

“The Romans Road Rebooted”—Part 16

AUGUST 3, 2014

In view of the mercies of God, or the DOCTRINE of GRACE, presented in chapters 3-11 of Romans: (12:1-2)

1. We must first have our EYES FIXED on our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

- **MATTHEW 6:31-33 (ESV)**

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- **MATTHEW 5:6 (ESV)**

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

- **HEBREWS 12:1-2 (ESV)**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

2. We are led to a life motivated by GRACIOUSNESS.

- **HEBREWS 12:28-29 (ESV)**

²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

- **1 CORINTHIANS 3:10-15 (ESV)**

¹⁰ According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

3. We are led to a life motivated by SELF-SACRIFICE.

- **PHILIPPIANS 1:18-30 (ESV)**

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

4. These are a REASONABLE and RATIONAL offering to God in response to His grace.

- **LOGIK** pronounced log-i-kos' (THAYER'S GREEK DICT.

pertaining to the reason or logic; spiritual, pertaining to the soul; agreeable to reason, following reason, reasonable, logical

- **LATRE** pronounced lah-tray-ah' (THAYER'S GREEK DICT.

service rendered for hire, any service or ministration: the service of God; the service and worship of God according to the requirements of the Levitical law; to perform sacred services

- **JOHN 4:19-26 (ESV)**

¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." ²⁶Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

5. Our Christian MINDSET should be determined and reshaped by our KNOWLEDGE of the Gospel, by the POWER of the Holy Spirit and our concern for that which is ETERNAL and not TEMPORARY and fading away.

- **ROMANS 1:16 (ESV)**

¹⁶For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

- **ACTS 1:6-8 (ESV)**

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- **2 CORINTHIANS 4:16-18 (ESV)**

¹⁶So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

6. It is only then and there that we can DISCERN God's WILL in each and every moment in life.

- **1 THESSALONIANS 5:17-22 (ESV)**

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil.

By the GRACE given to us: (12:3-13)

1. We must think of ourselves in HUMILITY, REALISTICALLY, and by the FAITH given us by God, not by "knowledge" or information we have obtained. (12:3)

- **PSALM 24:1-4 (ESV)**

The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein, ²for he has founded it upon the seas and established it upon the rivers. ³Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place? ⁴He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is false and does not swear deceitfully.

2. People who think eternally and not temporarily, do think of the Christian life INDIVIDUALLY, but CORPORATELY and COVENANTALLY. (12:4-13)

- READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31 (ESV)

✚ We must stop thinking of the Church in light of who is leading it, who has the gift of preaching and teaching or how it is administrated or ruled, but rather think of the Church corporately and covenantally.

- LUKE 22:24-27 (ESV)

²⁴ A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest. ²⁵ And he said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ But not so with you. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves.

✚ We must stop thinking of the Church in light of a building for worship that we go to, but rather think of the Church corporately and covenantally.

- 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27 (ESV)

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

✚ What would you do if you pulled up to church next Sunday and there was a FOR SALE sign in the front yard? How would you respond, if the sign, said SOLD on it? What if you arrived and the doors were chained or boarded up? Your response is telling of whether you are acting as a part of the church corporate or not!

✚ Do you find yourself sitting back saying, "The Church is doing nothing." or "We aren't accomplishing anything." or "What is there for anybody who comes here?"

- MATTHEW 28:18-20 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

- MATTHEW 9:35-38 (ESV)

³⁵ And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸ therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

- ROMANS 10:14-15 (ESV)

¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

✚ Notice the word play here: Go make disciples...workers are needed, pray for God to send out laborers...beautiful are the feet of those who preach, proclaim, bring the Good News!

✚ Notice it does not say bring them to church...to a revival...to a Christian concert.

✚ **Maybe the reason why nothing seems to be happening or nothing seems to be accomplished or there is nothing to be offered is because individually you are not going, you are not preaching, proclaiming or bringing the Good News and therefore there is no fruit or evidence in your life.**

- **HEBREWS 6:1-8 (ESV)**

Therefore let us leave the elementary doctrine of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,² and of instruction about washings, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.³ And this we will do if God permits.⁴ For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit,⁵ and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come,⁶ and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.⁷ For land that has drunk the rain that often falls on it, and produces a crop useful to those for whose sake it is cultivated, receives a blessing from God.⁸ But if it bears thorns and thistles, it is worthless and near to being cursed, and its end is to be burned.

✚ **The Church is made up of people who fulfill the call as individuals as part of a corporate and covenantal body of Christ. It is individual and familial ministry and when a need arises, the body responds.**

✚ **Each of us must find the place where God has called us to build His Kingdom and go to work at it and if the need arises, we respond as the body together.**

- **ACTS 2:42-47 (ESV)**

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common.⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts,⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

✚ **Yet, we do not neglect coming together.**

- **HEBREWS 10:19-25 (ESV)**

¹⁹Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus,²⁰ by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh,²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God,²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works,²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

✚ **If our property was sold or our doors were chained and boarded up, we would have no reason to fret because the building is not the Church. If this were to happen, your response shows whether you are part of the Church corporate or not!**

✚ **Would you miss seeing those who you went to church with each week? Would you move on to another church? Would you stay home, giving up all hope for the church? I guess you would, if you were not part of the Church corporately.**

✚ **If we are not acting as the Church with a building, we will not act as a Church without a building! If we are not intentionally involved in each others' lives with a building, we will not be without a building. If we are not fulfilling the command and call of Christ on our lives individually with a building, we will not without a building.**

- ✚ All then that is left is wood, hay and stubble and all our efforts or lack thereof, will be burned up and consumed. We might escape the judgment, but there is no glory in it at all!
- ✚ That's not living for Jesus in view of His mercy and His grace.
- ✚ We need to remember the hymn *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus* which is a song not of salvation, but marching orders for the Christian:

I have decided to follow Jesus...no turning back, no turning back...

The world behind me, the cross before me... no turning back, no turning back...

Though none go with me, I still will follow... no turning back, no turning back...