

Some important parts of the letter  
that Paul wrote to the Christians at  
Rome  
This page tells a bit more about this  
book

Paul wrote this letter about 30 years after Jesus went back to heaven. He wrote it to the Christians who were living in the city called Rome, in the country that we now call Italy.

Some of the Christians at Rome were Jews. That means that they belonged to the same tribe as Jesus and most of the other people in the Bible. Paul was also a Jew. But other Christians in Rome were not Jews.

Many years before Paul wrote this letter God gave Moses a special law to give to the Jewish people. God didn't give that law to other people that were not Jews. But some Christian Jews thought that everyone had to follow that law. So Paul wrote this letter to tell them that the law can not really save people. He also tells how God does save people. These are the important parts of his letter for people today that are not Jews, like Aboriginal people and most white fellas.

We want to make it easy for people today that aren't Jews to find out from this letter what they really need to know, so we left out those parts that are just talking to Jewish people. This is why we call it Excerpts. This means, not the whole letter, but just the important parts of it.

In the first 8 chapters Paul explains that we need God to save us, and God that will say that we are all right if we trust him and believe that Jesus died for us. Then

God's powerful spirit will join us up with Jesus and we will become new people, and we will be God's friends.

In the last part of the letter Paul explains the way Christians have to live in this world. We have to love each other and love other people too.

<sup>1</sup> I am Paul, and this letter is from me. I work for Jesus Christ, and God picked me out to go and tell people the good news, that he will save them. <sup>2</sup> A long time ago God promised to do this. He got some of his men to tell about it and they wrote about it in his book. <sup>3-4</sup> That good news is about his son, Jesus Christ, our leader. He was born as a human baby into King David's family, but really, he 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.

<sup>5</sup> God is very good to me. He picked me out to go to all the people that are not Jews to tell them about Jesus, and get them to believe in him and do whatever he says. <sup>6</sup> You people are not Jews, so God sent me to you too. You heard God call out to you to come to Jesus Christ, so now you belong to him.

<sup>7</sup> I'm sending this letter to all you people that belong to God, and that live in the city called Rome. God called out to you to come and follow him, and to be his people.

I pray to God, and to our leader, Jesus Christ. I ask them to show you that they love you, and to make you feel happy and quiet inside yourselves.

<sup>8</sup> The first thing I want to do is to say thank you to my God. Jesus Christ has opened the way for me to talk to God like this. I thank him for all of you Christian mob there. You really believe in Jesus now and people everywhere in the world tell about you to other people. <sup>9</sup> I pray to God

all the time and I ask him to help you. (This is true – God knows it is true.) I work hard for God, I tell everyone the Good News about his son. <sup>10</sup> Whenever I pray to him I ask him to let me come and see you soon, if he agrees to that. <sup>11</sup> 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. <sup>12</sup> Then I will see how much you trust God and you will see how much I trust God, and this will make all of us happy. <sup>13</sup> You know, I tried to come and see you many times, but God stopped me every time up till now. I want to come and work there with you and get more people to follow Jesus, just like I did at other places. <sup>14</sup> I've got to tell God's word to all kinds 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. <sup>15</sup> So I want to come to Rome and tell God's good news to all you mob there, too.

<sup>16</sup> I'm not ashamed of this good news. It is a really strong 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. <sup>17</sup> This good news is this. God saves people that trust him, and he makes them really good. We read this in his book,  
“If you trust God he will make you really good, and you will really live.”

*If we do wrong it makes God angry*

<sup>18</sup> God in heaven gets very angry with people that do bad things, whenever they do wrong against God and they do bad things to other people. They themselves do wrong, but that's not all, they try to block other people so they

will not know the true story about God. And this makes God very angry.

<sup>19</sup> God clearly shows everybody enough for us to understand the true story about him. Everybody knows about him. <sup>20</sup> 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 he doesn't know about God. <sup>21</sup> The trouble was this. Even though people could work this out about God, they really didn't want to know him. They didn't want to tell 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. <sup>22</sup> They told everybody that they could think really good, but they were fools. <sup>23</sup> They didn't want 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 kinds of things, and they respected those things. They didn't respect God.

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

<sup>26</sup> So, after people turned away from God he let them do whatever dirty thing they thought about. Even women

no longer wanted to sleep with men any more, like wives do with their husbands, but instead they did things with each other that were not normal. <sup>27</sup> And men too did the same kind of thing. They forgot about women and really wanted to sleep with other men, as if they were women. They did bad things with each other, and this gave them real problems. They hurt each other. And these problems were the right thing for them.

<sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> 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, <sup>30</sup> they say bad things about others, 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 bad, and they never respect their parents. <sup>31</sup> They are stupid, they don't do what they say they will do, they don't love anybody, and they are never sorry for anybody. <sup>32</sup> Long ago God said, "Anyone that does these kinds of things has to die." These people know what God said, but they don't take any notice of God. They keep on doing these bad things, and worse still, they push other people to do those same bad things as themselves.

## 2

### *God is the really good judge*

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> So do you really think God will not punish you, if you do the same bad things as the people you blame? Of course he will punish you. <sup>4</sup> Think about this. God is very good to you, he doesn't easily get angry with you, but he waits for you. You know God is good like that, don't you? He is good to you. He tries to get you to come back to him, and stop doing bad things. So don't turn your back on him.

<sup>5</sup> If you think you will never turn around and come back to God, you just make things worse for yourself. One day you will see him get really angry with you. On that day he will judge everybody properly and fairly. <sup>6</sup> God will give each of us the right pay for whatever we have done. <sup>7</sup> Some people keep on doing good things, and later God will be good to them. They are the people that want to please God. They listen to him and they do good things so that he will be happy with them. Later he will give them life that never ends. <sup>8</sup> But he will get really angry with selfish other people that don't want to know the true story but just want to do bad things. <sup>9-11</sup> And God will not treat one kind of people any better than all the others. It will be the same for Jewish people as it will be for those people that are not Jewish. God will punish everyone that does bad things, whether they are Jewish people or not. They will all get very big trouble anyway. But God will do good to those that do good things, whether they are Jewish people or not. God will make them great anyway. They will feel really good and everybody will respect them.

<sup>12</sup> God gave the law to the Jewish people, so they know that law, and whenever they do wrong God will punish

them the way that law says. And the same too for people that are not Jewish, whenever they do wrong he will punish them. <sup>13</sup> It doesn't matter whether you know that law or not, if you do good things God will tell you, "You are all right." <sup>14</sup> There are people that aren't Jewish, but 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. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. This is the message that I tell everybody.

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

### 3

#### *Nobody is really good*

<sup>9</sup> So what about those of us that are Jewish people? Will we get a better deal than other people? No way. Both Jewish people and other people do bad things, just like I already said. We just can't help it. <sup>10</sup> Like we read in God's book,

"Nobody is really good, not even one person,

<sup>11</sup> Nobody understands about God, nobody even tries to get to know him.

<sup>12</sup> Everybody turns away from God,  
They all go wrong,

Not even one of them does good things.

<sup>13</sup> They say things that make big trouble for other people,  
Whenever they talk, they tell lies and trick people.

Their mouths are like the mouths of a cheeky snakes.

<sup>14</sup> They just swear at other people and say bad things about them.

<sup>15</sup> They quickly get up and to kill other people,

<sup>16</sup> Wherever they go they hurt people and make them really sad.

<sup>17</sup> They can't live without fighting.

<sup>18</sup> They don't respect God or take any notice of him."

<sup>19-20</sup> You know, it's like this. God gave the law to the Jewish people and they have to do everything it says. And God is the judge of everybody in the whole world. We all have to answer to him. 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*

<sup>21-22</sup> But now God shows us a different way. If we follow this way he will be happy with us. It is not about that law, whether we follow it or not, but it is about Jesus Christ, whether we believe in him or not. God tells us about this in his book. (We can read it in the part that has his law as well as in the other part that he got his men to write.) God will save us if we trust in Jesus. It doesn't matter who we are. God treats everybody the same. <sup>23</sup> We all went wrong and did bad things. None of us is as good as God wants us to be. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus Christ took the blame for us. He paid the cost for those bad things that we did, so now God is really good to us and says that we are all right now, he will not blame us any more. And this doesn't cost us anything.

<sup>25</sup> God sent Jesus to die for us so that, if we believe that



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

<sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> 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.

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

<sup>31</sup> So what do you reckon about the law? We believe in Jesus now so can we forget about the law? No way. If we believe in Jesus we agree that the law is right.

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

## 4

### *Abraham believed God*

<sup>13</sup> Remember that story about Abraham, that old man that lived a long time ago. God promised him that his family – the people that will come after him – God promised that they will own the whole world one day. And Abraham believed this word that God promised him.

Abraham didn't think about the law at that time. He just believed God and from there God said that Abraham was good and God promised to look after his family. <sup>14</sup> Don't think that God only promises good things to people that follow the law of Moses. If he is like that, nobody will get anything, whether they trust him or not. But really, God is not like that. He promises good things to people that trust him.

