

Romans 16 (Conrad Bowman) (November 5, 2008) [See p. 9]

I'm going to start tonight – I want – I want to finish Romans – to the end of Romans; and then jump right into Titus. I don't see any sense in breaking up between them. So, I'm going to start with Romans, chapter 16; because it's the last thing – pretty much the last thing that Paul covers in this marvelous systematic theology of his in one book. Then I want to do a little summary of it; so, that doesn't bode well for Titus; but that'll be okay. If we get hung up in Romans, that'll be alright. Let's – let's have a word of prayer before we begin.

Father, I just thank You for the time that You have laid out for us tonight. Thank You Father for bringing us together; for the way You minister to me; and for the way You kept and preserved each one that has been here and is involved with us; for Adam and the strength of his – of his delivery and the willingness he has to jump and fill in. I just thank You for it, Father. You put us here with a purpose, and I don't ever want to lose sight of that. Help us Father to get beyond our own wisdom and get into Your mind for us in this place at this time; for it's in Christ's name, who paid for the privilege. Amen.

Now, I'm looking at – I'm looking at – in the Outline, it's Romans 16:20. In Romans 16:20 says,

20. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

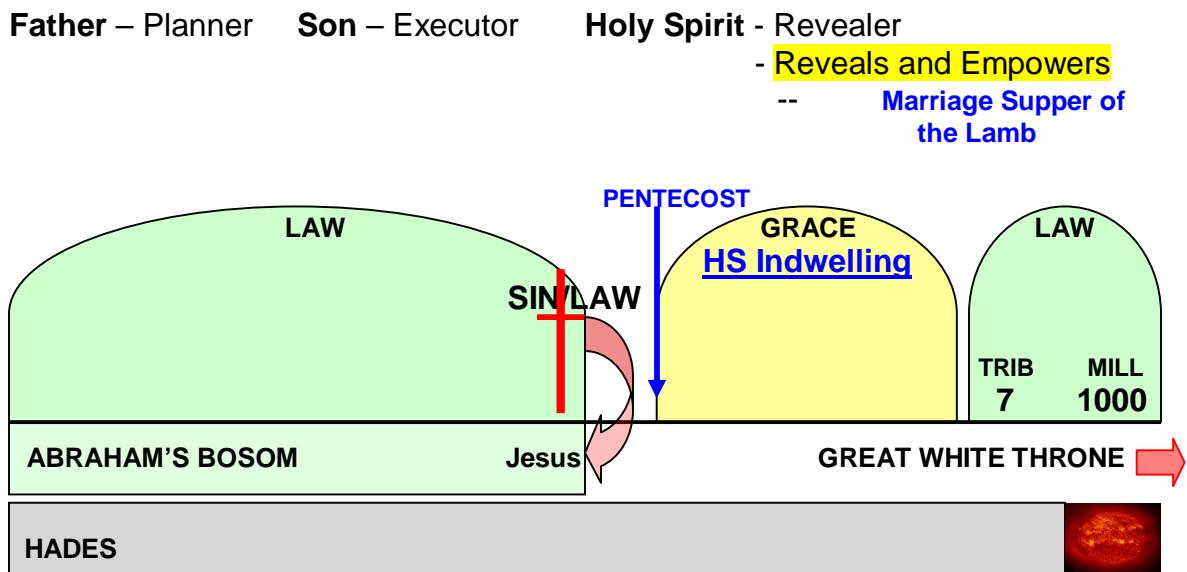
Now, this is a heck of a way that Paul would end this letter. He's covered everything under the sun doctrinally in this – in this letter to – to the Romans; and – and here he ends it with this encouragement that though they've seen the work of Satan, and (or) seeing the work of Satan in his day, that the God of peace will soon crush their enemy under our feet. Now, what Paul was seeing in his day – because this is right before Titus' army – not Titus who wrote – who Paul wrote to, but Titus the emperor. Right before Titus the emperor prepared and laid siege on Jerusalem, and completely destroyed it in 70 A.D., this is the message that Paul is giving to the believers throughout that land who are being persecuted and chased down and hunted like animals right there at the end of the Jewish Age and the beginning of the Church Age. I just want you to remember that the end of the Jewish Age came with the ascension of Christ to heaven to prepare the Marriage Supper of the Lamb for His Bride, for whom He's going to return. The time of His return is in doubt. They didn't know when it was going to be. Now folks we're privileged, because we're two thousand

