

Righteousness Reproduced in Rome

Chapter Thirteen

Audio lesson: New Testament 43



Objective: To explore the mysteries of God's will and to learn how to find His will for our lives.



Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

—Romans 12:1-2

In this last section of the Book of Romans, chapters 12-16, Paul emphasizes the application of the truths he has just shared in relation to God, the church, other believers, the government, the world, and ourselves. He describes how Christian relationships should be filled with love, humility, hospitality, serving, forgiveness, and more. He encourages us to submit to government as a God-given institution, but to always serve God as our highest priority. As we relate to people who have a different sense of right and wrong in areas that scripture is not clear about, Paul teaches us to follow our conscience and the leading of the Holy Spirit while being sensitive to the needs of others. In everything, as we apply God's Word to our lives, love should determine how we relate to people.

Paul demonstrates again at the end of Romans that his heart was always searching for ways to fulfill the Great Commission and that his greatest desire was to spread the gospel around the world. Even though Paul had never been to Rome, he greeted friends that he knew there and encouraged them with his words.



1. True or **false**? Paul's letter to the Romans explains great theological truth but has very little practical application in it.
2. True or **false**? The practical teaching in Romans applies to our relationship with God but not our relationships with each other.
3. True or **false**? God gives all spiritual gifts to some people and no spiritual gifts to others.
4. **True** or false? When we discover what our gifts are, we should focus on exercising our gifts and let others focus on exercising theirs.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. How do the spiritual gifts of one person relate to the gifts of another?
 - a. We all use our gifts independently of each other.
 - b. We need each other's gifts and have to depend on each other.**
 - c. God gives His gifts randomly, so they really do not relate to each other.
 - d. We should compare our gifts with others so we can determine which people God has most highly favored.
6. Which attributes does Paul encourage Christians to have? (choose all that apply)
 - a. Love**
 - b. Competition
 - c. Humility**
 - d. Repentance**
 - e. Hostility toward the world
 - f. Unity**
 - g. Giving**
 - h. Pride
 - i. Activity**
 - j. Faith**
 - k. Forgiveness**
7. How should we deal with "gray areas" that are not clearly right or wrong?
 - a. Follow our conscience.
 - b. Obey the Holy Spirit as we develop our convictions.
 - c. Be considerate of other believers who are weaker in their convictions.
 - d. Let our love of others determine our choices.
 - e. All of the above**
8. What did Paul believe about government? (choose all that apply)
 - a. That government is good, ordained by God, and important to obey**
 - b. That we should obey God's law first and foremost**
 - c. That we should obey the government regardless of what it requires of us
 - d. That government is evil, a tool of Satan

9. Where did Paul say he wanted to go after visiting Rome?
- a. Jerusalem
 - b. Greece
 - c. Spain**
 - d. Africa

10. What do Paul's travel plans show about Paul?
- a. The world and the Great Commission were always on his heart.**
 - b. He had to move around often because he caused trouble wherever he was.
 - c. He had a restless spirit.
 - d. He could not make up his mind about where God wanted him to serve.



Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? If so, how has God led you to use them? If not, would you consider asking Him to help you discover your gifts and use them to help build up His people?

In what ways do you depend on the spiritual gifts of others? In what ways do spiritual gifts and the godly attitudes of other believers build up the fellowship of God's people?



Thank God that He has given spiritual gifts to every believer and that He uses us to strengthen, encourage, and edify each other. Ask Him to help you discover and use the gifts He has given you. Also ask Him to fill your church and your relationships with the love, humility, and zeal that Paul encouraged us to have.



Going Deeper

1. When Paul is giving a cluster of inspired commandments in chapter 12, what does he teach us about our responsibility boundaries, when it comes to living at peace with everyone? _____

2. In chapter 13, what does Paul mean when he refers three times to law enforcement officers as “ministers of God,” even when they are using their sword on you for breaking the law? _____

3. What does Paul mean in that same chapter when he writes that the law enforcement officer is expressing the present wrath of God on the lawbreaker, and can this be projected to the level of military armed forces being that law enforcement officer? _____

4. Compare, contrast, relate and apply the Fourteenth Chapter of Romans to 1 Corinthians 8-10.

5. In both of these passages of Scripture, what is the primary truth that governs the way the believer should approach the so-called gray issues, in living out the way of Christ in the context of the church body? _____

6. In chapter fifteen, how does Paul demonstrate his passion to preach the Gospel by telling the Church at Rome why he had felt such a strong passion to get to Rome? _____

7. When Paul tells us about the circle within which he preached the Gospel, by application, draw a circle within which your church should determine to saturate an area with the preaching of the Gospel. _____
