**Romans 12-16**

**Outline of Romans 12-16 (**[**www.enterthebible.org**](http://www.enterthebible.org)**)**

**VI. Serving God and Loving Others (Romans 12:1-21)**
Turning to ethical exhortations, Paul calls his readers to new thinking, using their gifts within the body of Christ and living in harmony with one another.

**VII. On Governing Authorities, Love, and Conduct (Romans 13:1-14)**
Believers are to be submissive to governing authorities, for they exist by divine design, and to practice love as the fulfillment of the law of God.

**VIII. The Weak and the Strong (Romans 14:1-15:13)**
Some persons keep certain dietary and calendrical observances in honor of the Lord, and others do not. Believers should not carry on disputes concerning these matters. Moreover, the "strong" who do not keep such observances should put up with the ways of the "weak" who do, and all should seek to please and build up one another.

**IX. Paul's Plans (Romans 15:14-33)**
Paul explains that his intention is to travel to Rome and then on to Spain. First, however, he must go to Jerusalem with a collection he has gathered from his churches for the church in Jerusalem, thereby fulfilling a promise he made earlier (see Galatians 2:10).
 **X. Greetings and Closure (Romans 16:1-27)**
Paul asks that the Christians in Rome welcome Phoebe, the probable carrier of the letter. Paul sends greetings to twenty-six named persons, of whom nineteen are men and seven are women, including Junia, who is called an apostle. He warns against contentious persons, sends greetings from coworkers and friends, and closes with a doxology.

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**Bible Study:**

**Read Romans 12:1-2**

**NRSV - Romans 12:1-2**  I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God-- what is good and acceptable and perfect.

**Message- Romans 12 1-2**So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

Discuss: What does it mean to present your bodies as a living sacrifice?

How would you instruct others to “not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds?

**Read Romans 12:3-13**

Discuss: What does this language about the “body” say to you?

**Read Romans 12:14-13:7**

This section addresses how the church should engage the world outside our doors. Which elements seem particularly important to you?

How do you understand what Paul has to say about respecting government? Was this an instruction for only his day or does it apply now too? To what extent?

**Summary 13:8-14**

Paul uses these verses to encourage love for one another going so far as to announce that “love is the fulfilling of the law”. Then Paul moves to reminding the Roman Christians that “the time is near” so therefor they should live out this Christian life honorably.

**Read Romans 14:1-12**

Discuss: How are we to live with others who are at a different point in their “spiritual journey”?

Summary of this section: (NT Wright, New Interpreters Bible Commentary, Volume 10 pg 733)

The topic is introduced in 14:1-12 and is given the basic analysis and answer: The weak and the strong must recognize that they have the same Lord, the one who died and rose again to be Lord of all. There will come a judgment at which all will give account, and it is not up to one Christian to pre-empt God’s right in advance. Then 14:13-23 focuses on the issue of how to cope in practice, granted that t both sides agree not to condemn the other… Paul emphasizes the importance of respecting and not making demands on, one another’s consciences. This leads to 15:1-13, which moves in two waves to the great conclusion in which all alike praise the one God.

**Read Romans 15:1-6**

Discuss: What is the goal/hope of a united Christian community? (v.6)

**Summary 15:14-33**

Paul concludes this portion of the letter by declaring that it is only be the grace of God that he has been able to write so boldly in his challenges to the Roman church. It is this grace that Paul has experienced that drives him to proclaim the gospel in new places including Rome. In v.22-24, Paul announces that he hopes to visit on his way to Spain but that first he must stop in Jerusalem. Paul invites prayers for himself recognizing the road through Jerusalem on to Spain will not be easy.

**Summary 16: 1-23**

Paul wraps up the letter with personal greetings. Of particular note is the high percentage of women mentioned in this section. These women held leadership roles in the early church. In verse 7, Paul even sends a greeting to Andronicus Junia (a woman) saying that they are “prominent among the apostles.”

**Read Romans 16:25-27** – Paul concludes with a Doxology (a short hymn of praise)