

Dr. Craig Keener, Romans, Session 12

Romans 11:33-12:13

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Keener, Romans, Session 12, Romans 11:33-12:13, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

This lecture by Dr. Craig Keener **explains** Romans 10:33-12:13, focusing on **Paul's theological arguments** regarding God's sovereignty and the **application of these beliefs to Christian living**. Keener **emphasizes** a textual approach, avoiding specific theological systems, while **connecting** Paul's ideas about God's plan for both Jews and Gentiles to the practical implications for believers. The lecture then **transitions** into Paul's teachings on how Christians should conduct themselves towards fellow believers and those outside the faith, **highlighting** the importance of love, service, and a transformed mindset. Finally, it **previews** the upcoming discussion on the believer's relationship with the state.

2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Keener, Romans, Session 12 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (New Testament → Pauline Epistles → Romans).



Keener_Romans_Session12.mp3

3. Romans Study Guide: Session 12, Romans 11:33-12:13

3. Briefing Document

Briefing Doc: Romans 10:33-12:13

Source: Dr. Craig Keener, Romans, Lecture 12, Romans 10:33-12:13.

Main Themes:

- **God's Sovereignty:** Keener emphasizes God's sovereignty throughout history, citing Romans 11:36, "For from him and through him and to him are all things." God is the source, mediator, and ultimate purpose of all creation.
- **Renewing of the Mind:** Romans 12:2 calls believers to be transformed by the renewing of their minds. This involves adopting a new worldview shaped by God's perspective, living in light of eternity, and discerning God's will.
- **Living Sacrifices:** Believers are called to present their bodies as living sacrifices to God (Romans 12:1). This means using our bodies and minds to serve God and His purposes.
- **Gifts and Service in the Body of Christ:** Each believer has been given different gifts by God, measured by faith, to contribute to the body of Christ (Romans 12:3-8). We should use our gifts to serve others, recognizing our own strengths and limitations.
- **Love and Service Within and Beyond the Church:** Romans 12:9-21 offers practical instructions for how to live out our faith in relationships: loving and serving fellow believers, treating outsiders with compassion, and even loving our enemies.

Key Ideas and Facts:

- The doxology in Romans 11:33-36 concludes the section on God's plan for Israel and the Gentiles and serves as a transition to the practical application of Paul's theology.
- "Don't be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2) calls for a shift from a worldly mindset to one focused on God's eternal purposes.
- The renewed mind allows believers to discern God's will by evaluating what is "good, pleasing, and perfect" (Romans 12:2).
- Keener explains "a measure of faith" (Romans 12:3) as referring to the specific faith apportioned to each believer for their individual gifts and service.

- Christians should cultivate a mindset of humility, honoring others above themselves (Romans 12:10).
- Romans 12 emphasizes concrete actions: caring for the needy, practicing hospitality, rejoicing and weeping with others, associating with the lowly.
- Believers are called to bless those who persecute them, repay evil with good, and seek peace (Romans 12:14-21).

Important Quotes:

- "God authored all things, and is a necessary agency through which they occur, and...in the end, all these things will fulfill God's purposes."
- "We live in this age, but we live in this age with a perspective of the future age so that we...are salt and light. We are here in this world to make a difference for the kingdom."
- "If we would live in light of eternity, not for just whatever entertains us, but for how we can be servants to make a difference."
- "God gifts one in this way. He gives another faith to be expressed in this gift. He measures to another faith to be expressed in this gift."
- "God's presence was found among the lowly and the broken. And I think if we are yearning for God's presence...we'll often find his presence among the lowly and the broken, not hobnobbing with the powerful."

Overall: Keener's lecture highlights the interconnectedness of theology and practical living. Understanding God's sovereignty and plan for history should motivate believers to be transformed by the renewing of their minds, offering themselves as living sacrifices, using their gifts to serve others, and extending love and service even to those outside the church.

4. Romans 10:33-12:21 Study Guide

Key Terms Glossary

Term Definition

Aeon: A Greek word referring to an age or period, often used in contrast to the present evil age and the future age of God's reign.

Doxology: A liturgical expression of praise to God, often characterized by exalted language and poetic elements.

Epistemology: The branch of philosophy concerned with the nature and scope of knowledge, addressing questions of how we know what we know.

Honor-Shame Culture: A cultural framework where individuals strive for honor and seek to avoid shame, significantly impacting social interactions and values.

Inclusio: A literary device where a passage begins and ends with similar or identical elements, creating a sense of enclosure and thematic emphasis.

Logikos: A Greek word meaning "rational" or "spiritual," emphasizing the role of reason and the mind in understanding and serving God.

Paranesis: A literary genre characterized by a series of moral exhortations or instructions, providing guidance for ethical living.

Pax Romana: The Roman peace, a period of relative stability and prosperity within the Roman Empire, facilitated by Roman military dominance.

Philadelphia: Brotherly love, emphasizing affectionate care and unity among believers as members of the same spiritual family.

Teleological: Relating to purpose or goals, often used to describe arguments that explain phenomena based on their ultimate purpose or function.

Short-Answer Quiz

1. How does Paul conclude Romans 9-11, and what literary technique does he employ?
2. What is the central theme of Romans 12:2, and how does it relate to the concept of transformation?
3. Explain the significance of presenting our bodies as a "living sacrifice" in Romans 12:1.
4. How does Paul connect the renewal of the mind with the discernment of God's will in Romans 12:2?
5. What criteria does Paul provide for recognizing God's will, and how should we interpret them?
6. According to Romans 12:3, what should be our attitude towards our own gifts and abilities?
7. Explain the concept of "measures of faith" in Romans 12:3 and its implications for Christian service.
8. How does Paul encourage believers to interact with those who are not fellow believers in Romans 12:14-21?
9. What specific instructions does Paul give regarding the treatment of enemies in Romans 12:14, 17-21?
10. Identify two key themes from Romans 12:9-13 that emphasize how believers should treat one another.

