# Week 2: A life of love, sacrifice, and submission

## Week 2: A life of love, sacrifice, and submission. Chapters 12-14

- **Brief introduction about St. Paul**
    - Roman Citizen: Born a Roman citizen, enabling safe travel and legal protection.
    - Greek education: Born in Tarsus, major center of Greek learning, exposure to Greek philosophy.
    - Jewish heritage: Adhering to Jewish law and traditions and studied under Rabbi Gamaliel in Jerusalem
    - **1st Journey (44 AD, 2 years):**
        - Asia Minor (Turkey), with Barnabus and St. Mark.
        - After this journey, a council is held among the apostles and elders of the church in Jerusalem to determine that the gentile converts need not submit to the Law of Moses regarding circumcision.
    - **2nd Journey (51 AD, 3 years):**
        - Mainly in Macedonia (Greece), with Silas and Luke.
        - 2 Epistles: 1 & 2 Thessalonians.
    - **3rd Journey (54 AD, 4 years):**
        - Asia minor and Macedonia
        - 4 Epistles: Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians.
    - **4th Journey (Rome):**

    - 8 Epistles: 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, Hebrews.

- The Lord said to him: "I will send you far from here to the Gentiles" (Acts 22:21)

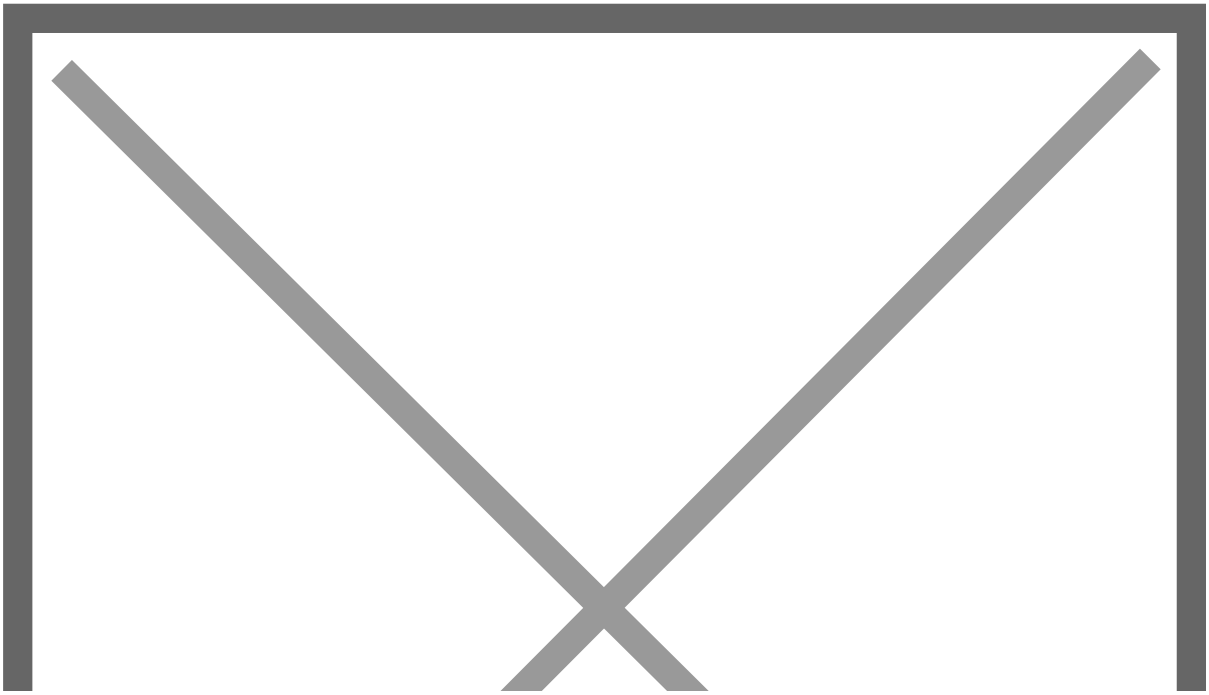
- Unmarried: “For I wish that all men were even as I myself. But each one has his own gift from God, one in this manner and another in that." 1 Corinth 7:7

- **His early preparation for ministry**
- **Missionary trips**

- **St. Paul** wrote 14 epistles out of the 27 books in the New Testament.

- **Known as the Apostle of the Gentiles**

- **Received 4 crowns**: martyrdom, purity, apostleship, and righteousness.