<sup>15</sup> 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.)

<sup>16</sup> So it is important that we trust God, just like Abraham trusted God. It doesn't matter whether we Jewish or not Jewish. If we believe God like Abraham did, we belong to his family, like he is our grand-father from a long time ago. <sup>17</sup> That story in God's book is all about this. God told Abraham, "I will make you the grand-father of lots of tribes of people to come." Abraham believed that God can do anything. He can make dead people alive again, and he can make a new thing out of nothing.

<sup>18-19</sup> Everyone reckoned that Abraham was too old to have any kids, but he remembered the word God that told him. God said that he will have kids and his family to come will grow to be a really big mob. Abraham kept on believing God and waited for God to do this, just like he promised. Abraham didn't think about his old body. 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. <sup>20</sup> He didn't start thinking, "Maybe God will not keep his promise after all." No, he kept on believing, and this made him strong, so

that he could tell everyone that God is good. <sup>21</sup> He just thought, “I know that God will do whatever he promised.”

<sup>22</sup> So God said, “Abraham is a really good man.”

<sup>23</sup> They wrote that in God’s book. They didn’t write it just for Abraham, <sup>24</sup> but 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 really good.” God is the one that made our leader, Jesus, alive again after he died. <sup>25</sup> It was us who did bad things, but God let them kill Jesus instead of us. Then God made him alive again, so now God tells us, “You are all right.”

## 5

### *God makes us his friends*

<sup>1-2</sup> 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 this for us. Now we can be happy and think about how good it will be for us later, when we will be with him. We will be really great with him at that time. <sup>3</sup> 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 always be able to handle problems, and never stop believing. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> And the Holy Spirit is in us, so we know that God loves us. Yes, God gave us his Holy Spirit and now his spirit in us makes us really love everybody.

<sup>6</sup> Jesus Christ died for us while we were still really weak. At that time we didn’t care about God at all. But he came, just at the right time, and he died instead of

us. <sup>7</sup> You know, people don't usually agree to die instead of somebody else, not even for a good person. (Maybe there is somebody that will risk their life for a really good person.) <sup>8</sup> But Jesus Christ died for us while we were still really bad people. This shows that God really loves us very much.

<sup>9</sup> And that's not all. Jesus Christ bled and died for us, so now God tells us, "You are all right," and there is no way that he will get angry with us or punish us. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> So we are really happy now, because Jesus has saved us and made us good friends with God.

### *Christ is different from Adam*

<sup>12</sup> Think about the story about Adam. God told him, "If you eat any fruit from that tree you will die." He did wrong, he ate that fruit, so he died. And that is the way it is with all of us people now. We all came from Adam, we all do wrong, and so we all die. <sup>13-14</sup> All the people that came from Adam did wrong in one way or another, so they all died at some time. This was the way it was before Moses came and wrote down the Law, everybody died. And it is just the same now after the law came, everybody still has to die. Before the law came, if somebody did wrong, nobody could point to a law to show that it was wrong. But they all died, so we know they all did wrong, even though they didn't do it the same way as Adam did.

<sup>15</sup> Jesus Christ came later, and he did something a lot different from the wrong thing Adam did. That one man, Adam, he went wrong, so many people have to die. But this other man, Jesus Christ, he is different. He makes many people alive. God gives us this life. He is very good

to us even though we are not good enough for him. Jesus did much more for us than Adam did.

<sup>16</sup> And we get something from Adam that is a lot different from the good thing that God gives us. Adam did just one bad thing, and from that now we all go wrong, so God has to punish us. But what God did is different. He is good to us and gives us life. It doesn't cost us anything. So he will not punish us but he will call us his friends. <sup>17</sup> We know about that one man, Adam. He did something bad, so now lots of people die. But we also know about that other man, Jesus Christ. He did something good, so now lots of people will live properly, for ever. God is really good to them now, and he makes them good too. Jesus did a much better thing than Adam did. <sup>18</sup> After Adam went wrong everybody did bad things so God has to punish everybody. But then Jesus did something really good, and so now God will not punish us but will let us be his friends and live for ever. <sup>19</sup> That one man Adam did wrong. He did something God told him not to do, and from that now many people do wrong things. But that other man, Jesus, did something good. He did everything God told him to do, and from that he now makes many people good.

