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To the Romans

Chapter One

From Paul, a bondservant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the good news of Godde, ²which she promised beforehand through her prophets in the holy Scriptures ³regarding her Son, born of the offspring of David according to the flesh, ⁴declared Son of Godde with power according to the Spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, ⁵through whom we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from trust for his name's sake, ⁶including you who are also called to Jesus Christ; ⁷to all who are in Rome, beloved of Godde, called to be holy: Grace to you and peace from Godde our Mother and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁸First, I thank my Godde through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your trust is proclaimed throughout the whole world. ⁹As Godde – whom I serve in my spirit by announcing the good news of her Son – is my witness, I constantly mention you ¹⁰in my prayers all the time, asking if somehow by the will of Godde I may be able to come to you at last. ¹¹I long to see you so that I may give you some spiritual gift to strengthen you; ¹²that is, so we may be mutually encouraged by each other's trust, both yours and mine.

¹³Now I don't want you to be unaware, sisters and brothers, that I often planned to come to you (but have been prevented so far) so that I might reap some fruit among you, just as I have among the rest of the Gentiles. ¹⁴I have an obligation both to Greeks and to non-Greeks, both to the wise and to the foolish. ¹⁵So, for my part, I'm eager to announce the good news to you who are in Rome too.

¹⁶I'm not ashamed of the good news, because it's Godde's power to give life to everyone who trusts; first the Jews, then the Greeks. ¹⁷It reveals the trustworthiness of Godde's justice which inspires trust. As it is written, "But the just will live by trust."

¹⁸Godde's fury is revealed from heaven against all corruption and injustice of people who unjustly cover up the truth, ¹⁹because what can be known about Godde is revealed to them, for Godde revealed it to them. ²⁰Ever since the creation of the world her eternal power and divinity, though invisible, are clearly seen, since they can be understood through the things she made. So they have no excuse, ²¹because although they knew Godde, they didn't glorify her as Godde or thank her, but instead their thinking became useless and their ignorant hearts were darkened. ²²Claiming to be wise, they became foolish ²³and traded the glory of the immortal Godde for images made to look like mortal women and men, and birds, animals, and reptiles. ²⁴So Godde let them do the corrupt things of their hearts' desire, to degrade their bodies with each other ²⁵because they traded Godde's truth for a lie, worshipping and serving the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

²⁶So Godde let them have dishonorable lusts. Even their women traded sexual relations that were natural for them to relations that were contrary to their own natures. ²⁷Similarly their men who would naturally have had sexual relations with women abandoned those relations and burned in their lust toward one another, doing what is shameful with each other and suffering the consequences of their own actions.

²⁸Because they refused to acknowledge Godde, she let them have a degenerate mind and do what is not appropriate. ²⁹They are filled with all injustice, evil, greed, hateful feelings; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they're gossipers, ³⁰slanderers, Godde-haters, insolent, proud, and boastful. They concoct evil plans and disobey their parents. ³¹They're ignorant, disloyal, heartless, and merciless. ³²They know Godde's just requirements, that those who practice such things deserve death – but they not only do them, they even approve of those who practice them.

Chapter Two

So you have no excuse, friend, when you pass judgment on others. When you pass judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you who pass judgment practice the same things! ²We know that “Godde’s judgment against those who practice such things is true.” ³Do you think you will escape Godde’s judgment, friend, when you do the same things for which you pass judgment on others? ⁴Or do you underestimate the riches of her kindness, mercy, and patience, not realizing that Godde’s kindness leads you to change? ⁵But because of your cold and stubborn heart you’re only making it worse for yourself in the coming fury when the just judgment of Godde is revealed. ⁶She “will repay everyone according to their deeds”: ⁷to those who persevere in good deeds, looking for glory, honor, and immortality, she will give eternal life. ⁸But for those who are selfish, reject the truth, and support injustice, there will be fury and rage. ⁹There will be trouble and distress for everyone who does evil; first the Jews, then the Greeks. ¹⁰But there will be glory, honor, and peace to everyone who does good; first the Jews, then the Greeks. ¹¹There is no favoritism with Godde, ¹²because all who have done wrong without Torah will be lost without Torah, and all who have done wrong under Torah will be judged by Torah. ¹³It isn’t those who hear Torah who are just before Godde, but those who follow Torah will be justified. ¹⁴Because when Gentiles who don’t have Torah instinctively follow the Torah, they are a torah to themselves, even though they don’t have Torah. ¹⁵They show that the deeds of the Torah are written on their hearts, their consciences bearing witness and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and sometimes excusing them ¹⁶in the day when Godde will judge the secrets of women and men through Jesus Christ according to my good news.

