**‘God’s Glorious Gospel: The Righteousness God Requires’ Message #73 – ‘Living Under Grace’**

**November 26th, 2017**

**Text: Rom. 12:1**

Keith M. Doyle, Lead Pastor

Winnetka Bible Church

**I. Summary:**

**1. Section #1: The Righteousness God Requires (Chap.1:1-3:20)**

* Romans 3:9-22 – **Summary:** Religious ‘Outsiders’ and ‘Insiders’ are all Under Sin (v.9)
* **Theme: God's Holiness In Condemning Sin**

**2. Section #2: The Righteousness Christ Provides (Chap.3:21-6:23)**

* So if there is NO human solution (Chap.3-5) – God has a solution!
* **Theme: God’s Grace in Justifying Sinners**

**3. Section #3: The Righteousness the Spirit Produces (Chap.7:1-8:39)**

* This new union has a ‘new way’ of living, ***‘…new way of the Spirit’*** (7:6)
* **Theme: God’s Power in Sanctifying Believers**

**4. Section #4: God’s Righteousness in Salvation (Chap.9-11)**

* **Have God’s promises to save failed if there is rampant unbelief?**
* **Theme: God’s Plan in Saving His People**

**5. Illus. a team of oxen…Is Paul teaching ‘passivity’?**

* **Approaching Romans 12-16…Vertical…horizontal…**
* **Doctrine now…(delight) duty; Alien righteousness now…Active righteousness, Theology now…walkology**

* + **Q. *How are we to respond to God’s abundant mercy?***
	+ **My aim is to show you the cost Paul calls us too as we respond to His grace**
1. **The Challenge (who), ‘…*I appeal to you therefore, brothers*…’**
	1. **The Hinge,** *‘…therefore…’*
	* Back to chapter 1…through 11
	* Rom.1,2 – Outsiders, insiders – all need mercy; 3:21-26 – mercy in Christ’s atoning death; 5 – sin abounded, grace abounded more; 6 – new person, new power, new problem; 7 - Frustration under law and flesh, the need for mercy to sanctify; 8 - Family secrets, freedom in the Spirit; 9-11:32 - Sovereignty, preaching, a plan for all peoples – mercy, mercy, mercy…
	* **Summary: Paul has shown God’s Gospel of sheer mercy and so salvation is His work not man’s…**
	* ***‘Therefore…’*** - a ‘call to arms’/coach’s ‘chalk talk’; Tenderness of the appeal, *‘brothers’*

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	1. **The Hammer, *‘…I appeal (urge) to you…’***
	* Word study, ***‘appeal’* =** *parakaleo* – motion alongside, to call – admonish, exhort, beg*.***Illus.** *‘Come here…’ -* A sense of urgency, a note of authority
	* c/f Col.2:6,7 **- ‘*Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him,rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving’***
2. **The Channel (how), *‘…by the mercies of God…’***
	1. **The Appeal is to God’s Mercy**
	* It’s been a key word in Rom.9-11 but it’s been a big theme
	* The summons – Man’s desperate need...condemned (1:18-3:20)
	* The showcase – Jesus’ person and work (3:21-4:25)
	* The solution – God’s mercy frees us and the Spirit empowers (5:1-8:39)
	* The security – God’s mercy is unconditional (9-11) and past finding out (11:33-36)
	* *‘by…’* = through, because of, enabled by (2 Cor.4:1-10)
	* What are, *‘God’s mercies’* that Paul is talking about? Jesus…so he pleads
	1. **Reactions to Circumstances and Trials**
	* In the ups and downs of life this will be tested
	* **Illus.** Paul uses the motivation of memory…c/f Deut.8:1-14, **Illus…’*remember the Lord*…*don’t forget’***
	* **Apply:** When serving Christ - Paul believes true motivation begins by recounting
	* His mercy – why do we read, pray, sing?
3. **The Cost (what), *‘…to present your bodies as a living sacrifice to God…’***
	1. Paul calls us to count the cost – **‘*to present’*** (*paristemi*) our bodies. Not imperative – Paul doesn’t use ‘yield’/’surrender’; c/f Rom 6:13
	* Present implies a glad, joyous, willing offering of oneself
	* Our bodies *‘to’* God as a sacrifice for His use – **Illus.** A gift of love, joyous and spontaneous
	1. **A ‘Living Sacrifice’…to God**
	* An oxymoron…***’servant’*** (1:1,2); Because of Jesus we can be ***‘living sacrifices’***
	* **Apply:** The three ‘T’s’ – Time (how do I spend my time?), Talents (who are my best gifts reserved for?), Treasures (where do I spend my resources?)
	* **What does that look like?**
* Our feet – where we go? Our hands – what we do? Our minds – what we think? Our eyes – what we love? Our tongues – what we say? Our affections/passions – what we love?
	1. **All this is our *‘spiritual worship’* (1b)**
	+ Giving oneself completely to God
	+ ‘Inward’ before ‘outward’ **Illus.** Snowfields and brooks
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