicapped. Today we see scattered around our city many dead, comatose or handicapped churches, because the people come not to serve, but to be served. What about your church? Is it handicapped because you are not an active and functioning member? “Serve the Lord with gladness” (Psa. 100:2). “It is Christ the Lord whom you serve” (Col. 3:24).
Read Matthew 20:28; Hebrews 12:28

☐ Friday - Your Spiritual Gifts.

Romans 12:3, 6-8

The apostle reminds us that “God has allotted to each a measure of faith” (Rom. 12:3), and so, “we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us” (Rom. 12:6). Elsewhere he explains, “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills” (1 Cor. 12:11), and again, “But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired” (1 Cor. 12:18). So we see that God sovereignly distributes special gifts for Christian service throughout the body of Christ. To one is given a gift of teaching, to another the gift of giving, and to another compassion and mercy (Rom. 12:7-8). Dear Christian, what are you good at? What are you passionate about? That is God’s special gift to you. Therefore, “as each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Pet. 4:10).
Read Matthew 23:11

Romans 12:9-13, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Love Without Hypocrisy.

Romans 12:9

What does the Word of God mean when it commands God's people, "Let love be without hypocrisy"? (Rom. 12:9). Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 again. Hypocritical love is saying, "I love you," but then being impatient, unkind, jealous, or arrogant (1 Cor. 13:4). Hypocritical love is saying, "I love you," but secretly keeping a list of past offenses, for true love does not take into account a wrong suffered (1 Cor. 13:5). And love that has an expiration date is hypocritical, because true love never fails. "Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth" (1 John 3:18).
Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-8

☐ Tuesday - Hate Sin.

Romans 12:9

Sin is like a wild beast crouching at the door; it cannot be tamed (Gen. 4:7). But so many Christians, after putting off gross outward sins, nevertheless maintain a menagerie of little pet sins, thinking he/she can keep them on a leash under control: a prideful heart, a critical tongue, impatience, anger, worry, greed, gossip, lust, envy, over-sensitivity. Yet pet sins, fed regularly, grow up to be life-dominating sins which cannot be controlled. God hates pet sins as much as gross outward sin (Mt. 5:22-23, 27-28), and we must hate them too, if we hope to be free from them. And so, this commandment is repeated in Scripture: "Hate evil, you who love the Lord" (Psa. 97:10); "Hate evil, love good" (Amos 5:15); and again here in Romans 12, "Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good" (Rom. 12:9). Dear child of God, if you love God, you cannot be neutral about your sin. No, you must hate it with a holy hatred. All sin is an abomination to God (Prov. 6:16-19).
Read Proverbs 8:13

☐ Wednesday - Love One Another.

Romans 12:10

Jesus said, "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35); that is, the world will see the authenticity of Christ's work in His people by the way we love our Christian brothers and sisters. Therefore, Paul writes, "Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor ... contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality" (Rom. 12:10, 13). For "we know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brethren" (1 John 3:14).
Read 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 4:20-21

☐ Thursday - Adding Definition.

Romans 12:11

God's Word encourages the believer to be "not lagging behind in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord" (Rom. 12:11). The dictionary defines "diligence" as careful and persistent work or effort. The word "fervent" is defined as having or displaying a passionate intensity. "Serving" is defined as performing duties or services for another person. Let us therefore not be Christians in name only, but let these things define your Christian walk today.
Read James 2;14-17

☐ Friday - Rejoicing in Hope.

Romans 12:12

The Christian should be "rejoicing in hope, persevering in tribulation" (Rom. 12:12), yet without the first of these we can never do the second. Read Psalm 71:5, 14; 146:5

☐ Saturday - Devoted to Prayer.

Romans 12:12

Often we pray just when we want something, but God wants a continual dialogue with you, Christian. And so He says, "pray *without ceasing*" (1 Thess. 5:17), "With all prayer and petition pray *at all times*" (Eph. 6:18), "in *everything* by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God" (Phil. 4:6), and here in Romans 12, be "*devoted to prayer*" (Rom. 12:12). Dear Christian, call upon God the first thing each morning. And when you are finished praying, leave the phone off the hook, so that you can keep an open line to God all day long. Read Psalm 5:3, 141:2

Romans 12:14-21, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Bless Those Who Persecute You.

