

THE GOSPEL OF GOD IN ROMANS

Message Twelve

A Laboring Priest of the Gospel of God

and

Serving God in the Gospel of His Son

Scripture Reading: Rom. 1:9; 15:16, 29; 16:25-27

- Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I ¹serve in my ²spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
- Rom 15:16 That I might be a ¹minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a ²laboring ^{3a}priest of the gospel of God, in order that the ^boffering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been ^csanctified in the Holy Spirit.
- Rom 15:29 And I know that when I ^acome to you, I will come in the ¹fullness of the blessing of Christ.
- Rom 16:25 ^aNow to Him who is able to ^{1b}establish you according to ^{2c}my gospel, that is, the ^dproclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the ^{3c}mystery, which has been kept in silence in the ⁴times of the ages
- Rom 16:26 But has now been manifested, and through the ^aprophetic writings, according to the command of the ^{1b}eternal God, has been made known to all the Gentiles for the ^cobedience of faith;
- Rom 16:27 To the ^aonly ¹wise God through Jesus Christ, to Him be the ^bglory forever and ever. Amen.

I. "That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit"—Rom. 15:16:

- A. Paul's being a laboring priest of the gospel of God to minister Christ to the Gentiles was a priestly service to God, and the Gentiles whom he gained through his gospel preaching were an offering presented to God—1 Pet. 2:5:

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as ¹living ^astones, are being ^{2b}built up as a ³spiritual ^{4c}house ⁵into a ⁶holy ⁷priesthood to offer up ⁸spiritual sacrifices ^dacceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1. By this priestly service many Gentiles, who were unclean and defiled, were sanctified in the Holy Spirit and became such an offering, acceptable to God—Rom. 15:16; 16:4-5.

Rom 15:16 That I might be a ¹minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a ²laboring ^{3a}priest of the gospel of God, in order that the ^boffering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been ^csanctified in the Holy Spirit.

Rom 16:4 Who ¹risked their own necks for my ²life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the ^{3a}churches of the Gentiles;

Rom 16:5 And *greet* the ^{1a}church, which is in their ²house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.

2. These Gentiles were set apart from things common and were saturated with God's nature and element, and were thus sanctified both positionally and dispositionally; such a sanctification is in the Holy Spirit—6:19; 15:16.

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 ¹unto lawlessness, so now ^apresent your members as slaves to righteousness unto ^{2b}sanctification.

Rom 15:16 That I might be a ¹minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a ²laboring ^{3a}priest of the gospel of God, in order that the ^boffering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been ^csanctified in the Holy Spirit.

3. Based on Christ's redemption, the Holy Spirit renews, transforms, and separates unto holiness those who have been regenerated by believing into Christ—3:24; 12:2; John 3:15.

Rom 3:24 Being ¹justified ²freely by His grace through the ³redemption which is in Christ Jesus;

Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.

John 3:15 That every one who believes into Him may have ¹eternal life.

B. Paul is a pattern of the priesthood of the gospel; in the Epistle to the Romans, which concerns the gospel of God, he tells us how sinners can be saved and justified by believing in the Lord, how they advance in Christ by being sanctified and transformed, and how they present themselves to God as living sacrifices so that they may become members of the Body of Christ to live the church life, expressing Christ corporately and awaiting His coming—1 Thes. 2:1-12; Acts 20:17-36; Rom. 1:16-17; 3:24-26; 12:1, 4-5; 13:11.

