Greetings from Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus. God called me to be an apostle. I was chosen to tell God’s Good News to all people.

God promised long ago to give this Good News to his people. God used his prophets to promise this. That promise is written in the Holy Scriptures.

The Good News is about God’s Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. As a person, he was born from the family of David. But through the Spirit of holiness Jesus was shown to be God’s Son. He was shown to be God’s Son with great power by rising from death. Through Christ, God gave me the special work of an apostle. God gave me this work to lead people of all nations to believe and obey God. And I do this work for Christ.

And you people in Rome were also called to belong to Jesus Christ.

This letter is to all of you in Rome that God has called to be his holy people. You are people that God loves.

Grace (kindness) and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

A Prayer of Thanks

First I want to say that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you. I thank God because people everywhere in the world are talking about your great faith. Every time I pray I always remember you. God knows this is true. God is the One I worship (serve) in my spirit by telling people the Good News about his Son. I pray that I will be allowed to come to you. It will happen if God wants it. I want very much to see you. I want to give you some spiritual gift to make you strong. I want to help each other with the faith that we have. Your faith will help me, and my faith will help you.

Brothers and sisters, I want you to know that I planned many times to come to you. But I have not been allowed to come to you. I wanted to come so that I could help you grow spiritually. I want to help you like I have helped the other non-Jewish people.

I must serve all people—Greeks and non-Greeks, wise people and foolish people. That is why I want so much to tell the Good News to you there in Rome.

I am proud of the Good News. The Good News is the power God uses to save every person that believes—to save the Jews first, and also to save the non-Jews. The Good News shows how God makes people right with himself. God’s way of making people right begins and ends with faith. Like the Scripture says, “The person that is right with God by faith will live forever.”

All People Have Done Wrong

God shows his anger from heaven against all the evil and wrong things that people do. They have the truth, but by their evil lives they hide it. God shows his anger, because everything that is known about God has been made clear to them. Yes, God has clearly shown people everything that is known about

“The person … forever” Quote from Hab. 2:4.
ROMANS 1:20–2:11

him. 20 There are things about God that people cannot see—his eternal power and all the things that make him God. But since the beginning of the world those things have been easy for people to understand. Those things are made clear in the things that God has made. So people have no excuse for the bad things they do. 21 People knew God. But they did not give glory to God, and they did not thank him. Their ideas were all useless. There was not one good thought left in their foolish minds. 22 People said they were wise, and they became fools. 23 They gave up the glory of God who lives forever. People traded that glory for the worship of idols made to look like earthly people. People traded God’s glory for things that look like birds, animals, and snakes.

24 People were full of sin, wanting only to do evil things. So God left them and let them go their sinful way. And so they became full of sexual sins, using their bodies wrongly with each other. 25 Those people traded the truth of God for a lie. Those people worshiped and served things that were made. But people did not worship and serve the God who made those things. God should be praised forever. Amen.

26 Because people did those things, God left them and let them do the shameful things they wanted to do. Women stopped having natural sex with men. They started having sex with other women. 27 In the same way, men stopped having natural sex with women. The men began wanting each other all the time. Men did shameful things with other men. And in their bodies they received the punishment for those wrong things they did.

28 People did not think it was important to have a true knowledge of God. So God left them and allowed those people to have their own worthless thinking. And so those people do the things that they should not do. 29 Those people are filled with every kind of sin, evil, greed, and hatred. Those people are full of jealousy, murder, fighting, lying, and thinking the worst things about each other. Those people gossip and say evil things about each other. Those people hate God. They are rude and conceited and boast about themselves. Those people invent ways of doing evil. They don’t obey their parents, 30 they are foolish, they don’t keep their promises, and they show no kindness or mercy to other people. 31 Those people know God’s law. They know God’s law says that people who live like that should die. But they continue to do those wrong things. And they say that people who do those things are doing right.

Let God Be the Judge

2 So do you think that you can judge those other people? You are wrong. You too are guilty of sin. You judge those people, but you do the same bad things they do. So when you judge them, you are really judging yourself guilty. 2 God judges the people that do those wrong things. And we know that God’s judgment is right. 3 You also judge the people that do those wrong things. But you do those wrong things too. So surely you understand that God will judge you. You will not be able to escape. 4 God has been very kind to you. And he has been patient with you. God has been waiting for you to change. But you think nothing of his kindness. Maybe you don’t understand that God is kind to you so that you will change your hearts and lives. 5 But you people are hard and stubborn. You refuse to change. So you are making your own punishment greater and greater. You will get that punishment on the day when God will show his anger. On that day people will see God’s right judgments. 6 God will reward or punish every person for the things that person has done. 7 Some people live for God’s glory, for honor, and for life that cannot be destroyed. Those people live for those things by always continuing to do good. God will give life forever to those people. 8 But other people are selfish and refuse to follow truth. Those people follow evil. God will give those people his punishment and anger. 9 God will give trouble and suffering to every person that does evil—to the Jews first and also to the non-Jews. 10 But God will give glory, honor, and peace to every person that does good—to the Jews first and also to the non-Jews. 11 God judges all people the same.

idols Statues made from wood, stone, or metal that people worshiped like gods.
12 People that have the law* and people that have never heard of the law are all the same when they sin. People that don’t have the law and are sinners will be lost. And, in the same way, people that have the law and are sinners will be judged by the law. 13 Hearing the law does not make people right with God. The law makes people right with God only if those people always obey everything the law says. 14 The non-Jews don’t have the law. But when they naturally do things that the law commands without even knowing the law, then they are their own law. This is true even though they don’t have the written law. 15 They show that in their hearts they know what is right and wrong, the same as the law commands. And those people also show this by the way they feel about right and wrong. Sometimes their thoughts tell them that they did wrong, and this makes them guilty. And sometimes their thoughts tell them that they did right, and this makes them not guilty. 16 All these things will happen on the day when God will judge the secret things inside of people. The Good News* that I tell people says that God will judge people through Christ Jesus.