years downstream from that. Okay? And – and we see the clock ticking. Tick – tick – tick. It's closer and closer to His return. The next thing on God's calendar, is when the Son comes to collect His Bride, then He's going to finish the work with His will that He started to do when He came the last time and was born of Mary, and carried out a thirty-three year ministry and was rejected by the very people He came to save; and you remember He told them, there are some in this generation who will not pass away – in this generation, until they see the Son of Man return in glory; and there He was talking about – not the Rapture of the Church; He was talking about then His return at the end of the Tribulation Period.

Gentleman. [Inaudible].

Conrad Bowman. Oh yes.

[Conrad goes to the Board].



Alright. When the Only Begotten Son of God – this is in eternity past – was sent to man, He was sent to man according to prophecy from the beginning all the way through the Old Testament and prophets – He was sent to man right here through Mary. And – and was placed under the care of Joseph, the family head; both of whom had ties historically to the royal line. So Christ as King of Israel had – had claims on His Kinship through both Mary and Joseph. And that's what the lineage and everything in Matthew was all about. Okay? So, on Sunday morning, we're studying Matthew right now as a follow-up to Revelation. This is a paid announcement. [Laughter]. So if you want the whole story, you can't lay

out on Sunday; you're going to have to get that too. Otherwise, you're going to have big holes in this thing. Alright, so Mary and Joseph – here comes Christ. He comes as King of the Jews. Messiah and Kinsman Redeemer. That was the fulfillment of the promises made to Eve – way back here. But here He comes as King of the Jews. That's what Matthew is all about. Christ coming as King of the Jews; He's fulfilling that Jewish prophecy. Okay. Now, this is the first incarnation. On Sunday we talked about – there's a difference between celebrating the birth of Christ and celebrating the incarnation of Christ – the eternal Only Begotten Son of God, who became the unique God-man of the universe. That's different than celebrating the Babe in the Manger – Mary's Son. Okay. In one view-aspect, which is the Only Begotten Son incarnate, you wrapped yourself around all that the Son of God is and has ever been. All of His divinity; all of His attributes as God; all of His power; all of His privilege; it was all there in the incarnate Son of God in that little bitty package in swaddling clothes in that manger. All of that was there. Understand now, that's what He laid aside, in order to take on humanity just like you and I had. If you don't understand that, you don't have any real appreciation for what He gave up. He gave up His God-likeness in order to become Adam-likeness; just like me and you; and then He showed us what sinless living was all about, because He didn't have an old sin nature, so He went through life without collecting one blemish on His humanity. Not one. There wasn't one misstep; there wasn't one cross word; there wasn't one bad attitude. Right? In traffic. Wouldn't it have been something to see Him in traffic? Huh? It wouldn't have worked for Him. It wouldn't have upset Him – driving us crazy. A teen-age kid? Wouldn't have bothered Him. He would have known how to deal with teen-age kids. Old cranky uncles? He would have known how to deal with that. It would not have bothered Him. You see what I am saying is, Christ laid aside all of His empowerment and privileges as God. When it says He took on flesh, He laid it on totally, and limited Himself to the same aspects that you and I have every day. Okay? [Be right with you]. Therefore, when He lays down a rule and says, this is how you should behave as believers, you understand that He faced that same task fully; and met the test and met the challenge. Is the bar high for believers? Does He expect much? Absolutely! He expects – boom. Why? Because the same Spirit that resided in Him during His thirty-three years resides in you. The same provision. The same Spirit, the Holy Spirit, sent from the Father, filled Him up. That's the same thing He does for you. He lives inside of you. Not part of it. Not just a piece of it; not just an inscriptive Holy Spirit; not an impaired Holy Spirit who has part of those assets and part – no sir. The same Holy Spirit that took Him to the cross, through the grave, and through resurrection out the other side into perfection and on ascended into heaven – is the same Holy Spirit that resides inside of you.

