

## Romans in a Nutshell choral reading 2

CHARACTERS: A, B ALL, VOG (Voice of God)

SETTING: bare stage

RUN TIME: 3 minutes

SCRIPTURE/BASED ON: Romans 11-16

### A Hymn of Praise

A: Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God!

ALL: How unsearchable His judgments and untraceable His ways!

B: For who has known the mind of the Lord?

ALL: Or who has been His counselor?

A: Or who has ever first given to Him, and has to be repaid?

B: For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

ALL: To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

### A Living Sacrifice

A: Brothers, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God;

ALL: this is your spiritual worship.

B: Do not be conformed to this age,

ALL: but be transformed by the renewing of your mind,

B: so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.

A: Do not think of yourself more highly than you should think.

ALL: Instead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one.

B: Now as we have many parts in one body and all the parts do not have the same function,

ALL: In the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.

A: According to the grace given to us, we have different gifts:

ALL: If prophecy, use it according to the standard of one's faith;

B: if service, in service;

ALL: if teaching, in teaching;

A: if exhorting, in exhortation;

ALL: giving, with generosity;

B: leading, with diligence;

ALL: showing mercy, with cheerfulness.

## Christian Living

A: Love must be without hypocrisy.  
 ALL: Detest evil; cling to what is good.  
 B: Show family affection to one another with brotherly love.  
 ALL: Outdo one another in showing honor.  
 A: Do not lack diligence  
 B: be fervent in spirit  
 ALL: serve the Lord.  
 A: Rejoice in hope  
 B: be patient in affliction  
 ALL: be persistent in prayer.  
 A: Share with the saints in their needs  
 B: pursue hospitality.  
 ALL: Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.  
 A: Rejoice with those who rejoice  
 B: weep with those who weep.  
 ALL: Be in agreement with one another.  
 A: Do not be proud; instead, associate with the humble.  
 B: Do not be wise in your own estimation.  
 ALL: Do not repay anyone evil for evil.  
 A: Try to do what is honorable in everyone's eyes.  
 B: If possible, on your part, live at peace with everyone.  
 ALL: Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for His wrath. For it is written:  
 VOG: Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay,  
 ALL: But if your enemy is hungry, feed him  
 A: If he is thirsty, give him something to drink.  
 B: For in so doing you will be heaping fiery coals on his head.  
 ALL: Do not be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

## Christians and the Government

A: Everyone must submit to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except from God,  
 ALL: Those that exist are instituted by God.  
 B: So then, the one who resists the authority is opposing God's command  
 ALL: those who oppose it will bring judgment on themselves.  
 A: For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad.  
 B: Do you want to be unafraid of the authority?  
 ALL: Do what is good, and you will have its approval.  
 A: The government is God's servant for your good.  
 B: But if you do wrong, be afraid, because it does not carry the sword for no reason.  
 ALL: The government is God's servant, an avenger that brings wrath on the one who does wrong.  
 A: Therefore, you must submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of your conscience.  
 B: For this reason you pay taxes,  
 ALL: since the authorities are God's public servants, continually attending to these tasks.

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A: Pay your obligations to everyone:

B: taxes to those you owe taxes,

ALL: tolls to those you owe tolls, respect to those you owe respect, and honor to those you owe honor.

A: Do not owe anyone anything, except to love one another,

B: for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

ALL: The commandments: do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not covet

A: and whatever other commandment—all are summed up by this

ALL: Love your neighbor as yourself.

B: Love does no wrong to a neighbor.

ALL: Love, therefore, is the fulfillment of the law.

### Put On Christ

A: It is already the hour for you to wake up from sleep,

ALL: for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.

B: The night is nearly over, and the daylight is near,

ALL: so let us discard the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.

A: Let us walk with decency, as in the daylight:

ALL: not in carousing and drunkenness; not in sexual impurity and promiscuity; not in quarreling and jealousy.

B: Put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no plans to satisfy the fleshly desires.

ALL: Accept anyone who is weak in faith, but don't argue about doubtful issues.

A: One person believes he may eat anything, but one who is weak eats only vegetables.

B: One who eats must not look down on one who does not eat, and one who does not eat must not criticize one who does,

ALL: because God has accepted him.

A: Who are you to criticize another's household slave?

B: Before his own Lord he stands or falls.

ALL: And he will stand. For the Lord is able to make him stand.

A: One person considers one day to be above another day.

B: Someone else considers every day to be the same.

ALL: Each one must be fully convinced in his own mind.

A: Whoever observes the day, observes it for the honor of the Lord.

B: Whoever eats, eats for the Lord, since he gives thanks to God;

ALL: and whoever does not eat, it is for the Lord that he does not eat it, yet he thanks God.

A: For none of us lives to himself,

B: and no one dies to himself.

ALL: If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord.

A: Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

B: Christ died and came to life for this:

ALL: that He might rule over both the dead and the living.

A: But you, why do you criticize your brother?

B: Or you, why do you look down on your brother?

ALL: For we will all stand before the tribunal of God.

VOG: As I live, every knee will bow to Me, and every tongue will give praise to God,

ALL: So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.

## Love and Acceptance

A: Let us no longer criticize one another.

ALL: Instead decide never to put a stumbling block or pitfall in your brother's way.

B: If your brother is hurt by what you eat, you are no longer walking according to love.

ALL: Do not destroy that one Christ died for by what you eat.

A: Do not let your good be slandered, for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking,

ALL: but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

B: Whoever serves Christ in this way is acceptable to God and approved by men.

ALL: We must pursue what promotes peace and what builds up one another.

A: Do not tear down God's work because of food.

ALL: Everything is clean, but it is wrong for a man to cause stumbling by what he eats.

B: It is a noble thing not to eat meat, or drink wine, or do anything that makes your brother stumble.

ALL: Everything that is not from a conviction is sin.

A: Each one of us must please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.

ALL: Even the Messiah did not please Himself.

B: On the contrary, as it is written,

VOG: The insults of those who insult You have fallen on Me.

ALL: Whatever was written in the past was written for our instruction, so that we may have hope through endurance and through the encouragement from the Scriptures.

A: Now may the God who gives endurance and encouragement allow you to live in harmony with one another,

ALL: so that you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ with a united mind and voice.

B: Therefore accept one another, just as the Messiah also accepted you, to the glory of God.

ALL: The Messiah became a servant on behalf of God's truth, to confirm the promises to the fathers

A: Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you believe in Him

ALL: so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

B: I appeal to you, to join with me in fervent prayers to God.

ALL: The God of peace be with all of you. Amen.

A: Now to Him who has power to strengthen you

B: to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ

ALL: to Him be the glory forever! Amen.