Romans 12:14

The apostle Paul encouraged the church, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and curse not" (Rom. 12:14). Paul himself was once a persecutor of the church (Acts 8:1-3), and after his conversion (Acts 9:1-9) was persecuted as part of the church (1 Cor. 4:9-13; 2 Cor. 11:23-29). And so the apostle speaks as an expert on both sides of the matter. Christian, though the world despises and mistreats you, yet you must ask yourself, how many other persecutors of the church may be won to Christ when you follow this command to "bless those who persecute you."

Read Matthew 5:44

☐ Tuesday - The Church's Emotional Connection.

Romans 12:15

Earlier Paul likened the church to the human body, because each member is vitally connected to the other members (Romans 12:4-5). Consider how the human body responds to pleasure and pain. Stub your toe and the whole body reacts: weight shifts to the other foot, hands rush to the injured member, and the mouth shouts, "Ouch!" But how strange it would be if the rest of the body did not respond, or the mouth yelled at the toe, "Stop whining!" One of the clearest indicators that a local church is healthy and operating correctly is when we, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep" (Rom. 12:15).

Read 1 Corinthians 12:25-26

☐ Wednesday - No Church Celebrities.

Romans 12:16

Here the Word of God exhorts members of the Christian church, "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" (Rom. 12:16). The world has its celebrities and superstars, but in the body of Christ there are no VIPs or "big shots." For we remember our Lord's words, "But many who are first will be last; and the last, first" (Mt. 19:30). Christian, if you want to be great in God's kingdom, learn to be the servant of all (Mt. 20:26). Christ must increase in importance in your life and you must decrease (John 3:30).

Read 2 Corinthians 12:14-24

☐ Thursday - The Weapons Of Our Warfare.

Romans 12:17

Here we are given the command, "Never pay back evil for evil to anyone" (Rom. 12:17). The Word emphatically says, "Never" do it! Why? Because it will spoil your Christian testimony and Christ's reputation. Anger, revenge, slander and malice were once your worldly response to those who assaulted you. But now you are a new creation in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17) and "though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh" (2 Cor. 10:4a). No Christian, your weapons are now far more effective and "divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses" (2 Cor. 10:4b). They are the Word of God (Eph. 6:17) and intercessory prayer (Phil. 4:6).

Read Ephesians 6:10-18

☐ Friday - Blessed Are The Peacemakers.

Romans 12:18

The Christian is called to be a peacemaker. Here the apostle exclaims, "If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men" (Rom. 12:18). Does someone have something against you? Go to him, humble yourself, and seek reconciliation (Mt. 5:23-25). If he accepts your olive branch, good. But if you have done all that you can to make peace, and he will not be reconciled, then at least your conscience will be clear, for the injunction here says, "If possible, so far as it depends on you." Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Mt. 5:9). Read Romans 14:19

☐ Saturday - Never Take Your Own Revenge.

Romans 12:19

"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" (Rom. 12:19). Escalation of a conflict usually results from excessive retaliation. But God is a perfect Accountant and He alone can make the punishment fit the crime.

Read 1 Cor. 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10

Romans 13, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Subjection to Governing Authorities. Romans 13:1

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Paul instructed the church that “Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities” (Rom. 13:1). This commandment, in his epistle to the Romans, was written around 57 A.D., during the reign of one of the worst rulers in human history: Nero (Emperor from 54-58 A.D.). The apostle Peter later reiterated the same command (1 Peter 2:13-15). Both of these men were executed by the Roman authorities simply for believing in Christ. Nevertheless, God’s Word is clear that God’s children should obey governing authorities in all things lawful; that is, in all things that would not cause us to disobey the written Word of God. Read 1 Peter 2:13-15

