

**Some important parts of the
letter that Paul wrote to the
Christians at Rome
(From the book in the Holy Bible
called Romans)
About this letter**

Paul wrote this letter about 2,000 years ago, about 20 years after Jesus went back to heaven, and it is now in the Holy Bible.

Paul wrote this letter to the Christians that were living in the city called Rome, in the country called Italy, where Italian people come from. At that time Rome was a very important city.

Some of the Christians in Rome were Jews. That means that they belonged to the same nation as Jesus, and Paul, and most of the other people in the Holy Bible. But some other Christians in Rome were not Jews.

A long time before Paul wrote this letter, God gave a special law to the Jews. He didn't give that law to other people, that were not Jews. But some Christian Jews in Rome thought that God would not save anyone that didn't follow that law. So Paul wrote this letter to tell them that God will save anyone that believes in Jesus. The law is important, but it isn't the way for God to save people.

We have translated the parts of this letter that are important for people that are not Jews, like

Indigenous Australians and most of the other people in Australia. We have not yet translated the parts of this book that are mainly talking to Jewish people.

This book has a lot of good messages for everyone, about how God saves people, and about how the Holy Spirit helps them. So it is very important for us today.

¹ I am Paul, and this letter is from me. I work for Jesus Christ, and God picked me to be Jesus's special worker, to go and tell people the good news that he will save them. ² A long time ago, God promised to do that. He got some of his men to tell people about it, and they wrote about it in God's book. ³⁻⁴ That good news is about our leader Jesus Christ. He was born into David's family. David was the big boss of the Jewish nation a long time ago. Jesus was born as a human being into David's family, but really, Jesus is God's own son. God showed us in a powerful way that Jesus is his son. He did it like this. People killed Jesus, but God used his Holy Spirit to make him alive again.

⁵ And you know, God is very good to me. He picked me to be Jesus's special worker. He told me to go to people that are not Jews to tell them about Jesus, and get them to believe in him and do whatever he says. ⁶ And God wanted you to believe in him and to do what he says too. God picked you, so now you belong to Jesus Christ.

⁷ I'm sending this letter to all you people that belong to God, and that live in the city called

Rome. God picked you to follow him, and to be his people.

I'm asking God our father, and Jesus Christ our leader, to be good to you, and to make you feel happy and quiet inside yourselves.

⁸ The first thing I want to do is to say *thank you* to my God. I can talk to God and say *thank you* because Jesus Christ made us God's friends. I thank God for all of you Christian mob there. You really believe in Jesus now, and people everywhere in the world are talking about how you really trust in Jesus. ⁹ I pray to God all the time, and I ask him to help you. That's true. God knows it's true. I work hard for God, I tell everyone the good news about his son. ¹⁰ Whenever I pray to him, I ask him that, if he agrees, he will let me come and see you soon. ¹¹ I have been waiting for a long time. I really want to see you. I want to help you get more power from God to make you strong. ¹² Then I will see how much you trust God and you will see how much I trust God, and that will make all of us happy. ¹³ You know, friends, I tried to come and see you lots of times, but God stopped me every time. I want to come and work there with you and get more people to follow Jesus, just like I do at other places.* ¹⁴ I've got to tell God's word to all sorts of people. I have to tell it to people that have my culture, and to people that have other cultures. I have to tell it to people that can think good and to people that can't think good. I have to tell everybody God's word. ¹⁵ So I want

* **1:13** Acts 19:21

to come to Rome and tell God's good news to all you mob there too.

¹⁶ I don't feel any shame about God's good news. It is a really good story because it has God's power in it. Whenever people believe this good news, God saves them. It is the same for everybody, for Jewish people and for people that are not Jews.* ¹⁷ God's good news is this. God saves people that trust him, and he makes them properly good. God says this in his book, "If you trust God, he will say you are good, and you will really live."*

If we do bad things, it makes God angry

¹⁸ God in heaven gets very angry with people that do bad things. He gets angry whenever they do things against him, and whenever they do bad things to other people. They go against God, but that's not all, they try to stop other people hearing the true story about God. And that makes God very angry.

¹⁹ God clearly shows everybody enough for us to understand the true story about him. Everybody knows about him. ²⁰ Even though we can't see God, we can know about him. If we look at the things he has made, we can know about him, that he is really great and really strong. Ever since he made the world, we can look at everything that he made, and we can know about him from those things. So nobody can say that they don't know about God. ²¹ The trouble was

* **1:16** Mark 8:38 * **1:17** Habakkuk 2:4

this. Even though people could work that out about God, they really didn't want to know him. They didn't want to say to him, "Thank you, you really are the true God." They couldn't think properly about him. They could only think in stupid ways. They didn't understand anything.*
²² They told everybody that they could think really good, but they were fools. ²³ They didn't respect the wonderful God that never dies, but instead they made models of things that do die. They made things that look like people, or birds, or animals, or snakes, or those sorts of things, and they respected those things. They didn't respect God.*

²⁴ So God let them go their own way, and they did whatever they felt like doing. They did whatever their dirty minds thought about, so they did bad things with each other's bodies. ²⁵ They didn't want the true story about God. They wanted to believe a lie, and they respected the things that God made instead of respecting God himself. You know, God is really great, and everyone has to tell him, "You are really good." And they have to keep on doing it for ever. Yes, that's right, but people didn't respect God like that.

²⁶ So, after people turned away from God, he let them do whatever dirty things they thought about. Even women didn't want to sleep with men any more, like wives do with their husbands, but instead they did things with each

* **1:21** Ephesians 4:17-18

* **1:23** Deuteronomy 4:16-18

other that were not normal. ²⁷ And men too did the same sort of thing. They didn't want to sleep with women any more, they wanted to sleep with other men, as if they were women. They did bad things with each other, and that gave them real problems. And those problems were the right thing for them.

²⁸ You see, they didn't like to even think about God, so he let them think about lots of bad things, and they did all sorts of wrong things. ²⁹ They are very bad, and they are greedy, they want lots of money and things. And they are really horrible. They want to take things that belong to other people. They murder people, they argue, they cheat other people, and they do mean things to people. They gossip, ³⁰ they say bad things about other people, they are cheeky, and they hate God. They think that they themselves are never wrong. They think they are great, and that is what they tell everybody. They always think up new ways to do something bad, and they never respect their parents. ³¹ They are stupid, they don't do what they say they will do, they don't love anybody, and they never feel sorry for anybody. ³² A long time ago, God said, "Anyone that does these sorts of things has to die." That is true, and those people know that God said that, but they don't take any notice of him. They keep on doing those bad things, and worse still, they push other people to do them.

