



# **ROMANS**

The Gospel of God

**The Gospel of Redeemed Living!**

**Romans 12:18-21**

Message #29 of 33 – S1161

**Sermon given on August 3, 2025**



Sunday Morning Service

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# The Gospel of Redeemed Living!

**Romans 12:18-21**

## Opening Comments

- Open your Bibles to **Romans 12**
- Today, we continue the series through the letter to the Romans – **The Gospel of God!**
- Let's open this time in our service with a word of prayer. - **Pray**

## Teaching

- **The Gospel of Redeemed Living!**
- We are going to pick up where we left off last week, but before we do I would like to share something the Lord put on my heart this week.
- It started last week as I was studying for the Thursday Live Stream.
- It was the first part of the first verse we looked at last night that stirred something within me. **1 Thessalonians 4:13a**  
<sup>13</sup> **But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren...**
- Paul is speaking to believers, telling them that he doesn't want them to be ignorant.
- The phrase 'to be ignorant' is from the Greek ἀγνοέω (agnoeō).  
**'to be ignorant' = ἀγνοέω (agnoeō)**
- The root of the word is 'gnoeō' which means to know.
- By putting an alpha, [a], in front of the verb you are negating the verb.  
**'to be ignorant' = [a] not + [gnoeō] know = to not know**
- To be ignorant then is to not know something.
- Unless you know everything about everything you are ignorant of something.
- So, if ignorance is not knowing something, how do we eliminate ignorance.
- Through growing in knowledge or gaining knowledge, right?
- But then the question is, 'Where do you acquire that knowledge?'
- Well, we're here at church, so the obvious answer is the Bible.
- The Thessalonians were ignorant of a spiritual issue, so Paul gave them spiritual knowledge.

- It is important to note the consequence of their ignorance was they were sorrowing as those who have no hope.
- One of the consequences of ignorance is wrong thinking.
- And wrong thinking leads to wrong actions and behaviors.
- Paul started this chapter telling us where the problem is. **Romans 12:2**  
<sup>2</sup> **And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.**
- When we are talking about spiritual matters, the Bible is our source of knowledge.
- One of the things we need to know is that the knowledge we need is knowledge that is true. **Psalm 119:160**  
<sup>160</sup> **The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.**
- Turn in your Bible to **John 8**
- Not all knowledge is true.
- For example, at the time Christopher Columbus set out to sail the ocean blue, the common knowledge was that the world was flat.
- Many believed you could sail off the edge of the earth.
- Now we know that the earth is not flat.
- Though, there are some who say they are flat-earthers. Silly.
- The knowledge people had was wrong.
- Sometimes, it is not wrong, but a lie.
- Jesus tells us where the lie originates.
- **John 8:42-43**
- They couldn't understand Jesus because they had knowledge that was different than what Jesus said.
- **John 8:44**
- Satan, or the Devil is a liar and always has been.
- He deceived and tempted Eve in the Garden and has been lying to mankind ever since.
- He even tried to deceive and tempt Jesus in His forty days in the wilderness.
- **John 8:45-47**
- Jesus' words are true and the truth.

- So, when it comes to growing in knowledge, I know I am safe with God's Word.
- I know when it comes to my walk with the Lord, my marriage, my family, ministering in this church, God's Word is true and truth.
- But what about the things going on in the world?
- Where do we go for the knowledge we need to understand what is going on around the world.
- Can we go to the news organizations, or mainstream media?
- How many saw the image this week of the 18-month-old boy in Gaza?
- The story attached to that image was that the boy was starving because Israel was withholding aid from getting to the Gazan people.
- One outlet published it and many others picked it up and repeated it.
- People were moved with outrage and calls to force Israel to end the conflict with the terrorists.
- There was just one little problem with that story – it wasn't true.
- That little boy's story is tragic – he was born with life-threatening neurological diseases and other physical problems and is undergoing treatment and therapy. His problem is not a lack of food.
- We have been lied to so frequently by the mainstream media that I have developed a 'boy who cried wolf' attitude toward them.
- Turn to **Romans 3**.
- I don't believe a word they say.
- Why would they do that? Either they knew it wasn't true and published it, or they didn't know if it was true and didn't care.
- Paul describes what people are like when they don't have God.
- **Romans 3:9-18**
- Our culture has deteriorated to the point where people feel no shame for lying or for spreading false information, even after they are called out for it.
- We must be very skeptical of what the mainstream media is telling us.
- Proverbs repeats a verse that helps us to understand the problem.

