

THE GOSPEL OF GOD IN ROMANS

Message One

The Purpose of God, the Gospel of God, and the High Peak of the Divine Revelation

Scripture Reading: Rom. 1:1, 3-4; 8:3, 28-29; 12:4-5; 16:1, 4-5, 16b, 25-27

- Rom 1:1 ¹Paul, a ²slave of ³Christ ⁴Jesus, a ⁵called ⁶apostle, ⁷separated ⁸unto the ⁹gospel of God,
Rom 1:3 Concerning ¹His Son, who ²came ³out of the ^{4a}seed of David according to the ⁵flesh,
Rom 1:4 Who was ¹designated the ^{2a}Son of God in ³power according to the ⁴Spirit of ⁵holiness ⁶out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
Rom 8:3 For that which the ¹law could ²not do, in that it was ^aweak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the ³likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,
Rom 8:28 And we know that ¹all things ²work together for ³good to those who ⁴love God, to those who are ^acalled according to *His* ⁵purpose.
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 12:4 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 16:1 I ¹commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a ^adeaconess of the ²church which is in ^bCenchrea,
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.
Rom 16:16b ... All the ^{1a}churches of Christ greet you.
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. God's eternal purpose is to have the church, the Body of Christ, consummating in the New Jerusalem—Eph. 1:9-11, 22-23; 3:11; Rev. 21:2:

- Eph 1:9 ¹Making known to us the ^{2a}mystery of His ^bwill ³according to His ^cgood pleasure, which He ^{4d}purposed in Himself,
Eph 1:10 Unto the ^{1a}economy of the ²fullness of the times, to ^{3b}head up all ^cthings in ⁴Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
Eph 1:11 In whom also we ¹were designated as an ^ainheritance, having been ^{2b}predestinated according to the ^{3c}purpose of the One who works all things according to the ⁴counsel of His ^dwill,
Eph 1:22 And He ^{1a}subjected all things under His feet and ²gave Him ³to be ^bHead over all things to the ^{4c}church,
Eph 1:23 Which is His ^{1a}Body, the ^{2b}fullness of the One who ^{3c}fills all in all.
Eph 3:11 According to the ¹eternal ^apurpose which He ²made in ³Christ Jesus our Lord,
Rev 21:2 And I saw the ^aholy city, ^{1b}New Jerusalem, ²coming down out of heaven from God, ^cprepared as a ^{3d}bride adorned for her ^chusband.

A. God is a God of purpose, having a will of His own pleasure; He created all things for His will so that He might fulfill His purpose—Eph. 1:5, 9; Rev. 4:11.

- Eph 1:5 ^{1a}Predestinating us unto ^{2b}sonship ³through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the ^{4c}good pleasure of His ^dwill,
Eph 1:9 ¹Making known to us the ^{2a}mystery of His ^bwill ³according to His ^cgood pleasure, which He ^{4d}purposed in Himself,
Rev 4:11 You are ^aworthy, our Lord and God, to receive the ^{1b}glory and the honor and the power, for You have ^ccreated all things, and because of Your ^{2d}will they were, and were created.