<sup>20</sup> The law came and showed people that they did wrong. But this didn't stop them, they still did wrong. Yes, people keep on doing more bad things, but at the same time God keeps on being more good to people. <sup>21</sup> It is like this. We can't stop ourselves doing bad things, so we all have to die. But our leader, Jesus Christ, did something really good for us, so now God is good to us too. And he also makes us good, so we will live for ever.

## 6

*Christians can't keep on doing bad*

<sup>1</sup> So what do you reckon? We follow Jesus now, so can we keep on doing bad things so that God will keep on being really good to us? <sup>2-4</sup> No way. Just think about that baptism ceremony. The 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. Well, that baptism ceremony was to show that we died, just like Jesus Christ, and we got buried too, just like him, but God made us alive again. So it is like we die to doing bad things, but God makes us alive again to do good things. If we live in a new way like this 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, and so we can't do it. That's the way we have to live all the time.

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> 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 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. <sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> It is like we died, just like Jesus Christ died, and now we know that we will also live again with him. <sup>9</sup> He came back to life after he died, so we are sure that he can never die again. Nothing can kill him ever again. <sup>10</sup> He did die once, for people that did bad things, but now he stays alive all the time with God. <sup>11</sup> Well, we have to think about ourselves in that same way. We joined up with Jesus Christ, so now, if we start to think we want to do

something bad we have to tell ourselves that we died, just like Jesus died, so we can't do anything bad. We have to think about living God's way and then we will be really alive, just like Jesus Christ is alive.

<sup>12-14</sup> 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 this you will want to do those same bad things yourself. In that way that law will be your boss and your bodies too will make you want to do bad. 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 this 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*

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> You know that if you always do whatever another person wants, you make him 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. <sup>17</sup> 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 this. <sup>18</sup> You are free now. You don't have to do those bad things any more but you have got a new good boss now and you have to do good things all the time. <sup>19</sup> (I'm trying to say this in a way

that you will really understand.) In the past you used your body for wrong things, like you worked for a boss that made you do 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.

<sup>20</sup> In those days you worked for the wrong boss. You worked for that old part of you that made you want to do bad things. So you did bad things and you never wanted to do good things. <sup>21</sup> And what did you get after you did bad things? You got shame, that's all. And you know that people that do those things have to die. <sup>22</sup> So now you can't think any more about doing bad things, but you can work for God instead. From there you will do good things, and then you will be God's special people and you will live with him for ever. <sup>23</sup> That's the way it is. If we work doing bad things we will get our pay for that work. 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 that goes on for ever.

## 7

### *The Jewish law*

<sup>1</sup> I say this now to my own countrymen, you Jewish people. You know the law that God gave to Moses. But we can only do what that law says while we are alive. That law is not there for us after we die. <sup>2-3</sup> 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, she breaks that law and she is guilty. We call it adultery. But if her husband dies, there is no law for her about adultery any more, so she can marry another man and sleep with him.



<sup>4</sup> You know that Jesus died for us. His body was dead on the cross. And you believe in Jesus, so it is like you died too. That old law is not for you any more. You belong to Jesus now. He came alive again, and you are alive again too. You have a new life now, so you can do a lot of good things for God.

<sup>5</sup> At first we didn't believe in Jesus, and our boss was that bad part of us that makes us go wrong. That law told us not to do bad things, but this made us think about those bad things, and we did them anyway. So we had to die.

<sup>6</sup> But now it is like we are dead with Jesus and we don't have to do anything that old law says any more. And we are alive again too, with the Holy Spirit in us. We live to do whatever God tells us to do.

*That law shows us that we go wrong*

<sup>7</sup> Some people might reckon the old law is no good because it made us go wrong, but that's not true. It is like this. The law shows me the things that are wrong. For example, one part of that law says, "Don't think about getting something for yourself if it belongs to somebody else." Before I ever knew that law I didn't ever think like that. <sup>8</sup> But after I heard that law, then I started to think that bad way. You see, if I don't ever hear that law I will not go wrong like that. <sup>9</sup> Before I ever heard the law I was alive, but then that law woke that bad part of me up and now it makes me go wrong, <sup>10</sup> so I have to die. That law's job was to show me how I can live, but all it did was this, it told me, "You will die." <sup>11</sup> That bad part of me used the law to trick me so that I did bad things, and now I know that I will die. <sup>12</sup> But that law itself is really good. It tells us to do things that are right and good.

<sup>13</sup> But if that law is good, will that good thing make me die? No way. It was like this – the law showed me what is

right and what is wrong, and after I knew this, that bad part of me used that law to tell me that I've got to die. So that law does this. It shows us that it is really bad to go wrong and to do bad things.

