

**Bible Study of Romans**  
**Romans 12 -16**

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**Introduction**

Chapters 12-16 are very practical. This is the heart of Christian living. Though various practical exhortations are found in the previous sections, here God details for His people what He expects from them in all kinds of different relationships.

So Paul's order is always first doctrine and then duty. According to Steele and Thomas, "This order is not accidental or irrelevant. Right thinking must precede right living. Only as we understand and receive by faith what God has done for us can we find the right motive and adopt the right methods for serving Him."

To preach or insist on duty without a sound doctrinal foundation is like building a house on sand. However, to preach doctrine without duty to God as its ultimate goal is like digging and laying a foundation without anything on top of it.

Matthew Henry wrote, "The foundation of Christian practice must be laid in Christian knowledge and faith. We must first understand how we receive Christ Jesus the Lord, and then we shall know the better how to walk in Him."

If we have been given the grace to understand and to receive the doctrines taught thus far in Romans, if you feel yourself an object of God's saving mercy, then you are under the most solemn obligation to study these closing chapters with as great care as the previous ones so that you might know and do what is required of you. There is no clearer proof that you experientially know the sound doctrines of grace but by the practice of godliness.

**OUTLINE OF CHAPTERS 12-16**

**Part I: What should be the attitude of the justified believer toward**

12:1-2	God: <i>present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God</i>
12:3-13	Fellow-Christians
3-8	- <i>we all are members of one body</i>
9-13	- <i>be kindly affectioned one to another</i>
12:14-21	Unsaved – including enemies: <i>Bless them that persecute you</i>
13:1-7	Authorities: <i>Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers</i>
13:8-10	Everybody: <i>owe no man anything but to love one another</i>
13:11-14	The Lord Jesus Christ: <i>Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh</i>
14:1-15:13	The weak and strong believers
14:1-23	- <i>him who is weak accept in faith</i>
15:1-13	- <i>we who are strong must bear the weak</i>

## Part II: Conclusions

15:14-16	Closing commendation and Explanation of boldness in writing
15:17-22	Review of the past
15:23-29	Plans for the future
15:30-33	Prayer Requests
16:1-16	Commendations of various Christians in Rome and beyond
16:17-20	Final warning
16:21-23	Final greeting of friends
16:25-27	Doxology

### SUGGESTED DISCUSSION QUESTIONS ON ROMANS 12:1-8

1. What is the phrase 'by the mercies of God' refer to? Since it is 'mercies' what particulars can you list? How consciously do we live out the awareness of these mercies on a daily basis?
2. We are to present our 'bodies' sacrificially in the service to our Redeemer. Practically what would that mean? Is that to be done for our fellow believers mostly or only? Is there anything in this chapter that would expound this?
3. The sacrifice has to be 'living, holy and acceptable unto God.' How do we understand this and how can we even reach the level of 'acceptable unto God?'
4. What is 'world conformity?' Does the second half of vs. 2 help to expound this phrase?
5. Our minds need to be transformed by a renewing. What of the mind needs renewing? Are we thinking about habits, principles, values, how we always thought?
6. What is the only method or channel of this transformation?
7. God's grace never works uniformity but rather brings unity in diversity. How do the verses in this section expound this?
8. The two dangers we mostly face when we live with other believers in the body of the church is to 'overestimate oneself' or 'underestimate oneself' with regard to the gifts God has given us. How does Paul meet these two dangers?
9. According to 1 Peter 4:10 every believer has been given a gift corresponding to his or her part in the 'body of Christ.' Do some self-reflection on your God given gifts. Or if you are not clear that it is, discuss how you might be able to discover your gift.