¹⁷But if you call yourself a Jew, take comfort in Torah, and boast in Godde; ¹⁸if you know her will and determine what matters because you’re instructed by the Torah; ¹⁹if you’re confident that you’re a guide of those who don’t see, a light to those in darkness, ²⁰an instructor of the foolish, and a teacher of infants, having in the Torah the epitome of knowledge and the truth; ²¹you, then, who teach others, don’t you teach yourself? You who proclaim that one should not steal, do you steal? ²²You who say not to be unfaithful, are you unfaithful? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³You who boast in Torah, do you dishonor Godde by violating the Torah? ²⁴“Godde’s name is slandered among the Gentiles because of you,” just as it is written. ²⁵Circumcision does have value if you practice Torah, but if you break Torah, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. ²⁶So if the uncircumcised keep the just deeds of the Torah, won’t their uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? ²⁷Won’t those who are physically uncircumcised and yet fulfill the Torah actually judge you who break the Torah, even though you have it written down and are circumcised? ²⁸For a person isn’t a Jew who is one on the outside, nor is true circumcision on the outside, in the flesh; ²⁹rather, a person is a Jew who is one on the inside, and true circumcision is that of the heart – in the spirit, not in writing. They’re not praised by women and men, but by Godde.

Chapter Three

What advantage is there, then, in being a Jew? Or what’s the value of circumcision?

²Much in every way! First of all, they were entrusted with Godde’s words.

³What if some did not trust? Will their lack of trust nullify the trustworthiness of Godde?

⁴Certainly not! Let Godde be true, though every human being false, as it is written:

“That you may be justified in your words,
and prevail in your judgment.”

⁵But if our injustice proves the justice of Godde, what can we say? Is it unjust for Godde to pour out punishment? (I'm using human logic).

⁶Certainly not! Otherwise, how could Godde judge the world?

⁷But if Godde's truth increases her glory through my falsehood, why am I still judged as an outsider?

⁸Why not say, as some slanderously report that we say, "Let us do bad things so that good things may come of it?" They're justly judged.

⁹Well, then, are we any better?

Not at all, because we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all guilty, ¹⁰as it is written:

"There is no one who is just;
not even one.

¹¹There is no one who understands;
there is no one who seeks Godde.

¹²They have all turned away;
together they have become useless.
There is no one who does good;
no, not even one."

¹³"Their throat is an open grave;
they use their tongues to deceive."

"The poison of vipers is under their lips";
¹⁴"their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."

¹⁵"They're quick to spill blood;
¹⁶they leave ruin and misery in their paths,
¹⁷and they haven't known the way of peace."

¹⁸"There is no fear of Godde before their eyes."

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the Torah says, it says to those who are under the Torah so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to Godde; ²⁰because by deeds of Torah no flesh will be justified before her, for through Torah comes the knowledge of guilt.

²¹But now the justice of Godde has been revealed apart from Torah, though the Torah and the prophets bore witness to it. ²²It's the justice of Godde made available through the trust of Jesus Christ for all those who trust. There's no difference ²³because all are guilty and fallen short of Godde's glory, ²⁴but are justified freely by her grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. ²⁵Godde offered him as the place of reconciliation through trust in his blood, in order to demonstrate her justice by passing over prior offenses in Godde's mercy. ²⁶This demonstrated her justice at the present time so that she would be just and justify the one who has the trust of Jesus Christ.

²⁷What, then, of boasting?

It's disqualified.

By what torah? Of deeds?

No, but by a torah of trust. ²⁸So we hold that a person is justified by trust apart from deeds of Torah.

²⁹Is Godde the Godde of Jews only?

Isn't she the Godde of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, ³⁰since one Godde will justify the circumcised by trust and the uncircumcised through that same trust.

³¹Do we then nullify the Torah through trust?

Certainly not! Rather, we uphold Torah.

Chapter Four

What can we say then? Have we found that Sarah and Abraham are our ancestors according to the flesh? ²Because if Sarah and Abraham were justified by deeds, they have something to boast about. Not before Godde, though, ³because what does the Scripture say? "Sarah and Abraham trusted Godde, and they were counted as just." ⁴Now to anyone who works, the reward is not counted as grace but as something owed. ⁵However, to one who doesn't work but trusts the one who justifies those who are corrupt, their trust is counted as just, ⁶as David also speaks of the blessing on the one whom Godde counts as just apart from deeds:

⁷"Blessed are those whose crimes are forgiven,
whose offenses are forgiven!

⁸Blessed is the one whom the Lady will never hold guilty."

