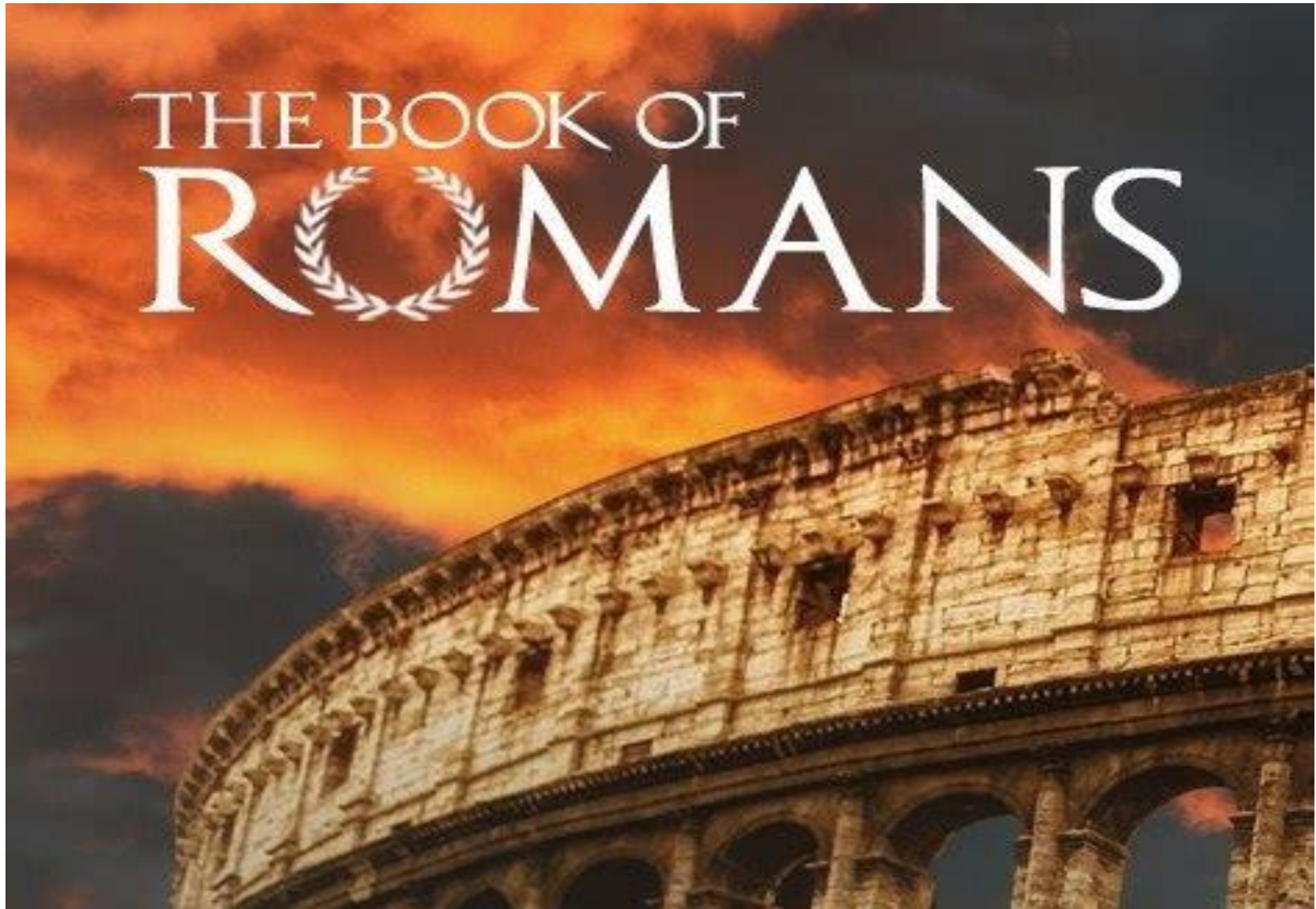


Rom 12:14-16

The Christian's Relationship to All Men



Chapter 12 High Level Overview*



- The Christian's relationship to God v:1-2
- The Christian's relationship to gifts of the Spirit v:3-8
- The Christian's relationship to other believers v:9-13
- The Christian's relationship to all men v:14-21

from fellow
Christians to your
enemy

A blue arrow originates from the right side of the yellow box and points diagonally upwards and to the right, ending at the text 'The Christian's relationship to all men' in the list above.

*edited J Veron McGee

v:9-13 Thirteen exhortations of our new life in Christ



Let love be without hypocrisy.

Abhor [loathing] what is evil;

Cling [stick fast] to what is good.

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love;

give *preference* to one another in honor;

not lagging behind in diligence,

fervent in spirit,

serving the Lord;

rejoicing in hope,

persevering [patient] in tribulation,

devoted to prayer,

contributing [being a sharer] to the needs of the saints,

practicing [eager to show] hospitality.

How are we to accomplish these exhortations



Col 2:6 Therefore as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him,

You received Him by faith

Faith in the person and work of Christ

You are now to walk by faith

Gal 5:16 But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.

Rom 6:4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might **walk in newness of life**.

Today's Verses



¹⁴ **Bless** those who persecute you; **bless** and do not curse.

¹⁵ **Rejoice** with those who **rejoice**, and **weep** with those who **weep**.