- 1 Thes 2:1 For you yourselves know, brothers, our ¹entrance toward you, that it has not been ^ain vain.
- 1 Thes 2:2 But having suffered previously and having been outrageously treated, even as you know, in ^{1a}Philippi, we were ^bbold ²in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much ^cstruggle.
- 1 Thes 2:3 For our ^aexhortation is not out of ^{1b}deception nor out of ^cuncleanness nor in ^dguile;
- 1 Thes 2:4 But even as we have been ^{1a}approved by God to be ^bentrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not as ^cpleasing men but God, who ^dproves our hearts.
- 1 Thes 2:5 For neither were we found at any time with ^aflattering speech, even as you know, nor with a ¹pretext for ^bcovetousness; God is ^cwitness.
- 1 Thes 2:6 Nor did we ¹seek ^aglory from men, neither from you nor from others, though we could have ²stood on our authority as ^bapostles of Christ.
- 1 Thes 2:7 But we were ^agentle in your midst, as a ^{1b}nursing mother would ^{2c}cherish her own ^dchildren.
- 1 Thes 2:8 ^{1a}Yearning in this way over you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God but also ^{2b}our own souls, because you became beloved to us.
- 1 Thes 2:9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and travail: While ^aworking night and day so as not to be ^bburdensome to any of you, we proclaimed to you the gospel of God.
- 1 Thes 2:10 You are witnesses, as well as ^aGod, how in a ¹holy and righteous and blameless manner we conducted ourselves toward you who believe,
- 1 Thes 2:11 Just as you know ¹how *we were* to each one of you, as a ^{2a}father to his own ^bchildren, ^{3c}exhorting you and consoling *you* and testifying,
- 1 Thes 2:12 So that you might ^awalk in a manner worthy of God, who ^{1b}calls you into His own ^{2c}kingdom and ^{3d}glory.
- Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent *word* to Ephesus and called for the ^aelders of the ^bchurch.
- Acts 20:18 And when they came to him, he said to them, You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in ^aAsia, ^bhow I was with you all the time,
- Acts 20:19 ^aServing the Lord as a slave with all ^bhumility and ^ctears and ^dtrials which came upon me by the ^eplots of the Jews;
- Acts 20:20 How I did not ^awithhold any of those things that are profitable by not declaring *them* to you and by *not* teaching you publicly and from ^bhouse to house,
- Acts 20:21 Solemnly ^atestifying both to Jews and to ^bGreeks ^crepentance unto God and ^dfaith ¹in our Lord ²Jesus.
- Acts 20:22 And now, behold, I am going ¹bound in the ²spirit to ^aJerusalem, not knowing what will meet me ³there,
- Acts 20:23 ¹Except that the Holy ^aSpirit solemnly testifies to me in city after city, saying that ^bbonds and ^cafflictions await me.
- Acts 20:24 But I ¹consider my ^{2a}life of no account *as if* precious to myself, in order that I may finish my ^bcourse and the ^cministry which I have received from the Lord Jesus to solemnly ^dtestify of the ^egospel of the ^fgrace of God.
- Acts 20:25 And now, behold, I know that you all, among whom I have gone about proclaiming the ^{1a}kingdom, will see my ^bface ²no more.
- Acts 20:26 Therefore I testify to you ¹on ^athis day that ²I am clean from the ^bblood of all men,
- Acts 20:27 For I did not ^ashrink from declaring to you all the ^bcounsel of God.
- Acts 20:28 ^aTake heed to yourselves and to all the ^{1b}flock, among whom the Holy ^{2c}Spirit has ^dplaced you as ^{3e}overseers to ^{4f}shepherd the ^gchurch of God, which He ^hobtained through ⁵His own ⁱblood.
- Acts 20:29 I know that after my departure fierce ^awolves will come in among you, not ¹sparing the flock.
- Acts 20:30 And from among you yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverted things to ^{1a}draw away the disciples after them.
- Acts 20:31 Therefore ^awatch, remembering that for ^bthree years, night and day, I did not cease admonishing each one with ^ctears.
- Acts 20:32 And now I ^acommit you to ¹God and to the word of His ^{2b}grace, which is able to ^cbuild *you* up and to give *you* the ^{3d}inheritance among all those who have been ^{4c}sanctified.
- Acts 20:33 I have ^acoveted no one's silver or gold or clothing.
- Acts 20:34 You yourselves know that these ^{1a}hands have ministered to my needs and to those who are with me.

- Acts 20:35 In all things I have shown you by example that ^atoiling in this way we ought to support ¹the ^bweak and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, ²It is more blessed to ^cgive than to receive.
- Acts 20:36 And when he had said these things, he ^aknelt down with them all and prayed.
- Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the ¹power of God unto ²salvation to every one who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek.
- Rom 1:17 For the ^{1a}righteousness of God is revealed in it ²out of faith to faith, as it is written, "^bBut the righteous shall ³have life and live by ⁴faith."
- Rom 3:24 Being ¹justified ²freely by His grace through the ³redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
- Rom 3:25 Whom God ¹set forth as a ^{2a}propitiation place through faith in His blood, for the demonstrating of His righteousness, in that in His forbearance God ³passed over the sins that had previously occurred,
- Rom 3:26 With a view to the demonstrating of His righteousness in the present time, so that He might be righteous and the One who ¹justifies him who is of the ²faith of Jesus.
- Rom 12:1 ¹I ^{2a}exhort you therefore, brothers, through the ^{3b}compassions of God to ^{4c}present your bodies a ⁵living ^dsacrifice, holy, ^ewell pleasing to God, *which is* your ⁶reasonable ^{7f}service.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in ^aone body we have ^bmany members, and all the members do not have the ^csame ¹function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body ¹in Christ, and individually ^{2a}members one of another.
- Rom 13:11 And this, knowing the ^atime, that it is already the hour for you to be ^braised from sleep; for now is our ¹salvation ^cnearer than when we believed.