⁹Is this blessing, then, for the circumcised, or for the uncircumcised too? Because we say that "Sarah and Abraham's trust was counted as just." ¹⁰How then was it counted? Was it before or after Abraham was circumcised? It wasn't after, but before! ¹¹He received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the justice that he trusted while he was uncircumcised so that he might be a father of all who trust while uncircumcised, so that they might be counted as just too. ¹²He's also a father of the circumcised who are not only circumcised, but who also live in the trust that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

¹³The promise that Sarah, Abraham, and their offspring would inherit the world didn't come through Torah, but through the justice of trust. ¹⁴If those who are of Torah are heirs, trust is voided and the promise is nullified, ¹⁵because the Torah works punishment, but where there is no Torah, there is no violation. ¹⁶For this reason it comes through trust, so that it may be according to grace and the promise may be guaranteed to all the offspring, not just to those of the Torah, but also to those of the trust of Sarah and Abraham, the parents of us all, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you parents of many peoples." This happened in the presence of Godde whom they trusted, the one who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that didn't exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, they trusted that they might become "parents of many peoples" according to what had been said, "So will your offspring be." ¹⁹Their trust didn't weaken when they considered Abraham's body having been worn out already (he was about a hundred years old) and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰But regarding the promise of Godde, they didn't waver in distrust but grew strong through trust, giving glory to Godde ²¹and being fully convinced that she was able to do what she had promised. ²²As a result, they were "counted as just." ²³Now the words "counted as" were not written just for them, ²⁴but for us too, whom Godde will count as just; we who trust in the

one who raised from the dead Jesus, our Lord ²⁵who was handed over for our wrongdoings and was raised for our justification.

Chapter Five

So, having been justified by trust, we have peace with Godde through our Lord Jesus Christ; ²through whom we have gained access by trust into this grace in which we stand; and we boast in the hope of Godde's glory! ³Not only that, but we boast in our oppression too, knowing that oppression produces perseverance; ⁴and perseverance, character; and character, hope; ⁵and hope doesn't disappoint us, because Godde's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. ⁶While we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for those who are corrupt. ⁷Rarely will anyone die for a just person, though someone might actually dare to die for a good person. ⁸But Godde proves her own love toward us in that while we were still outsiders, Christ died for us.

⁹Now that we have been justified by his blood, how much more will we be rescued through him from punishment! ¹⁰Because if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to Godde through the death of her Son, how much more, having been reconciled, will we gain life through his life! ¹¹Not only that, but we also boast in Godde through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

¹²Wrongdoing came into the world through one human being, and death through wrongdoing; so death spread to all, because all did wrong. ¹³For until Torah, wrongdoing was in the world; but wrongs aren't counted when there's no Torah. ¹⁴But death ruled from Adam until Moses, even over those whose wrongdoings weren't like the violation of Adam, who foreshadowed the coming one.

¹⁵But the gift isn't like the wrongdoing, because if the many died by the wrongdoing of the one, how much more did Godde's grace, and the gift by the grace of the one person, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶The gift isn't like what came through the one who did wrong, because the judgment following one wrong brought condemnation, but the gift following many wrongs brought justification. ¹⁷For if by the one's wrongdoing, death ruled through that one, how much more will those who receive the abundance of the grace and of the gift of justice rule in life through the one, Jesus Christ! ¹⁸So just as all were condemned through one wrong, so too were all justified to life through one act of justice, ¹⁹because as through the one man's disobedience the many were made wrongdoers, so too through the obedience of the one the many will be made just. ²⁰Torah came in so that the wrongdoing might increase, but where wrongdoing increased, grace increased even more, ²¹so that as wrongdoing ruled in death, so too might grace rule through justice, leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Chapter Six

What can we say then? Should we continue in wrongdoing so that grace may increase? ²Certainly not! We died to wrongdoing. How could we still live in it? ³Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were buried, then, with him through baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Mother, so we too might live in newness of life. ⁵If we have been united in a death like his, we will share his resurrection too, ⁶knowing that our old humanity was crucified with him so that the body of wrongdoing might be done away with, so that we would no longer be in bondage to wrongdoing – ⁷because whoever has died has been freed from wrongdoing. ⁸But if we died with Christ, we trust that we too will live with him, ⁹knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, can't die again. Death doesn't rule over him anymore, ¹⁰because the death he died, he died to wrongdoing once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to Godde. ¹¹So too count yourselves dead to wrongdoing, but alive to Godde in Christ Jesus.

¹²So don't let wrongdoing rule in your mortal body, so that you obey its desires. ¹³Don't offer the parts of your body to wrongdoing to be used for injustice, but offer yourselves to Godde, as those who

have been brought from death to life, and offer the parts of your body to Godde to be used for justice. ¹⁴Wrongdoing won't rule over you, because you're not under Torah but under grace.

