

The image features a background of ancient Roman ruins, including a large, circular stone structure and various rectangular blocks. A semi-transparent cross-shaped overlay is present on the right side of the image. The word "ROMANS" is written in a large, black, serif font across the center of the image.

ROMANS

Transition/Hingepoint ... (Romans 12-15)

1. Romans 1-3: **God's glory.**
 - doctrine of *Total Depravity*.
2. Romans 4-8: **God's love.**
 - doctrines of *Justification & Sanctification*.
3. Romans 9-11: **God's sovereignty and my responsibility.**
 - doctrines of *Election & Free will*.

4. Romans 12-15: **Transformed Relationships.**
 - what happens when I give God ALL of me.

God's Mercies

Rom. 12:1

My New Life

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers & sisters, in view of God's mercy, ...

Romans 12

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy,

- ***Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice to God*** – this is your spiritual act of worship.
- ² ***Do not conform*** to the pattern of this world, ***but be transformed*** by the renewing of your mind.

Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1st Week: Because of God's mercies... (Rom. 12:1-2)

... Live in His *mercy*, not in your *fear*.

Because I live in God's mercy,

1. I am no longer afraid of Him.

- I live in His mercy, demonstrated for me in Jesus

2. I offer myself entirely to Him.

- because it's the only response that makes any sense!

3. I reject *conforming* for *transforming*.

- the forming of my life is now shaped by God's mercy & grace!

2nd Week: Because of God's mercies... (Rom. 12:3-8)

... See the Church through God's eyes.

1. an **Organism**, *not* an organization.

2. A **Body**, not a business.

... through His Body, Jesus wants to express Himself to the world. (T.H. Epp)

*⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so **in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.***

Romans 12

3rd Week: Because of God's mercies... (Rom. 12:9-13)

... Create together a healthy Church.

- 1. Learn how much you need each other ... and that God has intentionally made it so. Health happens in relationship.**
- 2. Discover that together, you become a healthy, strong & beautiful Body – the Bride of Christ.**
- 3. See the surrounding culture is exposed for what it is ... empty and broken.**
- 4. Ensure the Cowichan Valley sees *all* of Jesus ... not just parts of Him.**

4th Week: Because of God's mercies... (Rom. 12:14-21)

... Express Jesus to a broken world.

A simple, powerful message repeated four times:

- *14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse ...*
- *17 Never pay back evil with more evil ...*
- *19 Never take revenge ...*
- ***21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good ...***

The world will see that the Christian is a different person because he cares for those who do not care for him.

T.H.Epp

Last Week: Because of God's mercies... (Rom. 13:1-7)

... Understand & honour the State's role in your lives.

Truth#1: God has established three Living Entities for humanity:

- *Marriage; Covenant People; **Government**.*

Truth #2: When the Church and the State each live out their God-established responsibilities, a natural separation of Church & State is maintained.

- **the State** does not interfere with the Church's responsibility to express Jesus to the world.
- **the Church** does not interfere with the State's responsibility to prevent anarchy & chaos by maintaining peace & social order.

Last Week: Because of God's mercies... (Rom. 13:1-7)

... Understand & honour the State's role in your lives.

Truth #3: Because Truth #2 rarely happens, God instructs His people:

- a. Submit to your rulers whenever you can and honour the office of your rulers whenever you are able.
 - b. Pray for those in authority over you, and support them by being good citizens ... the best in the land.
 - c. Recognize that God does command civil disobedience from His people:
 - when the state commands you to do something that God forbids.
 - when God commands you to do something that the state forbids.
- ... and when you must disobey, do so respectfully, accepting the consequences with godly humility.

This Week: Because of God's mercies... (Rom. 13:8-21)

... Live prepared and ready for Jesus' return.

I am early in my story, but I believe I will stretch out into eternity, and in heaven I will reflect upon these early days, these days when it seemed God was down a dirt road, walking toward me. Years ago He was a swinging speck in the distance; now He is close enough that I can hear His voice, singing; Soon I will see the lines on His face, the smile in His eyes as they stare into mine – full of love for me.