God is the really good judge

¹ And you do those same bad things too. You might try to blame other people, but you are just as bad as them, so if you try to blame them, you really blame yourself.* ² And, you know, God will judge people that do bad things, and he knows the true story, so he will judge them the right way. ³ So if you do the same bad things as the people you blame, God will punish you too. ⁴ Think about this. God is very good to you, he doesn't easily get angry with you, and he doesn't punish you straight away for the bad things you do. You know that God is good like that, right? He is good to you. He tries to get you to come back to him and stop doing bad things.

⁵ If you don't turn around and come back to God, you just make things worse for yourself. One day, he will get really angry with you. On that day he will judge everybody properly and fairly. ⁶ God will give each of us the right pay for whatever we have done.* ⁷ Some people keep on doing good things, and later on God will be good to them. They want to make God happy, so they listen to him, and they do the good things he tells them to do. Later on, he will give them life that never ends. They will live with him for ever. ⁸ But he will get really angry with selfish people that don't want to know the true story but just want to do bad things. ⁹⁻¹¹ And God will not treat one sort of people any better than all the

* **2:1** Matthew 7:1; Luke 6:37

* **2:6** Psalm 62:12; Proverbs

24:12

others. It will be the same for Jewish people and for people that are not Jewish. God will punish everyone that does bad things, he will punish Jewish people that do bad things and people that are not Jewish that do bad things. They will all get very big trouble. But God will do good to everyone that does good things, Jewish people and people that are not Jewish. God will make them great. They will feel happy and quiet inside themselves, and everybody will respect them.*

¹² God gave the law to the Jewish people, so they know that law, and if they do bad things, God will punish them the way that law says. And the same too for people that are not Jewish, if they do bad things, he will punish them. ¹³ It doesn't matter if you know that law or not, if you do good things, God will tell you, "You are all right." ¹⁴ There are people that aren't Jewish, but sometimes they do good things just like the law says. They don't have that law, but they know in their minds what is right and what is wrong. ¹⁵ They show that God wrote his law inside them. They feel bad whenever they do something that is wrong, but sometimes they do something that is right, and it makes them feel good. ¹⁶ God sees everything that everybody does and everything that everybody thinks. Nobody can hide anything from him. One day, God will get Jesus Christ to judge everybody about these things. That is the message that I tell everybody.

* **2:9-11** Deuteronomy 10:17

(The next part, 2:17—3:8, mainly talks to Jewish people, so we have not translated it yet.)

3

Nobody is really good

⁹ So what about those of us that are Jewish people? Will God be more good to us than to other people? No way. Both Jewish people and other people do bad things, just like I already said. ¹⁰ It is like God says in his book,

“Nobody is really good, not even one person,
¹¹ nobody understands about God, nobody even tries to get to know him.

¹² Everybody turns away from God, they all go wrong,

not even one of them does good things.*

¹³ They say things that make big trouble for other people,
whenever they talk, they tell lies and trick people.

Their words hurt people, their mouths are just as bad as cheeky snakes.*

¹⁴ They swear at other people and say bad things about them.*

¹⁵ They are always ready to kill other people.

¹⁶ Wherever they go, they hurt people and make them really sad.

¹⁷ They don't know how to live without fighting.*

* **3:12** Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3 * **3:13** Psalm 5:9; 140:3 * **3:14**
Psalm 10:7 * **3:17** Isaiah 59:7-8

18 They don't respect God or take any notice of him."^{*}

19-20 You know, it's like this. God gave his law to the Jewish people for them to follow. And God is the judge of everybody in the whole world. And nobody has kept all of that law, so nobody can argue with him. Nobody can tell God, "I have kept all those laws, so I'm all right. You can't punish me." We can't say that, because we all broke that law at some time.*

So why is the law there? It is there just to let us know that we always go wrong. That's what it is there for.

If we believe in Jesus, God says we are all right

21-22 But now it is different. God showed us a different way. And if we follow his way, he will be happy with us and say that we are all right. His way is not about that law, it is about us trusting Jesus Christ. God tells us about this in his book. God says that if we trust in Jesus, he will save us. It doesn't matter who we are. God treats everybody the same.* 23 We all went the wrong way, and we did bad things. Nobody is properly good, like God wants us to be. 24 But Jesus Christ died for us. He took the payback for those bad things that we did. So now God is really good to us, and he says that we are all right now, and he will not blame us any more. And we don't have to pay anything. 25 God sent Jesus to die for us, so that, if we believe that Jesus died for us, God

* **3:18** Psalm 36:1 * **3:19-20** Psalm 143:2; Galatians 2:16

* **3:21-22** Galatians 2:16

isn't angry with us any more. Jesus let people kill him, and his blood came out, so now, if we trust him, God says we are all right. That shows that God was right and fair in the past, at those times when he didn't punish people for the bad things they did. ²⁶ And it shows that he is fair at this time now, when he tells everyone that believes in Jesus that they are all right now.

²⁷ So none of us can talk up big about anything that we ever did. The only thing that matters is this, we believe in Jesus. ²⁸ It is like this. We believe in Jesus, so God tells us, "You are all right now." But if we only think about that law and try to do the things it says, God will not tell us that we are all right.

²⁹ So now, what do you reckon? Is God just the God of the Jewish people, or is he the God of other people that are not Jews too? Of course he is God of both. He is God for the people that are not Jewish as well as for the Jews. ³⁰ There is only one God. He makes Jewish people all right if they believe in Jesus, and he makes other people all right if they believe in Jesus too.*

³¹ So what do you reckon about God's law? We believe in Jesus now, so do we have to forget everything God said in his law? No way. If we believe in Jesus, we agree that the law is from God.

(The next part, 4:1-12, mainly talks to Jewish people, so we have not translated it yet.)

* **3:30** Deuteronomy 6:4; Galatians 3:20

4

Abraham believed God

¹³ Remember that story about Abraham, that old man that lived a long time ago. God promised him that one day the people born into his family would be great people everywhere in the world. And Abraham believed that word that God promised him. Abraham didn't have the law at that time. He just believed God, and then God said that Abraham was good, and God promised to look after his family.* ¹⁴ So don't think that God only promises good things to people that follow the law of Moses. Nobody can follow that law properly, so if God only promised good things to people that follow the law, nobody would get those good things. And if God only promised good things to people that follow the law, it wouldn't matter if people trust God or not. But really, God is not like that. He promises good things to people that trust him.*

¹⁵ People try to follow that law, but they can't do it, and whenever they break that law, God gets angry with them and punishes them. So all the law does is give us trouble. (The only way people will not break the law is if there is no law to break.)