¹⁵Well, then, should we do wrong, since we're not under Torah but under grace? Certainly not! ¹⁶Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient bondservants, you're bondservants of the one you obey – either of wrongdoing, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to justice? ¹⁷But thanks be to Godde that although you were bondservants of wrongdoing, you became obedient from the heart to the pattern of teaching to which you were committed. ¹⁸Having been freed from wrongdoing, you became bondservants of justice. ¹⁹I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. Just as you offered the parts of your body as bondservants to corruption and to crime upon crime, so now offer your members as bondservants to justice for holiness. ²⁰When you were bondservants of wrongdoing, you were free from justice. ²¹So what fruit did you have then over the things you're now ashamed of? The result of those things is death! ²²But now, having been made free from wrongdoing and having become bondservants of Godde, you have your fruit leading to holiness, and the result is eternal life, ²³because the wages of wrongdoing is death, but the gift of Godde is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Chapter Seven

Don't you know, sisters and brothers – because I'm speaking to people who know Torah – that the Torah rules over a person only as long as they live? ²For example, Torah binds married people to each other while they live, but if one of them dies, the other is freed from the Torah concerning their partner. ³So then if, while they're both living, one of them commits to someone else, they would be called unfaithful. But if their partner dies, they are free from the Torah; they are not unfaithful, even though they are committed to someone else. ⁴So, my sisters and brothers, you too died to the Torah through the body of Christ so that you might be committed to another, to the one who was raised from the dead, so that we might bear fruit for Godde. ⁵When we were in the flesh, the errant passions aroused by the Torah worked in the parts of our body to bear fruit for death. ⁶But now we have been freed from the Torah, having died to that which bound us, so that we serve in the newness of the Spirit, not the oldness of the letter.

⁷What can we say then? Is the Torah wrong? Certainly not! But I wouldn't have known wrong if it hadn't been for Torah. I wouldn't have known coveting if the Torah hadn't said, "Do not covet." ⁸But wrongdoing, seizing an opportunity in the precept, created all kinds of coveting in me, because without Torah, wrongdoing is dead. ⁹Once I was alive without Torah, but when the precept came, wrongdoing sprang to life ¹⁰and I died. I found that the precept for life actually brought death, ¹¹because wrongdoing, seizing an opportunity in the precept, deceived me and through it killed me. ¹²So the Torah itself is holy, and the precept is holy and just and good.

¹³Did what is good, then, become death to me? Certainly not! But wrongdoing, that it might be exposed as such, brought death to me through what is good, so that it might become even worse through the precept. ¹⁴We know that the Torah is spiritual, but I am fleshly, sold under wrongdoing. ¹⁵I don't know what I'm doing, because I don't practice what I want to do; I do what I hate to do. ¹⁶But if I do what I don't want to do, I agree that the Torah is good. ¹⁷So now I'm not the one doing it, but wrongdoing which lives in me. ¹⁸I know that nothing good lives in me – that is, in my flesh – because I want to do what's good, but I can't. ¹⁹I don't do the good I want to do, but I practice the bad things I don't want to. ²⁰But if I do what I don't want to do, I'm not the one doing it, but wrongdoing which lives in me. ²¹So this is what I find about the Torah: When I want to do good, bad is right there with me. ²²I delight in Godde's Torah inwardly, ²³but I see a different torah at work in the parts of my body, waging war against the torah of my mind and making me a prisoner under the torah of wrongdoing which lives in the parts of my body. ²⁴What a miserable person I am! Who will rescue me from the body of this death? ²⁵Thanks be to Godde through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then I myself serve Godde's Torah in my mind, but wrongdoing's torah in my flesh.

Chapter Eight

So now there's no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the Torah of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus freed you from the torah of wrongdoing and of death. ³Godde did what the Torah couldn't do, since it was weakened by the flesh. Godde dealt with wrongdoing by sending her own Son in the likeness of errant flesh to condemn wrongdoing in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the Torah might be fulfilled in those of us who don't live according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ⁵Those who live according to the flesh focus on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit focus on the things of the Spirit. ⁶The mind focused on the flesh leads to death, but the mind focused on the Spirit leads to life and peace, ⁷because the mind of the flesh is hostile to Godde; for it isn't subject to Godde's Torah, nor can it be. ⁸Those who are in the flesh can't please Godde. ⁹You aren't in the flesh but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of Godde dwells in you. But anyone who doesn't have the Spirit of Christ doesn't belong to him. ¹⁰If Christ lives in you, your body is dead because of wrongdoing, but the Spirit gives life because of justice. ¹¹If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, she who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies too through her Spirit who lives in you. ¹²So then, sisters and brothers, we aren't obliged to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³Because if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the practices of the body, you will live. ¹⁴All who are led by the Spirit of Godde are children of Godde. ¹⁵You didn't receive the spirit of bondage leading to fear again, but you received the Spirit of adoption, by whom we cry, "Amm! Mother!" ¹⁶The Spirit herself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of Godde, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs – heirs of Godde and co-heirs with Christ, if in fact we suffer with him so that we may be glorified with him too.

¹⁸I regard that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us, ¹⁹because the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of Godde to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be freed from the bondage of decay into the freedom of the glory of the children of Godde. ²²We know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth until now. ²³Not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we eagerly wait for adoption, the redemption of our body. ²⁴In hope we have been given life. But hope that is seen isn't really hope, because who hopes for what is seen? ²⁵But if we hope for what we don't see, we wait for it patiently.

