

Message Two
The Gospel of God and God's Complete Salvation

Scriptures reading: Rom. 1:1-4, 9, 15-16; 5:10; 8:3, 28-30; 12:5; 16:25.

I. The subject of Romans is the gospel of God concerning His Son–1:3.

- A. In Paul's view, the gospel is the proclamation of Jesus Christ, for "the gospel of God concerns the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord"–16:25.
- B. This wonderful person has two natures–the divine nature and the human nature, divinity and humanity–1:3-4.
- C. Romans speaks of the Son in a particular way:
 - 1. God sent "His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh"–8:3.
 - a. The Son is the only begotten Son in the eternal Godhead, the One who is in the bosom of the Father, who co-exist and coinheres as God with the Father and the Spirit, the One who had glory with the Father "before the world was"–John 3:16; 1:18; 17:5.
 - b. In the fulfillment of the prophecies in Isaiah, the Father gave the Son through the process of incarnation in which something "of the Holy Spirit" was "begotten" in Mary, and "the holy thing" born of her was called the Son of God; This is Lord Jesus, the unique God-man, the mingling of divinity and humanity in one wonderful person–Isa 7:14; 9:6; Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:35.
 - c. He did not know sin and in Him there was no sin–2Cor. 5:21.
 - d. He was *in the likeness* of the flesh of sin, having the element of the flesh but not having the nature of sin.
 - e. Because He was in the likeness of the flesh of sin, He could fulfill the type of the bronze serpent, and, as our Substitute in His vicarious death, provide the means for God to condemn sin in the flesh–John 3:14; cf. Num. 21:4-9.
 - f. God "did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all" when He "was delivered for our offenses" –Rom. 8:32; 4:25.
 - 2. He "came out of the seed of David according to the flesh, who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead" –Rom. 1:3-4.
 - a. The Son of God sent by God came, with respect to His humanity, out of the seed of David; "The seed of David" implies Christ's human nature; by incarnation, God was brought into humanity–8:3; 1:3.
 - b. The Lord Jesus was designated the Son of God in His resurrection; by incarnation Christ, the only begotten Son of God in His divinity became, in and with His humanity, the Son of God in another sense–the firstborn Son of God–1:4; 8:29; Heb. 1:6; cf. Acts 13:33.
 - c. As the only begotten Son of God, He is the Son of God only in His divinity; as the firstborn Son of God, He is the Son of God in His humanity.
- D. The firstborn Son of God, the first God-man, is the prototype for the production of the many sons, the many God-men, who, as members of the Body of Christ, are exactly the same as the firstborn Son in life, nature, and expression–1:17.
 - 1. God is using such a Christ, the firstborn Son, who possesses both divinity and humanity, as the producer and as the prototype, the model, to produce His many sons.
 - 2. We too will be designated and revealed as the sons of God, as He was in the glory of His resurrection, and with Him we will express God–8:19, 21.

3. Whereas Christ's incarnation was a matter of God becoming a man for our redemption, Christ's resurrection was a matter of man becoming God for God's expression.
4. The many sons of God, the many brothers of Christ, are the same as God in life, in nature, and in expression but not in the Godhead or as objects of worship—John 20:17; Heb. 2:11.

II. The basic thought of Romans is that God, in His complete salvation, is making sinners sons of God to constitute the Body of Christ, which is expressed as local churches—Rom. 5:10; 3:23; 8:14; 12:5; 16:1, 4-5, 16, 23.

- A. Through the justification of afforded by God in His grace, sinners can be justified, approved, by God in Christ and then, with righteousness as the foundation, can be born of God to become children of God—5:18; 8:16; cf. John 3:6; 1:12-13; Rom. 8:16; 1 John 3:1-2.
- B. The children of God must grow and develop into sons of God;
 - a. this growth and development require God's organic salvation, salvation in the life of God, which includes sanctification, renewing, transformation, conformation, and glorification—Rom. 5:10; 6:19; 12:2; 8:29-30.
 - b. The process of "son-izing", began with the regeneration of our spirit, it continues with transformation of our soul through the renewing of the mind, and eventually it will culminate with the redemption, or transfiguration, of our body—12:2; 8:23.
- C. The sons of God in Romans 8 become the members of the Body of Christ in Romans 12—12:5.
 - a. It is not God's intention simply to produce a multitude of redeemed, regenerated, transformed, and glorified sons who live independently of one another; God's goal is a corporate entity, the Body of Christ, the New Jerusalem in eternity.
 - b. We were redeemed and we are being saved in life not for our individual spirituality but for the Body of Christ.
- D. The Body of Christ, however, must have its practical expression, and this expression is the local churches—Rom. 16:1, 4-5, 16, 23.
 - a. Although the churches appear in different places, they are not separate, and although they are local, they are still part of the unique, universal Body of Christ.
 - b. All genuine churches are therefore the Body of Christ in its concrete local expression—1Cor. 1:2; 12:27.
 - c. In Romans 16 we see that all the churches and all the saints live in the universal fellowship of the Body of Christ and that all the saints in all the churches are in the blending life of the entire Body of Christ.
- E. Therefore, redemption is the procedure, salvation in life is the process, the Body of Christ is the goal, and the local churches are the expression of the Body.