☐ Tuesday - No Authority Except From God. Romans 13:1

“Pilate said to [Jesus], ‘... Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?’ Jesus answered, ‘You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above’” (John 19:10-11). Here in Romans, the apostle reiterates Jesus’ statement, saying, “For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God” (Rom. 13:1). All authority -- good and bad; whether angelic authorities or human governments, all authority is established by God. And if He raises up a good king to bless a nation (Psa. 33:12; Prov. 13:34; 2 Chron. 7:14), or a wicked tyrant to punish that nation (Amos 6:14; Jer. 5:15), all authority is established by God. He truly is the King of kings (Rev. 19:16). Read Prov. 21:1; Dan. 2:21, 4:17

☐ Wednesday - Honor the King. Romans 13:7

Romans 13:7 is the application of the first six verses of this chapter: “Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.” Here, Paul is commanding his first-century readers to honor that mad-man Nero. How much more then should we be careful to honor those in authority over us with our actions and our words, even if we vehemently disagree with them. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Peter 2:17

☐ Thursday - The Fulfillment of the Whole Law. Romans 13:8-10

“He who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law. For this, ‘You shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet,’ and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” (Rom. 13:8-10). Jesus calls this the second greatest commandment, after loving God (Matt. 22:34-40), and James calls it the “royal law,” for it is how the King’s kids should act. Read James 2:8

☐ Friday - Your Redemption is Drawing Near! Romans 13

Paul declares, “Salvation is nearer to us than when we believed” (Rom. 13:11). The first-century Christians, as every generation of God’s people, believed that Christ could come back at any time. Christ did not reveal the day or the hour of His return precisely for this reason, so that every generation would live in readiness. But if the day of Christ’s return was nearer then, how much more, 2000 years later, should God’s people look up for our redemption is drawing near. (Lk. 21:28). Read 1 John 3:1-3

☐ Saturday - Put on Christ. Romans 13

The Bible instructs God’s people to “put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” (Rom. 13:14). This is the same as Paul’s exhortation to put on God’s full armor (Eph. 6:10-17), for only when we put on Christ’s righteousness as a breastplate, take up the shield of faith in Him, and wield His Word which is the sword of the Spirit, can we successfully battle the lusts of the flesh. Read Gal. 3:27

Romans 14, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Holy Days?

Romans 14:5

The Jews were obligated to keep at least five holy days: Passover, Pentecost, Yom Kippur, Tabernacles and Purim. But these requirements were fulfilled in Christ (Matt. 5:17; Col. 2:16-17; Heb. 8:13), for they were only a foreshadow of better things to come (Heb. 10:1). Yet some Jewish Christians in Paul's day and even today still observe these Old Testament festivals. Similarly, American Christians today celebrate their own holidays: Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving. Concerning such things the apostle writes, "One person regards one day above another, another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind" (Rom. 14:5). In other words, "whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). Read John 4:20-24

☐ Tuesday - To Live is Christ.

Romans 14:7-8

Christian, you are not your own. No, you belong to God, for you have been bought with a price (1 Cor. 6:19-20). But how does this fact affect the way that you live? "For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's" (Rom. 14:7-8). This is the Christian life boiled down into its purest form: "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). Read 2 Corinthians 5:15; Galatians 2:20

☐ Wednesday - Should Christians Judge Others?

Romans 14:13

Here the apostle Paul declares, "Therefore let us not judge one another anymore" (Rom. 14:13). But does that mean the Christian is not to make sound judgments about anything? No! Elsewhere, Paul writes to the church in Corinth that "he who is spiritual judges all things" (1 Cor. 2:15), and that Paul himself had "already judged" an immoral person in that church (1 Cor. 5:1-5). Concerning the Christian's judgments, the Scriptures declare: [1] The Christian is to judge everything using God's Word (1 Cor. 2:14-16; Heb. 4:12); [2] He starts by first and foremost judging himself (Mt. 7:1-5); in judging others [3] he is never to judge another person's motives, because he can't see them (1 Cor. 4:5); and [4] he is never to judge the personal opinions of others in nonessential areas (Rom. 14). Read 1 Peter 4:7

☐ Thursday - Major in the Majors, Minor in the Minors.

