

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 11/7-8/2022 *Romans Chapter 12:3-9!*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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Meeting ID: 878 5864 4763 - Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 www.ptwente.com - For Audio & notes from previous studies -

OPENING PRAYER

Theme of the Book of Romans: “Righteousness by Faith” – 1:16-17; *Romans Chapter 12:3-9*

Review: We need to keep in mind that we cannot possibly understand the teachings of this application section and profit by it unless we constantly bear in mind the teaching of the first two verses of the chapter, *(Rom 12:1-2) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. [2] 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.* If you do not know what they teach and have not experienced them, it is no use of your dealing with this application section. You will not be able to do it! This is an appeal only to those who are born again.

TEXT:

(Rom 12:3-9) For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. [4] For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, [5] so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. [6] Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; [7] or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; [8] he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. [9] Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

Gifts of Grace- vs. 3-8 – Christians in the church, exercising Spiritual gifts; the proper functioning of the body of Christ, which is the church.

Rom 12:3 *For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly* (to be in one’s right mind), *as God has dealt to each one* (everyone) *a measure of faith.*

- **Paul, in introducing now the subject of serving God through some type of ministry**, prefaces the remarks by declaring, *For I say, through the grace given unto me*, (both the general grace, he had received as a Christian, but also, it seems he is referring to the grace that had made him an apostle. The particular grace that was given to Paul to enable him to function as the great apostle to the Gentiles. He is asserting his apostle ship!) *to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly.* Now, again, your reasonable service, **think soberly in this, thinking of ourselves in a rational, reasonable manner!** Paul is saying, if God anoints you with His Holy Spirit and has gifted you with one of the many gifts of the Spirit or several of the gifts of the Spirit, *think soberly.* Do not get haughty, arrogant! Do not think more highly of yourself that you ought to think!
- **Do not steal God’s glory! Now this is a common, prevalent danger. One of the three, major dangers** of the ministry. There are many ministers who have been destroyed because God was using them in such a powerful way and people began to praise them and lift them up and put them on pedestals. They began to believe the press reports, thinking that they were something special, God’s special gift to the church or to the world. That is a sure way of falling. *Now do not think more highly of yourself.* This is a common danger when God begins to use a person’s life. People have the tendency of exalting that person that God is using. If you listen to it and accept it, then you are really cutting yourself off. *(Isa 42:8) I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. (Jer 9:23-24) Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches; [24] But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me, That I am the LORD, exercising lovingkindness,*

judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the LORD. (1Co 1:31) that, as it is written, "HE WHO GLORIES, LET HIM GLORY IN THE LORD."

- **Billy Graham instructed the ministers, do not touch the women, the money, and the glory!** Those are the three things that can bring a quick end to your usefulness by God. *Do not think more highly of yourself that you ought.* Let us be reasonable, let us be *sober* about this. Because God has *dealt to every man a measure of faith.*
- **Paul said in, (1Co 4:7) *For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?*** If there is any value coming from your ministry and your life, it is because you have received it from God! It is not our *faith* that determines the gifts we receive! It is God who measures and distributes these gifts. He determines the amount given to each person. This is the whole point of this teaching. If you received it from God, why are you so puffed up, so arrogant and proud, thinking that you are something? It is only something that God has done!
- ***As God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.*** Accordingly, as God has dealt to every man, some gift through faith. Every one of us has some particular Spiritual gift through the channel of faith as we read in (1Co 12:4,9) There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. [9] to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit. Or in (Eph 4:7) But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. To every one of us grace is given according to the measure of the gift of Christ, which clearly expresses what Paul is saying here. Any gift we may have, is the gift that comes to us from the Lord Jesus Christ through the Spirit, through our faith! It is not our faith that determines the gifts we receive. It is God who measures and distributes these gifts! He determines the amount given to every person. That is the whole point of this teaching!
- **What you have, has come to you by the grace and goodness of God!** It is not that you are anything, but God in His grace and mercy, He has chosen to use you to accomplish His purposes! What a great blessing and what a privilege, but do not get puffed up over it. God did not choose you because you were so righteous or you were so good, or He knew that you had the ability! No, forget that! God chose you because He wanted to confound the wise! That is what Paul says (1Co 1:27) *But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty;* How can he do that? He does not have a Ph.D. So, God has chosen. *Think soberly!* Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought!