*A fight goes on inside us*

<sup>14</sup> The problem is not the law, it is me. We know this. A long time ago God told Moses to write down that law, so there is nothing wrong with the law. But there is something wrong with me. I'm just a normal human. I keep going wrong. There is a bad part of me inside me that is my boss and I have to do everything that this boss tells me to do. <sup>15</sup> I don't understand it. I want to do good things. But I can't do those good things that I want to do. What I do are the things that I hate. <sup>16</sup> I know that I want to be better, and this shows that, really, I reckon the law is good. <sup>17</sup> So, really, it's not me that does those bad things. It's that bad part of me that is inside me.

<sup>18</sup> I know that I can't do anything good by myself. I want to do the right thing but I can't. <sup>19</sup> I keep trying to do good things, but I can't. No, I keep doing the bad things I don't want to do. <sup>20</sup> That proves it. It's not me that does those bad things. It's that bad part inside me that does those bad things.

<sup>21</sup> This is what happens. It is like another law. Every time I try to do something good, that bad part of me wants to take control and make me go wrong.

<sup>22</sup> Really, I myself want to live the right way, <sup>23</sup> but there is a big fight going on inside me. That bad part of me makes its own law. It makes me think the wrong way. It makes me its prisoner so that I can't do the things I really want to do. <sup>24</sup> I feel really sorry for myself. How can I get

free from this bad boss that is in my body? Who can make me free?

<sup>25</sup> Oh, thank you God. You made a way for me to be free. Jesus Christ will be my new leader and he will beat that old boss inside me.

This is what I have been saying up till now. I really want to do things that are right, but I have a bad part in me that is my boss, and it makes me do things that are wrong.

## 8

### *God's spirit lives in us*

<sup>1</sup> The important thing that I want to say now is this. God will never say we are guilty if we belong to Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> His spirit is in us and makes us alive, and he makes us strong enough to beat that bad part of us that makes us go wrong. This is the new law about the Holy Spirit that lives inside us, and this makes us free from that old law that makes us end up dead.

<sup>3</sup> We are so weak that the law that comes from Moses can't help us. If we think about some bad thing that we like to do, then we can't help ourselves, we just do it. That law just made us think about those bad things, then we wanted to do them. But God set us free from all that. He sent his own son to be in the same sort of body that we bad people have. Then God punished him instead of us. He died instead of us. <sup>4</sup> If we listen to his spirit in us and do whatever he says we will not listen any more to that old part of us that tells us to do bad. We will do good things, like the things in his law.

<sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>6</sup> If we let that bad part inside us be our boss and only do whatever makes us feel good, we will die. But if we do the things the Holy Spirit tells us, and let him control us, we will live happy, and calm and settled inside ourselves. <sup>7-8</sup> That bad part inside us fights against God, so if we do whatever it says we don't do the things that God says. If we are like that we can never follow God's laws. If we live like that we can never make God happy.

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> 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. <sup>13</sup> If you do those 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. <sup>14</sup> It is like this. God's children are those people that listen to his spirit and follow him.

<sup>15</sup> God didn't give you his Holy Spirit to make you frightened of him. No, he gave you his spirit to make you his children. 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.”  
<sup>16</sup> And his spirit in us talks to our own spirits and he tells us, “That is right, we really are God’s children.” <sup>17</sup> We joined up with Jesus Christ, God’s son, so we are part of God’s family now and we will get our share of all the good things that God gives to his son. But it is also true that we will get a lot of the trouble, just like they gave trouble to Jesus. We will get our share of that trouble and we will get our share of good things.

*God will make everything really good later*

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> It is like this, everything in the world is waiting for that time when God will set everything right and show everyone who his children really are. <sup>20</sup> Do you remember that story 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. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24-25</sup> We are really sure that he will save us and fix everything up for us even though he hasn't done it yet. But we know he will do it one day, so we just have to keep on waiting for it.

<sup>26</sup> 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. <sup>27</sup> 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 the things that God already wants. <sup>28</sup> 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. <sup>29</sup> Long ago God knew about each of us, and he knew which of us will believe in him, so he decided to make us like his son. He sent Jesus to us. He is God's oldest son and he is our older brother. <sup>30</sup> So after he picked us out he called to us to come to him, and after we came to him he told us that we are all right now, and he makes us really great, like Jesus.