- B. According to His good pleasure, God made a purpose, a plan, in eternity and for eternity, and thus it is called the eternal purpose; this eternal plan was made in Christ, with Christ, through Christ, and for Christ according to God's desire and pleasure—Eph. 1:9-11; 3:11.
- Eph 1:9 ¹Making known to us the ^{2a}mystery of His ^bwill ³according to His ^cgood pleasure, which He ^{4d}purposed in Himself,
- Eph 1:10 Unto the ^{1a}economy of the ²fullness of the times, to ^{3b}head up all ^cthings in ⁴Christ, the things in the heavens and the things on the earth, in Him;
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we ¹were designated as an ^ainheritance, having been ^{2b}predestinated according to the ^{3c}purpose of the One who works all things according to the ⁴counsel of His ^dwill,
- Eph 3:11 According to the ¹eternal ^apurpose which He ²made in ³Christ Jesus our Lord,
- C. God Himself is the initiation, the origination, and the sphere of His eternal purpose, which nothing can overthrow, for which everything is working, and regarding which He did not take counsel with anyone—1:11.
- Eph 1:11 In whom also we ¹were designated as an ^ainheritance, having been ^{2b}predestinated according to the ^{3c}purpose of the One who works all things according to the ⁴counsel of His ^dwill,
- D. God's eternal purpose is to have a corporate man to express Him and represent Him—Gen. 1:26; Eph. 2:15; 4:24.
- Gen 1:26 And God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of heaven and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.
- Eph 2:15 ^{1a}Abolishing in His ²flesh the ³law of the commandments in ⁴ordinances, that He might ⁵create the two ⁶in Himself ⁷into ⁸one ^bnew man, *so* ^{9c}making peace,
- Eph 4:24 And ^{1a}put on the ^{2b}new man, which was ^ccreated according to ³God in ^{4d}righteousness and ^eholiness of ⁵the ^freality.
- E. In eternity past God purposed to gain a group of people to be the Body of Christ for the corporate expression of God the Father in the Son as the Spirit—Rom. 8:9-10, 14, 16, 28-29; 12:4-5.
- 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 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
- Rom 8:28 And we know that ¹all things ²work together for ³good to those who ⁴love God, to those who are ^acalled according to *His* ⁵purpose.
- 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 12:4 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.
- F. *His purpose* in Romans 8:28 refers to the purposeful determination in God's plan; this is God's purpose to produce many brothers of His firstborn Son—v. 29.
- Rom 8:28 And we know that ¹all things ²work together for ³good to those who ⁴love God, to those who are ^acalled according to *His* ⁵purpose.
- 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;
- G. God has saved us and called us according to His own purpose; God's purpose is His plan according to His will to put us into Christ and make us one with Christ to share His life and position so that we may be His testimony—2 Tim. 1:9; 1 Cor. 1:30; 6:17.
- 2 Tim 1:9 Who has saved us and ^{1a}called us with a holy calling, not according to our ^bworks but according to His own ^{2c}purpose and ^dgrace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus ³before the ^etimes of the ages
- 1 Cor 1:30 But ^{1a}of Him you are ^bin Christ Jesus, who became ^cwisdom to us from God: both ^{2d}righteousness and ^esanctification and ^fredemption,
- 1 Cor 6:17 But he who is ^{1a}joined to the Lord is ^{2b}one spirit.

II. As the totality of all the divine truths, the gospel of God includes the highest truth—the high peak of the divine revelation—that in Christ God became man in order that in Christ man might become God in life and nature but not in the Godhead to produce and build up the organic Body of Christ, which consummates in the New Jerusalem—Rom. 1:1, 3-4, 15; Eph. 1:13, 22-23; Col. 1:5, 18; 3:10-11, 15; Rev. 21:2, 9-10:

- Rom 1:1 ¹Paul, a ²slave of ³Christ ⁴Jesus, a ⁵called ⁶apostle, ⁷separated ⁸unto the ⁹gospel of God,
 Rom 1:3 Concerning ¹His Son, who ²came ³out of the ^{4a}seed of David according to the ⁵flesh,
 Rom 1:4 Who was ¹designated the ^{2a}Son of God in ³power according to the ⁴Spirit of ⁵holiness ⁶out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
 Rom 1:15 So, for my part, I am ready to announce the gospel to you also who are in Rome.
 Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the ^aword of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were ^{1b}sealed with the ^cHoly Spirit of the ²promise,
 Eph 1:22 And He ^{1a}subjected all things under His feet and ²gave Him ³to be ^bHead over all things to the ^{4c}church,
 Eph 1:23 Which is His ^{1a}Body, the ^{2b}fullness of the One who ^{3c}fills all in all.
 Col 1:5 Because of the ^{1a}hope ²laid up for you in the heavens, of which you heard before in the ^bword of the ³truth of the gospel,
 Col 1:18 And He is the ^aHead of the ^bBody, the church; He is the ^cbeginning, the ^{1d}Firstborn from the dead, that He Himself might have the first place in all things;
 Col 3:10 And have ^{1a}put on the ^{2b}new man, which is being ^{3c}renewed unto full knowledge according to the ^{4d}image of Him ⁵who ^ecreated him,
 Col 3:11 ¹Where there ²cannot be ³Greek and ^aJew, ^{4b}circumcision and uncircumcision, ^{5c}barbarian, ⁶Scythian, ⁷slave, ⁸free man, but ^{9d}Christ is ¹⁰all and in all.
 Col 3:15 And let the ^{1a}peace of Christ ²arbitrate in your hearts, to ³which ⁴also you were called in ^bone Body; and be ^{5c}thankful.
 Rev 21:2 And I saw the ^aholy city, ^{1b}New Jerusalem, ²coming down out of heaven from God, ^cprepared as a ^{3d}bride adorned for her ^ehusband.
 Rev 21:9 And ¹one of the ^aseven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, ^bCome here; I will show you the ^{2c}bride, the ^dwife of the Lamb.
 Rev 21:10 And he ^acarried me away ^bin spirit onto a ¹great and high mountain and showed me the ^choly city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

A. According to the desire of His heart and His eternal purpose, God wants to make Himself man and to make man God so that God and man may be the same in life and nature—Eph. 1:4-5, 9, 11.