Rom 12:4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

- **Now as Paul talks about the gifts of the Spirit here and also in 1 Corinthians, chapter 12,** he relates the gifts of the Spirit to their function and their use in the body of Christ. He makes the analogy and the likeness of the church being like a body. The body has many parts. Each part has a separate function. All of the parts are necessary for the body to truly to function and to be effective! We need all of the parts working together, coordinated. He sees the church as this body of Christ.
- **Some people are like the thumb. Some are like the finger.** Some are like the hand. Some are like the feet. Each part of the body is necessary and important. Even those parts of the body that we do not see, are vitally important for the body. None of us are complete in ourselves! (Rom 14:7) *For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself.* We are all needing each other in order that the body might be complete and whole!
- **So, you cannot say, well, I do not need to go to church.** I can get everything I need, right by myself, with the Lord, and all. I have no need of the church. Paul said, that is not so! The ear cannot say to the eye, I do not need you. I can hear without you. He said, if you did not have your eyes where would your seeing be? Surely, you can hear, but where would the seeing be? Thus, we are needing each other! We each have our place, our function. We are each anointed by the Holy Spirit to fill that place in the body of Christ, where God has placed us. (Heb 10:24-25) *And let us consider one another in order to stir up love*

and good works, [25] not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

- **Now as a body, there needs to be a unity of mind and purpose.** We need to work together. Paul will shortly give us those characteristics that we need in order to function and to work together. But the body of Christ, oh, how beautiful it is, when the body of Christ is functioning as the Lord wants it to function! What a powerful influence it can be in a community, when the body of Christ is functioning properly!
- **The problem with the body of Christ is that it is often, sort of spastic.** There does not seem to be a full cooperation from one part to another. There are parts of the body that are wanting to be exalted. It is like the big toe saying, I am tired of being in this dark, smelly place. No one ever sees me. I do not get any recognition. It is always dark and smelly. I do not like it here. I want to exalt myself. I want people to notice me. So, it decides that it needs to plant itself in the middle of your forehead. Well, it is out of place there! It does not belong there. Thus, we see the striving so often within the body of Christ, wanting to be placed where God did not place me. Wanting to be noticed.

Rom 12:5 so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

- **The illustration of the church as the *body of Christ*.** Paul puts this illustration before us here, just he has used it in many of his epistles. It is a wonderful illustration. The point of this analogy concerning the body is that the parts of the body are always, parts of a whole. The parts have no sense or meaning except in their relationship to the other parts. All of them, together to the whole and especially to the Head, Jesus Christ!
- **We are reminded here that the church as a body, is an organic, living unity, having many members in one body.** Even so the church consists of many members, needing to have a living connection and an interdependence between the members of the church. Paul goes further to show that there is a vast variety in the parts. *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function.* We need to realize this variety, as there are some people who seem to think that every church member should be identical with every other. As the individual members of the body are not the same and were never meant to be the same, so all Christians are not meant to be the same in their temperament, in their abilities or in the way they do things! The remarkable thing about the body is that you have a variety in unity, or a unity expressed in a variety. We need to remember that as well; also, remembering there is but one Head over the body, and that is Jesus Christ! So that inter-relationship through the Holy Spirit, where each of us are members of each other, all one body! Each of us having a different function within the body. Each of us fulfilling that place in the body. How exciting! How wonderful! What tremendous potential!

Rom 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

Rom 12:7 or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching;

- **We come now to the practical application and outworking of the principal** that Paul has been laying down. It is most important that we should carry in our minds exactly what he is setting out to do, having laid down his great doctrine in the first eleven chapters. He now comes to the practicalities and the living of the Christian life. He tells us that the great overriding principle, bearing in mind that we hand ourselves completely over to God! (***Rom 12:1b-2***) That is a great principle we renounced, the self-life, which is the worldly life. We begin to think of ourselves and all we do, in terms of the new relationship that is in Christ Jesus!
- **If prophecy is your gift, do it, according to the proportion of faith!** Ministry on ministering; Teaching on teaching; Exhortation on exhortation. Whatever the gift that has been given to you, exercise that gift! Let that be your concern. Let that be your desire and never desire to go outside it. It is the business of each person to use his or her gift, exercising it to the full and to the glory of God, and to the benefit of the church! This is what Paul is saying. That is a whole object of this passage. Whatever your gift may be, concentrate on that. Do not cast coveting or critical eyes on the other person's gift. Do not persuade

yourself that you are gifted to do something else. Let us all function according to the gifts we have given, according to the particular member of the body that we happen to be.