III. "His purpose" in Romans 8 is to produce many brothers of His firstborn Son and "the will of God" in Romans 12 is the Body of Christ—8:28-29; 12:2, 4-5.

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Reference Scripture Verses:

Rom. 1:1-4. **1** Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, a called apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, **2** Which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, **3** Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh, **4** Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;

Rom. 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

Rom. 1:15-16. **15** So, for my part, I am ready to announce the gospel to you also who are in Rome. **16** For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek.

Rom. 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

Rom. 8:3 For that which the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Rom. 8:28-30. **28** And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to *His* purpose. **29** Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers; **30** And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also justified; and those whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Rom. 12:5 So we who are many are one Body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Rom. 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel, that is, the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which has been kept in silence in the times of the ages

I.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that every one who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life.

John 1:18 No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

John 17:5 And now, glorify Me along with Yourself, Father, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

Isa. 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and will bear a son, and she will call his name Immanuel.

Isa. 9:6 For a child is born to us, A son is given to us; And the government Is upon His shoulder; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Matt. 1:20 But while he pondered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife, for that which has been begotten in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore also the holy thing which is born will be called the Son of God.

2Cor. 5:21 Him who did not know sin He made sin on our behalf that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

John 3:14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

Num. 21:4-9. 4 Then they journeyed from Mount Hor by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient on the way. 5 And the people spoke against God and against Moses, Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and there is no water; and our soul loathes this light bread. 6 Then Jehovah sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. 7 And the people came to Moses and said, We have sinned, because we have spoken against Jehovah and against you; pray to Jehovah, that He may take away the serpents from us. So Moses prayed for the people. 8 Then Jehovah said to Moses, Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten, when he sees it, shall live. 9 And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the pole; and if a serpent had bitten any man, when he looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

Rom. 8:32 Indeed, He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?

Rom. 4:25 Who was delivered for our offenses and was raised for our justification.

Rom. 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers;

Heb. 1:6 And when He brings again the Firstborn into the inhabited earth, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him."

Acts 13:33 That God has fully fulfilled this *promise* to us their children in raising up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, "You are My Son; this day have I begotten You."

Rom. 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith.'

Rom. 8:19 For the anxious watching of the creation eagerly awaits the revelation of the sons of God.'

Rom. 8:21 In hope that the creation itself will also be freed from the slavery of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

John 20:17 Jesus said to her, Do not touch Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brothers and say to them, I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.

Heb. 2:11 For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them brothers,

II.

Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Rom. 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Rom. 5:18 So then as *it was* through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also *it was* through one righteous act unto justification of life to all men.

Rom. 8:16 The Spirit Himself witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God.

John 3:6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 1:12-13. **12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the authority to become children of God, to those who believe into His name, **13** Who were begotten not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

1John 3:1-2. **1** Behold what manner of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and we are. Because of this the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **2** Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not yet been manifested what we will be. We know that if He is manifested, we will be like Him because we will see Him even as He is.

Rom. 6:19 I speak in human *terms* because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and lawlessness unto lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness unto sanctification.

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

Rom. 8:23 And not only *so*, but we ourselves also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan in ourselves, eagerly awaiting sonship, the redemption of our body.

Rom. 16:1 I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a deaconess of the church which is in Cenchrea,

Rom. 16:4-5. **4** Who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles; **5** And *greet* the church, which is in their house. Greet Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.

Rom. 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

Rom. 16:23 Gaius, my host and *host* of the whole church, greets you. Erastus, the city treasurer, greets you, and Quartus the brother.

1Cor. 1:2 To the church of God which is in Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, the called saints, with all those who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, *who is* theirs and ours:

1Cor. 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and members individually.