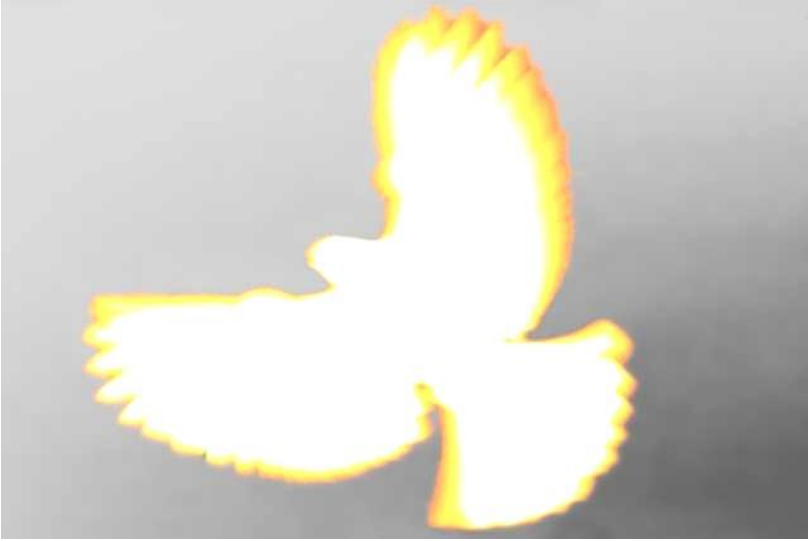


# *Apostle Of All Peoples*



## Meditations on St. Paul's *"The Letter To The Romans"*

**written by Paul Buis**

# Table Of Contents

Introduction.....	- 3 -
Romans 1 .....	- 4 -
Romans 2 .....	- 5 -
Romans 3 .....	- 6 -
Romans 4 .....	- 7 -
Romans 5 .....	- 8 -
Romans 6 .....	- 9 -
Romans 7 .....	- 10 -
Romans 8 .....	- 11 -
Romans 9 .....	- 13 -
Romans 10 .....	- 14 -
Romans 11 .....	- 15 -
Romans 12 .....	- 16 -
Romans 13 .....	- 17 -
Romans 14 .....	- 18 -
Romans 15 .....	- 19 -
Romans 16 .....	- 20 -
References.....	- 21 -
Copyright Notice.....	- 21 -

## Introduction

St. Paul was sent by Jesus Christ to bring the Good News of the Gospel beyond the borders of Israel. The Letter to the Romans was written by St. Paul around A.D. 57 in Greece. His epistle was written in advance of a planned trip to evangelize in Rome and beyond to Spain and to the western ends of the Roman Empire. The epistle is addressed to Christians of both Jewish and Gentile origin, and it aims to establish a common ground for all believers. St. Paul exhorts how the Gospel of love is the fulfillment of the law and that faith in Christ Jesus is the sole means of justification by which salvation will be secured for all peoples.

*“Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the Gospel of God, ... Through Him we have received the grace of apostleship, to bring about the obedience of faith, for the sake of His name, among all the Gentiles, among whom are you also, who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.”*  
(Romans 1.1,5,6)

May the power of the Word spoken through the writings of St. Paul build up our hearts and minds in the faith of Christ Jesus, in the hope of salvation He won for us on the cross, and in the love He has called us to live out among our Sisters and Brothers.

# Romans 1

## Fallen Away

The Gospel is God's power shown:  
Salvation for all who believe,  
The truth of righteousness is known --  
Faith and life for those who receive.

God's wrath is revealed from above  
Against the ways of wickedness:  
Which conspire to conquer love,  
And replace life with emptiness.

Creation bears His attributes,  
Yet hearts turned to idolatry.  
Preferring their own works, like brutes,  
They fell into perversity.

Seeking false fulfillment, they chose  
Their pride, greed, lust and gluttony;  
To prop up their falseness, arose  
Works of sloth, anger, and envy.

Hearts have forsaken the true God;  
In wicked ways, all hearts have trod.

May the Lord show to us the wickedness that broods in our  
own hearts so that we may begin to turn from it and turn back  
to the true God.

## Romans 2

### A Call To Repent

The hearts that judge are not excused  
From the true judgment held for them;  
By the same standard they have used,  
The judgment of God will condemn.

Do you not value God's kindness?  
His patient strength, set to rescue  
You, and lead you to repentance?  
A stubborn heart will condemn you.

To the good hearts that persevere,  
In good works, life eternal waits;  
To wicked hearts who will not hear  
Him, wrath and fury ne'er abates.