²⁶In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness, because we don't know how to pray as we should. But the Spirit herself intercedes for us with groans that words can't express. ²⁷She who searches the hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because she intercedes for the holy ones according to Godde's will.

²⁸We know that for those who love Godde all things work together for good, to those who are called according to her purpose. ²⁹She determined beforehand that those whom she foreknew would become like her Son, so that he might be firstborn among many sisters and brothers. ³⁰She called those whom she foreknew, justified those whom she called, and glorified those whom she justified.

³¹What can we say then about these things? If Godde is for us, who can be against us? ³²After all, she didn't spare her own Son, but gave him up for all of us. So why wouldn't she, along with him, give us all things too? ³³Who could bring a charge against Godde's chosen ones? It is Godde who justifies. ³⁴Who is the one who condemns? Is it Christ Jesus who died – or rather, who was raised – and is at the right hand of Godde, who intercedes for us too?

³⁵Who could separate us from the love of Christ? Could oppression, or distress, or harassment, or famine, or poverty, or danger, or sword? ³⁶As it is written:

"For your sake we are killed all day long.

We were counted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

³⁷But in all these things, we have more than victory through the one who loved us, ³⁸because I’m convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, will be able to separate us from the love of Godde in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Chapter Nine

I’m telling the truth in Christ, I’m not lying; my conscience bears witness with me in the Holy Spirit ²that I have great sorrow and endless anguish in my heart. ³I could pray that I myself were ostracized from Christ for the sake of my sisters and brothers, my relatives according to the flesh, ⁴the Israelites. Theirs is the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the receiving of the Torah, the temple service, and the promises; ⁵theirs are the ancestors, and Christ is descended from them according to the flesh. May Godde who is over all be blessed forever! Amen.

⁶But it’s not as if Godde’s word has failed, because not all who are from Israel are actually Israel. ⁷Nor are they all children because they’re Sarah’s and Abraham’s offspring; rather, “Your offspring will be counted through Rebekah and Isaac.” ⁸In other words, it isn’t the children of the flesh who are children of Godde, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring, ⁹because this is how the promise was worded: “At the right time I will return, and Sarah will have a son.” ¹⁰And not only that, but Rebecca too conceived by one person, our father Isaac. ¹¹Before they were even born or had done anything good or bad – so that the purpose of Godde’s election might continue, ¹²not by deeds, but by the one who calls – it was said to her, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³As it is written, “I loved Jacob, but I hated Esau.”

¹⁴What can we say then? Is Godde unjust? Certainly not! ¹⁵Because she says to Moses:

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will take pity on whom I take pity.”

¹⁶So then it doesn’t depend on someone wanting it or running the race, but rather on the one who has mercy – Godde. ¹⁷Because the Scripture says to Pharaoh:

“I raised you up for this reason, so that I might demonstrate my power in you, and so that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”

¹⁸So then she has mercy on whomever she chooses, and she hardens whomever she chooses.

¹⁹So then you’ll ask me, “Why then does she still find fault? Who can resist her will?” ²⁰But who are you, my friend, to talk back to Godde? Will the thing that’s molded ask the one who formed it, “Why did you make me like this?” ²¹Doesn’t the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay one vessel for special use and another for ordinary use? ²²What if Godde, wanting to demonstrate her fury and make her power known, endured with much patience vessels of fury made for destruction ²³so that she might make known the riches of her glory for vessels of mercy, which she prepared beforehand for glory – ²⁴even us, whom she called not only from the Jews, but from the Gentiles too? ²⁵As she also says in Hosea:

“I will call ‘my people’ those who weren’t my people,
and will call her ‘beloved’ who was not beloved.”

²⁶“And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’
they will be called ‘children of the living Godde.’”

²⁷Isaiah cries out concerning Israel:

“Even if the number of the children of Israel is like the sand by the sea,
the remnant will be given life,
²⁸because the Lady will quickly carry out her sentence on the earth.”

²⁹As Isaiah has said before:

“If the Lady of Hosts hadn’t left us offspring,
we would have become like Sodom,
and would have been like Gomorrah.”

³⁰What can we say then? That Gentiles, not pursuing justice, nevertheless obtained it, even the justice of trust; ³¹but Israel, pursuing a Torah of justice, didn’t arrive at that Torah. ³²Why not? Because it wasn’t by trust, but as if it were by deeds. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, ³³as it is written:

“See, I place in Zion a stumbling stone and a rock that will trip people up,
and the one who trusts in it will not be disappointed.”

Chapter Ten

Sisters and brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to Godde is that Israel will gain life. ²I can bear witness that they have a zeal for Godde, but it isn’t based on knowledge. ³Since they didn’t know Godde’s justice and sought to establish their own justice, they didn’t subject themselves to the justice of Godde. ⁴Christ is the goal of the Torah, resulting in justice for everyone who trusts.