Romans 14:17

The Christians in the church in Rome were divided over nonessential issues concerning what one should eat or drink, to which the apostle responded, "The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Romans 14:17). There is a little pharisee that lives inside of each one of us that wants to focus on nonessential issues and ignore weightier matters (Mt. 23:23-24). How are you doing in the areas of personal righteousness, peace and joy? Read Galatians 5:22-23

☐ Friday - General Principles for Every Situation.

Romans 14:23

The Bible is very clear about everything that is essential in the Christian life (2 Pet. 1:3), but is silent about a great many nonessential issues. So then, what should the Christian do when he or she has a sincere question about something which the Bible does not directly address? For such questions the Lord has given in His Word several overarching principles to guide His people: [1] "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness" (Mt. 6:33); [2] "This is the will of God, your sanctification" (1 Thess. 4:3); [3] "Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31); and, here in Romans 14, [4] "Whatever is not from faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23). With these general Scriptural principles and many others like them, every true child of God can choose the right thing to do in every situation. Read Rom. 14:19; Phil. 1:9-11; Col. 3:1-2; 1 John 2:15

Romans 15, Daily Devotions

☐ **Monday - Like a Good Neighbor, Christians are There.** Romans 15:2-3
Jesus told his disciples, “Love your neighbor as yourself”(Mt. 22:34-40). “Who is my neighbor?” someone asked Him (Lk. 10:29). In response Jesus told the parable of the good Samaritan (Lk. 10:30-37). In essence, Jesus was saying that we should be a good “neighbor” to everyone around us. In this regard, the apostle Paul declares, “Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to his edification. For even Christ did not please Himself...” (Rom. 15:2-3). So then, with Christ as our example and His commandment as our marching orders, let us make it our purpose today to be a good neighbor.
Read Philippians 2:3-4

☐ **Tuesday - Instruction Book for Living.** Romans 15:4
God has not left us alone in the dark to try to fit the pieces of this life together. Life comes with an instruction book! “For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Rom. 15:4). God’s Word, the Bible, tells us who we are, where we came from, why we are here, and where we are going. Are you looking for answers? Read the instruction book!
Read Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16

☐ **Wednesday - God Gives Perseverance.** Romans 15:5
Christian, are you being stretched and strained to your breaking point? Do you worry and wonder whether you will persevere in your faith? Look again at God’s promises: “He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus” (Phil. 1:6); He “will also confirm you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Cor. 1:8); for you “were sealed for the day of redemption” by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30); because “the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable” (Rom. 11:29). Christian, you will persevere, because it is God who perseveres in you. He is “the God who gives perseverance and encouragement” (Rom. 15:5).
Read Romans 8:38-39; John 6:37-39; Jude 1:24-25

☐ **Thursday - Let Him Who Boasts Boast in the Lord.** Romans 15:18
Here the apostle makes his plea: “For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me” (Rom. 15:18). “Where then is boasting? It is excluded” (Romans 3:27). Christian, you have nothing of any eternal value, except what Christ has done in and through you. Therefore, “Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord” (1 Cor. 1:31). For thus says the Lord, “Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth; for I delight in these things,” declares the Lord (Jer. 9:23-24).
Read Psalm 20:7; 34:2; 44:8

☐ **Friday - The God of Peace.** Romans 15:33
Romans, chapter 15, ends with this benediction: “Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen” (Rom. 15:33). Yes, God is the God of peace; Jesus Christ is called the Prince of Peace; and the Holy Spirit is the One who gives the fruit which is peace. The whole Godhead is a Trinity of peace. For when we had separated ourselves from God by our sins (Isa. 59:20), “it was the Father’s good pleasure ... through [Christ] to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross” (Col. 1:19). “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:1). I don’t generally like bumper-sticker theology, but the other day I read a good one: No God, no peace; know God, know peace. Read Isaiah 26:3