All those who sin outside the law  
Will perish, be they Jew or Greek;  
Yet those who keep it well will draw  
The life eternal that they seek.

The law is written on each heart;  
The conscience bears a true witness.  
All that is false will fall apart,  
As truth's revealed through Christ Jesus.

In truth, the good look to that day;  
With grateful hearts, they live and pray.

May the mercy of God soften our hardened hearts and draw us  
home to the Father through Christ Jesus.

## Romans 3

### Faith Justifies

Only the Lord is truly just;  
No one is righteous in His sight.  
Before the law, all are but dust --  
Feeble creatures which shun the light.

All are condemned under the law;  
And works alone can't justify  
The stained creature, which is but straw --  
Only God's grace can sanctify.

But now, apart from law and deed,  
God's righteousness has been revealed.  
Redemption's here for those who heed  
This Gospel by which sin's repealed.

God put forth Jesus to atone  
Once for all, by His blood outpoured,  
As sacrifice, which He alone  
Could give – through Him, life is restored!

Through faith in Jesus Christ, His grace  
Will justify and will forgive  
Past sins; as His gift, He'll erase  
Their mark – those who believe will live!

By this faith, the law is upheld;  
In Christ, justice and mercy meld.

May the Spirit grant us the gift of faith that we may believe  
and be justified by the free gift of redemption offered to us in  
the mercy of Christ Jesus.

## Romans 4

### Faith Of Our Father

By faith, our father Abraham,  
Despite his age and barren wife,  
Held fast in faith to the I AM --  
A miracle – they bore new life.

He had no disbelief nor doubt;  
His faith confirmed and empowered  
His aging heart to remain stout –  
In his strength, God’s graces showered.

“A father of many nations”  
Was promised him, and he believed:  
Not wavered by tribulations;  
His faith, as righteousness, received.

By faith alone; not by the law  
Was Abraham’s covenant set;  
All those who walk his path will draw  
God’s promise they will inherit.

His faith shines for generations;  
His steadfast hope undergirds ours;  
A father of many nations --  
His offspring number as the stars.

So too, in Jesus we believe;  
By faith alone, we will receive.

May the example of our father Abraham instill in us the deep desire to ask the Spirit for the gift of a strong and unwavering faith to gird our beings and to draw our spirits deeply into God.

## Romans 5

### Acquitted By The Cross

Justified by faith, we have peace  
With God, through Jesus, in His grace;  
Our hope is glory that won't cease –  
Through Christ, all our sins, He'll erase.

Afflictions teach us to endure  
That character, to hope, may grow;  
In His Spirit, our hope is sure –  
His love outpoured, our hearts do know.

He died for us when we were sin  
To prove His love and justify  
Us in His blood – He saved us in  
His love – mercy He won't deny.

Just as through one, sin came to earth --  
And death to all, as all had sinned;  
Now too, through One, by our re-birth,  
The reign of sin and death rescind.

The gracious gift of Christ outflows  
For all who accept Him as Lord:  
Acquitted of past sins, one knows  
The riches of mercy outpoured.

Unto His death, Jesus obeyed;  
That all sins' charges may be stayed.

May the power of the cross of Jesus Christ draw the  
transforming grace of His mercy down to reconcile our hearts  
to Himself in His saving love.



## Romans 6

### Freed Slaves of Christ

We were baptized into Christ's death,  
That we might rise with Him anew  
To life, by the Creator's breath –  
His Spirit, in us, He'll imbue.

With Him, the old self's crucified;  
And with it, slavery to sin.  
To ways of sin and flesh, we've died,  
That through Christ, new life may begin.

Christ died to sin once and for all;  
And through Him, death's reign is conquered.  
In His new life, loosed from sin's pall,  
We live for God, through Christ our Lord.

Our moral flesh, with its desire,  
Loosed from sin's hold, no longer reigns  
Over our hearts with its deep mire –  
By grace, we are freed from its chains.

Our new master is holiness;  
In serving, we are sanctified.  
The old master was lawlessness;  
In ways of sin, we would have died.

Thanks be to God, by grace we're freed;  
As slaves of Christ, in word and deed.

May the Spirit lead us to cherish the freedom of the children  
of God and redouble our resolve to abandon our former ways  
of sin.

## Romans 7

### Spirit And Flesh

As marriage binds to one's last breath,  
So are we bound to Christ our Lord:  
In Him, the flesh is put to death,  
And ways of Spirit are restored.

Under the law, in flesh, we sinned  
As sin rebelled to the law's force;  
The force of law, Christ did rescind,  
That we may run the Spirit's course.