C. The New Testament service ordained by God is that all believers are priests to serve God with the offerings that He desires—Rev. 1:5-6; 5:9-10; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9:

- Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful ^aWitness, the ^bFirstborn of the dead, and the ^cRuler of the kings of the earth. To Him who ^dloves us and has ¹released us from our sins ²by His ^eblood
- Rev 1:6 And made us a ^{1a}kingdom, ^{2b}priests ^cto His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.
- Rev 5:9 And they sing a ^{1a}new song, saying: You are ^{2b}worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were ^cslain and have ^dpurchased for God ³by Your ^eblood *men* out of ^fevery tribe and tongue and people and nation,
- Rev 5:10 And have made ¹them a ^{2a}kingdom and priests to our God; and they will ^breign ³on the earth.
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as ¹living ^astones, are being ^{2b}built up as a ³spiritual ^{4c}house ⁵into a ⁶holy ⁷priesthood to offer up ⁸spiritual sacrifices ^dacceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a ^achosen ¹race, a ²royal ^bpriesthood, a ³holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may ⁴tell out the ^{5c}virtues of Him who has ^dcalled you out of ^edarkness into His marvelous ^flight;

1. As priests of the gospel of God, we offer saved sinners, as parts of the enlarged and corporate Christ, to God as sacrifices—Rom. 15:16.

Rom 15:16 That I might be a ¹minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a ²laboring ^{3a}priest of the gospel of God, in order that the ^boffering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been ^csanctified in the Holy Spirit.

2. The offering of the believers to God is in three steps:

a. Those who preach the gospel offer the newly saved ones to God as spiritual sacrifices—v. 16; 1 Pet. 2:5.

Rom 15:16 That I might be a ¹minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a ²laboring ^{3a}priest of the gospel of God, in order that the ^boffering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been ^csanctified in the Holy Spirit.

1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as ¹living ^astones, are being ^{2b}built up as a ³spiritual ^{4c}house ⁵into a ⁶holy ⁷priesthood to offer up ⁸spiritual sacrifices ^dacceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

b. After the new believers grow and begin to understand what it is to be a believer in Christ, they are encouraged to offer themselves to God as a living sacrifice—Rom. 12:1.

Rom 12:1 ¹I ^{2a}exhort you therefore, brothers, through the ^{3b}compassions of God to ^{4c}present your bodies a ⁵living ^dsacrifice, holy, ^ewell pleasing to God, *which is* your ⁶reasonable ^{7f}service.

- c. As the believers continue to grow unto maturity, those who labor on the believers present them full-grown in Christ—Col. 1:28.
 Col 1:28 Whom we announce, admonishing every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man ^{1a}full-grown ²in Christ;
- D. In order to function as priests of the gospel, we need to see that the gospel of God includes the entire book of Romans; this Epistle shows us that when we preach the gospel, we make sinners the sons of God and members of the Body of Christ, and we help them to grow so that they can be active members in the practice of the Body life in the local churches—1:16-17; 3:24; 5:10; 8:16; 12:2, 4-5.
- Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the ¹power of God unto ²salvation to every one who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek.
- Rom 1:17 For the ^{1a}righteousness of God is revealed in it ²out of faith to faith, as it is written, "^bBut the righteous shall ³have life and live by ⁴faith."
- Rom 3:24 Being ¹justified ²freely by His grace through the ³redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
- Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in ^aone body we have ^bmany members, and all the members do not have the ^csame ¹function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body ¹in Christ, and individually ^{2a}members one of another.
- E. The service of the priesthood of the gospel is the service of the church as the Body of Christ; the focus of our service is to save sinners and offer them to God, and the goal of our service is the building up of the Body of Christ—15:16; 12:4-5; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Eph. 4:11-12, 16.
- Rom 15:16 That I might be a ¹minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a ²laboring ^{3a}priest of the gospel of God, in order that the ^boffering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been ^csanctified in the Holy Spirit.
- Rom 12:4 For just as in ^aone body we have ^bmany members, and all the members do not have the ^csame ¹function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body ¹in Christ, and individually ^{2a}members one of another.
- 1 Pet 2:5 You yourselves also, as ¹living ^astones, are being ^{2b}built up as a ³spiritual ^{4c}house ⁵into a ⁶holy ⁷priesthood to offer up ⁸spiritual sacrifices ^dacceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a ^achosen ¹race, a ²royal ^bpriesthood, a ³holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may ⁴tell out the ^{5c}virtues of Him who has ^dcalled you out of ^{6e}darkness into His marvelous ^flight;
- Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave ¹some as ^aapostles and some as ^bprophets and some as ^cevangelists and some as ²shepherds and ^dteachers,
- Eph 4:12 For the ^{1a}perfecting of the saints ²unto the work of the ^{3b}ministry, unto the ^{4c}building up of the ^dBody of Christ,
- Eph 4:16 ¹Out from whom ^aall the Body, being ^{2b}joined together and being knit together through every ^{3c}joint of ⁴the rich supply ⁵and *through* the ⁶operation in the ^dmeasure of ⁷each one part, ⁸causes the ^{9e}growth of the Body unto the ^fbuilding up of itself in ^{10g}love.