<sup>31</sup> 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 and nobody can beat us. <sup>32</sup> He really did a lot for us. He sent his own son to die instead of us. And he will not stop there, but he will give us everything else that we need. <sup>33</sup> God himself is the one that says, "You are good," so nobody will be game enough to blame us and tell God, "They are no good." <sup>34</sup> God picked us out to be his own people, so

who do you think will get up and tell him to punish us? It will not be Jesus Christ. He is the one that 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*

<sup>35</sup> But sometimes things go wrong for us and sometimes we get trouble. Does this mean that Jesus Christ has stopped loving us? No way. Nobody can ever stop him loving us. Some people don't want us to follow Jesus, so if they hit us and treat us rough, or if we get too cold from not enough clothes, or if we go hungry, can we think that he has stopped taking care of us? No way. Nothing will ever stop him from loving us. Maybe they reckon they will kill us, <sup>36</sup> like we read in God's book, "Some people find out that we belong to God and they try to kill us.

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

<sup>37</sup> 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 win in the end.

<sup>38-39</sup> I'm really sure that nothing at all can make God stop loving us. He loves us and takes care of us while we are alive, but if they kill us it doesn't matter, God loves us. Those good spirits called angels, they will not stop him. And those bad spirits 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. We

belong to Jesus Christ, our leader, and God loves us very much.

(The next part, 9:1–10:7, mainly talks to the Jewish people, so we have not translated it yet.)

## 10

*God will save everybody that trusts him*

<sup>8</sup> We read this in God's book,  
"The message from God is very close to you  
It is right inside you, and you say it as you talk."

That is the message that we tell you, that you've got to believe in Jesus. <sup>9</sup> That message is this. If you tell everybody, "I belong to Jesus," and if you really believe that God made him alive again after he died. If you believe like that and talk like that, God will save you. <sup>10</sup> If you really believe God, then he says that you are all right. And if you tell everybody that you believe in him, then he saves you.

<sup>11</sup> God's book has this too,  
"Anyone that trusts God will not be ashamed."

<sup>12</sup> This message is for everyone, Jewish people and those 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.

<sup>13</sup> And God's book has this too,  
"God will save everybody that calls out to him and asks him, 'Please help me and save me.'"

<sup>14</sup> But what about people that don't believe in God? They can't call out to him, can they? And what about people that have never even heard about Jesus? They can't believe in him, can they? Somebody has to tell them about him, and then they can believe in him. <sup>15</sup> And



somebody has to send those messengers to go and tell the people. God's book has this too,  
"It is really good to see God's messengers come and bring his good news."

<sup>16</sup> But some people don't want to hear God's message. Long ago Isaiah wrote about them in God's book. He wrote this,

"Hardly anybody believes the message we tell them, God."

<sup>17</sup> So, 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*

<sup>1</sup> My Christian friends, God is so very good to us. So I really want you to give your bodies to him. In the old days people used to give animals to God to make him happy. They did it like this. They used to kill the animals and burn them up. But now it is different. You will make God happy if you give your bodies to him while you are still alive, and let him use your bodies to do good things. This is the proper thing to do to show that you follow God.

<sup>2</sup> 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 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.

<sup>3</sup> God wants me 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. <sup>4</sup> I will use the human body as a picture of Christians. You know that we each have a body, but that body has a lot of different parts. Each part has its own job to do. But the parts all belong to that one body, so they all belong to each other. <sup>5</sup> Well, this 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.

<sup>6</sup> 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 this whenever you believe he has a message for you to tell. <sup>7</sup> Or maybe God gave you the power to help other people, well this is the thing that you have to do. Or if God gave you the power to teach other people, well this is the thing that he wants you to do. <sup>8</sup> Or maybe God gave you the power to cheer people up, well this is your job. Or maybe he gave you the power to share your money and things with other people, well he wants you to share it with people that need things. 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 this is his job for you, so be happy while you do it.

<sup>9</sup> Don't just pretend to love other people. You have to love them properly. This means you have to hate everything that is bad for them and love everything that is good for them. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Don't get lazy as you work for God but get really turned on about it.

<sup>12</sup> We know that everything will be real good after God fixes everything up, so think about this and you will be really happy. But if people give you trouble now, don't get angry but stay calm and settled. And keep on talking to God about everything. <sup>13</sup> If any of God's people need anything, you give them whatever you can. And always be happy to have visitors and let them stay at your place.

<sup>14</sup> If anyone makes trouble for you, don't ask God to punish them but ask him to help them. <sup>15</sup> If somebody is happy, you be happy with them too. If somebody is sad, you be sad with them too. <sup>16</sup> Always try to be friends with other people and try to agree with them. Don't think to yourself, "I'm too good to be with them," but be happy to sit down with anybody and be their friend. Remember, you don't know everything.