- ***Or ministry, let us use it in our ministering.*** If you have been given the gift of being able to handle these practical, external matters in connection with the life of the church, then, exercise that gift for all you are worth! Do not think that you are a teacher or a preacher or anyone of these other things, but use the gift you have been given, giving thanks to God that you are in the church. That you have been given such a gift, and, realizing that gift is as essential to the harmonious working of the body of Christ as is any other gift! Use this gift to the glory of God!
- ***He who teaches, in teaching.*** If you have the gift of teaching concentrate on that. Do not try to concentrate on any other gift. The gift of teaching is an entirely different category from someone who has the gift of prophecy. Those who are given the gift of teaching, who have the ability not only to read, but also to understand and to assimilate what is read. It is even more important that the teacher has the gift of imparting to others, what has been learned or gained! That is the essence of the gift of the teacher. The teacher's task is to build up believers, establishing them in the faith! Teaching is a very real gift. If you have been given the gift of teaching, then act as a teacher! Keep yourself to that! That is a gift you have been given! So use it!

Rom 12:8 he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

- ***He who exhorts, in exhortation.*** Whereas teaching appeals primarily to the mind, *exhortation* deals more with the heart and with the will. The *exhortation* usually comes after the teaching. First you give the knowledge. You present the truth. Then, *exhortation* is that which drives it home! *Exhortation* is concerned when taking the truth that has been taught, and applying it to the Christian life in its various aspects. There needs to be an awareness between the fine distinction between teaching and *exhortation*. Those having the gift of exhortation need to be aware that this gift, alone, is not capable of exercising the full work of the ministry.
- ***He who gives, with liberality.*** The original is, *he that giveth, with simplicity!* I believe this refers to men and women who happen to be in a position in which they can give to others and can help others who are need, all the while not drawing attention to themselves as they give from their abundance. The gift of giving. Have you met those people? They are marvelous people. What a blessed gift that is, in the body of Christ! Then, let him do it with simplicity, generously, not making a big fuss, a big “to do” and all. If that is your gift, just do it with simplicity.
- ***He who leads, with diligence!*** If God has called you to a place of leadership, then be *diligent* about that leadership. This means exercising rule, or presiding in any shape or form, in the church. This is the task of taking care of the brethren. It has now been allotted to elders in particular. The concern here is only with the gift. (***1Ti 3:5***) (*for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?*); That is leading or ruling. Also in (***Heb 13:7***) *Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.* (***1Ti 5:17***) *Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine.* These elders watch over the church. They watch over the interests, spiritual and external, of the members of the church. They are to do it *with diligence*, with earnestness, with zeal! You must put your back into this work, continuing at it, realizing that this is your gift! You must keep yourself diligently to it!
- ***He who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.*** Sometimes we have a way of showing mercy with a threatening kind of a manner or with a sour attitude. Well, all right, I will let it go this time, but you know, you had better see that it does not happen again. You did what? I cannot believe it, you know. How could you? No, if you have the gift of showing mercy, do it with cheerfulness. Well, praise the Lord! God is great. He will forgive you now.
- ***Showing mercy means attending to the suffering and those in distress.*** This too is a special gift! It is the gift of being able to minister to, to help those who are in trouble, who are ill or suffering in other

ways. There is an excellent illustration in (**Rom 16:1**) *I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchræa.* We find it again in (**1Ti 5:10**) *well reported for good works: if she has brought up children, if she has lodged strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has relieved the afflicted, if she has diligently followed every good work.* We are told here that if this is our gift then, do it with cheerfulness! If you have been given the gift of showing mercy, then as you exercise it, do it with the whole heart, brightly, and joyfully! Do not say I would like to be a teacher or have some other gift, but I have only been allotted this task. If you show mercy in the right way, you may do much more good than many servants. The history of the church is full of examples of workstations of that.

- **So we have gone through the list.** The point the apostle continually makes is this. Whatever your gift might be, exercise it with all your might! This is your gift! It is wonderful! It is valuable! It is essential! Do not be looking at others in any shape or form! Look to the Lord! Look to the benefit of all the members together of the one body of which you also are a part! These are the attitudes that we are to have toward one another as being a part of the one body. We need to remember, these are the attitudes that we are to have!