II. "God is my witness, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son"—Rom. 1:9:

- Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I ¹serve in my ²spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
- A. The spirit in Romans 1:9 is not the Spirit of God but Paul's regenerated spirit—John 3:6:
- Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I ¹serve in my ²spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
- John 3:6 That which is ^aborn ¹of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the ²Spirit is spirit.
1. Christ and the Spirit are with the believers in their regenerated human spirit—2 Tim. 4:22; Rom. 8:16.
- 2 Tim 4:22 The Lord be with your ^{1a}spirit. ^{2b}Grace be with you.

- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
2. In Romans Paul stresses that whatever we are, whatever we have, and whatever we do toward God must be in this spirit—2:29; 7:6; 8:4-6, 9, 13; 12:11.

Rom 2:29 ¹But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is of the heart, ^{2a}in spirit, not in letter, whose praise is not ³from men, but from God.

Rom 7:6 But now we have been ¹discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we ²serve in ³newness of ⁴spirit and not in oldness of letter.

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be ¹fulfilled in us, who do not ^{2a}walk according to the flesh but according to the ³spirit.

Rom 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh mind the ¹things of the flesh; but those who are ²according to the spirit, the ³things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 For ¹the mind set on the flesh is ²death, but ³the mind set on the spirit is ^alife and ^bpeace.

Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the ^{1a}Spirit of God ²dwells in you. Yet ³if anyone does not have the ⁴Spirit of Christ, he is not ⁵of Him.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you must ¹die, but if by the Spirit you ^{2a}put to death the ³practices of the body, you will live.

Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, *but* be ^{1a}burning in spirit, ^{2b}serving the Lord.
 3. Paul served God in his regenerated spirit by the indwelling Christ, the life-giving Spirit, not in his soul by the power and ability of the soul—Phil. 3:3.

Phil 3:3 For we are the ^{1a}circumcision, the ones who ²serve by the Spirit of God and ^bboast in Christ Jesus and ³have no confidence in the ^{4c}flesh,
 4. In order to serve in our spirit, we must sense the spirit, know the spirit, discern the spirit, and be burning in spirit—Rom. 8:2, 6, 10-11; Heb. 4:12.

Rom 8:2 For the ^{1a}law of the ²Spirit of ³life has ⁴freed ⁵me in Christ Jesus from the ⁶law of sin and of death.

Rom 8:6 For ¹the mind set on the flesh is ²death, but ³the mind set on the spirit is ^alife and ^bpeace.

Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.

Rom 8:11 And if the ¹Spirit of ²the One who raised Jesus from the dead ^{3a}dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also ^{4b}give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Heb 4:12 For the ^{1a}word of God is ^bliving and operative and sharper than any two-edged ^csword, and piercing even to the dividing of ^{2d}soul and ^espirit and of joints and marrow, and able to discern the ³thoughts and intentions of the heart.
- B. The apostle Paul served God in the gospel as well as in his spirit; the way to serve God involves service in the spirit inwardly and service in the gospel outwardly—Rom. 1:9; 15:19-20; 7:6; 12:11.
- Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I ¹serve in my ²spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
- Rom 15:19 In the power of ^asigns and wonders, in the ^bpower of the Spirit of God; so that ^cfrom Jerusalem and round about to ¹Illyricum, I have ^{2d}fully preached the gospel of Christ,
- Rom 15:20 But *have done* so aspiring to announce the gospel not where Christ has been named, so that I would not build upon ^aanother's foundation;
- Rom 7:6 But now we have been ¹discharged from the law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we ²serve in ³newness of ⁴spirit and not in oldness of letter.
- Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, *but* be ^{1a}burning in spirit, ^{2b}serving the Lord.
- C. Our service to God in the gospel concerning His Son is related to the three sections of the gospel of God in Romans—redemption, life, and the Body:
1. In the first section we should help the saints to know what redemption is, to know that the cross has dealt with every problem between us and God, and to know that in Christ we have been forgiven of our sins, justified by God, reconciled to God, and accepted by God—1:16-17; 3:24-26; 5:1, 9-11.