Donald Miller

The Person without Christ.

kronos

Birth

physical
death

Christ's return
& Judgment

- my sin
- 2nd death
(Revelation 20)

¹¹ And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it ... ¹² and I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. ¹³ ...all were judged according to their deeds. ¹⁴ Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20

The Person with Christ.



²³ Everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. ²⁴ Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins, ²⁵ presenting Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins instead. **People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood.** ²⁶ ...God makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

⁸ *Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another ...*

¹¹ ***And do this, understanding the kairos:*** *The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.*

Romans 13

The Point: People without Jesus live in kronos, which says, “*Grab everything you can in this life ... because there is nothing more.*”

Jesus’ followers live in kairos, which says, “*Much more is waiting for you - it’s drawing closer everyday – so live prepared & ready.*”

How to live prepared & ready for Jesus' return:

1. Live with the debt of love as your only obligation. (v.v.8-10)

⁸ *Owe nothing to anyone—except for your obligation to love one another ...*

- ⁹ *The commandments ... are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”*
- ¹⁰ *Love does no harm to a neighbor It completely satisfies all of God’s requirements. It is the only law you need. (Living Bible)*

The point: the transformed life of a Jesus-follower is fueled with God’s love.

- love, not judgement, is what Jesus proclaims to people living in kronos time.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ **All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5

How to live prepared & ready for Jesus' return:

1. Live with the debt of love as your only obligation. (v.v.8-10)
2. **Be dressed, alert and ready for your Master's return.** (v.v. 11-14)

*¹¹ ...**Understand the time ...wake up from your slumber!** Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹² The night is nearly over; the day is almost here! So put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³ Behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing & drunkenness, not in sexual immorality & debauchery, not in dissension & jealousy.*

The issue: Looking at Christ's return within kronos time misses Paul's point.

- it is not whether Christ's return is immanent or not.
- it is that we, His followers, have only a brief moment of our kairos, when we can make a difference in people's kronos.

Note: Paul uses the example of a Roman soldier. (v.v. 11-14)

a. **Urgency.** “It’s almost dawn ... wake up and get ready!”

*¹¹...Wake up from your slumber! Our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. ¹²**The night is nearly over; the day is almost here.** So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light.*

Truth: The next great event in history is the return of Jesus Christ.

Note: Paul uses the example of a Roman soldier. (v.v. 11-14)

a. Urgency. “It’s almost dawn ... wake up and get ready!”

b. Identity. “Change your clothes ...put your uniform on.”

¹² ...**Put aside** the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light ...

¹⁴ Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and forget about satisfying your sinful self.

- **Gk.** - cast aside; throw off

“Throw off the deeds of darkness, and put on the armour of the Kingdom ... Wear the uniform you have been issued – the uniform of Jesus Christ.”

¹⁰ Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. ¹² For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places.

¹³ So put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.

Ephesians 6

Truth: A Christian wearing the garments of darkness is not living in the conscious hope of the coming of Christ. The two are incompatible.

Note: Paul uses the example of a Roman soldier. (v.v. 11-14)

- a. Urgency. “It’s almost dawn ... wake up and get ready!”
- b. Identity. “Change your clothes ... put your uniform on!”
- c. Integrity. “Serve with honour & selfless conviction to duty.”

*¹²...We should stop doing things that belong to darkness and take up the weapons used for fighting in the light. ¹³ **Let us live in a right way, like people who belong to the day.***

- *We should not have wild parties or get drunk.*
- *There should be no sexual sins of any kind,*
- *There should be no fighting or jealousy.*

*¹⁴ **But clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ and forget about satisfying your sinful self.***

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you,
2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.
3 While people are saying, “Everything is fine,” disaster will fall on them as suddenly
as labor pains on a pregnant woman. And there will be no escape.
4 **But you aren’t in the dark about these things, and you won’t be surprised when
the day of the Lord comes like a thief. **5** For you are all children of the light and of
the day: we don’t belong to darkness & night. **6** So be on your guard, not asleep
like the others. Stay awake and sober.**

1 Thessalonians 5

⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.

⁸ But we belong to the day, so let us be sober, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the hope of salvation.

⁹ God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we will live with him forever.

1 Thessalonians 5