The Jews and the Law

17 What about you? You say you are a Jew. You trust in the law and boast that you are close to God. 18 You know what God wants you to do. And you know the things that are important, because you have learned the law. 19 You think you are a guide for people that don’t know the right way. You think you are a light for people that are in darkness (sin). 20 You think you can show foolish people what is right. And you think you are a teacher for people that still need to learn. You have the law and so you think that you know everything and have all truth. 21 You teach other people. So why don’t you teach yourself? You tell people not to steal. But you yourselves steal. 22 You say that people must not do the sin of adultery.* But you yourselves are guilty of that sin. You hate idols.* But you steal from temples.* 23 You boast about God’s law. But you bring shame to God by breaking his law. 24 It is written in the Scriptures*: “The non-Jews say bad things about God because of you Jews.”

25 If you follow the law,* then your circumcision* has meaning. But if you break the law, then it is like you were never circumcised. 26 The non-Jews are not circumcised. But if they do what the law says, then it is like they were circumcised. 27 You Jews have the written law and circumcision, but you break the law. So the people that are not circumcised in their bodies, but still obey the law, will show that you people are guilty.

28 A person is not a true Jew if he is only a Jew in his physical body. True circumcision* is not only on the outside of the body. 29 A person is a true Jew only if he is a Jew inside. True circumcision is done in the heart. It is done by the Spirit,* not by the written law. And a person that is circumcised in the heart by the Spirit gets praise from God, not from people.

3 So, do Jews have anything that other people don’t have? Is there anything special about being circumcised*? 2 Yes, the Jews have many special things. The most important thing is this: God trusted the Jews with his teachings. 3 It is true that some Jews were not faithful to God. But will that stop God from doing what he promised? 4 No! God will continue to be true even when every person is false. Like the Scriptures* say:

“... and you will win when you are being judged.” Psalm 51:4

5 When we do wrong, that shows more clearly that God is right. So can we say that

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**Notes:**
- law: God’s law. It is represented in the law of Moses.
- Good News: The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.
- adultery: Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.
- idols: The false gods that the non-Jewish people worship.
- temples: Places where people worship.
- Scripture(s): Holy Writings—the Old Testament.
- “The non-Jews ... Jews”: Quote from Isa. 52:5.
- circumcision, circumcised: To have the foreskin cut off. This was done to every Jewish baby boy. It was a mark of the agreement God made with Abraham. Read Gen. 17:9–14.
God does wrong when he punishes us? (I am using an idea that some people might have.)

6 No! If God could not punish us, then God could not judge the world.

7 A person might say, “When I lie, it really gives God glory, because my lie shows God’s truth. So why am I judged a sinner?”
8 It would be the same to say, “We should do evil so that good will come.” Many people criticize us and say that we teach those things. People that say those things are wrong, and they should be condemned.

### All People Are Guilty

9 So are we Jews better than other people? No! We have already said that Jews and non-Jews are the same. They are all guilty of sin.

10 Like the Scriptures say:

   “There is no person without sin. None! There is no person that understands.
   There is no person that is trying to be with God.

11 All people have turned away, and all people have become worthless. There is no person that does good. None!”

   Psalm 14:1–3

12 “People’s mouths are like open graves; they use their tongues for telling lies.”

   Psalm 5:9

13 “The things they say are like the poison of snakes;”

   Psalm 140:3

14 “their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness.”

   Psalm 10:7

15 “People are always ready to hurt and kill; everywhere they go they cause ruin and sadness.

16 People don’t know the way of peace.”

   Isaiah 59:7–8

17 “They have no fear or respect for God.”

   Psalm 36:1

18 These things the law says are for the people that are under the law. This stops all Jewish people from making excuses and brings the whole world (Jews and non-Jews) under God’s judgment. 20 Why? Because no person can be made right with God by following the law. The law only shows us our sin.

### How God Makes People Right

21 But God has a way to make people right without the law. And God has now shown us that new way. The law and the prophets* told us about this new way. 22 God makes people right through their faith in Jesus Christ. God does this for all people that believe in Christ. All people are the same. 23 All people have sinned and are not good enough for God’s glory. 24 People are made right with God by his grace (kindness). This is a free gift. People are made right with God by being made free from sin through Jesus Christ. 25 God gave Jesus as a way to forgive people’s sins through faith. God forgives by the blood (death) of Jesus. God gave Jesus to show that he always does what is right and fair. God was right in the past when he was patient and did not punish people for their sins. 26 And God gave Jesus to show today that God does what is right. God did this so that he could judge rightly and also make right any person that has faith in Jesus.

27 So do we have a reason to boast about ourselves? No! And why not? It is the way of faith that stops all boasting, not the way of following the law. 28 Why? Because a person is made right with God through faith, not through the things he has done to follow the law. This is what we believe. 29 God is not only the God of the Jews. He is also the God of the non-Jews. 30 There is only one God. He will make Jews* right with him by their faith. And he will also make non-Jews* right with him through their faith. 31 So do we destroy the law by following the way of faith? No! Faith causes us to be what the law truly wants.

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**Scriptures** Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

**law** God’s law. It is represented in the law of Moses.

**prophets** People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.

**Jews** Literally, “circumcision.”

**non-Jews** Literally, “uncircumcision.”
4 So what can we say about Abraham,* the father of our people? What did he learn about faith? If Abraham was made right by the things he did, then he had a reason to boast. But Abraham could not boast before God. 3 The Scripture* says, “Abraham believed God. And God accepted Abraham’s faith. That made Abraham right with God.”* 4 When a person works, his pay is not given to him as a gift. He earns the pay he gets. 5 But a person cannot do any work that will make him right with God. So that person must trust in God. Then God accepts that person’s faith (trust), and that makes him right with God. God is the One who makes even evil people right. 6 David* said the same thing. David said that a person is truly happy when God does not look at the things that person has done but accepts him like a good person: 7 “People are truly blessed (happy) when their wrongs are forgiven, and when their sins are covered! And when the Lord accepts a person like he was without sin, that person is truly blessed!”

Psalm 32:1–2

9 Is this happiness only for those people that are circumcised* (the Jews)? Or is this happiness also for people that are not circumcised (non-Jews)? We have already said that God accepted Abraham’s faith, and that faith made him right with God. 10 So how did this happen? Did God accept Abraham* before or after he was circumcised? God accepted him before his circumcision.* 11 Abraham was circumcised later to show that God accepted him. His circumcision was proof that he was right with God through faith before he was circumcised. So Abraham is the father of all people that believe but are not circumcised. Those people believe and are accepted like people that are right with God. 12 And Abraham is also the father of people that have been circumcised. But it is not their circumcision that makes Abraham their father. He is their father only if they live following the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

God’s Promise Received Through Faith

13 Abraham* and his descendants* received the promise that they would get the whole world. But Abraham did not receive that promise because he followed the law.* Abraham received that promise because he was right with God through his faith. 14 If people could get the things that God promised by following the law, then faith is worthless. And God’s promise to Abraham is worthless. 15 Why? Because the law can only bring God’s anger when the law is not obeyed. But if there is no law, then there is nothing to disobey.