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the ¹power of God unto ²salvation to every one who believes, both to Jew first and to Greek.

- Rom 1:17 For the ^{1a}righteousness of God is revealed in it ²out of faith to faith, as it is written, "^bBut the righteous shall ³have life and live by ⁴faith."
- Rom 3:24 Being ¹justified ²freely by His grace through the ³redemption which is in Christ Jesus;
- Rom 3:25 Whom God ¹set forth as a ^{2a}propitiation place through faith in His blood, for the demonstrating of His righteousness, in that in His forbearance God ³passed over the sins that had previously occurred,
- Rom 3:26 With a view to the demonstrating of His righteousness in the present time, so that He might be righteous and the One who ¹justifies him who is of the ²faith of Jesus.
- Rom 5:1 Therefore having been ^ajustified out of faith, we have ^bpeace ¹toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- Rom 5:9 Much more then, having now been justified in His ^ablood, we will be saved through Him from the ^bwrath.
- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,
- Rom 5:11 And not only so, but also ¹boasting in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the ^areconciliation.

2. In the second section we should help the saints to know that Christ as the life-giving Spirit is in us as our life, mingling Himself with our spirit as one spirit, and that now we may eat Him, drink Him, enjoy Him, be filled, saturated, and permeated with Him, and be saved in life and reign in life by being sanctified, renewed, transformed, and conformed to His image—vv. 10, 17; 6:19, 22; 8:9-11, 29; 12:2.

- Rom 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were ^{1a}reconciled to God through the death of His Son, ²much more we will be ³saved ⁴in His ^{5b}life, having been reconciled,
- Rom 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the ¹abundance of grace and of the gift of ²righteousness will ³reign in ⁴life through the One, Jesus Christ.
- 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 ¹unto lawlessness, so now ^apresent your members as slaves to righteousness unto ^{2b}sanctification.
- Rom 6:22 But now, having been ^afreed from sin and enslaved to God, you have your fruit unto ^{1b}sanctification, and the end, ^ceternal ²life.
- Rom 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the ^{1a}Spirit of God ²dwells in you. Yet ³if anyone does not have the ⁴Spirit of Christ, he is not ⁵of Him.
- Rom 8:10 But if ^{1a}Christ is ²in you, though the ³body is ⁴dead because of sin, the ⁵spirit is ⁶life because of ⁷righteousness.
- Rom 8:11 And if the ¹Spirit of ²the One who raised Jesus from the dead ^{3a}dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also ^{4b}give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Rom 8:29 Because those whom He ¹foreknew, He also ^{2a}predestinated to be ³conformed to the ^bimage of His Son, that He might be the ^{4c}Firstborn among ⁵many ^dbrothers;
- Rom 12:2 And do ¹not be ^afashioned according to ²this ^bage, but be ^{3c}transformed by the ^{4d}renewing of the ^emind that you may ^{5f}prove what the ^{6g}will of God is, that which is good and ^hwell pleasing and perfect.

3. In the third section we should help the saints to know the Body, to live in the Body, to coordinate together as members of the Body, and to realize that spirituality is a Body matter and that our spirituality must be measured by the Body and be tested by the Body—vv. 4-18.

- Rom 12:4 For just as in ^aone body we have ^bmany members, and all the members do not have the ^csame ¹function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body ¹in Christ, and individually ^{2a}members one of another.
- Rom 12:6 And having ^{1a}gifts that differ according to the ^bgrace given to us, whether ^{2c}prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the ^dproportion of faith;
- Rom 12:7 Or ¹service, *let us be faithful* in that service; or he who ^ateaches, in that teaching;
- Rom 12:8 Or he who ^aexhorts, in that exhortation; he who ^{1b}gives, in simplicity; he who ^{2c}leads, in diligence; he who ³shows ^dmercy, in cheerfulness.
- Rom 12:9 ¹Let ^alove be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; ^bcling to what is good.