Marks of the True Christian – vs. 9-21

- **We see a break here to deal more with the general conduct and behavior, to behave like** Christians as individuals in their relationship to their fellow Christians, to people in general in the world in which they still find themselves. We need to keep in mind that we cannot possibly understand the teachings of this application section and profit by it, unless we constantly bear in mind the teaching of the first two verses of the chapter, (**Rom 12:1-2**) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. [2] 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.*

Rom 12:9 Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.

- **What a wonderful, perfect summary of the whole Christian life of men and women!** These two things cover everything! If we are only right about these two principles we cannot go wrong! There is no basis to Christian living apart from this verse! The Christian life must always be thought of in these terms. *Love!* There is the great first principle, but it must be *without hypocrisy!* It sums up the whole of the law.
- **We see this great emphasis upon love, as well as relationships.** Dealing with converts, you start in the same way. It is not our actions that matter, as much as relationships. We need to remember we are dealing with people. It is personal relationships that matter above everything else. In this, there is nothing that counts more than *love.* We notice the use of strongest and deepest term for *love* here, is the *agape*, which is used to express God's *love* to us. We are to be animated in our living by the kind of *love* which God has loved us, as is given to us in *First Corinthians 13.*
- **Love is not to be sentimental nor weak!** According to the Bible, *love* is never sentimental. *Love* is never weak. Presently in the world, this word *love*, is abused almost more than any other word. That is the influence of the movies the media, the way in which people talk about falling in *love.* Not knowing what it means, they call it *love.* They mean lust.
- **Love must never be contrasted with law!** We are living in a lawless age, whose motto is not law, but *love.* Today people dislike the whole notion of law. But that is a fundamental fallacy. Paul says in (**Rom 13:8**) *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.* Our Lord put it, in answer to the question which is first commandment of all? (**Mar 12:29-31**) *Jesus answered him, "The first of all the commandments is: 'HEAR, O ISRAEL, THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE. [30] AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' This is the first commandment. [31] And the second, like it, is this: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.'* To put law and *love* up, as contrasts, is a failure to understand the basic and elementary

teaching of the whole New Testament. Yet that is often being done at the present time! People deny the doctrine of the atonement because they say it has to do with the law.

- **Atonement does have to do with law! It is because the law had been broken that the Son of God had to die** on the cross on Calvary! His death was a great legal transaction, (*Rom 3:26*) *to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.* Without a fulfillment of the law, there is no salvation for anybody. The glory of the love of God is that it fulfills the law. It does not deny it, does not set it aside. It fulfills it! There is nothing more fatal than to think of *love* as something, which is contrasted with law.
- **Again in (Joh 14:21) He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him!** If men and women do not keep God's commandments, it is useless for them to talk about loving God! You do not *love* God in words, but indeed and in truth! (*Joh 14:23*) *Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.*
- **We need to be clear about this. Love is something that always shows itself in our conduct** and in our actions! It is not a mere sentiment. It is not weak, but it is very strong! It is a carrying out of the law, a fulfilling of the commandments of God! John is so concerned about this that he comes back to it in (*1Jn 2:4-5*) *He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.* That is a teaching of the whole Bible!
- **We are not only to keep God's law, but we are also called upon to love it!** The Bible never simply asks for our mechanical obedience. Its teaching can be summed up in (*Pro 23:26*) *My son, give me your heart, And let your eyes observe my ways.* Rising up to that in (*Psa 119:97, 143*) *Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day. [143] Trouble and anguish have overtaken me, Yet Your commandments are my delights.* This is what God wants! Paul is saying here in the words, let love be without hypocrisy! This is what it is to govern our whole behavior! It is a keeping of the commandments of God and not only keeping them, but loving the law and loving to keep the law!
- **You are not only to keep the letter of the law.** You are to keep the spirit of the law. If you merely keep the letter or just keep within the law and are not true to the spirit, your love is with hypocrisy, meaning that you really hate it. You wish it were not there. When the apostle says, let love be without hypocrisy, he is saying, let your life of obedience to the commandments of God be entirely wholehearted! With no reservations! Do not obey God in order to please yourself or merely please others! If our motive for living the Christian life is either to please ourselves or to please others, our *love* is not *without hypocrisy* because the moment we start thinking of ourselves and our reputation, what other people are thinking and saying about us, we have departed from the principle of law! Indeed, it is nothing but sentiment, which is always with *hypocrisy*.
- **We are being called here to please God above all else** and to live to His glory and praise! The chief end of man is to glorify God! We are to please God with the whole of our heart and with the whole of our being, because of God's *love* for us! (*1Jn 4:19*) *We love Him because He first loved us.* If you know anything about the mercies of God, this will be your response! How pleasing, right now is my life to Him?