¹⁶ So it is important that we trust God, just like Abraham trusted God. It doesn't matter if we are Jewish or not Jewish. If we believe God, like Abraham did, we belong to his family, like he

* **4:13** Genesis 17:4-6; 22:17-18; Galatians 3:29
Galatians 3:18

* **4:14**

is our grand-father.* ¹⁷ God promised that a long time ago, and it is in his book. God told Abraham, "I will make you the father of lots of nations." Abraham believed that God can do that. You know, God can do anything. He can even make dead people alive again, and he can make new things out of nothing.*

¹⁸ Everyone reckoned that Abraham was too old to have any kids, but he believed that God was going to make him the father of lots of nations. God promised Abraham that later on lots of people were going to be born into his family and they were going to be a real big mob.* ¹⁹ Abraham kept on believing God, and he waited for God to do that, just like he promised. Abraham knew that his body was old. It was so old it was nearly dead. He was about 100 years old. And Sarah, his wife, she was also too old to have a baby. But Abraham kept on believing anyway.* ²⁰ He didn't start thinking, "Maybe God will not keep his promise after all." No, he kept on believing, and that made him strong, so that he could tell everyone that God is good. ²¹ He just thought, "I know that God will do whatever he promised."

²² So God said to Abraham, "Now I'm saying you are properly good, like you never did anything wrong"*

²³ That's in God's book. God told his men to write it there, but they didn't write it just for

* **4:16** Galatians 3:7 * **4:17** Genesis 17:5 * **4:18** Genesis 15:5 * **4:19** Genesis 17:17 * **4:22** Genesis 15:6

Abraham. ²⁴ They wrote it for us too, so we can be sure about this. If we really trust God, he will also tell us, "You are properly good." You know, our leader Jesus died, but after that God made him alive again. ²⁵ It was us who did bad things, but God let people kill Jesus instead of us. He took the payback for those bad things we did. Then God made him alive again, so now God tells us, "You are all right."*

5

God makes us his friends

¹⁻² So we believe in Jesus now, and God says we are all right, and he will not punish us. God is really good to us. Jesus Christ, our leader, did all that for us. Now we can be happy and think about how good it will be for us later, when we will be with God. God will show us how great he is, and he will make us great too. ³ We can be happy now too, even if things go wrong for us and we get trouble. We know that God lets us get trouble to make us strong, so that we will learn how to keep on believing, even if we have problems. ⁴ And after we learn to keep on believing, then we will become better people. And after we become better people, we can think about the time that will come, the time when everything will be good for us. ⁵ And we can be sure that God will be good to us then, because he already gave us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is in us, so we know that God loves us.

* **4:25** Isaiah 53:4-5

⁶ Jesus Christ died for us while we were still really weak. At that time, we didn't care about God at all. But Jesus came, just at the right time, and he died instead of us. ⁷ You know, people don't usually agree to die instead of somebody else, not even instead of a good person. Maybe there is somebody that would die to save a really good person. ⁸ But Jesus Christ died for us while we were still really bad people. That shows that God really loves us very much.

⁹ And that's not all. Jesus Christ bled and died instead of us, so now God tells us, "You are all right," and he will not be angry with us when he judges everyone. ¹⁰ It is like this. We were God's enemies, then his son Jesus died for us, so now we are God's friends. And that's not all. Now that we are God's friends, Jesus lives in us and saves us. ¹¹ So we are really happy now, because Jesus saved us and made us good friends with God.

Jesus Christ is different from Adam

¹² Think about the story about Adam. God told him, "If you eat any fruit from that tree, you will die." Then Adam did the wrong thing, he ate that fruit, so he died. And it's the same for everybody now. We are all from Adam. We are all in his family, and we all do wrong things, so we all die.* ¹³⁻¹⁴ You see, before God gave Moses the law, it was like this, everybody did wrong things, so they died. They didn't have the law to show that what they did was wrong, but they all

* **5:12** Genesis 3:6

died. So that shows us that they all did wrong things. Yes, all the people from Adam did wrong things, even though they didn't break a rule, like Adam did.

At first Adam came, and Jesus came later. I will talk about them both now.

¹⁵ Jesus Christ did something very different from the wrong thing Adam did. Adam did a bad thing, so lots of people have to die. But Jesus Christ did a good thing, so that God can give lots of people new life. Yes, God is very good to us, even though we are not good. So, you see, Jesus does a better thing for us than Adam did. ¹⁶ That new life that God gives us is a lot different from the trouble we got from Adam. Adam did one bad thing, and God said that he was guilty. And he died. So now we all do bad things, and we get trouble. But we get something really good from Jesus. Even though we did bad things, God says we are all right. ¹⁷ That one man, Adam, he did something bad, so now lots of people die. But that other man, Jesus Christ, he did something good, so now lots of people will live with God for ever. God is really good to them now, and he makes them good too. Yes, Jesus did a much better thing for us than Adam did.

¹⁸ Adam went wrong, and after that, everybody did bad things. So God had to punish everybody. But then Jesus did something really good, so after that, God will not punish us, but he will let us live with him for ever. ¹⁹ That one man, Adam, did something wrong. He did something God told him not to do, so now lots of people do

wrong things. But that other man, Jesus, he did something good. He did everything God told him to do, so now he will make lots of people good.

²⁰ You see, the law came and showed people that they did wrong things. But that didn't stop them. They still did wrong things. Yes, people kept on doing more bad things, but at the same time God kept on being good to people, more and more. ²¹ It was like this. We couldn't stop ourselves doing bad things, so we all had to die. But now, nothing will stop our leader, Jesus Christ, from being really good to us. He did a really good thing for us, so now God says that we are good too, and we will live with him for ever.

6

Christians can't keep on doing bad things

¹ God was really good to us even though we did bad things. So what do you reckon? Maybe we should keep on doing bad things, so that people can see how good God is. ²⁻⁴ No way. Just think about that baptism ceremony. Church leaders baptised us to show that we joined up with Jesus Christ. And you know that Jesus died, and they buried him, but God, our really great father, made him alive again. And we joined up to him, so we can't think about doing bad things any more. It is like we died to those bad things. And it is like God makes us alive again to do good things. That baptism ceremony was to show that we died to bad things and got buried, just like Jesus Christ died and got buried, but God gave

us new life too, just like Jesus came back to life. If we live in a new way like that, we will not go wrong any more. So if we start to think about doing something bad, we have to remember that we are dead to doing bad things, and so we can't do it. We have to live in a new way like that all the time.*

⁵ We joined up with Jesus Christ and it is like we die, just like he died, and then it is like we come back to life, just like he came back to life.

⁶ We know that they nailed Jesus Christ to that cross, and it was like they nailed a part of us there too, that old part of us that makes us do wrong things all the time. It got nailed to that cross with Jesus, and it is dead. So now it doesn't have any power over us. It can't make us do bad things. ⁷ You know, if something is dead, it can't do anything. Well, that bad old part of us is dead now, so it can't make us do bad things any more.