16 So people get God’s promise by having faith. This happens so that the promise can be a free gift. And if the promise is a free gift, then all of Abraham’s* people can have that promise. The promise is not only for those people that live under the law (of Moses). The promise is for any person that lives with faith like Abraham. Abraham is the father of us all. 17 Like it is written in the Scriptures* “I have made you (Abraham) a father of many nations.” This is true before God. Abraham believed in God—the God who gives life to dead people and decides that things will happen that have not yet happened.

18 There was no hope that Abraham* would have children. But Abraham believed God and continued hoping. And that is why he became the father of many nations. Like God told him, “You will have many descendants (children).”* 19 Abraham was almost 100 years old, so his body was much past the age for having children. Also, Sarah could not have children. Abraham thought about this. But his...
faith in God did not become weak. Abraham never doubted that God would do the thing that God promised. Abraham never stopped believing. He grew stronger in his faith and gave praise to God. Abraham felt sure that God was able to do the thing that God promised. So, “God accepted Abraham’s faith. That made him right with God.”

Those words (“God accepted Abraham’s faith”) were written not only for Abraham. Those words were also written for us. God will also accept us because we believe. We believe in the One (God) that raised Jesus our Lord from death. Jesus was given to die for our sins. And he was raised from death to make us right with God.

Right With God

We have been made right with God because of our faith. So we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through our faith, Christ has brought us into that blessing of God’s grace (kindness) that we now enjoy. And we are very happy because of the hope we have of sharing God’s glory. And we are also happy with the troubles we have. Why are we happy with troubles? Because we know that these troubles make us more patient. And this patience is proof that we are strong. And this proof gives us hope. And this hope will never disappoint us—it will never fail. Why? Because God has poured out his love to fill our hearts. God gave us his love through the Holy Spirit. That Holy Spirit was a gift to us from God.

Christ died for us while we were still weak people. We were living against God, but at the right time, Christ died for us. Very few people will die to save the life of another person, even if that other person is a good person. If the person is a very good person, then someone might be willing to die for that person. But Christ died for us while we were still sinners. In that way God showed us that he loves us very much.

“God accepted … God” Quote from Gen. 15:6.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.
have more sin. But when people had more sin, God gave them more of his grace (kindness).
Sin once used death to rule us. But God gave people more of his grace so that grace could rule by making people right with him. This brings life forever through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Dead to Sin but Alive in Christ

So do you think that we should continue sinning so that God will give us more and more grace (kindness)? No! We died to (quit living) our old sinful lives. So how can we continue living with sin? Did you forget that all of us became part of Christ Jesus when we were baptized? We shared his death in our baptism. So when we were baptized, we were buried with Christ and shared his death. We were buried with Christ so that we could be raised up and live a new life. This happened the same as Christ was raised from death by the wonderful power of the Father.

Christ died, and we have been joined with Christ by dying too. So we will also be joined with him by rising from death like Christ rose from death. We know that our old life died with Christ on the cross. This happened so that our sinful selves would have no power over us. And then we would not be slaves to sin. Any person that has died is made free from sin’s control.

If we died with Christ, we know that we will also live with him. Christ was raised from death. And we know that he cannot die again. Death has no power over him now.
Yes, when Christ died, he died to defeat the power of sin one time—enough for all time. He now has a new life, and his new life is with God. In the same way, you should see yourselves as being dead to the power of sin. And see yourselves as being alive for God through Christ Jesus.

But don’t let sin control you in your life here on earth. You must not be ruled by the things your sinful self makes you want to do. Don’t offer the parts of your body to serve sin. Don’t use your bodies as things to do evil with. But you should offer yourselves to God.

Be like people that have died and now live. Offer the parts of your body to God to be used for doing good. Sin will not be your master. Why? Because you are not under law. You now live under God’s grace (kindness).

Slaves of Goodness

So what should we do? Should we sin because we are under grace (kindness) and not under law? No! Surely you know that when you give yourselves like slaves to obey someone, then you are really slaves of that person. The person you obey is your master. You can follow sin, or obey God. Sin brings spiritual death. But obeying God makes you right with him.

In the past you were slaves to sin—sin controlled you. But thank God, you fully obeyed the things that were taught to you. You were made free from sin. And now you are slaves to goodness (right living). I explain this by using an example that people know. I explain it this way because it is hard for you to understand. In the past you offered the parts of your body to be slaves to sin and evil. You lived only for evil. In the same way now you must give yourselves to be slaves of goodness. Then you will live only for God.

In the past you were slaves to sin, and goodness (right living) did not control you. You did evil things. Now you are ashamed of those things. Did those things help you? No. Those things only bring spiritual death. But now you are free from sin. You are now slaves of God. And this brings you a life that is only for God. And from that you will get life forever. When people sin, they earn what sin pays—death. But God gives his people a free gift—life forever in Christ Jesus our Lord.

An Example from Marriage

Brothers and sisters, you all understand the law of Moses. So surely you know that the law rules over a person only while he is alive. I will give you an example. A woman must stay married to her husband as long as he is alive. But if her husband dies, then she is made free from the law of marriage. But if that woman marries another man while her husband is still alive, the law...
saints, you belong to someone else. You belong to the One (Christ) that was raised from death. So now we serve God in a new way, not in the old way with the written rules. Now we serve God in the new way with the Spirit.*

Our Fight Against Sin

7You might think that I am saying that sin and the law* are the same thing. That is not true. But the law was the only way I could learn what sin means. I would never have known what it means to want something wrong. But the law said, “You must not want things that belong to other people.”* And sin found a way to use that command and make me want every kind of wrong thing. So sin came to me because of that command. But without the law, sin has no power. I was alive without the law before I knew the law. But when the law’s command came to me, then sin began to live. And I died spiritually because of sin. The command was meant to bring life, but for me that command brought death. Sin found a way to fool me by using the command. Sin used the command to make me die spiritually.