⁵Moses writes about the justice of the Torah, “The one who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the justice that comes from trust says, “Don’t say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ (that is, to bring Christ down); ⁷or, ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)” ⁸But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
in your mouth, and in your heart”;

that is, the message about trust which we proclaim: ⁹If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and trust in your heart that Godde raised him from the dead, you will be given life; ¹⁰because one trusts with the heart, resulting in justice; and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in life. ¹¹As the Scripture says, “Whoever trusts in her will not be disappointed,” ¹²because there’s no difference between Jews and Greeks; the same Lady is Lady of all, and enriches all who appeal to her. ¹³“Whoever appeals to the name of the Lady will be given life.”

¹⁴Then how will they appeal to one in whom they haven’t trusted? How will they trust one of whom they haven’t heard? How will they hear without someone proclaiming? ¹⁵And how will they proclaim if they aren’t sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who announce the good news!” ¹⁶But they didn’t all accept the good news, because Isaiah says, “Lady, who has trusted our report?” ¹⁷So trust comes from hearing, and hearing through the message about Christ. ¹⁸But I ask, didn’t they hear? Yes, they did:

“Their voice went out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the inhabited world.”

¹⁹But I ask, didn't Israel know? First Moses says:

"I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a people;
by a people without understanding I will anger you."

²⁰Isaiah boldly says:

"I was found by those who weren't looking for me.
I was revealed to those who didn't ask for me."

²¹But to Israel he says, "All day long I reached out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people."

Chapter Eleven

I ask then, did Godde reject her people? Certainly not! I'm an Israelite too, from the offspring of Sarah and Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ²Godde didn't reject her people whom she already knew. Or don't you know what the Scripture says about Elijah? How he pleads with Godde against Israel: ³"Lady, they've killed your prophets, they've torn down your altars; I'm the only one left, and they seek my life." ⁴But how does the divine oracle respond? "I've reserved for myself seven thousand who haven't bowed down to Baal." ⁵So too at the present time, there's a remnant chosen by grace. ⁶And if by grace, then it's no longer by deeds; otherwise grace would no longer be grace. ⁷Well, then, did Israel not obtain what it was looking for? But the chosen ones obtained it, and the rest were hardened, ⁸as it is written:

"Godde gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes that couldn't see and ears that couldn't hear,
to this very day."

⁹And David says:

"Let their table become a snare and a trap,
a scandal and a punishment for them.
¹⁰Let their eyes be darkened so that they can't see,
and let their backs stay bent all the time."

¹¹I ask then, did they stumble so that they might fall? Certainly not! But by their wrongdoing, life has come to the Gentiles, to provoke them to jealousy. ¹²Now if their wrongdoing enriches the world, and their loss enriches the Gentiles, how much more their full inclusion?

¹³I'm speaking to you Gentiles. Insofar as I'm an apostle to Gentiles, I extol my ministry ¹⁴if somehow I might provoke those who are of my flesh to jealousy and so might give life to some of them. ¹⁵Because if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be if not life from the dead? ¹⁶If the firstfruit is holy, so is the lump. If the root is holy, so are the branches.

¹⁷But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among them to share the rich sap of the root of the olive tree, ¹⁸don't boast over the branches. If you do boast, remember that you don't support the root, but the root supports you.

¹⁹So then you'll say, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." ²⁰That's true. They were broken off because they didn't trust, while you stand firm in trust. Don't be proud, but be afraid, ²¹because if Godde didn't spare the natural branches, maybe she won't spare you either. ²²Note then the kindness and strictness of Godde: strictness to those who fell, but Godde's kindness to you, if you continue in her kindness; otherwise you will be cut off too. ²³If they don't continue in their distrust, they'll

be grafted in too, because Godde is able to graft them in again. ²⁴If you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will the natural branches be grafted back into their own olive tree?

²⁵So that you don't think you're wiser than you really are, sisters and brothers, I don't want you to be ignorant of this mystery: Part of Israel has been hardened until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, ²⁶and so all Israel will be given life. As it is written:

"The Life-Giver will come out of Zion,
and he will turn corruption away from Jacob.

²⁷This is my covenant with them
when I forgive them."

²⁸As far as the good news is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are beloved for the sake of their ancestors, ²⁹because the gifts and the calling of Godde are irrevocable. ³⁰Just as you once disobeyed Godde but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, ³¹so they've now disobeyed too, so that they may now receive mercy too because of the mercy shown to you. ³²Godde has confined everyone to disobedience so that she might have mercy on all.

³³Oh how deep are the riches and wisdom and knowledge of Godde! How unsearchable are her judgments and inscrutable her ways!

³⁴"For who has known the mind of the Lady?
Or who has been her counselor?"

³⁵"Or who has given her anything,
so that they should be repaid?"

³⁶Because from her and through her and to her are all things. To her be the glory forever! Amen.