Let love be without hypocrisy.

- **It means that we must keep God's commandments.** We remember how the Lord, Himself has defined this in (*Joh 14:15*) *"If you love Me, keep My commandments.* How do you show that you love God? By singing hymns and choruses? That comes in but it is not enough. It is not a guarantee that you really *love* God, but if you love Me keep My commandments! There you are giving proof of love!
- **Our whole conduct is to be governed by the kind of loving outlook,** which characterizes God's outlook upon us. That being, unconditional *love*, which is *love* without reservation! *Love* is something that must be total. It is, therefore, a call to us to give to God our allegiance in all our ways and with the whole of

our being. We are to regard ourselves therefore, in terms of *love*, within our whole relationship of *love!* *Love to God! Love to our neighbor!*

- **We must not be playing a part.** We must not be pretending, which means that we must not be *hypocrites*. We must be honest. It must be true love, not some kind of artificial product which simulates love. It is important for us to realize that in this matter of *love*, we must not deceive others, or ourselves!
- **We are not just governed by our whims and feelings, our likes and dislikes!** When I am in the mood, I will be nice. If I am in a bad temper, I will be difficult! No, *love* is always thinking it out, always realizing, always coming back to the *therefore* of (**Rom 12:1a**) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God.* Apply this great logic! Examine your *love* in the light of this truth! As long as you do, your *love* will be *without hypocrisy!*

Abhor what is evil.

- ***Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.*** Here is the second great maxim. Notice the terms here: *abhor* and *cling!* This second maxim is the opposite of the first. The opposite of *love* is to *hate!* That is the very term the apostle uses. *Abhor* means to have a horror of, to dislike utterly! The Greek word the apostle uses has an “a” prefix which means a separation from, away from. The word means, shrink away from *evil*, with abhorrence!
- ***Evil is not abstract. It is an active opposition to good.*** *Evil* is not just the absence of good! It is a positive thing. It hates the good and is militant against it! We see a positive force in the world in the ruling and guiding of it by the organization of man's desire for control, behind it and people's delight in making money out of it all! That is *evil*. You are to despise that, says Paul! This very strong word means shying away from *evil* as a horse shies away from something that he does not understand. Something that frightens him! *Abhor evil!* Have a positive hatred, and utterly dislike of it! He tells us that we must not merely do things that are wrong and *evil!*
- ***We must hate evil things, not having pleasure even in our thinking about them!*** It is possible for someone to avoid doing *evil* things while having great pleasure in them in his mind and in his imagination. If that is his position, he is not abhorring *evil!* It is not merely that we keep on the right side of the law by not doing the wrong thing. But that we find *evil* to be revolting to us. *Evil* is unthinkable, in mind, in imagination, in thought and in action! How does one become capable of reacting like this to all *evil?* It demands thought! You will never *abhor evil* unless you have an understanding of the doctrine! Go back to verse one, *I beseech you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God.*
- ***One must have a positive love for God!*** Only one thing can make you *abhor* that which is *evil* and that is a positive *love* for God! You will never understand the nature of *evil* unless you understand something of the doctrine of the holiness of God! *Evil* is the opposite of that! You only realize what is *evil* when you actually see what it is, in God's universe! When you think of that holy God who made the perfect universe and saw that it was good! When you think of this other *evil*, thing that came in, it makes you abhorred!
- ***Meditate on the glory of God in His creation – the perfection and marvel of it all!*** Psalm 104, finding that in the giving a great account of God's universe, of nature and creation, how God controls everything. Then he ends in a most amazing way, (**Psa 104:35a**) *May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more.* He suddenly brings in the wicked. Why does he do this? It is because he has looked out at the glory and the perfection and the marvel of it all. Then he sees this miserable sin marring the glory and the perfection of it all, saying get rid of it! *Abhor* it! Root it out, as it were! It has no place here.
- ***Scriptures abhorring evil and doing good!***
 - ✓ (**Amo 5:15a**) *Hate evil, love good; Establish justice in the gate.*
 - ✓ (**Psa 104:35**) *May sinners be consumed from the earth, And the wicked be no more. Bless the LORD, O my soul! Praise the LORD!*