Is He right then to set the bar so high? Yes He is. Yes He is. Because He didn't quibble on the provision He gave you in terms of the Spirit within you. Now why do you feel so rotten? Why – why do you feel so defeated by that? Why do you feel so threatened and fearful? Okay? Would you have felt better if McCain had won?

Lady. Yes. [Laughter].

Conrad Bowman. You'd be wrong. You'd be absolutely wrong. Of course you would.

Mary Chambliss. Because it wasn't God's plan?

Conrad Bowman. Because it's God's plan to be with either one. See, it doesn't – Mary, here's the deal. Scripture tells us that God sets up kings.

Mary Chambliss. Right.

Conrad Bowman. He sets up those who govern us. Okay?

Betijean Kennerly. And puts them down.

Conrad Bowman. Understand, I voted. I voted early; and just as often as I could. [Laughter]. I voted early. I did my thing. I – just in case I got sick and couldn't go, I voted early. I always do that. Okay. But the decision rests with the all-powerful, Only Begotten Son of God, who is ordering Mary's life, Joseph's life, John's life, Mary's life, my life – everyone of us. The same God that's ordering our circumstance in our life. You think He is less concerned and less in charge of me and you today down here than He was with Mary and Joseph way back there in that hole in the hill behind the inn where the Son of God was born as a baby? Absolutely not. Absolutely not. His care and His mercy and His filling of me and you is just as real today as the Spirit's filling of the Only Begotten Son of God who took on flesh and became a man. Just like us. I hit my thumb on a staple – bleeding like a hog get-out, and John Clark put a band aid on it; he carries band aids in his wallet because he's in the right age bracket, I guess. [Laughter]. Yes ma'am – Joyce?

Joyce Wood. The question I had – one – is, if He had the Holy Spirit in Him, like we do, He had the same temptations?

Conrad Bowman. He had the same temptations. Sure. The same temptations passed right in front of him that pass right in front of me and you. The difference is, we have an old sin nature. We latch onto that thing. It passes by us. We drench like a smorgasbord of sin. We just wait for our favorite sin to pass by and we latch onto that. We're going to become one with that. We take it on, see. That's the flesh. Christ had no fleshly nature. Why?

Mary Chambliss. You said – that was my question.

Conrad Bowman. Well, He didn't have ...

Mary Chambliss. His own flesh.

Conrad Bowman. Right.

Mary Chambliss. Not the flesh that we have.

Conrad Bowman. No, because I – we took on Adam's flesh.

Mary Chambliss. Right.

Conrad Bowman. Everyone of us had a human father; and we inherited that old sin nature from our father. His Father was the Spirit of God.

Mary Chambliss. Right.

Conrad Bowman. He had an earthly mother, so He got all of humanity through His mother, Mary; but He had no Adamic nature; so He wasn't plagued by that. So when a temptation came by, could He sin? No. It was not possible. The impeccable Son of God. J.G. Bellett wrote it – it's a book about that thing called, *The Moral Glory of the Lord Jesus Christ*; written in the eighteen hundreds. It sings in your head. Once you get it in there, it just sings as it talks about the inner purity of Christ that acted as a wall of separation between He and sin. That's why I say you can't win. Okay? Because God has put within you a wall of separation between you and sin. He took you to Himself when you trusted Him – whether you know it or not – He took you to Himself; not the day you trusted Him. He took you to Himself – Romans 6 tells us, no you not, that as many of you that have been joined to Christ were joined to Him in His death. To what? To sin. And what was the definition of sin at that time? It was the Law. So He died to Sin, on the one hand; you turn that coin over, and He died to the Law on the other; because it was the Law that defined Sin. That's when the Law lost its effect