12So the law* is holy, and the command is holy and right and good. Does this mean that something that is good brought death to me? No! But sin used something that is good to bring death to me. This happened so that I could see what sin is really like. It happened to show that sin is something very, very bad. And the command was used to show this.

The Conflict in Man

14We know that the law* is spiritual. But I am not spiritual. Sin rules me like I am its slave. I don’t understand the things I do. I don’t do the good things I want to do. And I do the bad things I hate to do. And if I don’t want to do the bad things I do, then that means that I agree that the law is good. But I am not really the one doing these bad things. It is sin living in me that does these things. Yes, I know that nothing good lives in me—I mean nothing good lives in the part of me that is not spiritual. I want to do the things that are good. But I don’t do those things. I don’t do the good things that I want to do. I do the bad things that I don’t want to do. So if I do things I don’t want to do, then it is not really me doing those things. It is sin living in me that does those bad things.

21So I have learned this rule: When I want to do good, evil is there with me. In my mind, I am happy with God’s law. But I see another law working in my body. That other law makes war against the law that my mind accepts. That other law working in my body is the law of sin, and that law makes me its prisoner. This is terrible! Who will save me from this body that brings me death? God will save me! I thank him for his salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord!

So in my mind I am a slave to God’s law. But in my sinful self I am a slave to the law of sin.

Life in the Spirit

8So now people that are in Christ Jesus are not judged guilty. Why? Because in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit* that brings life made you* free. It made you* free from the law that brings sin and death. The law* was without power because the law was made weak by our sinful selves. But God did what the law could not do. God sent his own Son to earth with the same human life that other

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adultery Breaking a marriage promise by sexual sin.

law God’s law. Here, it is the law of Moses.

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

“You ... people” Quote from Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21.

law God’s law. It is represented in the law of Moses.

you Some Greek copies have “me.”
people use for sin. God sent his Son to be an offering to pay for sin. So God used a human life to condemn (*destroy*) sin. God did this so that we could be right like the law said we must be. Now we don’t live following our sinful selves. We live following the Spirit.

5People that live following their sinful selves think only about things that their sinful selves want. But those people that live following the Spirit* are thinking about the things that the Spirit wants them to do. 6If a person’s thinking is controlled by his sinful self, then there is spiritual death. But if a person’s thinking is controlled by the Spirit, then there is life and peace. 7Why is this true? Because if a person’s thinking is controlled by his sinful self, then that person is against God. That person refuses to obey God’s law. And really that person is not able to obey God’s law. 8Those people that are ruled by their sinful selves cannot please God.

9But you are not ruled by your sinful selves. You are ruled by the Spirit,* if that Spirit of God really lives in you. But if any person does not have the Spirit of Christ, then that person does not belong to Christ. 10Your body will always be dead because of sin. But if Christ is in you, then the Spirit gives you life, because Christ made you right with God. 11God raised Jesus from death. And if God’s Spirit is living in you, then he will also give life to your bodies that die. God is the One who raised Christ from death. And he will give life to your bodies through his Spirit that lives in you.

12So, my brothers and sisters, we must not be ruled by our sinful selves. We must not live the way our sinful selves want. 13If you use your lives to do the wrong things your sinful selves want, then you will die spiritually. But if you use the Spirit’s* help to stop doing the wrong things you do with your body, then you will have *true* life.

14The true children of God are those people that let God’s Spirit lead them. 15The Spirit* that we received is not a spirit that makes us slaves again and causes us to fear. The Spirit that we have makes us God’s chosen children. And with that Spirit we say, “Abba,* Father.” 16And the Spirit himself speaks to our spirits and makes us sure that we are God’s children. 17If we are God’s children, then we will get the blessings God has for his people. We will get these things from God. God will give us all that he has given Christ. But we must suffer like Christ suffered. Then we will be able to share his glory.

### We Will Have Glory in the Future

18We have sufferings now. But the sufferings we have now are nothing compared to the great glory that will be given to us. 19Everything that God made is waiting with excitement for the time when God will show the world who his children are. The whole world wants very much for that to happen. 20Everything God made was changed to be like it was worth nothing. It did not want to change, but God decided to change it. But there was this hope: 21That everything God made would be made free from ruin (*decay*). There was hope that everything God made would have the freedom and glory that belong to God’s children.

22We know that everything God made has been waiting until now in pain like a woman ready to give birth to a child. 23Not only the world, but we also have been waiting with pain inside us. We have the Spirit* as the first part of God’s promise. So we are waiting for God to finish making us his own children. I mean we are waiting for our bodies to be made free. 24We were saved, and we have this hope. If we can see what we are waiting for, then that is not really hope. People don’t hope for something they already have. 25But we are hoping for something that we don’t have yet. We are waiting for it patiently.

26Also, the Spirit* helps us. We are very weak, but the Spirit helps us with our weakness. We don’t know how to pray like we should. But the Spirit himself speaks to God for us. The Spirit begs God for us. The Spirit speaks to God with deep feelings that words cannot explain. 27God can see what is in people’s hearts. And God knows what is in the
mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit speaks to God for his people in the way that God wants.  
28We know that in everything God works for the good of those people that love him. These are the people God called (chose), because that was his plan. 29God knew those people before he made the world. And God decided that those people would be like his Son (Jesus). Then Jesus would be the firstborn* of many brothers and sisters. 30God planned for those people to be like his Son. And he called (chose) those people. God called those people and made them right with him. And God gave his glory to those people that he made right.

God’s Love in Christ Jesus
31So what should we say about this? If God is for us, then no person can stand against us. And God is with us. 32He even let his own Son suffer for us. God gave his Son for us all. So with Jesus now, God will surely give us all things. 33Who can accuse the people that God has chosen? No one! God is the One who makes his people right. 34Who can say that God’s people are guilty? No one! Christ Jesus died for us, but that is not all. He was also raised from death. And now he is at God’s right side and is begging God for us. 35Can anything separate us from Christ’s love? No! Can trouble separate us from Christ’s love? No! Can problems or persecution* separate us from Christ’s love? No! If we have no food or clothes, will that separate us from Christ’s love? No! Will danger or even death separate us from Christ’s love? No! 36Like it is written in the Scriptures*:

“For you (Christ) we are in danger of death all the time. People think we are worth no more than sheep to be killed.” Psalm 44:22

37But in all these things we have full victory through God who showed his love for us. 38–39Yes, I am sure that nothing can separate us from God’s love—not death, not life, not angels or ruling spirits. I am sure that nothing now, nothing in the future, no powers, nothing above us or nothing below us—nothing in the whole created world—will ever be able to separate us from God’s love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God and the Jewish People
9I am in Christ and I am telling you the truth. I don’t lie. My deepest feelings are ruled by the Holy Spirit.* And those feelings tell me that I am not lying: 2I have great sorrow and always feel much sadness [for the Jewish people]. 3They are my brothers and sisters, my earthly family. I wish I could help them. I would even have a curse on me and cut myself off from Christ if that would help them. 4They are the people of Israel.* Those people (the Jews) are God’s chosen children. Those people have the glory of God and the agreements that God made between himself and his people. God gave them the law of Moses and the temple worship. And God gave his promises to those people (the Jews). 5Those people are the descendants* of our great fathers.* And they are the earthly family of Christ. Christ is God over all things. Praise him forever!* Amen.