- Eph 1:4 Even as He ^{1a}chose us in Him ^{2b}before the foundation of the world to be ^{3c}holy and ⁴without blemish ⁵before Him ⁶in ^{7d}love,
 Eph 1:5 ^{1a}Predestinating us unto ^{2b}sonship ³through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the ^{4c}good pleasure of His ^dwill,
 Eph 1:9 ¹Making known to us the ^{2a}mystery of His ^bwill ³according to His ^cgood pleasure, which He ^{4d}purposed in Himself,
 Eph 1:11 In whom also we ¹were designated as an ^ainheritance, having been ^{2b}predestinated according to the ^{3c}purpose of the One who works all things according to the ⁴counsel of His ^dwill,

B. The highest point of God's gospel is God becoming man so that man may become God in life, nature, and constitution for His corporate expression—John 1:12-14; 12:24; Rom. 8:3; 1:3-4; 12:4-5.

- John 1:12 But as many as ^{1a}received Him, to them He gave the authority to become ²children of God, to those who believe into His name,
 John 1:13 Who were begotten not ¹of ²blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
 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 12:24 Truly, truly, I say to you, ^aUnless the grain of wheat ¹falls into the ground and dies, it abides alone; but if it dies, it bears ^{2b}much fruit.

- Rom 8:3 For that which the ¹law could ²not do, in that it was ^aweak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the ³likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,
- Rom 1:3 Concerning ¹His Son, who ²came ³out of the ^{4a}seed of David according to the ⁵flesh,
- Rom 1:4 Who was ¹designated the ^{2a}Son of God in ³power according to the ⁴Spirit of ⁵holiness ⁶out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
- 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.
- C. God became man through incarnation; man becomes God through regeneration, sanctification, renewing, transformation, conformation, and glorification—John 3:5-6; 1:12-13; Rom. 6:19, 22; 12:2; 8:29-30.
- John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless one is ^aborn ¹of ²water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- John 3:6 That which is ^aborn ¹of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the ²Spirit is spirit.
- John 1:12 But as many as ^{1a}received Him, to them He gave the authority to become ²children of God, to those who believe into His name,
- John 1:13 Who were begotten not ¹of ²blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 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 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 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 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also ^{1a}justified; and those whom He justified, these He also ^{2b}glorified.
- D. It is only by God's becoming man to make man God that the Body of Christ can be produced and built up, that the bride can be prepared, and that the New Jerusalem can be consummated; this is the high peak of the vision given to us by God in the Holy Scriptures—Eph. 4:16; Rev. 19:7; 21:2, 9-10.
- 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.
- Rev 19:7 Let us ^arejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the ^{1b}marriage of the Lamb has come, and His ^{2c}wife has made herself ^dready.
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the ^aholy city, ^{1b}New Jerusalem, ²coming down out of heaven from God, ^cprepared as a ^{3d}bride adorned for her ^ehusband.
- Rev 21:9 And ¹one of the ^aseven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, ^bCome here; I will show you the ^{2c}bride, the ^dwife of the Lamb.
- Rev 21:10 And he ^acarried me away ^bin spirit onto a ¹great and high mountain and showed me the ^choly city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
- E. The New Jerusalem is a composition of God's chosen, redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, renewed, transformed, conformed, and glorified people who have been made God in life and nature but not in the Godhead—vv. 2, 7, 9-10:
- Rev 21:2 And I saw the ^aholy city, ^{1b}New Jerusalem, ²coming down out of heaven from God, ^cprepared as a ^{3d}bride adorned for her ^ehusband.
- Rev 21:7 He who ^{1a}overcomes will inherit these things, and ^bI will be God to him, and he will be a ^{2c}son to Me.
- Rev 21:9 And ¹one of the ^aseven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, ^bCome here; I will show you the ^{2c}bride, the ^dwife of the Lamb.
- Rev 21:10 And he ^acarried me away ^bin spirit onto a ¹great and high mountain and showed me the ^choly city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,

1. On God's side, the Triune God has been incarnated in Christ to be a man—John 1:1, 14; 14:10-11.

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 14:10 Do you not believe that I am ^ain the ^bFather and the Father is in Me? The ^{1c}words that I say to you I do not speak ^dfrom Myself, but the Father who abides in Me does His works.