on us. Paul would therefore say to the Corinthians, all things are lawful unto me, but all things do not edify. All things are lawful unto me. Okay? But all things don't contribute. There're not good. So, here's this Law of Edification; the Law of Sanctification; the Law of Self-Sacrifice; because though some things are lawful unto me, there're some things I will not do. Why? Because if John sees me do those things, and they happen to be in an area of weakness for him, then he might be encouraged to go dabble in those things in which he's weak. Why should my brother, it says, be judged for something I did in liberty? Now there's your freedom as Christians. You're free to curb your own appetites, and your own pleasures, if it helps your brother, and will promote his growth, which is what the word "edification" means. It will lift him up. Okay? Now you see the matrix beginning to form with these letters of Paul? What did he tell the Galatians?

Let each man bear his own cargo; but let every man bear the other's overload.

If a brother be overtaken in a fault, you who are spiritual restore such a one.

Galatians 6.

In a spirit of meekness, consider yourselves, lest you also be tempted; because we are temptable.

Because we have that Adamic nature. He did not. So He wasn't temptable. Now, you see – Romans – he rolls all of these things up. In the first chapter of Romans, he talks about the very – the very visible display of nature in the heavens above, speak of the glory and the handiwork of God, by the creation of the world. That which is not seen is made evident, so that every man's without excuse. That's that Romans 1, around 18, 19 and 20. Then we go to Romans 2, and Romans 3, and Romans 4. You get to Romans 6, and you have to start dealing with sin. So Christ dealt with sin in this regard.

[Conrad goes to the Board. See Depiction Above].

He went through His life for thirty-three years; three years of ministry; He went to the cross; the perfect sinless Lamb of God. When He went to the cross, Scripture says it pleased the Father, who's here. It satisfied the Father; who's sovereign; and just; and righteous; and eternal; and He's omnipresent; and He's

omnipotent; and He's omniscient; and He's truthful; and He's unchanging. All of these things make up the Father. His justice had to be satisfied. His sovereign decree was that the wages of sin are death. So those had to be satisfied in order that the love of God might flow from Him directly to man down here; and it was going to flow through the Man [Christ] right there. So justice and – and sovereignty were satisfied when – when the love bought the righteousness of God by means of the cross, to man who's waddling in sin. Down here is Abraham's Bosom, where all the Old Testament saints were being held. Christ on the cross; for three days went into Abraham's Bosom; announced victory over sin and death, to all those that were in that Old Testament holding place; and when He rose, on the third day, He emptied that place and took them all to Him; so that the gospels say, that many of those Old Testament saints were seen and recognized during that period, from day three to day forty; and on day forty, He ascended to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb to prepare for His Bride; and there's a ten day period in here to make sure that we do not confuse this ending on the Age of Law with this beginning on day fifty – Pentecost – with the Age of Grace; because that little parenthesis has to come right in there. And so we've got ten days in here in which Christ is gone, and then the Church Age starts. And Paul is writing in 70 A.D., when the armies of Titus and Herod and all the rest are coming down around the Jews; and there are some that were selected, who were empowered by the Spirit, to withstand that army, right up to the end of their own life; and they were sacrificed. Now we don't know anything about those people until we get to Revelation, chapter 2 and 3. And in the Letters to the Seven Churches, Paul [*sic John*] commends the believers who were subjected to this persecution; and will be subjected to persecution again during this seven year period; and they're labeled as overcomers. And it says the overcomers are going to be given rods of iron; and they're going to rule over the Gentile nations during the thousand year reign, after the seven years; during the one thousand years of Millennial Reign when Christ and His Bride are suspended in that golden city over the earth; and for a thousand years the overcomers – that was those – you remember the great crowd here under the throne; and people were saying, who are these who are all in robes of white and they're right under the throne – oh Lord, how long will it be until You revenge – avenge Yourself of their deaths? And He said, just be patient; its coming. Those were the overcomers. They were the overcomers that came from here; they were the overcomers that came from here, and they're given rods of iron to rule over the nations for a thousand years. You thought that was going to be your job, didn't you? Well it's not. That's a Jewish job, and it's going to be given to those overcomers of that period. Okay? It's a very special job for those people. What's your job?