- Rom 12:10 ^aLove one another warmly in brotherly love; take the lead in showing honor one to another.
- Rom 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, *but* be ^{1a}burning in spirit, ^{2b}servicing the Lord.
- Rom 12:12 Rejoice in hope; ^aendure in tribulation; ^bpersevere in prayer.
- Rom 12:13 ^{1a}Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue ^bhospitality.
- Rom 12:14 ^{1a}Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.
- Rom 12:15 ¹Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep.
- Rom 12:16 Be of the ^asame mind toward one another, not ^bsetting your mind on the high things but going along with the ¹lowly; do not be ^cwise in yourselves.
- Rom 12:17 ^aRepay no one evil for evil; ^{1b}take forethought for things honorable in the sight of all men.
- Rom 12:18 If possible, as far as it depends on you, live in ^apeace with all men.

D. The Greek word rendered "serve" in Romans 1:9 means "serve in worship"; Paul considered his preaching of the gospel a service in which he worshipped God:

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I ¹serve in my ²spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

1. The worship of God is our service to God, and this worship includes all positive matters between us and God, such as contacting God, praying to God, looking unto God, waiting on God, having fellowship with God, and working for God—Matt. 6:9, 33; John 4:23-24; Phil. 4:6, 20.

Matt 6:9 ^aYou then pray ¹in this way: Our ^bFather who is in the heavens, ²Your name be ^csanctified;

Matt 6:33 But seek first His ^{1a}kingdom and His ^brighteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

John 4:23 But ^aan hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father ^bin spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.

John 4:24 ¹God is ²Spirit, and those who ³worship Him must worship ^ain ⁴spirit and ⁵truthfulness.

Phil 4:6 In nothing ¹be ^aanxious, but in everything, by ^{2b}prayer and petition ³with ^cthanksgiving, let your requests be made known ⁴to God;

Phil 4:20 Now to ¹our God and Father be the ^{2a}glory forever and ever. ³Amen.

2. In the book of Revelation we see a special line—the line of worship—4:10; 5:14; 7:11; 9:20; 11:16; 13:4, 8; 14:7, 11; 15:4; 16:2; 19:4, 20; 20:4; 22:9:

Rev 4:10 The twenty-four elders will ^afall before Him who sits upon the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever; and they will ¹cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Rev 5:14 And the four living creatures said, ^aAmen. And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Rev 7:11 And all the angels stood around the throne and the ^aelders and the ^bfour living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God,

Rev 9:20 And the rest of the men, who were ^anot killed by these plagues, still did not ¹repent of the ^bworks of their hands, so as not to ^cworship the demons and the ^didols of gold and silver and brass and stone and wood, which can ²neither see nor hear nor walk;

Rev 11:16 And the ^atwenty-four elders who sit before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God,

Rev 13:4 And they ^aworshipped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like the beast? And who can make war with him?

Rev 13:8 And all those ^adwelling on the earth will worship him, *every one* whose name is not ^{1b}written in the ^{2c}book of life of the ^dLamb who was slain ^efrom the foundation of the world.

Rev 14:7 Saying with a loud voice, ^{1a}Fear God and ^bgive Him glory because the hour of His ^{2c}judgment has come; and ^{3d}worship Him who has ^emade heaven and earth and the sea and the ^fsprings of waters.

Rev 14:11 And the ^asmoke of their tormenting goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his ^bimage, and whoever receives the mark of his name.

Rev 15:4 Who will not ^afear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are ^{1b}holy; for ^call the nations will come and worship before You, for Your ^{2d}righteous judgments have been manifested.

- Rev 16:2 And the first went and poured out his bowl into the ^aearth; and there came to be an evil and malignant ^bsore upon the men who have the ^cmark of the beast and worship his image.
- Rev 19:4 And the ^atwenty-^bfour elders and the four living creatures ^cfell down and worshipped God, ^dwho sits upon the throne, saying, ^{1e}Amen, Hallelujah!
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the ^afalse prophet, who in his presence had done the ^bsigns by which he deceived those who received the ^cmark of the beast and those who ^dworshipped his image. These two were ^{1e}cast alive into the ^flake of fire, which burns with ^gbrimstone.
- Rev 20:4 And I saw ^athrones, and ¹they sat upon them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the ^bsouls of ²those who had been beheaded because of the ^ctestimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and ^{of} ³those who had not ^dworshipped the beast nor his image, and had not received the ^emark on their forehead and on their hand; and they ⁴lived and ^freigned with Christ for a thousand years.
- Rev 22:9 And he said to me, ^aDo not do that! I am your fellow slave and *a fellow slave* of your brothers the ^bprophets and of those who ^ckeep the words of this scroll. ^dWorship God.
- a. God needs our worship, but Satan fears our worship of God, wants worship, and is seeking worship—Matt. 4:8-10; Rev. 4:10; 5:14; 13:4.