⁸ It is like we died, just like Jesus Christ died, and now we know that we will also live again with him. ⁹ He came back to life after he died, so we are sure that he can never die again. Nothing can kill him ever again. ¹⁰ He died once and took the payback for the bad things that people do, but God made him alive again, and now he lives and works for God. ¹¹ Well, we have to think about ourselves in that same way. We joined up with Jesus Christ, so now, if we start to think that we want to do something bad, we have to remember this, that bad part of us died, just like Jesus died, so we can't do anything bad. We have to think

* **6:2-4** Colossians 2:12

about living God's way, so we live and work for him, just like Jesus Christ does.

¹²⁻¹⁴ So don't just think about the law that comes from Moses. It talks about the bad things people do. If you just think about that, you will want to do those same bad things yourself. Then that law will be your boss, and your bodies will make you want to do bad things too. Don't be like that. Don't let any part of your body be your boss. Don't do whatever it wants. Instead, you have to give your bodies to God and let him use you to do good things. You have to think about him all the time, and remember that he is very good to you, and that he made you alive again in a new way. If you think like that, you will not want to do anything bad. God is really good to you. That law is not your boss any more.

Do whatever God wants

¹⁵ But maybe you think like this, "We can do whatever bad things we want to do, because that law is not our boss any more and God will be good to us anyway." No way. Don't think like that. ¹⁶ You know that if you always do whatever another person wants, you make that person your boss. So if you do bad things all the time, you make those bad things your boss, and in the end you will die. But if you do whatever God wants all the time, you make him your boss, and in the end he will say that you are really good. ¹⁷ Actually, you used to do bad things all the time, but now you have made God your boss, and you really want to do whatever he wants. I thank

God for that. ¹⁸ You are free now. You don't have to do those bad things any more. You have got a new good boss now, and you have to do good things all the time. ¹⁹ I'm trying to say this in a way that you will really understand. In the past you used your body for wrong things. It was like those bad things were your boss, so you kept on doing more bad things. But now you have to use your bodies for good things. You work for God, and he gets you to do good things so that you will be his special people.

²⁰ In those days you worked for the wrong boss. You made those bad things your boss. So you did bad things, and you never wanted to do good things. ²¹ And what did you get after you did bad things? You got shame, that's all. And you know that people that do those bad things have to die. ²² So now you can't think about doing bad things any more, but instead, you have to only think about working for God. Then you will do good things, and then you will be God's special people and you will live with him for ever. ²³ That's how it is. If we do bad things, we will get our pay for doing those things. We will die. That's all the pay we will get. But if we join up to our leader, Jesus Christ, God will give us properly good life. We will live with him for ever.

7

The Jewish law

¹ I am talking now to my own countrymen, you Jewish people. You know the law that God gave to Moses. That law is for people to follow only

while they are alive. It is not there for them after they die. ²⁻³ I'll talk about one part of the law to show you what I mean. That law says that a woman is only allowed to marry one man. If a married woman sleeps with a man that is not her husband, as if he is her husband, she breaks that law, and she is guilty. But if her husband dies, then she can marry another man and sleep with him, and she will not be breaking any law.

⁴ You know that Jesus died for us. His body was dead on the cross. And, my friends, you believe in Jesus, so it is like you died too. So that old law is not for you any more. You belong to Jesus now. He came alive again, and it's like you have a new life now too. God gave you that life so that you can do a lot of good things for him.

⁵ You know, we all have a bad part in us that wants us to do bad things. And at first, when we didn't believe in Jesus, that bad part in us was our boss. And when that law told us not to do bad things, that bad part in us made us think about those bad things and want to do them, and so we did them anyway. So we had to die. ⁶ But now we believe in Jesus, we don't have to live that old way any more. It's like we died to that old way, so we don't have to follow that old law any more. We have the Holy Spirit in us now, and he helps us to do what God wants us to do. So we live that new way now.

That law shows us that we go wrong

⁷ Some people might reckon that the old law is no good because it made us go wrong, but

that's not true. The law is good. You see, God gave people the law to clearly show them what is right and what is wrong. For example, a part of that law says, "If something belongs to somebody else, don't think about getting it for yourself." Now think about this. If somebody doesn't know that law, they don't know that it is wrong to want to get other people's things.* ⁸ And, you know, we all have a bad part in us that wants to do bad things, so when that bad part in us hears the law, it makes us want to do that same wrong thing that the law talks about. But if we don't hear that law, that bad part in us can't get us to go wrong like that. ⁹ And you know, some people didn't know that law at first, but after they heard it, that bad part in them made them want to do those bad things. ¹⁰ So then they had to die. You see, it's like this. That law's job is to show us how to live, but we don't do everything it says, so the law tells us that we have to die. ¹¹ That bad part of us uses that law to trick us, so that we do bad things. And then we have to die.* ¹² But that law itself is really good. It tells us to do things that God says are right and good.

¹³ So, does that good law kill people? No way. It's like this. That law shows us the things that God said are wrong, and that law says that we have to die if we do those wrong things. So that law shows us that it is really bad to go wrong, and to do bad things against God.

* **7:7** Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21 * **7:11** Genesis 3:13

A fight goes on inside us

¹⁴ The problem is not the law, it is us. We know this. That law came from God, so there is nothing wrong with that law. But there is something wrong with us. We keep on going wrong. There is a bad part inside us that makes itself our boss, and we do whatever that boss tells us to do. ¹⁵ We don't understand it. We want to do good things. But we can't do those good things that we want to do. Instead, we do the things that we hate.*

¹⁶ We don't want to do those bad things. We know that they are wrong. So that shows that, really, we agree with the law and we reckon the law is good. ¹⁷ So really, it's not us that does those bad things. It's that bad part of us that is inside us.

¹⁸ We know that we can't do anything good by ourselves. We want to do the right thing, but we can't. ¹⁹ We keep on trying to do good things, but we can't. No, we keep on doing the bad things we don't want to do. ²⁰ That proves it. It's not us that does those bad things. It's that bad part inside us that does those bad things.

²¹ This is what happens. It is like another law. Every time we try to do something good, that bad part of us wants to take control and make us go wrong.

²² Really, we ourselves, we want to live the right way, ²³ but there is a big fight going on inside us. That bad part of us makes its own law. It makes us think the wrong way. It makes us its prisoners so that we can't do the things we really

* **7:15** Galatians 5:17

want to do. ²⁴ We feel really sorry for ourselves. How can we get free from this bad boss in our bodies that will make us die? Who can make us free?

²⁵ Thank God, Jesus Christ can make us free. He is the answer. God made a way for us to be free. Jesus will be our new leader, and he is stronger than that old boss inside us.

This is what I have been saying up until now. We ourselves, we really want to do things that are right, but we have a bad part in us that is our boss, and it makes us do things that are wrong.