John 14:11 Believe Me that I am ^ain the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe because of the ^bworks themselves.
2. On our side, we are being constituted with the processed and consummated Triune God so that we may be made God in life and nature to be His corporate expression for eternity—Eph. 3:16-17; 4:4-6, 16; Rev. 21:9-10.

Eph 3:16 ¹That He would grant you, according to the ^{2a}riches of His glory, to be ^{3b}strengthened with ^{4c}power through His ⁵Spirit ⁶into the ^dinner man,

Eph 3:17 That Christ may make His ^ahome in your ¹hearts through ²faith, that you, being ^{3b}rooted and grounded in ^{4c}love,

Eph 4:4 ¹One ^aBody and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one ^{2b}hope of your ^ccalling;

Eph 4:5 One ^{1a}Lord, one ^{2b}faith, one ^cbaptism;

Eph 4:6 One ^{1a}God and ^bFather of ²all, who is ³over all and through all and in all.

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.

Rev 21:9 And ¹one of the ^aseven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and spoke with me, saying, ^bCome here; I will show you the ^{2c}bride, the ^dwife of the Lamb.

Rev 21:10 And he ^acarried me away ^bin spirit onto a ¹great and high mountain and showed me the ^choly city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
3. This is the highest truth and the highest gospel—Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5.

Eph 1:13 In whom you also, having heard the ^aword of the truth, the gospel of your salvation, in Him also believing, you were ^{1b}sealed with the ^cHoly Spirit of the ²promise,

Col 1:5 Because of the ^{1a}hope ²laid up for you in the heavens, of which you heard before in the ^bword of the ³truth of the gospel,

III. The divine thought in Romans concerning the gospel of God is that God became man so that, in God's complete salvation, sinners may be redeemed, regenerated, sanctified, renewed, transformed, conformed, and glorified to become the sons of God, who are the same as God in life and nature, to be the members of the Body of Christ—8:3; 1:3-4; 3:24; 5:10; 8:14, 29-30; 12:2, 4-5; 16:25-27:

- Rom 8:3 For that which the ¹law could ²not do, in that it was ^aweak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the ³likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,
- Rom 1:3 Concerning ¹His Son, who ²came ³out of the ^{4a}seed of David according to the ⁵flesh,
- Rom 1:4 Who was ¹designated the ^{2a}Son of God in ³power according to the ⁴Spirit of ⁵holiness ⁶out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
- 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 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.
- 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 8:30 And those whom He predestinated, these He also called; and those whom He called, these He also ^{1a}justified; and those whom He justified, these He also ^{2b}glorified.
- 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.
- 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.
- A. In Romans we can see the high peak of the divine revelation: God became man (8:3) so that man may become God (1:3-4) for the producing and functioning of the Body of Christ (12:4-5) as the organism of the Triune God.
- Rom 8:3 For that which the ¹law could ²not do, in that it was ^aweak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the ³likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,
- Rom 1:3 Concerning ¹His Son, who ²came ³out of the ^{4a}seed of David according to the ⁵flesh,
- Rom 1:4 Who was ¹designated the ^{2a}Son of God in ³power according to the ⁴Spirit of ⁵holiness ⁶out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
- 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.
- B. Romans explains how the individual Christ becomes the corporate Christ and how we, who were once sinners and enemies of God, become parts of Christ and form His one Body—9:5; 8:3; 1:3-4; 3:23-25; 5:10, 18; 8:2, 11, 32; 12:4-5.
- Rom 9:5 Whose are the fathers, and out of whom, as regards what is according to flesh, is the Christ, who is ^{1a}God ^bover all, ^cblessed forever. Amen.
- Rom 8:3 For that which the ¹law could ²not do, in that it was ^aweak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the ³likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,
- Rom 1:3 Concerning ¹His Son, who ²came ³out of the ^{4a}seed of David according to the ⁵flesh,
- Rom 1:4 Who was ¹designated the ^{2a}Son of God in ³power according to the ⁴Spirit of ⁵holiness ⁶out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
- Rom 3:23 For ^aall have sinned and fall short of the ¹glory of God,
- 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 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 5:18 So then as *it was* through one offense unto condemnation to all men, so also *it was* through one ¹righteous act unto justification of ²life to all men.
- 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 8:11 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 8:32 Indeed, He who did not spare His own Son, but ^adelivered Him up for us ^ball, how shall He not also with Him freely give us all things?
- 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.
- C. God sent His Son in the likeness of the flesh of sin and condemned sin in the flesh so that sinners—serpentine beings, children of the devil—could be reconciled to God and justified by Him in order to receive eternal life and thus become children of God—8:3, 16; 5:10; John 1:12-14; 3:14; 8:44; 1 John 3:1, 10.
- Rom 8:3 For that which the ¹law could ²not do, in that it was ^aweak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the ³likeness of the flesh of sin and concerning sin, condemned sin in the flesh,
- Rom 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.