Matt 4:8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the ^{1a}kingdoms of the ^bworld and their ^cglory.

Matt 4:9 And he said to Him, ¹All these will I give You if You will fall down and ^aworship me.

Matt 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, Go away, ^{1a}Satan! For it is written, ^bYou shall worship the Lord your God, and Him ^{2c}only shall you serve."

Rev 4:10 The twenty-four elders will ^afall before Him who sits upon the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever; and they will ¹cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Rev 5:14 And the four living creatures said, ^aAmen. And the elders fell down and worshipped.

Rev 13:4 And they ^aworshipped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like the beast? And who can make war with him?
 - b. We should seek to give special worship to God, because Satan is getting worship for himself more and more—7:11; 13:4; 22:9.

Rev 7:11 And all the angels stood around the throne and the ^aelders and the ^bfour living creatures; and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God,

Rev 13:4 And they ^aworshipped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like the beast? And who can make war with him?

Rev 22:9 And he said to me, ^aDo not do that! I am your fellow slave and *a fellow slave* of your brothers the ^bprophets and of those who ^ckeep the words of this scroll. ^dWorship God.
 - c. If we live according to our spirit, God will gain our worship, but if we live according to the soul, Satan will gain our worship—Rom. 1:9; 8:4.

Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I ¹serve in my ²spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,

Rom 8:4 That the righteous requirement of the law might be ¹fulfilled in us, who do not ^{2a}walk according to the flesh but according to the ³spirit.
3. The worship that satisfies God the Father—worship in spirit and truthfulness—is the worship in the divine dispensing of the Divine Trinity by our drinking and flowing the water of life in resurrection—the fountain, the spring, and the river—John 4:14, 23-24; 7:37-39; Exo. 17:6; Psa. 36:8-9; 1 Cor. 10:4:
- John 4:14 But whoever ^adrinks of the water that I will give him shall ^bby no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water gushing up into ^{1c}eternal life.

- John 4:23 But ^aan hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father ^bin spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
- John 4:24 ¹God is ²Spirit, and those who ³worship Him must worship ^ain ⁴spirit and ⁵truthfulness.
- John 7:37 Now on the ¹last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone ^athirsts, let him ^bcome to Me and ^cdrink.
- John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his ^ainnermost being shall ¹flow ^{2b}rivers of living water.
- John 7:39 But this He said concerning the ^{1a}Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for *the* Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been ^bglorified.
- Exo 17:6 I will be standing before you there upon the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it so that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.
- Psa 36:8 They are saturated with the fatness of Your house, And You cause them to drink of the river of Your pleasures.
- Psa 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.
- 1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same ¹spiritual ^adrink; for they drank of a ²spiritual rock which followed *them*, and the rock was Christ.
- a. The Samaritan woman worshipped God in her spirit by drinking of Him as the living water to quench her thirst; thus, God was worshipped by her in a genuine way—John 4:7-14, 23-24.
- John 4:7 There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, Give Me *something* to drink.
- John 4:8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.
- John 4:9 The Samaritan woman then said to Him, How *is it that* You, being a Jew, ask for a drink from me, who am a Samaritan woman? (^aFor Jews have no dealings with ¹Samaritans.)
- John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the ^agift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you ^bliving water.
- John 4:11 The woman said to Him, Sir, You have no bucket, and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water?
- John 4:12 Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, as well as his sons and his cattle?
- John 4:13 Jesus answered and said to her, Everyone who ¹drinks of this water shall thirst again,
- John 4:14 But whoever ^adrinks of the water that I will give him shall ^bby no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water gushing up into ^{1c}eternal life.
- John 4:23 But ^aan hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father ^bin spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
- John 4:24 ¹God is ²Spirit, and those who ³worship Him must worship ^ain ⁴spirit and ⁵truthfulness.
- b. Throughout the centuries, only a small number of Christians have worshipped God in spirit by drinking of Him as the living water—cf. Matt. 15:9.
- Matt 15:9 But in ¹vain do they worship Me, teaching as teachings the ^acommandments of men."
- c. God in Christ as the Spirit comes to us as the living water for us to drink; when we drink of Him as the water of life, we worship Him in a genuine way—John 1:1, 14; 4:10, 14, 23-24; 7:37-39.
- John 1:1 ^{1a}In the beginning was the ^{2b}Word, and the Word was ³with ^cGod, and the ⁴Word was ⁵God.
- John 1:14 And the ¹Word became ^{2a}flesh and ^{3b}tabernacled among us (and ^{4c}we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten ⁵from the Father), full of ^{6d}grace and ^ereality.
- John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the ^agift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you ^bliving water.