8

God's spirit lives in us

¹ The important thing that I want to say now is this. If we belong to Jesus Christ, God will never say we are guilty. ² His spirit is in us, and he gives us new life, and he makes us strong so that we can say *no* to that bad part of us that tries to make us go wrong. That is the new way that we live, because we belong to Jesus, and it makes us free from the old way of doing bad things and ending up dead.

³ You see, the law that came from Moses couldn't help us. We were too weak. If we thought about some bad thing that we wanted to do, then we couldn't help ourselves, we just did it. That law just made us think about those bad things, and then we wanted to do them. But God set us free from all that. He sent his own son to us. Jesus had the same sort of body that we bad people have. Then God punished him instead of

us. Jesus died instead of us. ⁴ If we listen to his spirit in us, and if we do whatever he says, we will not listen any more to that old part of us that tells us to do bad things. We will do good things, like the things in his law.

⁵ Some people just think about themselves, so they only do whatever makes them feel good. They let that bad part inside them be their boss, and they do whatever it tells them to do. But other people think about God and his spirit, and they do whatever the Holy Spirit tells them to do.

⁶ If we let that bad part inside us be our boss, and if we only do whatever makes us feel good, we will die. But if we do the things the Holy Spirit tells us, and if we let him control us, we will live happy and quiet inside ourselves. ⁷⁻⁸ That bad part inside us fights against God, so if we do whatever it says, we don't do the things that God wants us to do. If we are like that, we can never follow God's laws. If we live like that, we can never make God happy.

⁹ But I know that you aren't like that any more. You haven't let that bad part of you be your boss, but you have joined up with the Holy Spirit, and now he lives inside you. That's right. If people don't have the spirit of Jesus Christ in them, they don't belong to him. ¹⁰ But Jesus Christ does live inside you. Yes, you did bad things, so your bodies will die, but God says that you are all right now, so his spirit makes you alive. ¹¹ Remember that Jesus died, but God made him alive again. And God will do that for you too. Your bodies will die, but after that, God will make them alive

again. His spirit will do that. He lives inside you.*

¹² So, my friends, you don't have to do bad things any more. You don't have to do whatever that bad part of you tells you to do. ¹³ If you keep on doing those bad things, you will die. But if God's spirit is in you, he can help you block that bad part of you, like you kill it, and then you will not do those bad things, and you will live with God for ever. ¹⁴ It is like this. God's kids are those people that listen to his spirit and follow him.

¹⁵ God didn't give you his Holy Spirit to make you frightened of him. No, he gave you his spirit to make you his kids. You are not like a prisoner that has to work for a cheeky boss, and that boss makes him frightened all the time. No way. You have God's spirit in you, so you can talk to God and say, "Dad, you are my own good father."*

¹⁶ And his spirit in us talks to our own spirits, and he tells us, "That is right, you really are God's kids." ¹⁷ We joined up with Jesus Christ, God's son, so we are part of God's family now, and we will get some of the good things that God gives to his son. But people gave Jesus a lot of trouble, and they will give us a lot of trouble too, because we belong to him. Yes, we will get trouble, and we will get good things too.

God will make everything really good later

* **8:11** 1 Corinthians 3:16 * **8:15** Mark 14:36; Galatians 4:6

18 But don't worry about the trouble we get now. Later God will make everything so good for us that we will not even think about the trouble we get now. 19 It is like this, everything in the world is waiting for that time when God will set everything right and show everyone who his kids really are. 20 Think about Adam and Eve. They went wrong, and after that, God let everything in the world get messed up. It was people that went wrong, not the other things in the world, but everything else went wrong anyway, from the things that the people did.* 21 So now everything in the world is waiting for God to fix things up, so that nothing will go bad and rot away like it does now. And one day, God will fix it all, and at the same time he will show everyone that we are his family. 22 We know that everything in the world now just dies and rots away. Everything has got that problem. Think about a woman. At the time she has a baby, she gets trouble and has a lot of pain. Well, that is a picture of the way everything in the world is now. There is a lot of trouble and a lot of pain. 23 And we get trouble too. We are Christians, and we have the Holy Spirit in us, but we still get trouble. God gave us that Holy Spirit to show us a little bit of the good that will come later. But right now, we get pain and problems too. So we just wait for God to fix everything up and to really make us his family. Then he will give us new bodies, just like he promised us.* 24-25 We are really sure that he

* 8:20 Genesis 3:17-19 * 8:23 2 Corinthians 5:2-4

will save us and fix everything up for us even though he hasn't done it yet. We know he will do it one day, so we just have to keep on waiting for it.

²⁶ And we can be sure too that the Holy Spirit will always help us. We know that we are weak, and we don't understand very much, so sometimes we don't know what to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays with us and talks to our father for us. He even groans with words that nobody can properly say. ²⁷ And our father understands the Holy Spirit. God already knows everything that everybody thinks and the way everybody feels, so the Holy Spirit always prays for God's people and asks for the things that God already wants. ²⁸ And we know too that God picked us out to be his people, to love him and to do whatever he wants, so he makes everything work out good for us. ²⁹ A long time ago, God knew about each of us, and he knew which of us will believe in him, so he planned to make us like his son. He sent Jesus to us. He is God's son, and he is like the older brother to all of us. ³⁰ So, after he picked us out, he called to us to come to him, and after we came to him, he said that we are all right now, and he will make us really great too.

³¹ So as we think about all of this, what do we learn? It is this. We are on God's side. He is with us, so it doesn't matter who is against us, they can't win against God. ³² He really did a lot for us. He sent his own son to die instead of us. And that's not all. He will give us everything else that

we need too. ³³ God himself is the one that says, "You are good," so nobody can blame us and tell God, "They are no good." ³⁴ God picked us out to be his own people, so nobody can tell him to punish us. You see, Jesus Christ died for us, and God made him come back to life, and now he sits up there with God in heaven and asks God to help us. He will not turn around and tell God to punish us. No way.

We can win every time

³⁵ But sometimes things go wrong for us, and sometimes we get trouble. Does that mean that Jesus Christ has stopped loving us? No way. He will keep on loving us. Some people don't want us to follow Jesus, so maybe they will hit us, and maybe they will be hard on us. Then can we think that Jesus has stopped loving us? No way. Or if we get too cold from not enough clothes, or if we go hungry, or if people hurt us or kill us, then does that mean that Jesus has stopped loving us? No way. Nothing will ever stop him from loving us. ³⁶ It is like God says in his book, "Some people find out that we belong to God, and they kill us.

They reckon we are weak like sheep and they can kill us whenever they want to."*

³⁷ Don't worry about any of these things. We win every time. Jesus loves us all the time, so he helps us get through it all, and we win in the end.