Chapter Twelve

So I urge you by the mercies of Godde, sisters and brothers, to offer your bodies a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to Godde, which is your spiritual service. ²Don't allow yourselves to be shaped by this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind so that you may determine what Godde's will is –what's good, pleasing, and perfect.

³By the grace that was given to me I say to everyone among you, don't think more highly of yourselves than you ought, but think soberly, according to the measure of trust that Godde has allotted to each; ⁴because just as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts don't have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually parts one of each other. ⁶We have different gifts according to the grace given to us: whether prophecy, in proportion to our trust; ⁷or ministry, in ministering; or the teacher, in teaching; ⁸or the one who encourages, in encouraging; the giver, in generosity; the manager, in diligence; the merciful, in cheerfulness.

⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor the bad; cling to the good. ¹⁰Love each other dearly. Take the lead in honoring each other. ¹¹Don't lack zeal; be on fire with the Spirit, serving the Lady, ¹²rejoicing in hope, enduring oppression, persevering in prayer, ¹³contributing to the needs of the holy ones, practicing hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who harass you; bless and don't curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with each other. Don't be proud, but be willing to associate with the humble. Don't be wise in your own estimation. ¹⁷Don't repay anyone evil for evil, but think about what's good in the sight of all people. ¹⁸If it's possible, as far as it depends on you, live in

peace with all people. ¹⁹Don't take revenge, beloved, but leave room for Godde's punishment, because it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lady." ²⁰So:

"If your enemy is hungry, feed them.
If they're thirsty, give them something to drink;
because by doing this, you'll heap burning coals on their head."

²¹Don't be conquered by evil, but conquer evil with good.

Chapter Thirteen

Let everyone defer to governing authorities, because there's no authority except from Godde, and those that exist have been put in place by Godde. ²So whoever revolts against the authority opposes the direction of Godde, and those who do so will incur judgment. ³Rulers aren't to be feared by those who do right, but by those who do wrong. Do you want to be unafraid of authority? Do what's right, and you'll receive praise, ⁴because they're a minister of Godde to you for good. But be afraid if you do wrong, because they don't carry the sword for no reason; they're a minister of Godde, executing punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵So you need to defer, not just because of the punishment but because of conscience too. ⁶That's why you pay tribute too, because they're Godde's servants, busy with this very thing. ⁷Give everyone their dues: tribute to the one demanding tribute; tolls to the one demanding tolls; fear to the one demanding fear; honor to the one demanding honor.

⁸Don't owe anyone anything, except to love one another, because whoever loves others has fulfilled the Torah. ⁹"Do not be unfaithful," "Do not murder," "Do not steal," "Do not covet," and any other precept are all summed up in this saying: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Since love doesn't do anything wrong to a neighbor, love is the fulfillment of the Torah.

¹¹Do this, knowing that it's already time for you to wake up from your sleep, because now life is closer than when we first trusted. ¹²Night is almost over; a new day is dawning. So let's throw off the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. ¹³Let's live decently, as in daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lewdness, not in strife and jealousy. ¹⁴But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and don't make any allowance for the flesh and its desires.

Chapter Fourteen

Welcome the one whose trust is uncertain, but not to pass judgment. ²One person trusts that it's okay to eat everything, but the hesitant one eats vegetables. ³Don't let the one who eats despise the one who doesn't eat, and don't let the one who doesn't eat judge the one who eats, because Godde has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you who to pass judgment on someone else's servant? They stand or fall before their own mistress or master. And they will stand, because the Lady has the power to make them stand. ⁵One person regards one day more important than others. Another regards every day the same. Let each be fully convinced in their own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes in honor of the Lady. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lady, because they give thanks to Godde. The one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lady, and gives thanks to Godde. ⁷We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves, ⁸because if we live, we live to the Lady, and if we die, we die to the Lady. So whether we live or die, we belong to the Lady. ⁹For this reason Christ died and lived again so that he might be Lord of the living and the dead. ¹⁰But you, why do you judge your sister or brother? Or why do you despise your sister or brother? All of us will stand before the judgment seat of Godde, ¹¹because it is written:

"'As I live,' says the Lady, 'every knee will bow to me,
and every tongue will confess to Godde.'"

¹²So then each of us will be accountable to Godde.

¹³So let's not judge each other anymore, but if we want to use judgment, let's not put a stumbling block that could trip up a sister or brother. ¹⁴I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself, but it's unclean to one who counts it as unclean. ¹⁵But if your sister or brother is distressed because of what you eat, you're not living in love anymore. Don't destroy the one for whom Christ died because of what you eat. ¹⁶So don't let your good thing be slandered, ¹⁷because Godde's reign is not eating and drinking, but justice, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸The one who serves Christ in these things is pleasing to Godde and approved by women and men. ¹⁹So then, let's pursue what makes for peace and building each other up. ²⁰Don't tear down Godde's work for food's sake. Everything really is clean, but bad for the one who creates a stumbling block by eating. ²¹It's better not to eat meat, drink wine, or do anything else which trips up your sister or brother.