- 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,
- John 1:12 But as many as ^{1a}received Him, to them He gave the authority to become ²children of God, to those who believe into His name,
- John 1:13 Who were begotten not ¹of ²blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- 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 3:14 And as ^aMoses ^blifted up the ¹serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
- John 8:44 ^aYou are of *your* ¹father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a ^bmurderer from the beginning and does not stand in the ^ctruth, because there is no truth in him. When ^dhe speaks the lie, he speaks *it* out of his own ²*possessions*; for he is a liar and the ³father of it.
- 1 John 3:1 ¹Behold what manner of ^{2a}love the ³Father has given to us, that we should be called ^{4b}children of God; and we are. ⁵Because of this the world does not ^{6c}know us, ⁷because it did not know Him.
- 1 John 3:10 ¹In this the ^achildren of God and the ^bchildren of the devil are manifest. Everyone who does not ^cpractice righteousness is not of God, neither he who ^ddoes not ²love his brother.
- D. Jesus Christ our Lord, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh, 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.
- Rom 1:3 Concerning ¹His Son, who ²came ³out of the ^{4a}seed of David according to the ⁵flesh,
- Rom 1:4 Who was ¹designated the ^{2a}Son of God in ³power according to the ⁴Spirit of ⁵holiness ⁶out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;
- E. 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—8:14, 29; Heb. 1:6; 2:10-12.
- Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.
- 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;
- Heb 1:6 And when He brings again the ^{1a}Firstborn into the inhabited earth, He says, "^bAnd let all the angels of God worship Him."
- Heb 2:10 For it was fitting ^afor ¹Him, for whom are all things and through whom are all things, in leading ^{2b}many sons into ^{3c}glory, to make the ^{4d}Author of their ^esalvation ^{5f}perfect through sufferings.
- Heb 2:11 For both ¹He who ^asanctifies and those who are being ^bsanctified are all ²of One, for which cause He is not ashamed to call them ^cbrothers,
- Heb 2:12 Saying, "^aI will ¹declare Your name to My brothers; in the midst of the ²church ³I will sing hymns of praise to You."
- F. The purpose of God's salvation is to have Christ reproduced in millions of believers so that they may become the members of His Body—Rom. 12:4-5.
- 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.
- G. Through God's organic salvation carried out by the divine dispensing of the Triune God as life to the tripartite man, the children of God are growing in life to become sons of God led by the Spirit—5:10; 8:2, 6, 10-11, 14.
- 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 8:2 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.

- Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.
- H. The sons of God, the many brothers of Christ as the firstborn Son of God, are the members of the Body of Christ—12:4-5.
- 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.
- I. We are one Body in the organic union with Christ—vv. 4-5:
- 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. The Body of Christ is the top revelation of the Bible and the focal point of Romans—Eph. 1:22-23; 4:16; 1 Cor. 12:13, 27.

Eph 1:22 And He ^{1a}subjected all things under His feet and ²gave Him ³to be ^bHead over all things to the ^{4c}church,

Eph 1:23 Which is His ^{1a}Body, the ^{2b}fullness of the One who ^{3c}fills all in all.

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.

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.

1 Cor 12:27 Now you are the Body of Christ, and ^amembers individually.
 2. The will of God is to obtain a Body for Christ to be His fullness, His expression—Rev. 4:11; Eph. 1:5, 9; Rom. 12:2, 4-5.

Rev 4:11 You are ^aworthy, our Lord and God, to receive the ^{1b}glory and the honor and the power, for You have ^ccreated all things, and because of Your ^{2d}will they were, and were created.