**Proverbs 18:8; 26:22**

**The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.**

- When we see one of those stories, and it gets us stirred up, we cannot just swallow it.
- We must ask the question, Is it true? Do I trust the source?
- We need to remember there is a spiritual battle going on. 2

### **Corinthians 10:3-5**

<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup> For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, <sup>5</sup> casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ...

- We can't just let everything we see go down into our heart.
- If it is wrong, it will produce wrong thoughts, which will result in wrong behaviors.
- Who can we trust for knowledge that is true?
- How about the government – can we trust them to tell us the truth?
- Can we trust the federal government, or state, or local government?
- If what we see coming out lately is true, then the answer is obviously no.
- How about higher education, can we trust them to give our kids knowledge that is true.
- Again, if the reports of socialist and Marxist ideologies at every level of the education system is true, then no.
- How about social media? We should be able to trust Facebook, X, and YouTube, right?
- Every corrupted thing the human mind can imagine can be found on social media or streaming platforms.
- I am not saying that it is all evil and that we need to disconnect from everything.
- What I am saying is do not be ignorant.
- We are living in a dangerous world, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Jesus said: **Matthew 10:16**

<sup>16</sup> Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.

- The apostle Paul gave a guideline for evaluating these things that want to find a home in your heart. **Philippians 4:8**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever

things *are* of good report, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

- Do not be ignorant, brethren.
- Ask God to reveal the truth to you and lead you to respond to that truth how He wants you to for His glory, to bless others, and to grow faith.
- Turn to **Romans 12**.
- We are going to take a hard right turn and finish the study I started last week but ran out of time.
- Paul has been describing the characteristics of Christian living that we should all aspire to.
- I am going to read, starting from verse 9 to remind us of the whole list.
- **Romans 12:9-17**
- We don't want to be overwhelmed by a list like this.
- Ask God the Holy Spirit to tell you which one you need to work on first.
- **Romans 12:18**
- To live peaceably with others, we need to be thinking about doing what is in their best interests, we need to be thinking about doing good for them.
- We can't be focused on the evil they have done to us or worse, thinking about getting back at them for that evil.
- It is not always possible to live peaceably with some people.
- Have you done everything you can to make peace possible?
- Paul then tells us why we shouldn't respond to evil with evil, even though humanly, we might be justified.
- **Romans 12:19**
- Paul is telling us to let God handle it.
- The phrase 'give place to wrath' means if God is going to avenge you, you need to get out of the way so He can do it.
- God is just, perfectly right in everything He does, including pouring out His wrath on those who deserve it.
- What is inferred here is if you choose to avenge yourself, God will not help you and you are trying to take God's place.

- If you do something, He might not bring the justice He would have otherwise.
- Let God do it – He does it perfectly.
- **Romans 12:20-21**
- Instead of evil or vengeance, do good to those who don't deserve it.
- After all, that's how God dealt with your sin.
- Respond to evil with good, respond to hate with kindness, respond to persecution with patience.
- The key to doing those things, is trusting God completely.
- The more we trust God, the easier it is to do the things Paul is exhorting us to in this text. **Proverbs 3:5-6**
- <sup>5</sup> **Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.**
- It might not make a lot of sense to the people around you, and it might not even make sense to you, but when you do what Paul is exhorting us to do here, the love of Christ is on full display.
- We are called to be living examples of the love of God.
- That is what Jesus meant in ... **Matthew 5:14-16**
- <sup>14</sup> **You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. <sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**
- As you do these things, the world is seeing Christ's light shining out of you.
- The better you do it, the brighter His light shines.
- We get better at it as our faith grows.
- Keep growing church and keep shining.
- Again, don't be overwhelmed by the list.
- Let the Holy Spirit lead you to one to work on.
- If you need help, ask for it.
- We love to help God's people experience more of the love of our amazing God.
- **Pray! Last Song!**