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

<sup>19</sup> Listen, my good friends, if somebody does something bad to you, don't get up and do something bad to them to pay them back. No, just wait for God, and after he gets angry with them he will pay them back. We read this in God's book,

"It is God's job to pay people back for the bad things they do. He will punish them, so don't you try to do it."

<sup>20</sup> So you have to do like we read in another place in his book,

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

<sup>21</sup> Don't pay people back and do bad things to them. If you do that, it is like you let that bad part of you win. But instead you have to do good to people. That is the way that you properly win.

## 13

### *Respect the government*

<sup>1</sup> 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 whatever they say. They make laws for everybody and they make sure we all follow those laws. <sup>2</sup> So if you don't do the things that their law says, you aren't doing the things that God wants, and he doesn't like that. He will get those bosses to punish you. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> 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 this job to punish everybody that does bad and he helps them do it. <sup>5</sup> So you have to do whatever they say so that they don't punish you. And you know it is the right thing to do.

<sup>6</sup> You have to pay tax money to the government too, for the same reason. These government bosses work for God and they need that money to do their job. <sup>7</sup> So you have to give everybody 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 these bosses.

### *Love people*

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> 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 people that you are not married to, as if they are they are your wives or husbands," and, "Don't murder anybody," and, "Don't steal anything," and, "Don't think about getting something for yourself if it belongs to somebody else." But if you really love other people you will not do any of these wrong things anyway. So this law, that says to love people, it says what all the other laws put together are saying. <sup>10</sup> 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*

<sup>11-12</sup> And here is another thing to think about. You know what it is like these days. There is not much time left. Jesus will soon come back to save us from the bad things that are going on. He is closer now than he was at the time when we first believed in him. So we have to get busy. Its like the night will soon finish and daylight will soon come, and people will wake up from sleep and get ready to do things. Look, that time is nearly here. So we have to stop doing the bad things that people do in the dark. We have to do good things instead. <sup>13</sup> We have to do things that are right and good and honest, like people that like the daylight. 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. <sup>14</sup> But instead, you have to be like our leader, Jesus Christ, so that whenever other people look at you they will really see him. And whenever that bad part of you inside you makes you want to do something bad, take no notice of it. Just don't think about doing it.

## 14

### *Don't argue with people that are different*

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> 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, those that only eat vegetables and those that eat everything. <sup>4</sup> So you can't tell anybody else they are wrong. God is their boss, not you. So only God can tell them if they do good or go wrong. And he can help them to keep on doing good.

<sup>5</sup> Here is another thing. Some people think like this, "Some days are special for God and the rest are not." Other people think, "Each day is the same as every other day." Each of us has to make up his own mind about this.

<sup>6</sup> Those that make one day special do so to give respect to God on that day. And those that eat all kinds of food do so to give respect to God. They say thank you to God for that food. And in the same way those that don't eat some sorts

of food do so to give respect to God. They say thank you to God too. <sup>7-8</sup> None of us is his own boss. We belong to God and he is our good boss all the time that we are alive, and he is still our good boss after we die. <sup>9</sup> Remember that Jesus died and then became alive again. So now he is the good boss of people that are alive and also the boss of people that are dead.

<sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Like we read in God book, "God says, 'This is for sure. Everybody will get down on their knees in front of me to give respect to me. And everybody will say that I'm really good, the only great God.'"

<sup>12</sup> This 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*

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> I know, and I'm really sure, that our leader, Jesus, taught like this, he said, "There is nothing wrong at all with any food." But somebody might believe that it is wrong to eat some sort of food. Alright, it is wrong for that person to eat it, but not for anybody else. <sup>15-16</sup> But if you know something is all right, so you think you will eat it, and if you know that another Christian will get upset if you eat it, then leave it. Don't eat 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 it is good but leave it anyway. Then nobody will blame you.

<sup>17-18</sup> We belong to God. He doesn't give us rules about the things that we can't eat or drink, but he wants us to have his spirit in us so that we do the things that are right, and we will always be calm and settled, and always be happy. If we live like this as we work for Jesus Christ, then we make God happy. And other people are happy with us too.

