**The Gospel in Romans (10): Living in light of the Gospel**

Romans 12-13

**Review of the previous lessons:**

* Paul wants to present the good news to the Roman church (1:1-17)
* Paul presents the bad news that all humanity (Jews and gentiles) has sinned against God, and are facing the wrath/judgment of God (1:18-3:20)
* Paul presents the gospel in which all people (Jews and gentile) can receive salvation. It is by faith only not by work of law. It has past present future implications in believers’ lives. Sins forgiven, should no longer live under sin for Holy Spirit is in control our lives, hope of future assured. (3:24-8:39)
* The position of Israel in the salvific history actually reveals God’s faithfulness and his sovereign election.

**12:1-2 (A Living Sacrifice) Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 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.**

* Transition from doctrine to duty, from explanation to application, from life to living, from theology to serving, from the God we serve to the people who serve, from the forces of grace to the fruition of life.
* Umbrella exhortation of all that follows.
* True and proper worship is not just singing, church going, but offering up of our bodies as a living sacrifice. What does that mean to you?
* The motivation of service to God is God’s mercy, not legal duty.
* Recall the doctrinal points in chapter 6, this is the direct application.
* Nonconformity to the world – alien residency of the believers in this world. (John 17:14-16, Phil 3:20)
* Transformed by the renewing of mind – we are not transformed by neither legalism nor abundant of knowledge nor emotional outburst. Only when our minds are renewed, then can we discern God’s will.

**12:3-8 Humble service in the body of Christ**

* Everybody plays a part. Nobody is the star of the church except Jesus himself. We are all in service to him.
* What God establishes he will equip for growth.
* (1 Cor 12, Eph 4, 1 Peter 4)

**12:9-21 Love in Action**

* Christian love does not start/progress/end with feelings. Love always manifests in actions.
* Love does not seek self-satisfaction nor self-justification.

**13:1-7 Submission to Governing Authority**

* All authorities were established by God
* Submit for rulers punish evildoers
* It is an act of faith, a cross-centered challenge
* Faithfulness requires not submitting to authority in certain circumstances. (Acts 4, 5)

**13:8-14 Love, for the day is near**

* Love fulfills the law
* Live in hope of day, not in sinful darkness.
* Clothe selves with Lord Jesus Christ

Conclusion: In first 11 chapters Paul’s emphasis is “saved from”, and in the last 5 chapters the emphasis is “saved to”. Paul’s exhortation of believers is not individual focused (how to improve self in isolated sense), rather believers’ holy living always relate to others. How we live in community of church, of non-believers, and of government. Holy living is not a state of passive waiting, but a state of active construction.