To bear fruit for God in Spirit,  
Serving, renewed in life by grace;  
To know the Truth and then live it –  
This is our purpose and our place.

Yet base my heart sometimes remains  
And then I fail to follow through;  
As sin seizes my heart in chains,  
Woe is this state I can't construe!

In flesh, the force of law will stand;  
In spirit, we're at Christ's command.

May the Spirit breathe life into our spirits that we may leave  
the ways of flesh and sin behind and follow Him wherever He  
leads us.

## Romans 8

### Children of God

The ones who are in Christ are free  
In the spirit of life and love;  
For the Son paid the penalty  
Of sin that we might rise above.

The spirit leads to life and peace:  
Submitting to God's law apart  
From flesh, effects of sin decrease  
As God's Spirit dwells in the heart.

In the Spirit, Christ dwells in you  
And in His life, your spirit lives;  
Your flesh, in turn, will see life too  
Through the same life His Spirit gives.

In the Spirit, God's children cry,  
"Abba, Father! Your will be done."  
As heirs with Christ, who'll glorify  
Their sufferings -- with Him, they're one.

All distress pales next to glory  
To be revealed in the kingdom;  
For all creation yearns to see  
And share in God's children's freedom.

In hope of glory, we are saved;  
With endurance our hearts hold out  
Against the flesh, which had enslaved  
Us – now our hope shields us from doubt.

The Spirit's sighs come to our aid  
To intercede as God would will;  
As imperfectly as we've prayed,  
He lifts our prayers with perfect skill.

All works for good in His purpose  
For those who love Him as they can;  
What holds us back? – God is for us  
Though His Son, salvation's the plan!

He grants us all besides His Son;  
If God acquits, who can condemn?  
By His Son's death, salvation's won –  
Nothing holds us from the I AM!

In all we face, victory's sure  
Through Him who loves us to the end.  
Within His love, we're held secure;  
In Christ, our true Brother and Friend.

Nothing can take us from His love!  
In all, with Him, we rise above.

As His children, may we not hesitate to cry out 'Abba, Father!'  
to Him who has called us to be restored into the image of His  
Son by the power of His Spirit in the hope of His glory.

## Romans 9

### Only In Christ

Through Israel, God was revealed  
By prophets, law, and covenant;  
Through Jesus Christ, sin is repealed  
For all God's peoples, He was sent.

For those who would not heed His word,  
Our hearts lament their greatest loss;  
Only from Christ is good news heard --  
For salvation comes from the cross.

God predestined those whom He calls;  
He has mercy on whom He wills.  
Not by one's works will grace befall --  
Salvation's not wrought by one's skills.

By faith true righteousness is wrought;  
Apart from Christ, all else is naught.

May the Spirit lead all peoples to the knowledge of salvation  
by faith in Jesus Christ through the loving mercy of His cross.

## Romans 10

### Receiving Him In Faith

For all persons of faith, the Lord  
Is the end of all ways and means;  
Through Him, salvation is restored  
For all who trust in Him unseen.

The Word is in your mouth and heart:  
If you profess Him and believe,  
God raised Him up, He will impart  
Life eternal -- you will receive.

He's Lord of all who call on Him:  
For those who've heard and then received  
The Good News preached, have gained the vim  
Of His Spirit as they've believed.

Faith comes first from hearing the Word:  
For those whose hardened hearts won't heed  
The Word of Christ – their minds inured  
In their old ways -- He cannot lead.

He calls on those who hear His Word;  
Their trusting, open hearts have heard.

May the Lord open our ears and hearts to hear His Word, that  
we may absorb it deeply with the gift of faith.

## Romans 11

### Mercy's Mystery

Surely the Lord does not disown  
The peoples whose hearts have hardened:  
To a remnant, His mercy's shown;  
And by grace, their sins are pardoned.

In sleep, the hardened hearts remain;  
Unable to perceive Him near.  
Left to themselves, they've made their bane  
In lives wanton with angst and fear.

From Israel, root of Jesse,  
Those called to Christ are grafted on  
The tree of life, in place of these,  
Whose hearts were pruned by grace withdrawn.

For the Father will graft and prune  
The tree of life as He sees best;  
No soul alive remains immune –  
Faith must bear fruit to remain blessed.

For God had all hearts set in sin,  
That He might have mercy on all.  
How great His mind! Who could begin  
To know His depths? His works enthrall!

From Him and through Him are all things;  
All glory to Him, King of kings!

May the mystery of God's great mercy hearten our hope with  
the conviction that the Father wills all peoples to come to the  
knowledge and desire of salvation.