³⁸⁻³⁹ I'm really sure that nothing at all can make God stop loving us. Even if they kill us,

* **8:36** Psalm 44:22

it doesn't matter, God still loves us. Those good spirits, the angels, they will not stop him. And those bad spirits, they can't make him stop loving us. Things that happen now will not stop him, and things that will happen later will not stop him either. No strong spirit anywhere can stop him from loving us. Nothing anywhere. Nothing way up in the sky, nothing way down in the sea, nothing anywhere can stop him loving us. You see, God showed us that he loves us. He sent Jesus Christ, our leader, to die for us.

(The next part, 9:1—10:4, mainly talks to the Jewish people, so we have not translated it yet.)

10

God will save everybody that trusts him

⁵ It's like this. A long time ago, Moses wrote that people will be all right if they follow all of God's law. He wrote, "If anybody always does everything in God's law, they will live."* ⁶ But God's book also tells us that if we trust God, he will say that we are all right, even though we don't always do everything in God's law. So don't think that somebody has to go up to heaven, to bring Jesus Christ down to the earth. ⁷ And don't think that somebody has to go down to the place where the dead people are, to get Jesus Christ and make him alive again.

⁸ This is what God says in his book, "You already have God's message.

* **10:5** Leviticus 18:5

You know that message, so you can think about it, and you can talk about it.”*

That message is the same message that we tell everybody. We say, “You have to trust Jesus.”

⁹ Yes, you have to really believe that God made Jesus alive again after he died, and you have to tell people that you belong to Jesus. If you believe like that, and if you talk like that, God will save you. ¹⁰ If you really believe God, and if you tell everybody that you believe in him, then he says that you are all right, and he saves you.

¹¹ God says this about Jesus in his book, “Everybody that trusts him will always know that they are going the right way, and God will save them.”*

¹² That message is for everyone, Jewish people and people that are not Jewish. We are all the same, we have the same God, and he is good to everyone that asks him for help.

¹³ And God says this in his book too, “God will save everybody that calls out to him for help and asks him to save them.”*

¹⁴ But what about people that don’t believe in God? They can’t call out to him, right? And what about people that have never even heard about Jesus? They can’t believe in him, right? Somebody has to tell them about him, and then they can believe in him. ¹⁵ And somebody has to send those messengers to go and tell the people about Jesus. God says this in his book too,

* **10:8** Deuteronomy 30:14 * **10:11** Isaiah 28:16 * **10:13**
Joel 2:32

“It is really good to see God’s messengers come and bring his good news.”*

¹⁶ But some people don’t want to hear God’s message. A long time ago, Isaiah, one of God’s men, wrote this in God’s book, “Hardly anybody believes the message we tell them, God.”*

¹⁷ But, you see, people have to hear that good message about Jesus Christ before they can believe in him.

(The next part, 10:18—11:36, mainly talks to Jewish people, so we have not translated it yet.)

12

Live the way that makes God happy

¹ My Christian friends, God is so very good to us. So I really want you to use your bodies to live for him. A long time ago, God told his people to give him animals to show him respect. They did it like this. They used to kill the animals and burn them up. But now it is different. Now you have to use your bodies to live for him and do good things, it’s like you are giving your own bodies to God while you are still alive. If you do that, you will make God happy. That is the proper thing to do to show that you follow God. ² Don’t be like most of the people in the world that like to do bad things. You have to be different from them. You have to let God change the way you think, so that you will become new

* **10:15** Isaiah 52:7 * **10:16** Isaiah 53:1

people. Then you will be able to find out the things that God wants you to do, and you will know what is good, and the things that really make God happy.

³ God wants me to tell you this, and he helps me to say it. Don't think that you are better than you really are, but think properly about yourself. God himself makes it possible for you to believe in him, so think about how much you trust him. That is the important thing. ⁴ I will tell you a picture story. Christians are like a body. You know that we each have a body, but that body has a lot of different parts. Each part of our body has its own job to do. But the parts all belong to that one body, so they all belong to each other.*

⁵ Well, that is a picture of us, God's people. We all belong to Jesus Christ, and it is just like each of us is a part of his body. Each of us has our own job to do. We all belong to Jesus, so we all belong to each other.

⁶ God is good to us and gives each of us the power to do something properly. So if God gave you the power to tell his message to people, well you have to do that whenever you believe he has a message for you to tell.* ⁷ Or maybe God gave you the power to help other people, well you have to do that. Or if God gave you the power to teach other people, well he wants you to do that. ⁸ Or maybe God gave you the power to cheer people up, well that is your job. Or maybe he gave you the power to share your money

* **12:4** 1 Corinthians 12:12 * **12:6** 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

and things with other people, well he wants you to share them with people that need them. Or maybe God gave you the power to be a leader, well you have to try to lead people properly. Or if God gave you the power to feel sorry for people that have troubles, and the power to be good to them, well that is his job for you, so be happy while you do it.

⁹ Don't just pretend to love other people. You have to love them properly. That means you have to hate everything that is bad for them and love everything that is good for them. ¹⁰ You have to love each other like brothers and sisters that belong to the same family. You have to respect other Christians more than you respect yourself. ¹¹ Don't get lazy as you work for God, but work hard and be really happy about it.

¹² We know that everything will be really good after God fixes everything up, so think about that and you will be really happy. But if people give you trouble now, don't give up, but stay strong for God. And keep on talking to God about everything. ¹³ If any of God's people need anything, you have to give them whatever you can. If they are visiting your town, and they need somewhere to stay, let them stay at your place.

¹⁴ If anyone makes trouble for you, don't ask God to punish them, but ask him to help them.*

¹⁵ If somebody is happy, you be happy with them too. If somebody is sad, you be sad with them too. ¹⁶ Always try to be friends with other

* **12:14** Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:28

Christians and don't argue with them. Don't think to yourself, "I'm too good to be with them." Sit down with anybody and be their friend. Remember, you don't know everything.*

¹⁷ If people do some bad things to you, don't do payback to them. You have to do good things, so that people will know that you are good. ¹⁸ Try not to argue with anybody, and try not to fight with anybody.

¹⁹ Listen, my good friends, if somebody does something bad to you, don't do something bad to them. Don't do payback to them. No, just wait for God. He will get angry with them, and he will do payback to them one day. We can read this in God's book,

"God says, 'It is my job to do payback to people for the bad things they do. I will punish them, so don't try to do it yourself.' "*

²⁰ Instead of you doing payback to them, you have to do like God says in another place in his book. He says,

"If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. Then they will be sorry and feel shame for the bad things they did to you."*

²¹ So don't do payback to anybody. Don't do bad things to them. If you do that payback, it is like you let that bad part of you win. But instead,

* **12:16** Proverbs 3:7 * **12:19** Deuteronomy 32:35 * **12:20**
Proverbs 25:21-22

you have to be good to everybody. That's how you properly win against bad things.

