

Bible Study Guide – Romans 12:1-21
 Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring / Summer 2018

"**appeal**" - παρακαλέω (parakaleō) Possesses the authority of a command, but maintains the element of an appeal.
 -Eph 4:1-3

Establishes a connection with all previous text, and not just chapters 9 to 11.
 (Matt 22:34-40; 1Co 6:19-20; Heb 13:15-16)

"**spiritual**" - λογικός - (logikos) rational ("logical"), reasonable. Indicates that our response to God should be willful and not merely formal duty.

Response to the Pardon of God...

- (1) The Motivation for the Response
- (2) The Sacrifice of our Body
- (3) The Transformation of our mind

⁽¹⁾ I **appeal** to you *therefore*, brothers, by the mercies of God, to ⁽²⁾ present your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and acceptable to God, which is ⁽¹⁾ your **spiritual worship**.

In contrast to the slain offerings of the old Law

"**worship**" - λατρεία - (latreia) Translated "Worship" or "Service" - goes beyond the mechanical acts of worship, but instead emphasizes the contrast between the formal duties of Jewish worship, and the willing, sacrificial response to God's mercy.

Thermometer

Thermostat

⁽³⁾ Do not be *conformed* to this world, but be **transformed** by the *renewal of your mind*, that by testing *you may discern what is the will of God*, what is good and acceptable and perfect. <- Phil 1:9-11, 2:14-16

Rom 11:18-20; Phil 2:1-11

"**transformed**" - μεταμορφώ (metamorphoō) to transform (literally or figuratively "metamorphose"):-change, transfigure, transform.

What is capable of renewing our mind to prepare us for these things? 2Ti 3:14-17

⁽¹⁾ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you *not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think*, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

⁽¹⁾ For as in *one body* we have many members, and the members *do not all have the same function*,

Characteristics of the Lord's Church...
 (1) **Unity** - One body
 (2) **Diversity** - Different functions
 (3) **Mutuality** - Members one of another

Compare to:
 -I Cor 12
 -Eph 4:4-7
 -1Pe 4:7-10

⁽²⁾ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually ⁽³⁾ *members one of another*.

Whatever one does in the work of the church, it should be with the intention of doing it as well as possible, and without comparison or rankings, which often appear in the human behavior.

⁽¹⁾ Having *gifts* that differ according to the grace given to us, **let us use them**: if **prophecy**, in proportion to our faith; <- 1Co 12:6; Eph 4:7; 1Pe 4:10

⁽²⁾ if **service**, in our serving; the one who **teaches**, in his teaching;

⁽³⁾ the one who **exhorts**, in his exhortation; the one who **contributes**, in generosity; the one who **leads**, with zeal; the one who does **acts of mercy**, with cheerfulness.

"Love"
ἀγάπη (*agapē*)
sacrificial, selfless,
love that demands nothing
in return.

"Love"
φιλόστοργος (*philostorgos*)
being very affectionate,
devoted

"brotherly affection"
φιλαδελφία (*Philadelphia*)
love for fellow believer,
brotherly love

What does **LOVE** look like
practically in our...

vertical relationship
(vv. 9, 11, 12)

horizontal relationships
(vv. 10, 13-21)

Christians must be
careful that their
conduct does not
betray the high
standards of the
gospel

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⁹Let **love** be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <- 1Co 13; James 1:27

¹⁰**Love** one another with **brotherly affection**. Outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹Do not be slothful in **zeal**, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.<- Rev 3:15-16 - **lukewarm** is the opposite of zeal

¹²**Rejoice** in **hope**, be **patient** in **tribulation**, be **constant** in **prayer**. <- Rom 5:2-5 ; Heb 6:13-20; Jam 1:2-12; 1Th 5:17

¹³Contribute to the **needs** of the saints and seek to show **hospitality**. <- Matt 25:31-46; Luke 10:29-37