- **Introduction:**
  - Author: St. Paul
  - Written to: believers in Rome
  - Time of writing:
    - 58 AD in Corinth, before Paul’s visit to Rome in 62 AD
  - Purpose of the book
    - The need for all people, Jews or Gentiles, to be justified by Christ.
    - How a person can obtain justification and its blessings in life.
    - The rejection of faith by many Jews is temporary, but some will return to faith in Christ after the Gentiles accept the faith.
    - Basic teachings for practical Christian living.
    - Care for those weak in faith and encourage them
- **Outline**
  - The apostolic blessing and encouragement of the believers (Chapter 1).

- The need for all humanity to be justified by Christ, how they can receive it, and its blessings (Chapters 2–8).
- God chose the Gentiles just as He did to the Jews, who rejected Him but they will repent at the end of days (Chapters 9–11).
- Practical commandments for Christian behavior (Chapters 12–15).
- Paul’s fatherly care and his greetings to his beloved friends (Chapter 16).

- **Reading:**
  - Chapter 12-14
- **Resources:**
  - Bible Explanation of the Epistle to Romans - Fr. Daoud Lamei English
  - The Epistle to Romans by Fr. Tadros Yacoub Malaty- English
- **Key verse:**
  - “For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. for if we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore we live or die, we are the Lord's." Romans 14:7-7
- **Comments: Chapter 12**

1. **Sanctifying the Body and Mind for a Spiritual Life with God (Romans 12:1-2)**
   - We should offer our bodies and minds to God and do everything for the glory of God, while sacrificing and rejecting every desire that contradicts God's commandments.
   - We should not confirm to the ways of the world.
     - The world behaviors and habits are against God's commandments.
     - Know that while you live in the world your principles are different from it.
     - **Contemplation:** If you have been drawn into some improper actions, you need repentance and the renewal of your mind, so that you may live for the love of God.
   - **Types of gifts in the Church (Romans 12: 3:8)**
     - The work of service is fundamentally based on trust in God's work, regardless of human limitations.
     - God is a God of order—He established the members of His Church like parts of one body, each with a distinct role and function, different yet complementary. The gifts given to each member are meant for serving others, not for personal pride.
       - **Prophecy:** Speaking God's truth with faith.
       - **Service:** Helping and serving others.
       - **Teaching:** Explaining the word of God
       - **Exhortation:** Encouraging and strengthening others.
       - **Leadership:** Administration
       - **Mercy:** Showing compassion with Joy
   - **Virtues in the Christian community (Romans 12:9-21):**

        - Sincere love: Genuine love without hypocrisy
        - Rejecting evil: Hating what is evil and cling to what is good
        - Caring for one another
        - Serving the Lord with enthusiasm
        - Joyful, patience, and prayer
        - Sharing with those in need and welcoming them
        - Blessing your enemies
        - Empathy: rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep
        - Humility
        - Avoiding retaliation: Not repaying evil with evil but overcoming it with good.
    - **Contemplation**: We are called to acquire all these virtues to truly become a children of God.
- **Duties of a Christian Toward Society (Romans 13:1-7)**
    - Submission to authority: We are called to submit to authority because they are established by God. Those who resist authority, resist God
    - Respect for rulers: We are called to respect our leaders
    - Obey the law: We are called to obey the laws unless they contradict God's commands.
    - Living peacefully: We are called to live peacefully and responsibly
- **Loving everyone (Romans 13:8-10)**
    - **Universal Love** – Christian love is not limited to friends or fellow believers but extends to **all people,** reflecting God's love for the world.
    - If you have fallen into many sins and struggled to resist sin, know that the easiest path is to love everyone.
- **Repent now before time runs out (Romans 13: 11-14)**
    - We must reject sinful behaviors and walk in the light of Christ.
    - Put on the Armor of God
        - **Ask yourself:** Would I commit this sin if people could see me now? And the more important question: Can I commit this sin while God is watching me now?"
- **Accepting the weak in faith (Romans 14:1-12)**
    - We should welcome those who are weak in faith without judgment
    - Avoid argument over personal and non essential matters
    - **We Live for the Lord** – "For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord" (Romans 14:7-8)
- **Do not cause others to stumble (Romans 14:13-23)**
    - As children of God, we need to be careful with our actions.
    - For example, (If your father of confession gave you absolution to eat specific food during fasting) don't eat non fasting food in front of others
    - Avoid gossiping and making others to fall into sin
    - Avoid cursing or using hurtful words
    - Don't lie or encouraging others to lie

2. **Review/recap questions**

    ** Servant may add more questions

8. **Homework**

    ** Servant may add more questions

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