¹⁶ Be of the same **mind** toward one another; do not be haughty in **mind**, but associate with the lowly. Do not be wise in your own estimation.

- Verse 14 How does a Christian handle persecution
- Verse 15 Sharing, rejoicing and weeping
- Verse 16 The Christian thinking toward one another and ones' self

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.



[you] **bless the ones persecuting you** Interlinear

- **bless** is the verb and **the ones persecuting you** is direct object
- key questions: what does **bless** mean? and what does **persecute** mean?
- So Paul is talking about the Christian's reaction to persecution

persecuting – *diōkō* – lit: to pursue

present tense - so it's a continuous action

- So you as a Christian are continually being persecuted
- What is your response to be?

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.



bless - *eulogeō* - to speak well of (*eu*, "well," *logos*, "a word"), to invoke blessings upon a person

- present tense – so it's to be a continuous action
- imperative – God's will and active – you do it

How to understand “**speaking well**” of a persecutor McCalley

- option1 – to speak well of someone
 - speak well of with praise and thanksgiving
- option2 – to speak well to someone
 - God's action in their lives or God's intervention to accomplish His will [their salvation]
- Blessing involves both wishing God's best on people and praying for them. Constable

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.



Same instruction in Sermon on the Mount:

- Matt 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who **persecute you**.
- Luke 6:28 bless those who **curse you**, pray for those who **mistreat you**.

But Paul now applies it to the Church age and adds an additional instruction:

[you] **bless and do not curse**

lit: be blessing and **stop cursing**

Paul is assuming the action is already going on

curse - *kataraoimai* - to pray against, to wish evil against a person or thing

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

[you] rejoice with rejoicing ones

Interlinear



rejoice – *chairō* - to rejoice, be glad

- present tense – again, it's to be a continuous action
 - [continually] rejoicing in the sphere of hope - Rom 12:12
 - as for the rest of my brethren, be constantly rejoicing in the Lord. Phil 3:1

with – lit: with those rejoicing ones

- Now I rejoice at the coming of [these men], --- for they refreshed my spirit and yours. 1 Cor 16:17
- [I have Epaphroditus] so that when you see him again you may rejoice. Phil 2:28

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.



[you] **weep with weeping ones**

weep – *klaiō* - to weep, wail, lament, not only the shedding of tears, but also the expression of grief

- present tense – it's to be a continuous action

with - lit: with those **weeping ones**

- Luke 7:13 When the Lord saw her, **He felt compassion** for her, and said to her, "Do not weep."
- 1 Cor 12:26a And if one member suffers, **all the members suffer** with it.
- Phil 4:14 All the same, you did a beautiful thing when **you made yourselves fellow partakers** with me in my tribulation.

16a Be of the same mind toward one another;



[you be] **thinking the same thing toward one another**

thinking - *phronéō* - to think, have a mindset, to be minded

the same thing – *to auto* - generally it means the same,
not different (i.e. agreement)

toward – *eis* – with respect **one another**

- **Toward one another** points to the idea of loving unanimity [harmony]. Denney
- Let each so enter into the feelings and desires of the other as to be of one mind with him. Gifford
- It is not uniformity but unanimity of which Paul is speaking here. Alford
- Next verses on **same mindedness**:

16a Be of the same mind toward one another;

[you be] **thinking the same thing toward one another** Interlineal



- Rom 15:5 Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of **the same mind** with one another “**according to**” Christ Jesus.
- Phil 2:2 make my joy complete by being of **the same mind**, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.
- Phil 4:2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in **harmony in the Lord**.

^{16b} not thinking the high things, but being willing to go to the humble things [ones] Interlinear



Now we are given several warnings about our **thinking!**

- The negatives which follow, “introduce clauses: that forbid what would destroy the unanimity of love.” Denney

1st - not thinking the high things

high things - *hypsēlos* - meaning high, highly esteemed, regarded with pride, haughty

- Luke 16:15b but God knows your hearts; for that which is **highly esteemed** among men is detestable in the sight of God.
- Rom 12:3a For through the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not **to think more highly of himself** than he ought to think.
- **High things** are a continual temptation.

Newell

16b not thinking the high things, but being willing to go to the humble things [ones] Interlinear 

2nd – but being willing to go to the humble things [ones]

but – *alla* – sharp contrast

being willing to go to - *sunapágō* – of being led of or
carried away – present, passive

- *sunapagō*, "to lead away or together," in passive voice, it means "to be carried away with, to yield or submit one's self to" lowly things or conditions Wuest

humble things [ones] - *tapeinós* - of condition or lot, meaning humble, poor, of low degree

2 Cor 10:1 Now I, Paul, myself urge you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am meek when face to face with you, but bold toward you when absent!

16c Do not be wise in your own estimation.



3rd - Stop being those who are wise in their own opinion*

- The action is assumed to already be going on
- So Paul tells us to stop being wise in our own estimation/opinion

Rom 11:25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery—so that you will not be wise in your own estimation

wise - *phronimos* - wise (in your own conceits), lit: wise (in yourselves), i.e., judged by the standard of your self-complacency

Vine

Prov 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

* Wuest

Final Thoughts



Phil 2:2 make my joy complete **by being of the same mind** [thinking the same thing], maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but **with humility of mind** [lowliness of mind] regard one another as more important than yourselves;

⁴ do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

⁵ **Have this attitude** [mind] in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.