6Yes, I feel sorry for the Jewish people. I don’t mean that God failed to keep his promise to them. But only some of the people of Israel (the Jews) are truly God’s people.* 7And only some of Abraham’s* descendants* are true children of Abraham (God’s people). This is what God said to Abraham:** “Isaac will be your only legal son.”* 8This means that not all of Abraham’s descendants are God’s true children. Abraham’s true children are those people that become God’s children because of the promise God made to Abraham. 9God’s

*firstborn The first male child in a family. Here, it probably means that Christ was the first in God’s family to share God’s glory.
*persecution Being hurt or bothered by Christ’s enemies.
*Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.
*Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.
*Israel The Jewish nation (people).
*descendants A person’s children and all their future families.
*father(s) Important ancestors of the Jews.
*Christ ... forever This can also mean, “May God, who rules over all things, be praised forever!”
*God’s people Literally, “Israel,” the people God chose to bring his blessings to the world.
*Abraham The most respected ancestor of the Jews.
*“Isaac ... son” Quote from Gen. 21:12.
At the right time I will come back, and Sarah will have a son.

And that is not all. Rebecca also had sons. And those sons had the same father. He is our father Isaac. But before the two sons were born, God told Rebecca, "The older son will serve the younger." This was before the boys had done anything good or bad. God said this before they were born so that the boy God chose would be chosen because of God's own plan. He was chosen because he was the one God wanted to call, not because of anything the boys did. Like the Scripture says, "I loved Jacob, but I hated Esau."

So what should we say about this? Is God not fair? We cannot say that. God said to Moses, "I will show mercy to the person that I want to show mercy to. I will show pity to the person that I want to show pity to." So God will choose the person he decides to show mercy to. And his choice does not depend on what people want or try to do. In the Scripture God says to Pharaoh: "I made you king so you could do this for me. I wanted to show my power in you. I wanted my name to be announced in all the world."

And Isaiah cries out about Israel:

So one of you will ask me: "If God controls the things we do, then why does God blame us?" Don't ask that. You are only people. And people have no right to question God. A clay jar does not question the man that made it. The jar does not say, "Why did you make me like this?"

The man that makes the jar can make anything he wants to make. He can use the same clay to make different things. He can make one thing for special purposes and another thing for daily use.

It is the same way with what God has done. God wanted to show his anger and to let people see his power. But God endured patiently those people he was angry with—people that were ready to be destroyed. God waited with patience so that he could make known his rich glory. God wanted to give that glory to the people that receive his mercy. God has prepared these people to have his glory. We are those people. We are the people God called (chose). God called us from the Jews and from the non-Jews. Like the Scripture says in the book of Hosea:

And Isaiah said:

So what does all this mean? It means this: That the non-Jews were not trying to make themselves right with God. But they were made right with God. They became right because of their faith. And the people of Israel tried to follow a law to make themselves right with God. But God made them right with himself. They became right because of their faith.

Israel The Jewish nation (people).

There are ... earth Quote from Isa. 10:22–23.

Sodom, Gomorrah Cities where evil people lived. God punished them by destroying their cities.
right with God. But they did not succeed.
32 Why not? Because they tried to make themselves right by the things they did. They did not trust in God to make them right. They fell over the stone that makes people fall. 33 The Scripture* talks about that stone:

“Look, I put in Zion* a stone
that will make people stumble.
It is a rock that will make people fall.
But any person that trusts in that rock will never be disappointed.”

Isaiah 8:14; 28:16

10 Brothers and sisters, the thing I want most is for all the Jews to be saved. That is my prayer to God. 2I can say this about the Jews: They really try to follow God. But they don’t know the right way. 3 They did not know the way that God makes people right with him. And they tried to make themselves right in their own way. So they did not accept God’s way of making people right. 4 Christ ended the law so that every person that believes in him is made right with God.

5 Moses writes about being made right by following the law. Moses says, “A person that wants to find life by following these things (the law) must do the things the law says.” 6 But this is what the Scripture* says about being made right through faith: “Don’t say to yourself, ‘Who will go up into heaven?’” (That means, “Who will go up to heaven to get Christ and bring him down to earth?”) 7 And don’t say, ‘Who will go down into the world below?’” (That means, “Who will go down to get Christ and bring him up from death?”) 8 This is what the Scripture says: “God’s teaching is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart.” That teaching is the teaching of faith that we tell people. 9 If you openly say, “Jesus is Lord,” and if you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from death, then you will be saved. 10 Yes, we believe with our heart, and so we are made right with God. And we use our mouth to say that we believe, and so we are saved. 11 Yes, the Scripture* says, “Any person that trusts in him (Christ) will never be disappointed.”** 12 That Scripture says “any person” because there is no difference between Jew and non-Jew. The same Lord is the Lord of all people. The Lord gives many blessings to all people that trust in him. 13 Yes, the Scripture says, “Every person that trusts in the Lord will be saved.”**

14 But before people can trust in the Lord for help, they must believe in him. And before people can believe in the Lord, they must hear about him. And for people to hear about the Lord, another person must tell them. 15 And before a person can go and tell them, that person must be sent. Like the Scriptures* say, “Beautiful are the feet of those people that come to tell good news.”*

16 But not all the Jews accepted that good news. Isaiah said, “Lord, who believed the things we told them?”** 17 So faith comes from hearing the Good News*. And people hear the Good News when a person tells them about Christ.