- ✓ (1Pe 3:10-11) For "HE WHO WOULD LOVE LIFE AND SEE GOOD DAYS, LET HIM REFRAIN HIS TONGUE **FROM EVIL**, AND HIS LIPS FROM SPEAKING DECEIT. [11] LET HIM TURN AWAY **FROM EVIL AND DO GOOD**; LET HIM SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.
- ✓ (Jud 1:23) but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, **hating** even the garment defiled by the flesh. That is it! Those who love God must hate evil, the more we know God, and love Him, the greater will be our hatred of evil! We will not just refrain from doing evil things. We will have a positive hatred of evil!
- **BE HOLY FOR I AM HOLY! The command is like that we are to be like God Himself! (1Pe 1:16)** because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY." In (Hab 1:13a) You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, And cannot look on wickedness. Or take the great contrast in (2Co 6:14-15) Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? [15] And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? There is no communion between them they are eternal opposites.
- **We abhor evil because we love God, and our love is entire and without hypocrisy.** We are not told just to put down a little list of things we are not to do. Probably everything on the list is true but a list is inadequate, taken by itself, it is legalism. Here we are in the realm of love. Do not merely look at these things *per se*. Look at them always in the light of God, in the light of His holy nature, in the light of His love to you and what He's done for you by His grace and mercy. Your love for Him should lift you up to that realm so that you look down upon *evil*, hate it and *abhor* it!

Cling to what is good.

- **Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good.** Here is the second great maxim. Notice the terms here: *abhor* and *cling*! This second maxim is the opposite of the first. The opposite of love is to *hate*! That is the very term the apostle uses. *Abhor* means to have a horror of, to dislike utterly! The Greek word the apostle uses has a prefix which means a separation from, away from. The word means, shrink away from evil with abhorrence!
- **Cling to what is good.** The opposite of the command to *abhor evil* is, ***cling to what is good!*** Now *cling* is a most interesting word. The Greek word conveys the idea of sticking two pieces of wood together with glue, so it means, stick yourself to the *good* with glue! Cement yourself if you like, to that which is *good*. Join or fasten yourself so firmly to the good that you cannot be separated from it! And *good* means that which is *good* in the sight of God.
- **Application of the doctrine! Thank God we are being told how we can work out the doctrine!** How we can apply it to our lives -- (Rom 12:1a) *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God!* Consider it! Dwell upon the doctrine! If you want to know how to live, do not start with the practicalities! Start with the truth, with the doctrine! Understand it! Grasp it! See what it means in terms of God's love to you. Then you will find a great love welling up in your heart and the Holy Spirit will come and will shed the love of God! and brought in your heart (Rom 5:5) *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.* Filled with that love, you will desire above everything else to keep the commandments of God! They will no longer be grievous to you! You will be *hating evil!* You will be *clinging*, sticking fast as by glue, to that which is good and well-pleasing in the sight of God, better understanding that the chief end of man is to glorify God and to enjoy Him and the glorifying of Him forever!

SUMMARY:

- **Gifts of Grace- vs. 3-8** – Christians in the church, exercising Spiritual gifts; the proper functioning of the body of Christ, which is the church.

- **General conduct and behavior of Christians -v. 9 - Beginning in verse nine to the end of the chapter** we will be dealing more with the general conduct and behavior of Christians as individuals and in their relationship to their fellow Christians, and beyond that in their relationship to people in general in the world.
- **We need to keep in mind that we cannot possibly understand** the teachings of this application section and profit by it unless we constantly bear in mind the teaching of the first two verses of the chapter, (**Rom 12:1-2**) If you do not know what they teach and have not experienced them, it is no use your dealing with this application section. You will not be able to do it! This is an appeal only to those who are born again.

THE LOVE OF GOD - Phelps, Penrod & Gardner (4:19_4:22)

*The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell
It goes beyond the highest star and reaches to the lowest hell
the guilty pair bowed down with care God gave his son to win
His erring child, he reconciled and pardoned from his sins*

*Refrain: O love of God How rich and pure! How measureless and strong
it shall forever more endure the saints and angels song*

*Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the Skies of parchment made
were every stone on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade
to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry
nor could a scroll contain the whole though stretched from sky to sky*

CLOSING PRAYER:

Read and meditate over Romans Chapter 12 & 13!