Short-Answer Quiz Key

1. Paul concludes Romans 9-11 with a **doxology**, a powerful expression of praise and worship to God in Romans 11:33-36. This utilizes the "rhetoric of the sublime," using grand and poetic language to express awe and wonder.
2. Romans 12:2 emphasizes the **transformation** of believers through the **renewal of their minds**. This means embracing a new way of thinking that aligns with God's perspective and enables us to discern and live out His will.
3. Presenting our bodies as a "**living sacrifice**" (Romans 12:1) signifies a complete surrender to God, dedicating our physical lives to His service and honoring Him through our actions. It is "living" because our service continues throughout our earthly lives.

4. Paul connects the **renewal of the mind** with discerning God's will by stating that a transformed mind, no longer conformed to the patterns of this world, can accurately evaluate what is good, pleasing, and perfect in God's sight (Romans 12:2).
5. Paul provides the criteria of "**good, pleasing, and perfect**" for recognizing God's will. These are not hierarchical levels of God's will but rather different facets of the same divine will, emphasizing its inherent goodness and alignment with God's character.
6. Romans 12:3 instructs believers to **think soundly** about their gifts and abilities, acknowledging that God has given each person a **measure of faith** to be used for His purposes. This encourages humility and discourages pride or self-deprecation.
7. "**Measures of faith**" (Romans 12:3) refers to the specific ways God empowers individuals to serve Him. Each believer receives a unique portion of faith, equipping them for particular tasks and contributions within the body of Christ.
8. Paul encourages believers to engage with non-believers with **compassion and empathy**, rejoicing with those who rejoice and weeping with those who weep. He also encourages association with the lowly, demonstrating humility and genuine care (Romans 12:14-21).
9. Paul specifically instructs believers to **bless their persecutors**, refrain from cursing or repaying evil, and **actively pursue peace** with all people. He encourages **overcoming evil with good**, demonstrating God's transformative love (Romans 12:14, 17-21).
10. Romans 12:9-13 highlights **brotherly love (Philadelphia)**, urging believers to treat one another with familial affection and care. It also emphasizes **honoring one another above ourselves**, rejecting selfish ambition and fostering mutual respect within the body of Christ.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the concept of the “renewing of the mind” in Romans 12:2. How does this relate to Paul’s earlier discussion of the “corrupted mind” in Romans 1? What are the practical implications of having a renewed mind for Christian living?
2. Discuss the significance of presenting our bodies as a “living sacrifice” in Romans 12:1. How does this concept connect with Paul’s teaching on justification by faith? How does it challenge common understandings of sacrifice?
3. Explore Paul’s instructions regarding the treatment of enemies in Romans 12:14, 17-21. How do these instructions align with Jesus’ teachings in the Sermon on the Mount? What are the challenges and potential rewards of putting these teachings into practice?
4. Examine the role of the Holy Spirit in the process of spiritual transformation as described in Romans 12. How does the Spirit empower believers to live out the exhortations found in this chapter? How does the Spirit’s work relate to human effort and responsibility?
5. Analyze Paul’s use of the concept of “honor” in Romans 12:10. How does his understanding of honor differ from the prevailing cultural values of the Roman world? What are the implications of honoring one another above ourselves for Christian community?

5. FAQs on Keener, Romans, Session 12, Romans 11:33-12:13, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Romans 10:33-12:21 FAQ

What theological systems does Romans support?

Romans doesn't directly argue for any particular theological system like covenant theology or dispensationalism. It aims to teach us what the book itself has to say. While harmonizing different texts is important, understanding the individual book comes first.

What is the significance of the doxology in Romans 11:33-36?

This doxology concludes Romans 9-11, using grand, almost poetic language to celebrate God's sovereignty. It emphasizes God's role as the source, the mediator, and the ultimate purpose behind all things.

How does Romans 12:1-2 connect to the previous chapters?

Romans 12 marks a shift from theological groundwork to practical application. It calls for presenting our bodies as living sacrifices to God, based on our new identity in Christ. This new life requires a "renewed mind," contrasting with the "corrupted mind" described in Romans 1.

What does it mean to offer our bodies as a "living sacrifice"?

It means dedicating our lives to serving God through our actions. Unlike Old Testament sacrifices, this is an ongoing offering of our very lives, informed by a renewed mind.

What characterizes a "renewed mind"?

A renewed mind is transformed by God, reflecting a new worldview shaped by His eternal perspective. It discerns God's will, considering what is good, pleasing, and perfect, and seeks to contribute to the body of Christ.

How should we treat fellow believers and outsiders?

We should treat fellow Christians with brotherly love, honoring them above ourselves. Towards outsiders, including enemies, we should show compassion, refrain from evil, and strive for peace, aiming to overcome evil with good.

What does it mean to have a "measure of faith"?

It refers to God gifting each believer with a unique expression of faith, enabling them to serve the body through specific gifts. We should recognize and utilize our gifts without boasting or comparing ourselves to others.

How can we discern God's will in our lives?

God can lead us through various means, including wisdom, intuition, and circumstances. We can often discern His will by seeking what aligns with His word, benefits the body of Christ, and reflects His goodness, pleasing nature, and perfection.