13

Respect the government

¹ Now I will talk about the government bosses. Remember that God put them there and gave them their jobs as bosses, so you have to do what they say. They make laws for everybody, and they make sure we all follow those laws. ² So if you don't do the things that their law says, you're going against the people that God put there. And he will get those bosses to punish you. ³ People that do whatever is right don't have to worry about those bosses. But people that do things that are wrong will get frightened of them. So if you do things that are right, the bosses will say that you are good. ⁴ Those government bosses really work for God, and their job is to make things good for you. But if you do things that are wrong, look out, you can be frightened of them. They will get you and punish you. God gave them that job to punish everybody that does bad things, and he helps them do it. ⁵ So you have to do what they say, so that they don't punish you. And you know that it is the right thing to do, so you will not feel bad about it.

⁶ You have to pay tax money to the government too, for the same reason. Those government bosses work for God, and they need that money to do their job.* ⁷ So you have to give everybody

* **13:6** Matthew 22:21; Mark 12:17; Luke 20:25

whatever you owe to them. You have to pay taxes and pay the bills the government bosses send you. And you still have to respect those bosses.

Love people

⁸ If ever you borrow anything from anybody, you have to give it back, so that you don't owe anything to anybody. But you always owe each other this one thing, you have to love each other. If you love other people, you keep God's law.

⁹ God's law says, "Love other people just as much as you love yourself." You know there are lots of other laws too, like, "Don't sleep with somebody that you are not married to, as if they are your wife or husband," and, "Don't murder anybody," and, "Don't steal anything," and, "If something belongs to somebody else, don't think about getting it for yourself." But if you really love other people, you will not do any of those wrong things anyway. So that law that says to love people, it says what all the other laws say when you listen to them all together.* ¹⁰ If you really love people, you will never do bad things to them, so you will be doing what God's law says you have to do.

Wake up, Jesus will come back soon

¹¹⁻¹² And here is another thing to think about. You know that Jesus will come back soon and save us from the bad things that are going on. There is not much time left. It is closer now than it was at the time when we first believed in him.

* **13:9** Exodus 20:13-15, 17; Deuteronomy 5:17-19, 21; Leviticus 19:18

It's like it's night time now, but Jesus will come back soon, so it is like the day-light will come soon. It's like it's time for us to wake up from sleep. We have to stop doing the bad things that people do in the dark. Instead, we have to do the good things that people do in the light. ¹³ We have to do things that are right and good and honest, like the things people do in the day-light. We can't go to wild grog parties, and we can't get drunk. We can't sleep with anyone that is not our own wife or husband, as if we are married to them. We can't do wrong things with our bodies. We can't get into fights and arguments. We can't be jealous of other people. ¹⁴ But instead, you have to be like our leader, Jesus Christ, so that whenever other people look at you, it will be like they see him. And whenever that bad part inside you makes you want to do something bad, take no notice of it. Just don't think about doing that bad thing.

14

Don't argue with other Christians

¹ There are some Christians that are not sure if it is right or wrong for them to do some things. But don't worry, let people like that be in your church, and don't argue with them about whatever they think they have to do. ² It's like this, some people believe that God will let them eat all sorts of food, but other people are not so sure, so they only eat vegetables. ³ People that eat all sorts of food can't think that they

are better than the others. And people that only eat vegetables can't tell the other people that they are wrong. God is happy with both sorts of people, people that only eat vegetables and people that eat everything. ⁴ So you can't tell anybody else that they are wrong. God is their boss, not you. Only God can say, "You are right," or, "You are wrong." And he can help them to keep on doing good.

⁵ Here is another thing. Some people think like this, "Some days are special for God, and the other days are not." Other people think, "Each day is the same as every other day." Each of us has to make up our own mind about it. ⁶ People that make one day special, they do that to give respect to God on that day. And people that eat all sorts of food, they do that to give respect to God. They say *thank you* to God for that food. And in the same way, people that don't eat some sorts of food, they do that to give respect to God. They say *thank you* to God too. ⁷⁻⁸ None of us is our own boss. We belong to God, and he is our good boss all the time. He is our good boss while we are alive, and he is our good boss after we die. ⁹ Remember that Jesus died and then came alive again. So now he is the good boss over people that are alive and also the boss over people that are dead.

¹⁰ So then it is God, not you, that can tell other Christians that they are wrong. You can't think that you are better than any other Christian. No. We've all got to stand in front of God one day. Then God will tell each of us the things that

we did right and the things that we did wrong.*

¹¹ We can read this in God's book,

"God says that this will happen, for sure. Everybody will get down on their knees in front of him to give him respect. And everybody will say that God is really good. They will say that he is the only great God."*

¹² That means that one day every one of us will have to face God and tell him all about everything that we ever did.

Don't make other Christians go wrong

¹³ So we have to stop being like judges. We have to stop telling each other, "You are wrong." Instead of that, we have to make sure that we help other Christians, and make sure we don't do anything that makes them go wrong. ¹⁴ I know for sure that our leader, Jesus, said that it's all right to eat any sort of food. But somebody might believe that it is wrong to eat some sort of food. Then it is wrong for that person to eat it, but not for anybody else. ¹⁵⁻¹⁶ Sometimes you might know that something is all right, so you think you will eat it. But if you know that another Christian will get upset when you eat it, then don't eat it. Leave it. If you love other Christians, you will not do things that hurt them. Remember, Jesus Christ died for those people, so don't eat that food. You know that it is all right to eat it, but leave it anyway. Then nobody will blame you.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ We belong to God. He doesn't give us rules about the things that we can't eat or drink, but

* **14:10** 2 Corinthians 5:10 * **14:11** Isaiah 45:23

he wants us to have his spirit in us so that we will do the things that are right, and we will always feel good and quiet inside ourselves, and we will always be happy. If we live like that as we work for Jesus Christ, then we make God happy. And other people are happy with us too.

¹⁹ So we have to do everything we can to help each other. We have to try to agree with each other and to help each other get strong. ²⁰ God is bringing people into his family, but if you eat something that upsets another Christian, so that they go away, you will mess up God's work. So don't do that. You know that there is nothing wrong with the food itself, but it is wrong for you to make another person stop believing. ²¹ So if another Christian will get upset and go wrong because you eat meat or drink wine, then don't eat any meat, and don't drink any wine. ²² If you believe it is all right for you to do it, then just keep quiet about it. You know it is all right, and God knows it is all right, but don't show it off in front of other people. Make up your mind about the right thing to do, and do it. Then you will be happy. ²³ But if anyone is not sure if it is right or wrong for them to eat something, then they can't eat it. If they don't believe that it is all right to eat, and if they eat it anyway, then God will say that they do wrong. If we don't believe that something is all right, then it is wrong for us to do it.