Marjorie Sager. Nothing.

Conrad Bowman. Nothing. God bless you Marjorie.

John Young. We're retired. [Laughter].

Conrad Bowman. You're retired. Your job is to reign with Christ and receive the adoration of all creation forever. Forever. To be the perfect Bride. Dressed by Groom; adorned by the Father and the Spirit; living in a house of translucent, transparent gold. I had a conversation with Jerry File, Jr., this week, and it – just random thoughts when we start thinking through things; and – and he has a degree in Finance and Business from William and Mary; so he naturally thinks in those terms; and he said, Conrad, how much gold do you think has been mined since the world – since man began to occupy the earth. And I said, I don't know, but I remembered a few years back reading a story that you could put all that gold that's ever been mined on a lot in an averaged sized three bedroom house. You could pile it up. All of it. All of it. He said, you know, gold is a royal metal. You can't destroy it. You can fire it. You can purify it. You can even vaporize it, but it never goes away. It's still there; it will recollect itself in the soil and what-have-you. He says a royal metal. How would you describe that? And I said, maybe its God's tithe. Maybe the gold in the earth is – doesn't – didn't He give us in the Psalms:

He owns the cattle on a thousand hills; and, the gold in every mine.

It's all His. It always belongs to Him. Now understand, when the earth and everything are burned up, isn't it peculiar that there's this one golden city that comes down from God and hangs over the earth? Is God redeeming what's His from out of the entire physical universe, and putting it together as an abode for the Bride of His Son? Do you realize how special you are to Him in so many ways? Spiritually we like to – we take that and we spiritualize that in so many ways. We say, yeah, oh yeah, we're special to God. You know. He'll take care of me. He'll keep my – He'll give me a parking place and keep my car going for another thousand miles; and – and that's – He'll help me – I'll make my car note; I'll make my mortgage; and we – and we tend to keep scaling back God's provision for us into a – into a form that we can wrap ourselves around; but understand this. When you look at the universe in mega terms, He's got us covered. The Only Begotten Son of God, when He spoke this universe into creation – He did. It's finger-plate, it says. He spoke this world into creation. He

spoke into it all that we would ever need and require and be blessed with as a heavenly home forever. In physical terms. He didn't just make this universe as a – as a throw-away toy. It was done with a purpose in mind; and at the core of it is this magnificent eternal house for the Bride of His Son. He never has you out of His mind. Not ever! Not collectively or individually so. What do we've got to worry about, John? It's not there, is it? It's not there. Not today, you see. Now He's got us taken care of, regardless of our country of national – national origin; **admisity**; station in life; level of need. You measure it any way you want to – He's got us covered, so we can walk with confidence. Now often we're in a place where we can't see the next need, even though it's right there on the end of our nose. You can't see it. You can't see anything ahead of you, but you – you take the next step with confidence. Why? Because behind you, you have a steady line of having taken one step after the other and He has never, ever disappointed you. Ever. And He won't. So we – right into the fault. Okay. Questions? Alright. Now I want you to look at this – ah, Titus is so far away. Alright.