Eph 1:5 ^{1a}Predestinating us unto ^{2b}sonship ³through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the ^{4c}good pleasure of His ^dwill,

Eph 1:9 ¹Making known to us the ^{2a}mystery of His ^bwill ³according to His ^cgood pleasure, which He ^{4d}purposed in Himself,

Rom 12:2 And do ^fnot 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.
 3. We are one Body in Christ, having an organic union with Him; this union makes us one in life with Christ and with all the other members of His Body—vv. 4-5:

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.

 - a. The Body is an organism produced and held together by the union in life that we have with Christ—John 15:1.

John 15:1 I am the ¹true ^avine, and My Father is the ²husbandman.
 - b. The actuality of the Body is in our remaining in the organic union with Christ—Rom. 12:4-5.

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.
- J. The local churches are the practical expression of the Body of Christ, for the unique Body of Christ is expressed as local churches—16:1, 4-5:
- Rom 16:1 I ¹commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a ^adeaconess of the ²church which is in ^bCenchrea,

- 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 Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.
1. 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—12:4-5; 16:16b.

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 16:16b ... All the ^{1a}churches of Christ greet you.
 2. 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—vv. 1-23.

Rom 16:1 I ¹commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a ^adeaconess of the ²church which is in ^bCenchrea,

Rom 16:2 That you ^areceive her in the Lord in a manner ¹worthy of the saints and assist her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been the ²patroness of many, of myself as well.

Rom 16:3 Greet ^aPrisca and Aquila, my ^bfellow workers in Christ Jesus,

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 Epaphroditus, my beloved, who is the firstfruits of Asia unto Christ.

Rom 16:6 Greet Mary, one who has labored much for us.

Rom 16:7 Greet Andronicus and Junia, my ^akinsmen and my ^bfellow prisoners, who are of note among the apostles, who also were in Christ before me.

Rom 16:8 Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.

Rom 16:9 Greet Urbanus, our ^afellow worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved.

Rom 16:10 Greet Apelles, ¹approved in Christ. Greet ²those of the *household of* Aristobulus.

Rom 16:11 Greet Herodion, my ^akinsman. Greet ¹those of the *household of* Narcissus who are in the Lord.

Rom 16:12 Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, who labor in the Lord. Greet Persis, the beloved *sister*, one who has labored much in the Lord.

Rom 16:13 Greet ^aRufus, ^bchosen in the Lord, and his mother as well as ¹mine.

Rom 16:14 Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers with them.

Rom 16:15 Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints with them.

Rom 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the ^{1a}churches of Christ greet you.

Rom 16:17 Now I ^aexhort you, brothers, to ^bmark those who make ^cdivisions and causes of ¹stumbling contrary to the ^dteaching which you have learned, and ^{2c}turn away from them.

Rom 16:18 For such men do not ^{1a}serve our Lord Christ, but their own ^{2b}stomach, and through ^csmooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the ³simple.

Rom 16:19 For *the report of* your ^aobedience has reached to all; therefore I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and guileless as to what is evil.

Rom 16:20 Now the ^aGod of peace will ^{1b}crush Satan ^cunder your feet shortly. The ^{2d}grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

Rom 16:21 ^aTimothy, my ^bfellow worker, greets you, as well as Lucius and Jason and Sosipater, my ^ckinsmen.

Rom 16:22 I, Tertius, who write this epistle, greet you in the Lord.

Rom 16:23 ^aGaius, my host and *host* of the whole church, greets you. ^bErastus, the city treasurer, greets you, and Quartus the brother.
 3. The key to living the Body life in the local churches is to walk according to the mingled spirit—the divine Spirit mingled with the regenerated human spirit as one spirit—8:4; 1 Cor. 6:17:

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.

1 Cor 6:17 But he who is ^{1a}joined to the Lord is ^{2b}one spirit.

- a. The mingled spirit is the unique organ for God to bring forth and build up the Body of Christ—Rom. 1:9; 7:6; 8:16; 12:4-5.
- 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 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 8:16 The Spirit Himself ^awitnesses ¹with ²our ^bspirit that ³we are ^cchildren of God.
- 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.
- b. If we walk according to the mingled spirit, we will be sons of God in full, and as such sons, we will be living members of the Body of Christ for the corporate expression of the Triune God—8:14; 14:17.
- Rom 8:14 For as many as are ¹led by the ²Spirit of God, these are ^{3a}sons of God.
- Rom 14:17 For the ^{1a}kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but ^{2b}righteousness and ^cpeace and ^djoy in the Holy Spirit.