¹⁴**Bless** those who **persecute you**; bless and do not curse them. <- Gal 6:10; Matt 5:44; Luke 6:28

¹⁵**Rejoice** with those who rejoice, **weep** with those who weep. <- 1Co 12:26

¹⁶Live in **harmony** with one another. Do not be **haughty**, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. <- Phil 2:1-11; 1Co 13:4; Jam 2:1-7

¹⁷**Repay** no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. <- Matt 5:38-48; Col 4:5; 1 Tim 3:7

¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live **peaceably** with all. <- Matt 5:9

¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "**Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.**" <- Deut 32:35; Heb 10:30; 1Th 4:6; Ecc 9:2-6

²⁰To the contrary, "**if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.**" <- Prov 25:21-22; Matt 25:31-46

²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Matt 22:34-40

Love God:
Exo 20:3-11
Deut 6:5;
10:12-13;
11:1
John 14:15,
21, 23-24

Love Neighbor:
Exo 20:12-17
Lev 19:18
Rom 13:9,10
Jam 2:8

Saints = Believers
(Not Dead Christians)
*Rom 1:7, I Cor 1:2,
II Cor 1:1, Eph 1:1,
Col 1:2

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Romans Chapter 12 - Questions for Discussion

Memory Verse:

Romans 12:1 (ESV)

¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

What should be our motivation for offering ourselves in service to God? What is meant by “living sacrifices?” (v. 1)

How does a Christian renew their mind? What is the purpose of this transformation? What are some potential hurdles that stand in our way? (v. 2)

Paul makes several points about our “gifts:” (vv. 3-8, I Cor 12)

- *How should we regard ourselves?*

- *How should we regard others and their gifts? (vv. Phil 2:1-4)*

- *How is the body of Christ designed to function? How is this possible?*

What quality should govern every situation in our lives? What practical examples does Paul give of how a Christian should act? (vv. 9-21, I Cor 13)

What should a Christian’s attitude be toward vengeance? (vv. 17-21)

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Response to the Pardon of God:

Illustration: What are you working for?

Several years ago on an extremely hot day, a crew of men were working on the road bed of the railroad when they were interrupted by a slow moving train. The train ground to a stop and a window in the last car was raised. A booming, friendly voice called out, "Dave, is that you?" Dave Anderson, the crew chief called back, "Sure is, Jim, and it's really good to see you." With that pleasant exchange, Dave Anderson was invited to join Jim Murphy, the president of the railroad, for a visit. For over an hour the men exchanged pleasantries and then shook hands warmly as the train pulled out.

Dave Anderson's crew immediately surrounded him and to a man expressed astonishment that he knew Jim Murphy, the president of the railroad as a personal friend. Dave then explained that over 20 years earlier he and Jim Murphy had started to work for the railroad on the same day. One of the men, half jokingly and half seriously asked Dave why he was still working out in the hot sun and Jim Murphy had gotten to be president. Rather wistfully Dave explained, "twenty-three years ago I went to work for \$1.75 an hour and Jim Murphy went to work for the railroad." – Are we truly working for Christ or simply going through the motions for some other reason?

Matthew 22:34–40 (ESV)

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Hebrews 13:15-16 (ESV)

¹⁵Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. ¹⁶Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

I Corinthians 6:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

Appeal:

4151 παρακαλέω (*parakaleō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 5714; Str 3870; TDNT 5.773—**1.** LN 33.168 **ask for earnestly**, beg, plead (Ac 28:20), for another interp, see below; **2.** LN 33.315 **invite** (Lk 8:41); **3.** LN 33.310 **call together to** (Ac 28:20), for another interp, see above; **4.** LN 25.150 **encourage**, console, urge (Eph 6:22)¹

¹ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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Ephesians 4:1-3 (ESV)

¹I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, **urge** you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Spiritual:

3358 λογικός (*logikos*), ἡ (*ē*), ὄν (*on*): adj.; ≡ Str 3050; TDNT 4.142—LN 73.5 **true to real nature**, pertaining to being genuine: spiritual (niv, asv, nasb, nrsv, nab, see LN comment), reasonable (kjv, nkjv), sensible (njb), pertaining to mind and heart (neb, reb), (Ro 12:1; 1Pe 2:2+)²

Worship:

3301 λατρεία (*latreia*), ας (*as*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 2999; TDNT 4.58—LN 53.14 **worship**, ministry, service to God (Jn 16:2; Ro 9:4; 12:1; Heb 9:1, 6+)³

Transformation by the Word:

2 Timothy 3:14–17 (ESV)

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Philippians 1:9–11 (ESV)

⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 2:14–16 (ESV)

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

² Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

³ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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Humility:

Romans 11:18–20 (ESV)

¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. ¹⁹ Then you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰ That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear.

Philippians 2:1–11 (ESV)

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Diversity in Gifts:

1 Corinthians 12 (ESV)

¹ Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans you were led astray to mute idols, however you were led. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit. ⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. ¹² For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶ And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” ²² On the

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contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,²³ and on those parts of the body that we think less honorable we bestow the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honor to the part that lacked it,²⁵ that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Ephesians 4:4–7 (ESV)

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.

1 Peter 4:7–10 (ESV)

⁷ The end of all things is at hand; therefore be self-controlled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.⁸ Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.⁹ Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace:

v. 9 – “love be genuine”

27 ἀγάπη (*agapē*), ης (*ēs*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ DBLHebr 173; Str 26; TDNT 1.21—1. LN 25.43 (Christian) **love** (Ro 5:8); **2.** LN 23.28 **Love Feast**, the fellowship meal (Jude 12+)⁴

26 ἀγάπη *agapē*; from 25; *love, goodwill*:—beloved(1), love(1), love(112), love feasts(1), love’s(1).⁵

26 ἀγαπάω (*agapaō*): vb.; ≡ DBLHebr 170; Str 25; TDNT 1.21—1. LN 25.43 **love**, (Jn 13:34–35); **2.** LN 25.44 **show love**, demonstrate love (1Jn 3:17); **3.** LN 25.104 **take pleasure in**, to love based on its regarded value (Jn 12:43)⁶

25 ἀγαπάω *agapaō*; of unc. or.; *to love*:—beloved(8), felt a love for(1), love(1), love(75), loved(38), loves(20).⁷

⁴ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁵ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

⁶ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

⁷ Thomas, R. L. (1998). *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek dictionaries : Updated edition*. Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc.

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1 Corinthians 13 (ESV)

¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. ⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part, ¹⁰ but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. ¹² For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

James 1:27 (ESV)

²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

v. 10 – “Love one another”

5816 φιλόστοργος (*philostorgos*), ον (*on*): adj.; ≡ Str 5387—LN 25.41 **being very affectionate**, devoted, loving dearly (Ro 12:10+)⁸

v. 10 – “brotherly affection”

5789 φιλαδελφία (*philadelphia*), ας (*as*), ἡ (*hē*): n.fem.; ≡ Str 5360; TDNT 1.144—LN 25.34 **love for fellow believer**, formally, brotherly love; brotherly kindness (Ro 12:10; 1Th 4:9; Heb 13:1; 1Pe 1:22; 2Pe 1:7+)⁹

Love God / Love Neighbor:

Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV)

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ **And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."** ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ **And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

⁸ Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

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Love God by Keeping Commandments

Deuteronomy – 4 speeches by Moses prior to the children of Israel entering the land of Canaan (1st speech talked about the failures of the first generation)

Chapter 4 – Reminds them of the Statutes, Rules, Commandments (three ways of saying the same thing)

Chapter 5 – Repeats the 10 Commandments for the current generation

Chapter 6 – Love God with ALL your heart, ALL your soul, All your Might

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV)

⁴ "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ **You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.** ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Chapter 10 – Loving God = doing what God commanded

Deuteronomy 10:12-16 (ESV)

¹² "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, **to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,** ¹³ **and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?** ¹⁴ Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. ¹⁵ Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. ¹⁶ Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

Chapter 11 – Loving God = doing what God commanded

Deuteronomy 11:1 (ESV)

¹ "You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.