²²Keep your conviction between you and Godde. Blessed is the one who doesn't judge themselves because of what they approve. ²³But the one who doubts is condemned if they eat because it doesn't come from trust, and whatever doesn't come from trust is wrong.

Chapter Fifteen

Now we who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those who are not strong and not to please ourselves. ²Let each one of us please our neighbor for their good, to build them up, ³because even Christ didn't please himself, as it is written: "The insults of those who insulted you have fallen on me." ⁴Whatever was written before was written to teach us, so that through patience and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the Godde of patience and of encouragement grant you harmony with each other according to Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together with one voice you may glorify the Godde and Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷So welcome each other, just as Christ welcomed you, to the glory of Godde. ⁸Now I say that Christ has become a minister to the circumcision for the truth of Godde, so that he might confirm the promises given to their ancestors ⁹and so that the Gentiles might glorify Godde for her mercy. As it is written:

"So will I praise you among the Gentiles
and sing the praises of your name."

¹⁰Again it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with her people!" ¹¹And again:

"Praise the Lady, all you Gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise her!"

¹²Again, Isaiah says:

"The root of Jesse will come,
the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
in him the Gentiles will hope."

¹³Now may the Godde of hope fill you with all joy and peace in trusting, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

¹⁴I myself am convinced, my sisters and brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able to instruct each other too. ¹⁵But I have written more boldly to you on some points to remind you, because of the grace that was given to me by Godde ¹⁶to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the good news of Godde, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be

acceptable, made holy by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷So I boast in Christ Jesus in things regarding Godde. ¹⁸I will not dare to speak of anything except what Christ has done through me for the obedience of the Gentiles, by word and deed, ¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit of Godde; so that from Jerusalem, and as far around as Illyricum, I have fully demonstrated the good news of Christ. ²⁰I have aspired to announce the good news where Christ was not already known, so that I might not build on another's foundation. ²¹As it is written:

“Those who have never been told about him will see,
And those who haven't heard will understand.”

²²So I was often prevented from coming to you, ²³but now that my work is finished in these regions, I've been longing to come to you for many years ²⁴whenever I journey to Spain. I hope to see you while traveling through and to be helped on my way there by you, after I've enjoyed your company for a while. ²⁵But now I'm going to Jerusalem to minister to the holy ones, ²⁶because Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for those who are poor among the holy ones in Jerusalem. ²⁷They were pleased to do it, and they owe it to them, because if the Gentiles have been made partners in their spiritual things, they owe it to them to minister to them in fleshly things too. ²⁸So when I have completed this and have delivered this fruit to them, I will visit you on my way to Spain. ²⁹I know that when I come to you, I'll come with a full measure of the blessing of Christ.

³⁰Now I urge you, sisters and brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle in your prayers to Godde for me, ³¹so that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the holy ones. ³²Then I can come to you in joy by the will of Godde and find rest with you. ³³May the Godde of peace be with all of you. Amen.

Chapter Sixteen

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the community at Cenchreae, ²so that you may welcome her in the Lady as holy ones should and help her with whatever she needs, because she has been a patron of many, and of me too.

³Greet Prisca and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴who risked their own necks for my life; I not only thank them, but all the communities of the Gentiles too. ⁵Greet the community that meets in their house too. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, the first person in Asia who trusted Christ. ⁶Greet Mary, who worked hard for you. ⁷Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives who were prisoners with me. They're outstanding among the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. ⁸Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lady. ⁹Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and Stachys, my beloved. ¹⁰Greet Apelles, who has been approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. ¹¹Greet my relative Herodion. Greet those of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lady. ¹²Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, workers in the Lady. Greet the beloved Persis who worked hard in the Lady too. ¹³Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lady, and his mother, who has been a mother to me too. ¹⁴Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the sisters and brothers with them. ¹⁵Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the holy ones with them. ¹⁶Greet each other with a holy kiss. All the communities of Christ greet you.

¹⁷Now I urge you, sisters and brothers, to watch out for those who are causing the divisions and scandals which go against the teaching you learned. Keep away from them! ¹⁸Such people don't serve our Lord Christ but their own belly. They deceive the hearts of the innocent by smooth talk and flattery. ¹⁹I rejoice because everyone has heard about your obedience. But I want you to be wise about what is good and innocent about what is evil. ²⁰Soon the Godde of peace will crush the Satan under your feet. May the grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

²¹My co-worker Timothy greets you, as do my relatives Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater. ²²I, Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord. ²³Gaius, the host of me and the whole community, greets you. The civic manager Erastus greets you, and our brother Quartus.

²⁵Now to the one who is able to strengthen you according to my good news and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which has been kept secret for a long time ²⁶but is now revealed, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the precept of the eternal God, made known to all the Gentiles for the obedience of trust; ²⁷to the only wise God be the glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.