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> God is getting all his people to come together into one mob, but if you eat something that upsets one of these new Christians 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. <sup>21</sup> So don't eat any meat, and don't drink any wine if another Christian will get upset and go wrong if you do it. <sup>22</sup> 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, so just let it be like a secret that you both know about. 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. <sup>23</sup> But if anyone is not sure about whether it is right or wrong for him to eat something, then he can't eat it. If he doesn't believe that it is all right to eat, but then if he eats it anyway, then God will say that he does wrong. If we don't believe that something is all right, then it is wrong for us to do it.



## 15

*Strong Christians have to help weak Christians*

<sup>1</sup> Some of us are strong and trust God about these things, but other Christians are weak and worry about them a lot. We strong ones have to be easy on those other weak ones, 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. <sup>2</sup> No, we have to do whatever the others think is right, to help them get strong and trust God more. <sup>3</sup> 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 we read in God's book, "People said bad things about you, God, and they said those same bad things about me."

<sup>4</sup> A long time ago God got his men to write things in his book. He did this to teach us mob 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. <sup>5-6</sup> I want God, the Father of our leader, Jesus Christ, to do this for you. He is the one that can cheer people up and 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.

<sup>7</sup> So be friendly to each other, just like Jesus Christ is friendly to you. Then people will say that God is really good. <sup>8</sup> Remember this. Jesus Christ came here and worked for his own tribe, 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. <sup>9</sup> And he came for the people that are not Jews

too, to show them that God is good to them, so that they will thank him 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,

“Alright 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.’ ”

<sup>10</sup> And another one of God's men wrote, “You mob that are not Jews can be happy, together with God's people.”

<sup>11</sup> 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.’ ”

<sup>12</sup> And another one of God's men, called Isaiah, wrote, “A Jewish man from Jesse's family will get up and he will be the leader of all the people that are not Jews. They will be sure about him and trust him.”

<sup>13</sup> You see, you can be sure about God. So now I ask him to help you trust him properly, and to make you really happy, and really quiet and settled inside yourselves. Then you will be really sure that God will do everything that he said he will do. The Holy Spirit will use his power to do that.

### *Paul's job*

<sup>14-15</sup> My friends, I'm sure that you know these things that I tell you now 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 these things. But I got brave and started to write to you anyway, to get you to think a bit more about some of these things. God is good to me <sup>16</sup> and he picked me out to be a special worker for Jesus Christ. My job is to tell the

good news about Jesus to you mob that are not Jews. Then God's spirit works in you to make you good and right, and God is really happy with you. It is like I give you to God, like a really good present.

<sup>17</sup> So I'm happy to tell everybody about things that Jesus Christ has helped me do in my work for God. <sup>18-19</sup> But I'm not happy to tell about things that I did just by myself. I just want to tell about whatever Jesus Christ did. He used me, but he is the one who 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 telling people that message everywhere I went, right out to Illyricum. <sup>20</sup> I always want to tell that good story to people that have never heard about Jesus Christ. I don't want to wait for somebody else to tell them first so that later I can tell them more. No, I want to go and tell them myself. <sup>21</sup> It is like this, like we read in God's book, "There are people that have never heard about God. Nobody ever told them anything about him. But they will hear this 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*

<sup>30</sup> My friends, I want you to really 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. <sup>31</sup> I will go to Judea soon, so ask God to save me from that mob there that don't believe in Jesus. Ask God too that his people

in Jerusalem will be happy with the way I will help them. <sup>32</sup> 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 will have a good rest with you there. <sup>33</sup> And now I ask God to be with all you mob. He can make us live happy, and calm and settled 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*

<sup>17</sup> Listen, my friends. I tell you this really 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 road, but there are some people that want you to leave that road and go another way. They tell you a different story. That is the way they make you argue with each other. So don't listen to them. Keep away from them. <sup>18</sup> They don't work for our leader, Jesus Christ, but they just work for themselves. They try to trick people. They talk really nice to people and tell them that they are good. They do this to get whatever they want for themselves. They trick the people that don't wake up to them. <sup>19</sup> But don't let them trick you. Everyone knows that you do whatever 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. <sup>20</sup> God is the one that makes us good and quiet inside ourselves. He will soon beat the boss of the devils, called Satan. You will win, and Satan will have to lie down under your feet.

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 he is good*

<sup>25-27</sup> God is really great and powerful so everybody has to tell him 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 decided to get everybody to believe in him and do whatever he wants, both Jewish people and you that are not Jewish. But at first he kept this a secret and just got the Jewish people to follow him. Then he got the men that wrote his book to tell ahead of time about you people that are not Jewish. Now his good news about Jesus makes it clear that everybody everywhere can trust him, and they can do whatever 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 this, for ever.

*From Paul*

Plain English Version  
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