18 But I ask, “Did people not hear the Good News?” Yes, they heard—like the Scripture* says;

“Their voices went out all around the world.
Their words went everywhere in the world.”

Psalm 19:4

19 Again I ask, “Did the people of Israel* not understand?” Yes, they did understand. First, Moses says this for God:

“I will use a people that is not really a nation to make you jealous.
I will use a nation that does not understand to make you angry.”

Deuteronomy 32:21

20 Then Isaiah is bold enough to say this for God:

“Any person ... disappointed” Quote from Isa. 28:16.
“Every person ... saved” Quote from Joel 2:32.
“Beautiful ... good news” Quote from Isa. 52:7.
“Lord ... them” Quote from Isa. 53:1.
Good News The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.
Israel The Jewish nation (people).
“All day ... follow me”  Quote from Isa. 65:2.

Abraham The most respected ancestor of the Jews.

Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

Elijah A prophet that lived about 850 B.C.

prophets People that spoke for God.

altars An altar is a place where sacrifices are offered.

“Lord ... now” Quote from 1 Kings 19:10, 14.

Baal The name of a false god.

“I have ... Baal” Quote from 1 Kings 19:18.
Why? You don’t give life to the root. The root gives life to you. 

**19** You will say, “Branches were broken off so that I could be joined to their tree.” 

**20** That is true. But those branches were broken off because they did not believe. And you continue to be part of the tree only because you believe. Don’t be proud, but be afraid. **21** If God did not let the natural branches of that tree stay, then he will not let you stay if you don’t believe.

**22** So you see that God is kind, but he can also be very strict. God punishes those people that stop following him. But God is kind to you, if you continue following in his kindness. If you don’t continue following him, you will be cut off from the tree. **23** And if the Jews will believe in God again, then God will accept the Jews back again. God is able to put them back where they were. **24** It is not natural for a wild branch to become part of a good tree. But you non-Jews are like a branch cut from a wild olive tree. And you were joined to a good olive tree. But those Jews are like a branch that grew from the good tree. So surely they can be joined to their own tree again.

**25** I want you to understand this secret truth, brothers and sisters. This truth will help you understand that you don’t know everything. The truth is this: Part of Israel has been made stubborn. But that will change when enough non-Jews have come to God. **26** And that is how all Israel will be saved. It is written:

> “The Savior will come from Zion; 
> He will take away all evil from the family of Jacob.”

**Isaiah 59:20–21; 27:9**

**27** And I will make this agreement with those people when I take away their sins.”

**Isaiah 59:20–21; 27:9**

**28** The Jews refuse to accept the Good News, so they are God’s enemies. This has happened to help you non-Jews. But the Jews are still God’s chosen people. So God loves them very much. God loves them because of the promises he made to their fathers. **29** God never changes his mind about the people he calls and the things he gives them. And God never takes back his call to the people. **30** At one time you refused to obey God. But now you have received mercy, because those people (the Jews) refused to obey. **31** And now the Jews refuse to obey, because God showed mercy to you. But this happened so that they can also receive mercy from God. **32** All people have refused to obey God. God has put all people together as people that don’t obey him, so that God can show mercy to all people.

**Praise to God**

**33** Yes, God’s riches are very great! God’s wisdom and knowledge have no end! No person can explain the things God decides. No person can understand God’s ways. **34** Like the Scripture says,

> “Who knows the mind of the Lord? 
> Who is able to give God advice?”

**Isaiah 40:13**

**35** “Who has ever given God anything? 
> God owes nothing to any person.”

**Job 41:11**

**36** Yes, God made all things. And everything continues through God and for God. To God be the glory forever! Amen.

**Give Your Lives to God**

**12** So brothers and sisters, I beg you to do something. God has shown us great mercy. So offer your lives as a living sacrifice to God. Your offering must be only for God and will be pleasing to him. This offering of yourselves is the spiritual way for you to worship (serve) God. **2** Don’t change yourselves to be like the people of this world. But let God change you inside with a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide and accept what God wants for you. You will be able to know what things are good and pleasing to God and what things are perfect.

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**Israel** The Jewish nation (people).

**Scripture(s)** Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

**Zion** Another name for Jerusalem, the city of God’s people.

**Jacob** Father of the twelve family groups of Israel.

**Good News** The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

**sacrifice** An offering or gift to God.
3God has given me a special gift. That is why I have something to say to every person among you. Don’t think that you are better than you really are. You must see yourself like you really are. Decide what you are by the kind of faith God has given you. Each one of us has one body, and that body has many parts. These parts don’t all do the same thing. In the same way, we are many people, but in Christ we are all one body. We are the parts of that body. And each part of that body belongs to all the other parts. We all have different gifts. Each gift came because of the grace (kindness) that God gave us. If a person has the gift of prophecy, then that person should use that gift with the faith he has. If a person has the gift of serving, then that person should serve. If a person has the gift of teaching, then that person should teach. If a person has the gift of comforting other people, then that person should comfort. If a person has the gift of giving to help other people, then that person should give freely. If a person has the gift of being a leader, then that person should work hard when he leads. If a person has the gift of showing kindness to other people, then that person should be glad to do that.

9Your love must be real. Hate the things that are evil. Do only the things that are good. Love each other in a way that you feel close to each other like brothers and sisters. You should want to give your brothers and sisters more honor than you want for yourself. Don’t be lazy when you need to be working for the Lord. Be spiritually excited about serving him. Be happy because you have hope. Be patient when you have troubles. Pray all the time. Share with God’s people that need help. Look for people that need help, and welcome those people into your homes.

14Say only good things to those people that do bad things to you. Say good things to them and don’t curse them. When other people are happy, you should be happy with them. And when other people are sad, you should be sad with them. Live together in peace with each other. Don’t be proud. Be willing to be friends with people who are not important to other people. Don’t be conceited.

17If someone does wrong to you, don’t pay him back by doing wrong to him. Try to do the things that all people think are good. Do the best you can to live in peace with all people. My friends, don’t try to punish people when they do wrong to you. Wait for God to punish them with his anger. It is written: “I am the One who punishes; I will pay people back,” says the Lord. But you should do this: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if your enemy is thirsty, give him something to drink. In this way you will make that person ashamed.” Don’t let evil defeat you. You should defeat evil by doing good.

