

The Best Offering You Could Ever Give (Romans 12:1-2)

Mid-morning Pop Quiz on the Book of Romans

1. Which British monk taught that Adam's sin was ONLY a bad influence on mankind?
 - a. Cleopatra
 - b. Augustine
 - c. Pelagius
 - d. Julius Caesar
 - e. None of the above

2. Which Catholic theologian argued that Adam's ORIGINAL SIN was imputed to every person born of Adam; hence, everyone (except Jesus) has a sin nature?
 - a. Cleopatra
 - b. Augustine
 - c. Pelagius
 - d. Julius Caesar
 - e. None of the above

3. Israel is an extension of the New Testament church (True or False). _____.

4. The New Testament church is an extension of Israel (True or False). _____.

Match the following verses with their closest meaning:

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|-------------------------|--|
| 5. Romans 3:23. _____. | a. Israel blinded for sake of the Gentiles |
| 6. Romans 6:23. _____. | b. Everyone has sinned |
| 7. Romans 10:9. _____. | c. Wrong kind of zeal |
| 8. Romans 5:6-8. _____. | d. Jesus was raised from the dead |
| 9. Romans 11:25. _____. | e. Eternal life through Christ (gift from God) |
| 10. Romans 10:2. _____. | f. God showed His love towards us |

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- I. The Book of Romans Review
 - A. The book of Romans is probably the most important book in the Bible, theologically speaking, and it was written by probably the most important person in the Bible, not counting the Lord.
 - B. The church in Rome was probably started by converts from Pentecost, and it contained mostly Gentile believers. Why the book of Romans was written?
 1. There was a division in the church between the large Gentile membership and the lesser in number Jewish membership.
 2. Paul was the first apostle to try to educate these people about their salvation.
 3. He was planning a future trip.
 - C. What have we talked about so far?
 1. Romans 5:1-11 ✍ our right standing with the Lord through His work on the cross.
 2. Romans 5:12-21 ✍ sin by Adam, salvation by Christ.
 3. Romans 6:1-14 ✍ free to live for the Lord not bound by sin anymore.
 4. Romans 10:1-15 ✍ Israel has been blinded for the Gentiles' benefit.
- II. Romans 11:25-36: God's Plan Unfolded
 - A. In Romans 11:25-36, Paul leads into the opening two verses of Romans 12
 1. Romans 11:25 – Gentiles benefit because Israel has been blinded to the truth about Christ.
 2. Romans 11:26 – Israel will recognize Christ as their Deliverer, and He will turn ungodliness away from Jacob. In other words, they shall turn away from their sins.
 3. Romans 11:27 – God will forgive them as He has forgiven us, and Israel, as a nation, will turn to the Lord. It will be a national revival, but that does not automatically mean that all Jews will be saved.
 4. Romans 11:29 – God has not forsaken them as His chosen people.
 5. Romans 11:30-31 – Gentiles have received mercy by Israel's blindness. Now, the Jews will receive mercy after we have had our chance to receive mercy.
 - a. There are seven dispensations described in the Bible.
 - 1) Edenic Covenant (Dispensation of Innocence) - Man was to live by the conditions which were imposed on him.
 - 2) Adamic Covenant (Dispensation of Conscience) - Man was to live by his limited knowledge of right and wrong.
 - 3) Noahic Covenant (Dispensation of Human Government) - Man was to divide into nations and govern himself.
 - 4) Abrahamic Covenant (Dispensation of Promise) - Man was to accept and live in the light of God's promise.
 - 5) Mosaic Covenant (Dispensation of the Law) - Man was to live by the laws of God.

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- 6) New Covenant (Dispensation of Grace) - Man would receive Jesus Christ and live by faith.
 - 7) Davidic Covenant (Dispensation of the Kingdom) - Man will live in a perfect environment and be ruled by Jesus. Still, man will fail to please God's high standards.
 - b. We are now living in the Dispensation of Grace. It began with Jesus, and it will end with the Tribulation. The church will be raptured out of the earth, God will begin to reveal Himself to Israel, and this time they will recognize Him as Savior.
 - c. Every dispensation has had a test.
 - d. Every dispensation has been marked by failure.
- B. Romans 11:32-36 – Paul marvels at God’s Plan that brings the opportunity for salvation (being reconciled to Him) to the whole world.

III. Romans 12:1-2: Present yourself as a living sacrifice and be not conformed to this world.

- A. Present your bodies a living sacrifice
 1. Beseech (*parakaleo*) – to beg, entreat, to console, to encourage and strengthen by consolation, to comfort, to encourage or strengthen, to instruct or teach.
 2. Therefore – because of God’s Plan discussed in Romans 11:25-36.
 3. Present (*paristemi*) – to place a person or thing at one's disposal.
 4. Bodies (*soma*) – a dead body or corpse.
 5. Living (*zao*) – to be among the living (not lifeless, not dead)
 6. Reasonable (*logikos*) – agreeable to reason, following reason, reasonable, logical.
 7. Service (*latreia*) – service rendered for hire. Notice I Corinthians 6:19-20.
- B. Be not conformed to this world
 1. Conformed (*suschematizo*) – to conform one's mind and character to another's pattern. See I Peter 1:14.
 2. World (*aion*) – forever, an unbroken age, perpetuity of time, eternity, period of time, age.
 3. Transformed (*metamorphoo*) – to change into another form. See Matthew 17:2 and Mark 9:2 for Jesus’ transfiguration.
 4. Renewing (*anakainosis*) – complete change for the better, renovation. See Titus 3:5.
 5. Will (*thelema*) - what one wishes or has determined shall be done.

IV. Some biblical reasons why we do not give ourselves to the Lord.

- A. Sin (Psalm 139:23-24).
 1. Notice that we have a responsibility to examine ourselves.
 - a. Sin will affect how well we listen to the Holy Spirit.
 - b. That will directly affect how well we serve the Lord.

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2. Recall from Romans 10:1-4 that Paul wrote that the Jews had had the wrong kind of zeal for the Lord and that their motivations were driven by the wrong kind of knowledge.
 3. In these two verses, David was encouraging saints to examine themselves. But what should we examine?
 - a. From Paul, we should make sure that we have a true zeal for the Lord and that we are not just playing church.
 - b. From Paul, we should also study Scriptures so that our knowledge will be based on the truth of God's Word (exegesis) and not simply what we want it to be (isogesis).
 - c. From David, we should examine our heart in an attempt to keep ourselves pure. **Note, however, that we do not seek purity for purity's sake.** Our goal is to be usable for the Lord's work.
 - B. We fail to satisfy Matthew 22:37-39.
 1. We do not love the Lord supremely.
 2. We do not love our neighbors as ourselves.
 3. If we love the Lord and our neighbors as we should, then we will want to see people saved to the point that we will be motivated to do something about it.
 - C. We do not fully believe Matthew 6:33.
- V. Next week's lesson: I Samuel 3:1 – 4:10 (A Profile in Obedience)