Jesus also equated the keeping of commandments to loving God

John 14:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 14:21 (ESV)

²¹ "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

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John 14:23-24 (ESV)

²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

Someone says "I just want to Love God, I don't want all that Bible stuff." This is not loving God. We can divorce Loving God from doing.

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Leviticus 19:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Romans 13:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

James 2:8 (ESV)

⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

Zeal / Lukewarm:

Revelation 3:15–16 (ESV)

¹⁵ " 'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

Hope / Tribulation / Prayer:

Romans 5:2–5 (ESV)

² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

Hebrews 6:13–20 (ESV)

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, ¹⁴ saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." ¹⁵ And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. ¹⁶ For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. ¹⁷ So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, ¹⁸ so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. ¹⁹ We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that

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enters into the inner place behind the curtain,²⁰ where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

James 1:2–12 (ESV)

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. ⁵ If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. ⁷ For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; ⁸ he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways. ⁹ Let the lowly brother boast in his exaltation, ¹⁰ and the rich in his humiliation, because like a flower of the grass he will pass away. ¹¹ For the sun rises with its scorching heat and withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beauty perishes. So also will the rich man fade away in the midst of his pursuits. ¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (ESV)

¹⁷ pray without ceasing,

Needs of the Saints / Hospitality:

Matthew 25:31–46 (ESV)

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

Luke 10:29–37 (ESV)

²⁹ But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he

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came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. ³⁴ He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise."

Saints:

Romans 1:7 (ESV)

⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

² To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

2 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:2 (ESV)

² To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Bless Those Who Persecute You:

Galatians 6:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Matthew 5:44 (ESV)

⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

Luke 6:28 (ESV)

²⁸ bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

Rejoice / Weep:

1 Corinthians 12:26 (ESV)

²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.

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Harmony / Haughty:

Philippians 2:1–11 (ESV)

¹ So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1 Corinthians 13:4 (ESV)

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant

James 2:1–7 (ESV)

¹ My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. ² For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, ³ and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “You sit here in a good place,” while you say to the poor man, “You stand over there,” or, “Sit down at my feet,” ⁴ have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵ Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? ⁶ But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? ⁷ Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

Vengeance / Peace:

Matthew 5:38–48 (ESV)

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ ³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you. ⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

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Colossians 4:5 (ESV)

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time.

1 Timothy 3:7 (ESV)

⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Matthew 5:9 (ESV)

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Deuteronomy 32:35 (ESV)

³⁵ Vengeance is mine, and recompense, for the time when their foot shall slip; for the day of their calamity is at hand, and their doom comes swiftly.’

Hebrews 10:30 (ESV)

³⁰ For we know him who said, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay.” And again, “The Lord will judge his people.”

1 Thessalonians 4:6 (ESV)

⁶ that no one transgress and wrong his brother in this matter, because the Lord is an avenger in all these things, as we told you beforehand and solemnly warned you.

Ecclesiastes 9:2–6 (ESV)

² It is the same for all, since the same event happens to the righteous and the wicked, to the good and the evil, to the clean and the unclean, to him who sacrifices and him who does not sacrifice. As the good one is, so is the sinner, and he who swears is as he who shuns an oath. ³ This is an evil in all that is done under the sun, that the same event happens to all. Also, the hearts of the children of man are full of evil, and madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. ⁴ But he who is joined with all the living has hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. ⁵ For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. ⁶ Their love and their hate and their envy have already perished, and forever they have no more share in all that is done under the sun.

Proverbs 25:21–22 (ESV)

²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink, ²² for you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.