## Romans 12

### Maxims

Let your flesh be an offering  
Of sanctity unto the Lord;  
Renew your mind, not conforming  
To this age – in Him be restored.

Strive to discern what is God's will --  
What conforms to His plan of grace;  
In faith, serve Him with all your skill,  
According to your role and place.

Though many, we are one body  
In Christ; in Him each has a part.  
Preserve your soul in sanctity;  
Love one another from the heart.

In hope, rejoice; trials endure;  
With fervor, in prayer, persevere.  
From hearts outpoured, embrace the poor;  
In the lowly, the Lord draws near.

Strive to love those who have harmed you;  
On your part, be at peace with all.  
With love as your defense, subdue  
Evil – hold fast and fell the wall.

This is the power of the cross:  
He is our gain when all seems loss.

May charity towards all, particularly those who harm us,  
undergird and govern our hearts and minds.



## Romans 13

### Now Is The Time

All persons are called to obey  
Those whom the Lord placed over them;  
The rebel causes disarray --  
Conduct which the Lord will condemn.

Do what is good and they'll approve;  
Pay what is owed to whom it's due;  
Owe nothing to no one, but love --  
Love fulfills all we're called to do.

Now is the time to rouse from sleep,  
For salvation is drawing near.  
The night has passed; the new dawn sweeps  
Away the works of doubt and fear.

Put on pristine armor of light:  
In conduct proper to the day,  
Let evil be left with the night --  
In all good works, do not delay!

Keep no provisions for desires;  
Put on the Lord and douse your fires.

May the Spirit grant us the grace to accept our lowly place as  
designed by the Lord, with humble gratitude, so that obedience  
will come more easily to our instinctively rebellious hearts.

## Romans 14

### Community Of Faith

Welcome the one whose faith's still weak;  
For God meets new hearts where they stand.  
Do not pass judgment when they speak;  
Nor hope they'll change at your command.

Beliefs and customs will vary:  
Let their convictions remain strong;  
What is different's not contrary –  
For to One God we all belong.

Before His judgment all will stand:  
Let us resolve never to place  
Obstacles; strive to understand  
That souls are being formed by grace.

Salvation's not based on custom;  
All must strive to live holiness,  
With peace and joy in His kingdom,  
Through His Spirit, marked with kindness.

Those who serve in this way do please  
The Lord and are approved by all;  
Let us build up each one in peace  
And not cause any one to fall.

At all times, in God's presence stay,  
With faith at the heart of actions;  
For one's doubts and judgements will lay  
Stumbling blocks and lead to factions.

We are all one in unity;  
On faith we build community.

May the Spirit provide us with the gifts of patient endurance and love that we may be able to work in building up one another in a community of kindness and peace.

## **Romans 15**

### **United In Hope**

Bear with each other patiently;  
Seek to please others for the good,  
And to build up, in harmony,  
Each other's heart, as Jesus would.

With one voice and with one accord,  
Glorify God in unity;  
Support each other, in the Lord  
To endure as community.

For Christ came as truth manifest  
To fulfill promises of old:  
All peoples of faith would be blest  
In Him -- mercy's riches untold.

The scriptures were written to teach  
And encourage our hearts to be  
Filled with true joy and peace -- to reach  
Hope that flows from eternity.

May the God of hope fill you all  
With joy and peace in believing;  
May the Spirit's power enthrall  
Your hearts in hope receiving.

May the God of peace be with you;  
In the Spirit, keep your hearts true.

May the Spirit draw us in unity with one another, that we may bear with each other patiently, and strive for the unity of heart that the Lord calls us to.

## **Romans 16**

### **Stand Guard**

Watch out for those who build dissent  
And obstacles to the teaching  
You have received; they circumvent  
The Lord's grace with their vain leaching.

The Lord's not served – their appetites  
Govern their hearts; with honey speech  
They will misguide; by their false lights,  
The trust of brotherhood they breach.

Be wise to what is truly good,  
And simple to what is evil;  
In this way, God conquers the shrewd  
Satan – quelling the upheaval.

Through Him our strength is surely found;  
With Him, in faith, all is revealed;  
In Him, the prophecies resound  
What was for long ages concealed.

To God, through Jesus Christ, glory!  
To you, may His grace flow freely.

May the Spirit grant us the graces of discernment and vigilance to guard our hearts against the deceptions of darkness that we may always walk in the light of Christ.

## References

Scripture quotations are adapted from several Catholic editions

## Copyright Notice

© Paul Buis, OCDS, 2005, Replication not permitted without permission

Visit our website **[www.littleway.ca](http://www.littleway.ca)** for information on booklets of meditations which are written by the author.