Strong Christians have to help weak Christians

¹ Some of us are strong and trust God about these things, but other Christians are weak and worry about them a lot. We strong Christians have to be easy on those weak Christians, and help them get strong. We have to think about the problems they have with these things. We can't just do whatever makes us happy. ² No, we have to do whatever the other Christians think is right, to help them get strong and trust God more. ³ Remember what Jesus Christ did for all of us. He didn't just do things that made himself happy. No. He let those cheeky people say bad things about him, like God's book says, "People said bad things about you, God, and they said those same bad things about me."*

⁴ You know, a long time ago, God got his men to write lots of things like that in his book. He did that to teach us mob that are here today about God. As we think about those things that they wrote, God cheers us up and helps us keep going for him, and we know for sure that God will do everything he promised to do for us. ⁵⁻⁶ I want God, the father of our leader, Jesus Christ, to do that for you. He is the one that can cheer people up, and he keeps them going. I'm asking him to help you follow Jesus Christ properly so that you all live happy together like one family. Then you will all thank him and say that he is really good.

⁷ So you have to be good to other Christians, and let them join you, just like Jesus Christ was good to you, and he let you join God's family.

* 15:3 Psalm 69:9

Then people will say that God is really good.
 8 Remember this. Jesus Christ came here and worked for his own nation, the Jewish people. A long time ago, God promised some things to their elders, and later, Jesus came to show them that God will do what he promised. 9 And Jesus came for the people that are not Jews too, to show them that God feels sorry for them, and that God is good to them, so that they will thank God and tell everybody, "God is really good." God got his men to write about this, and their words are in God's book. One of them wrote,

"All right God, I will tell all the people that are not Jews about you,
 and I will sing to you and say, 'You are really great.' "*

10 And another one of God's men wrote,
 "You mob that are not Jews can be happy,
 together with God's people."*

11 And another one of God's men wrote,
 "All you mob that are not Jews can say, 'God is really great,'

And all the people everywhere can say, 'God is really good.' "*

12 And Isaiah, another one of God's men, wrote,
 "A Jewish man from David's family will become the leader of every nation, even the people that are not Jews, and they will be sure that he will save them."*

* **15:9** 2 Samuel 22:50; Psalm 18:49 * **15:10** Deuteronomy 32:43 * **15:11** Psalm 117:1 * **15:12** Isaiah 11:10

¹³ You see, you can be sure that God can save you. So now I ask him to help you trust him properly, and to make you really happy, and feel good and quiet inside yourselves. Then the Holy Spirit will use his power to help you be really sure that God will do everything that he said he will do.

Paul's job

¹⁴⁻¹⁵ My Christian friends, I'm sure that you already know about the things that I wrote in this letter. Before I started to write this letter, I remembered that you are good people and that you know a lot, and you even teach each other about the things I wrote about. But I got brave and started to write to you anyway, to get you to think a bit more about some of those things. God is good to me, ¹⁶ and he picked me out to be a worker for Jesus Christ. My job is to tell the good news about Jesus to people that are not Jews. After I tell them that good news, God's spirit works in them to make them good and right, and God is really happy with them. It is like I give them to God, like a really good gift.

¹⁷ So I like to tell everybody about the things that Jesus Christ has helped me do in my work for God. ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ But I will not talk about anything else. I just want to talk about whatever Jesus Christ did. He used me, but he is the one that did it. He got me to tell his true message to people that don't know God, and his Holy Spirit got me to do powerful things too. After they heard my message and saw the things I did, they turned around and believed God. I started

to tell people in Jerusalem the good message about Jesus Christ, and I kept on telling people that message everywhere I went, right out to Illyricum. ²⁰ I always want to tell that good story to people that have never heard about Jesus Christ. I don't want to go to places where somebody else already told them about Jesus, and just tell them a bit more. No, I want to go and tell people that haven't heard about Jesus. ²¹ It is like God's book says, "There are people that have never heard about God. Nobody ever told them anything about him. But they will hear the message about him. And they will understand it."*

(The next part, 15:22-29, says things for just some of the people at Rome at that time, so we have not translated it yet.)

Paul asked the Roman Christians to pray for him

³⁰ My Christian friends, I really want you to pray to God with me. You believe in our leader, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit gets us to love each other, so please pray for me. ³¹ I will go to Judea soon, so ask God to save me from the mob there that don't believe in Jesus. And ask God that his people in Jerusalem will be happy with the way I will help them. ³² Then, if God wants me to, I will come to you mob in Rome. I know I will be really happy to meet you, and I

* **15:21** Isaiah 52:15

will have a good rest with you there. ³³ And now I ask God to be with all you mob. He can make us live happy together. Yes, that's right.

(The next part, 16:1-16, says things for just some of the people at Rome at that time, so we have not translated it yet.)

16

Be careful, some people will tell you the wrong story

¹⁷ Listen, my Christian friends, I'm telling you straight, you've got to be really careful about people that make you split up and argue with each other. Remember that you heard the true message about Jesus Christ, and you learned to follow his way, but there are some people that want you to leave that way and go another way. They tell you a different story, and they get you to argue with each other. So don't listen to them. Keep away from them. ¹⁸ They don't work for our leader, Jesus Christ, but they just work for themselves. They try to trick people. They talk really nicely to people and say good things about them. They do that to get whatever they want for themselves. They trick people that don't think about it properly. ¹⁹ But don't let them trick you. Everyone knows that you do what God wants, so I'm happy about you. But I also want to tell you to be careful. I want you to understand the things that are good, and don't even think about doing the things that are bad. ²⁰ You know, Satan,

the boss over the bad spirits, he tries to get you to go wrong. But God is stronger than Satan. God is the one that makes us happy and quiet inside ourselves. And he will beat Satan, so that Satan can't do anything to you any more.

I ask our leader, Jesus, to be really good to you.

(The next part, 16:21-24, says things for just some of the people at Rome at that time, so we have not translated it yet.)

Everybody has to tell God that he is good

²⁵⁻²⁷ God is really great and powerful, so everybody has to tell him that he is good. He can make you strong. This is his message. It is the good news about Jesus Christ. A long time ago, God planned to get both the Jewish people, and the people that are not Jews, to believe in him. But at first he kept it a secret, and he just got the Jewish people to follow him. After that, he got his men to write about it ahead of time, and their words are in his book. Now his message about Jesus is for every nation. It is not just for the Jewish people, but everybody everywhere can trust him, and they can listen to him and do what he wants. God is the only one that can think good enough to make it all work out like that. So everybody has to tell God and Jesus Christ, "You are great." They have always got to do that for ever.

From Paul

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