- John 4:14 But whoever ^adrinks of the water that I will give him shall ^bby no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water gushing up into ^{1c}eternal life.
- John 4:23 But ^aan hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father ^bin spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
- John 4:24 ¹God is ²Spirit, and those who ³worship Him must worship ^ain ⁴spirit and ⁵truthfulness.
- John 7:37 Now on the ¹last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone ^athirsts, let him ^bcome to Me and ^cdrink.
- John 7:38 He who believes into Me, as the Scripture said, out of his ^ainnermost being shall ¹flow ^{2b}rivers of living water.
- John 7:39 But this He said concerning the ^{1a}Spirit, whom those who believed into Him were about to receive; for *the* Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been ^bglorified.

d. We urgently need to enter into the real worship of God in spirit by drinking Him as the living water—4:10, 14, 23-24.

- John 4:10 Jesus answered and said to her, If you knew the ^agift of God and who it is who says to you, Give Me a drink, you would have asked Him, and He would have given you ^bliving water.
- John 4:14 But whoever ^adrinks of the water that I will give him shall ^bby no means thirst forever; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water gushing up into ^{1c}eternal life.
- John 4:23 But ^aan hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father ^bin spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him.
- John 4:24 ¹God is ²Spirit, and those who ³worship Him must worship ^ain ⁴spirit and ⁵truthfulness.

4. Genuine worship is realized in the Body of Christ; worship in the New Testament is a corporate matter, and apart from the Body, it is difficult to have genuine worship—Rom. 1:9; 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 10:3-4, 16-17; 12:12-13.

- Rom 1:9 For God is my witness, whom I ¹serve in my ²spirit in the gospel of His Son, how unceasingly I make mention of you always in my prayers,
- Rom 12:4 For just as in ^aone body we have ^bmany members, and all the members do not have the ^csame ¹function,
- Rom 12:5 So we who are many are one Body ¹in Christ, and individually ^{2a}members one of another.
- 1 Cor 10:3 And all ate the same ¹spiritual ^afood,
- 1 Cor 10:4 And all drank the same ¹spiritual ^adrink; for they drank of a ²spiritual rock which followed *them*, and the rock was Christ.
- 1 Cor 10:16 The ^acup of blessing which we ^bbless, is it not the ¹fellowship of the ^cblood of Christ? The ^dbread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the ^ebody of Christ?
- 1 Cor 10:17 Seeing that there is ^{1a}one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all ²partake of the one bread.
- 1 Cor 12:12 ¹For even as ²the body is ^aone and has many ^bmembers, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- 1 Cor 12:13 For also in ^{1a}one Spirit we were all ^bbaptized into ^{2c}one Body, whether ^{3d}Jews or Greeks, whether ⁴slaves or free, and were all given to ^{5e}drink one ^fSpirit.

E. The more we serve and worship God in our spirit in the gospel of His Son, the more we will enjoy the fullness of the blessing of Christ, and the more we will offer praise to God—Rom. 15:29; 16:25-27.

- Rom 15:29 And I know that when I ^acome to you, I will come in the ¹fullness of the blessing of Christ.
- Rom 16:25 ^aNow to Him who is able to ^{1b}establish you according to ^{2c}my gospel, that is, the ^dproclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the ^{3e}mystery, which has been kept in silence in the ⁴times of the ages
- Rom 16:26 But has now been manifested, and through the ^aprophetic writings, according to the command of the ^{1b}eternal God, has been made known to all the Gentiles for the ^cobedience of faith;
- Rom 16:27 To the ^aonly ¹wise God through Jesus Christ, to Him be the ^bglory forever and ever. Amen.

F. "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...to the only wise God through Jesus Christ, to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen"—vv. 25, 27.

Rom 16:25 ^aNow to Him who is able to ^{1b}establish you according to ^{2c}my gospel, that is, the ^dproclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the ^{3e}mystery, which has been kept in silence in the ⁴times of the ages

Rom 16:27 To the ^aonly ¹wise God through Jesus Christ, to Him be the ^bglory forever and ever. Amen.