13Obey Your Government Rulers

All of you must obey the government rulers. Every person who rules was given the power to rule by God. And all the people that rule now were given that power by God. So the person that is against the government is really against something God has commanded. People that are against the government cause themselves to be punished. People that do right don’t have to fear the rulers. But those people that do wrong must fear the rulers. Do you want to be free from fearing the rulers? Then you should do right. If you do right, then the rulers will praise you. A ruler is God’s servant to help you. But if you do wrong, then be afraid. The ruler has the power to punish, and he will use that power. He is God’s servant to punish people that do wrong. So you must obey the government. You should obey because you might be punished if you don’t obey. And you should also obey because you know that is the right thing to do.

6And this is why you pay taxes too. Those rulers are working for God and give all their time to the work of ruling. Give all people what you owe them. If you owe them any kind of tax, then pay it. Show respect to the people

“i am ... back” Quote from Deut. 32:35.

you will make that person ashamed Literally, “you will pour burning coals on his head.” People in Old Testament times often put ashes on their heads to show they were sad or sorry.

“If your ... ashamed” Quote from Prov. 25:21–22.
Loving Other People Is the Only Law

8 Don’t owe people anything. But you will always owe love to each other. The person that loves other people has obeyed all the law.*
9 Why do I say this? Because the law says, “You must not do the sin of adultery,* you must not murder anyone, you must not steal anything, you must not want things that belong to other people.”* All these commands and all other commands are really only one rule: “Love other people the same as you love yourself.”* 10 Love doesn’t hurt other people. So loving is the same as obeying all the law.

11 I say these things because you know that we live in an important time. Yes, it is now time for you to wake up from your sleep. Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. 12 The night* is almost finished. The day* is almost here. So we should stop doing things that belong to darkness (sin). We should prepare ourselves to fight evil with the weapons that belong to the light (good). 13 We should live in a right way, like people that belong to the day. We should not have wild and wasteful parties. We should not be drunk. We should not do sexual sins or sin in any way with our bodies. We should not cause arguments and trouble or be jealous. 14 But become like the Lord Jesus Christ, so when people see what you do, they will see Christ. Don’t think about how to satisfy your sinful self and the bad things you want to do.

Don’t Criticize Other People

14 Don’t refuse to accept into your group a person that is weak in faith. And don’t argue with that person about his different ideas. 2 One person believes that he can eat any kind of food* he wants. But if another person’s faith is weak, then that person believes he can eat only vegetables.
3 The person that knows that he can eat any kind of food must not feel that he is better than the person that eats only vegetables. And the person that eats only vegetables must not decide that the person that eats all foods is wrong. God has accepted that person. 4 You cannot judge another person’s servant. His own master decides if he is doing right or wrong. And the Lord’s servant will be right, because the Lord is able to make him right.

5 One person might believe that one day is more important than another. And another person might believe that every day is the same. Each person should be sure about his own beliefs in his own mind. 6 The person that thinks one day is more important than other days is doing that for the Lord. And the person that eats all kinds of food is doing that for the Lord. Yes, he gives thanks to God for that food. And the person that refuses to eat some foods does that for the Lord. And he gives thanks to God.

7 Yes, we all live for the Lord. We don’t live or die for ourselves. 8 If we live, we are living for the Lord. And if we die, we are dying for the Lord. So living or dying, we belong to the Lord. 9 That is why Christ died and rose from death to live again. Christ did this so that he could be Lord (ruler) over people that have died and people that are living. 10 So why do you judge your brother in Christ? Or why do you think that you are better than your brother? We will all stand before God, and he will judge us all. 11 Yes, it is written in the Scriptures*:

“Every person will bow before me; every person will say that I am God.
As surely as I live, these things will happen, says the Lord (God).”

Isaiah 45:23

12 So each of us will have to explain to God about the things we do.

Don’t Cause Other People to Sin

13 So we should stop judging each other. We must decide not to do anything that will make a brother or sister weak or fall into sin. 14 I am in the Lord Jesus. And I know that there is no

Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.
food that is wrong to eat. But if a person believes that something is wrong, then that thing is wrong for him. 15If you hurt your brother’s faith because of something you eat, then you are not really following the way of love. Don’t destroy a person’s faith by eating something that he thinks is wrong. Christ died for that person. 16Don’t allow something that you think is good to become something that other people say is evil. 17In the kingdom of God, eating and drinking are not important. In the kingdom of God, the important things are these: living right with God, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18Any person who serves Christ by living this way is pleasing God. And that person will be accepted by other people. 19So let us try as hard as we can to do the things that make peace. And let us try to do the things that will help each other. 20Don’t let the eating of food destroy the work of God. All food is right to eat. But it is wrong for a person to eat something that makes another person fall into sin. 21It is better not to eat meat or drink wine if that makes your brother or sister fall into sin. It is better not to do anything that will make your brother or sister sin. 22Your beliefs about these things should be kept secret between yourself and God. What a blessing it is for a person if he can do the things he thinks are right without feeling guilty. 23But if a person eats something without being sure that it is right, then that person makes himself wrong. Why? Because that person did not believe that it was right. And if a person does anything without believing that it is right, then it is sin. 15We are strong with faith. So we should help the people who are weak. We should help those people with their weaknesses. We should not try to please ourselves. 2Each of us should please other people. We should do this to help them. We should try to help them be stronger in faith. 3Even Christ did not live trying to please himself. It was like the Scriptures said about him: “Those people that insulted you have also insulted me.” 4Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us. Those things were written so that we could have hope. That hope comes from the patience and strength that the Scriptures give us. 5Patience and strength come from God. And I pray that God will help you all agree together the way Christ Jesus wants. 6Then you will all be joined together. And all together you will give glory (praise) to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 7Christ accepted you. So you should accept each other. This will bring glory to God. 8I tell you that Christ became a servant of the Jews to show that what God promises is true. Christ did this to prove that God will do the things he promised the Jewish fathers. 9Christ also did this so that the non-Jews could give glory to God for the mercy he gives to them. The Scriptures say, “So I will give thanks to you among the non-Jewish people; I will sing praise to your name.” Psalm 18:49 10And the Scriptures also say, “You non-Jews should be happy together with God’s people.” Deuteronomy 32:43 11The Scriptures also say, “Praise the Lord all you non-Jews; all people should praise the Lord.” Psalm 117:1 12And Isaiah says, “A person will come from Jesse’s family. That person will come to rule over the non-Jews; and the non-Jews will have hope because of that person.” Isaiah 11:10 13I pray that the God who gives hope will fill you with much joy and peace while you trust in him. Then you will have more and