Romans 16, Daily Devotions

☐ Monday - Paul's Catalogue of Christian Friends. Romans 16:1-2

In Romans, chapter 16, the apostle Paul greets some twenty-eight of his Christian friends who were in the house churches in Rome (v. 3-15), and he sends greetings from another eight of his Christian friends who were with him in Corinth (v. 21-23). You can tell a lot about a person by the friends that he keeps. The apostle Paul knew the importance of godly friendships: for fellowship, accountability, and encouragement. What would a list of your closest friends reveal about you? Read Proverbs 27:17; 1 Corinthians 15:33

☐ Tuesday - The Rare Jewel of Christian Hospitality. Romans 16:3-5

Paul concludes his epistle to the house churches in Rome, saying, "Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life risked their own necks, to whom not only do I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; also greet the church that is in their house" (Rom. 16:3-5). Aquila and Prisca (Priscilla) were a Jewish couple who had converted to Christianity (Acts 18:2), and wherever they lived they opened up their home to the church: in Ephesus (1 Cor. 16:19); in Rome (Rom. 16:3-5); and earlier in Corinth the apostle Paul lived with them for 18 months while he shared the gospel everyday in the city (Acts 18:1-11). Aquila and Priscilla loved God's people and they used their home to refresh the saints. Did you know that hospitality is actually commanded in the Bible? Whether you have a tiny apartment or a sprawling estate, use it, Christian, to encourage God's people. Read Hebrews 13:1-2

☐ Wednesday - Vigilance in the Last Days. Romans 16:17

Paul warned the Christians in Rome, "Keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them" (Rom. 16:17). Likewise, he cautioned the saints in Thessalonica, "Keep aloof from every brother who leads an unruly life and not according to the tradition which you received from us" (2 Thess. 3:6, cf. v. 14). And he gave similar warnings to others (Titus 3:10; 1 Tim. 1:3, 6:3-5). According to the Scriptures, we live in the last days, in which there will be "false brethren" (2 Cor. 11:26; Gal. 2:4), "false teachers" (2 Pet. 2:1-3), and "false prophets" (Mt. 7:15, 24:24); therefore, "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong" (1 Cor. 16:13). Read 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

☐ Thursday - This Little Light of Mine. Romans 16:19

The Barna Group recently released another poll revealing that a majority of Americans consider themselves Christians. Of course, if that were true, this country would be a dramatically different place (Psa. 33:12; Prov. 13:34). The poll also revealed that many of those who consider themselves Christians do not believe some of the essential truths of the Christian faith, hence are not true Christians. But I suppose there are others who may be true believers, yet are undercover, covert Christians. How about you? Do your neighbors and co-workers know that you believe in Christ? Throughout his epistles, the apostle Paul commends those whose Christianity is visible (Rom. 1:8; 16:19; 1 Thess. 1:7-8). Christian, don't be ashamed (Lk. 9:26), don't hide (Mk. 14:54; John 19:38), let your light shine for all to see! Read Matthew 5:14-16

☐ Friday - A Return to Innocence. Romans 16:19

Here the apostle declares, "I want you to be wise in what is good, and innocent in what is evil" (Rom. 16:19, cf. 1 Cor. 14:20). Our problem today is that we are exposed to so much so early that Americans have forgotten how to blush! America has lost its innocence. What was rude, crude and socially unacceptable just twenty years ago has now entered the mainstream media and daily conversation. Christian, "You are the light of the world" (Mt. 5:14), but "if the light that is in you becomes darkness, O how great is the darkness!" (Mt. 6:23). Read Romans 12:9; Ephesians 5:3-18

Written by Pastor Stephen Hildebrandt

Outlines & Devotions appropriate for:

- *Church Services.*
- *Small Group Bible Studies.*
- *Private Devotions.*



“Study to show yourself
approved to God ...
handling accurately the
Word of truth.”

- 2 Timothy 2:15

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