Romans 16:20. In the Notes, it – it starts out with the pages that says, "The Power of God over Satan." And I think – I think what we've done so far in about thirty minutes is an adequate preface. The God of Peace who will crush Satan. That is not the position or the responsibility of the believer. It's absolute foolishness to teach believers that they should confront Satan in their strength as Christians. We are to, one, flee temptation; or, two, flee youthful lusts; and resist the devil by resting in the person of Christ. Now you remember when Christ in His humanity was confronted by Satan and – and we're – we're coming up to that in Matthew. So you've got to tip to Matthew or you're going to miss this now. When Satan took Christ, he took Him to the highest pinnacle on the Temple; and right out on the parapet – the balcony overlooking the courtyard on the eastern gate, it's just before sunrise; just before dawn when the sun pops over the hill and they swing those gates open, and – and the faithful of Israel sweep in through the gate to meet their God, who by then was the Son. They had borrowed from Babylonian religion, and they were waiting for sunrise because that's when they met their God. They picked that up from Babylon. That's where the three wise guys came from. The three wise men came from Babylon following the star, which they believed to be an angel of the King of the Jews. Pure Babylonian religion; and that's what Israel was doing on a regular basis. It had grown so apostate that they had married the Babylonian practices and traditions with a Jewish instructions in the Law and polluted Temple worship completely. So, Satan takes Christ up there on the parapet, the sun dawns, and the gates swing open, and Satan says to Christ: *The King James*, and *The New American Standard* all say, if you are the Son of God, just step off this parapet and – and the Father will

deliver you from the rocks below, and you'll just be caught up with the people who come here for the very purpose of finding You. That's what Satan says. It's a lie. It's an absolute lie; and Christ answers him by saying, it's written; it's written. Okay? Man doesn't live by bread alone by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Father. Now, that's important, because what was said in Matthew is exactly what Paul is saying all the way through Romans; listen carefully, he says, there was no written Word of God at that time. There was only the Old Testament prophets; and Paul is saying, listen very carefully, because you have to distinguish what is God's own instructions to you through His – through His apostles and – and what is false. And how are you going to know the difference? The Spirit within you. The Spirit within you. Now you think they weren't vulnerable? We've got the Old Testament and all the things the prophets said; and we have the written, enduing words of the Apostles. They didn't have that. So they would sit there in a class just like you're doing and – and the would look with absolutely blank eyes. How in the world are we going to know that? And He would tell each one of them what I am telling you, you have to turn inside and find the Spirit within you to know how to walk, and prove out what you hear and what you see. Now we have a more sure word of prophecy, Luke says, because we have the written down – now we have the written down New Testament testimony to what God said. That's why this is important. This is why we go through and we study these things. That's why it's absolutely necessary that we take it in; and that we compare Scripture to Scripture so we know what's true and what's not true. The power of Satan over the minds of men – there're too many media – media preachers who have believers going through the charade today of taking power over Satan. I'll remind you only of this. Christ Himself refused to do that. He didn't take power over Satan. He left Satan under the power of words His Father had already delivered in the past. Three times Satan tempted Him. Three times He answered him with Scripture out of the Old Testament. That's the way to meet the enemy. Do not attempt to deal with the enemy of God out of what you perceive to be your strength as a believer. Don't do it. Don't do it. The enemy of God is strong. He's strong enough to have a country, or a nation, or the entire earth believe his lies; and they will sound reasonable; not only reasonable, they'll sound like relief coming. Okay? You put your faith solely and wholly into God's Word; what He shows you in His Word; what is taught you from His Word; and what is lived out before you. That's why it's important to have guys like Phil around who are living out the Word in their testimony. He's living out everyday in terms of his – is he perfect? Noooo. He'll be the first one to tell you. No. But we have to have men around us and women around us with whom we can be intimate in the Word, and who we can trust.

Okay? What's the glue that binds us together? It's the things we hold in common. Okay?

21. Timothy my fellow worker sends his greetings to you;
Luciusk Jason ...

He goes ahead and he lists. Tertius wrote this letter. Gaius, whose hospitality behind the whole church here enjoyed. He must have been feeding fifty different people. These are all people who know one another and know their lives; and know the truth of God as its taken root and is growing. I'm going to stop there. Okay? And it's – it's a little bit early, but I've got – I need to stop. Okay? Please forgive me for cutting it short tonight. We're okay? Let's have a word of prayer.

Father, I thank You for – just for the day and for the – just for the joy of sharing the Word with people who love it, and who love You, and who are committed to taking Your Word in and making it a part of their lives and their hearts. I thank You for it, and thanks for tonight for giving me just what I needed to get to this point; and we praise You and trust You; in Christ's name, who paid for it all. Amen.