Spirit, Holy Spirit  Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world. Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.
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Romans 15:14–16:2

more hope, and it will flow out of you by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

Paul Talks About His Work

14 My brothers and sisters, I am sure that you are full of good. I know that you have all the knowledge you need and that you are able to teach each other. 15 But I have written to you very openly about some things that I wanted you to remember. I did this because God gave me this special gift: 16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus. God made me a minister to help the non-Jewish people. I serve God by teaching his Good News.* I do this so that the non-Jewish people may be an offering that God will accept. Those people are made holy* for God by the Holy Spirit.*

17 So I am proud of the things I have done for God in Christ Jesus. 18 I will not talk about anything I did myself. I will talk only about the things that Christ has done with me in leading the non-Jewish people to obey God. They have obeyed God because of the things I have said and done. 19 And they obeyed God because of the power of the miracles* and the great things they saw, and because of the power of God’s Spirit. I have told people the Good News* about Christ in every place from Jerusalem to Illyricum.* And so I have finished that part of my work. 20 I always want to tell the Good News in places where people have never heard of Christ. I do this because I don’t want to build on the work that another person has already started. 21 But it is written {in the Scriptures*}:

“The people that were not told about him (the Christ) will see,
and those people that have not heard about him will understand.”

Isaiah 52:15

Paul’s Plan to Visit Rome

22 That is why many times I was stopped from coming to you.
23 Now I have finished my work in these areas here. And for many years I have wanted to visit you. 24 So I will visit you when I go to Spain. Yes, I hope to visit you while I am traveling to Spain, and I will stay and enjoy being with you. Then you can help me on my trip. 25 Now I am going to Jerusalem to help God’s people. 26 Some of God’s people in Jerusalem are poor. And, the believers in Macedonia and Achaia wanted to help those people. So they gathered some money to give them. 27 The believers in Macedonia and Achaia were happy to do this. And really they should help those believers in Jerusalem. They should help because they are non-Jews and have shared in the Jews’ spiritual blessings. So they should use the things they have to help the Jews. They owe this to the Jews. 28 I must be sure that the poor people in Jerusalem get all this money that has been given for them. After I finish this work, then I will leave for Spain. While I am traveling to Spain, I will stop and visit you. 29 I know that when I visit you, I will bring you Christ’s full blessing.

Before and after the words “Paul Has Some Final Things to Say,” there is a number 16. This is likely an error in the text or a pagination issue. Therefore, the text is left as is without correction.

Paul Has Some Final Things to Say

16 I want you to know that you can trust our sister* in Christ, Phoebe. She is a special helper* in the church in Cenchrea. 2 I ask you to accept her in the Lord. Accept her

Spirit, Holy Spirit Also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, and the Comforter. Joined with God and Christ, he does God’s work among people in the world.

Good News The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

holy A holy person is pure, belongs only to God, and does only the things that God wants.

miracle(s) Amazing things done by the power of God.

Illyricum A Roman province far north and west of Greece.

Scripture(s) Holy Writings—the Old Testament.

special helper Literally, “deacon,” a Greek word meaning “servant.” See 1 Tim. 3:11.
the way God’s people should. Help her with anything she needs from you. She has helped me very much, and she has helped many other people too.

3 Say hello to Priscilla and Aquila. They work together with me in Christ Jesus. 4 They risked their own lives to save my life. I am thankful to them, and all the non-Jewish churches are thankful to them. 5 Also, say hello to the church that meets at their house.

Say hello to my dear friend Epapheltes. He was the first person to follow Christ in Asia.*

6 Say hello to Mary. She worked very hard for you. 7 Say hello to Andronicus and Junia. They are my relatives, and they were in prison with me. They were followers of Christ before I was. And they are some of the most important of the people that Christ sent out to do his work.* They were believers in Christ before I was. 8 Say hello to Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord. 9 Say hello to Urbanus. He is a worker together with me for Christ. And say hello to my dear friend Stachys. 10 Say hello to Apelles. He was tested and proved that he truly loves Christ. Say hello to all those people that are in the family of Aristobulus. 11 Say hello to Herodion, my relative. Say hello to all the people in the family of Narcissus that belong to the Lord. 12 Say hello to Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Those women work very hard for the Lord. Say hello to my dear friend Persis. She has also worked very hard for the Lord. 13 Say hello to Rufus. He is a special person in the Lord. Say hello to his mother. She has been a mother to me also. 14 Say hello to Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and all the brothers in Christ, that are with them. 15 Say hello to Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas. And say hello to all the saints (believers) with them.

16 When you see each other, say hello with a holy kiss. All of Christ’s churches (groups of believers) say hello to you.

17 Brothers and sisters, I ask you to be very careful of those people that cause people to be against each other. Be very careful of those people that upset other people’s faith. Those people are against the true teaching you learned. Stay away from those people. 18 People like that are not serving our Lord Christ. They are only doing things to please themselves. They use fancy talk and say nice things to fool the people that don’t know about evil. 19 All the believers have heard that you obey. So I am very happy because of you. But I want you to be wise about the things that are good. And I want you to know nothing about things that are evil.

20 The God that brings peace will soon defeat Satan (the devil) and give you power over him.

The grace (kindness) of our Lord Jesus be with you.

21 Timothy, a worker together with me, says hello to you. Also Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater (these are my relatives) says hello to you.

22 I am Tertius, and I am writing these things that Paul says. I say hello to you in the Lord.

23 Gaius is letting me and the whole church here use his home. He also says hello to you. Erastus and our brother Quartus say hello to you. Erastus is the city treasurer here. 24*

25 Glory to God. God is the One who can make you strong in faith. God can use the Good News* that I teach to make you strong. That is the Good News about Jesus Christ that I tell people. That Good News is the secret truth that God has made known. That secret truth was hidden since the beginning. 26 But that secret truth has now been shown to us. And that truth has been made known to all people. It has been made known by the things the prophets* wrote. This is what God commanded. And that secret truth has been made known to all people, so that they can believe and obey God. God lives forever.

27 Glory forever to the only wise God through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Verse 24 Some Greek copies add verse 24: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all of you. Amen.”

Good News The news that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with him forever.

Prophets People that spoke for God. Some of them wrote books that are part of the Old Testament.
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