



ROMANS

IN RETROSPECT

Pat McRight

Mayfair Ladies' Bible Class

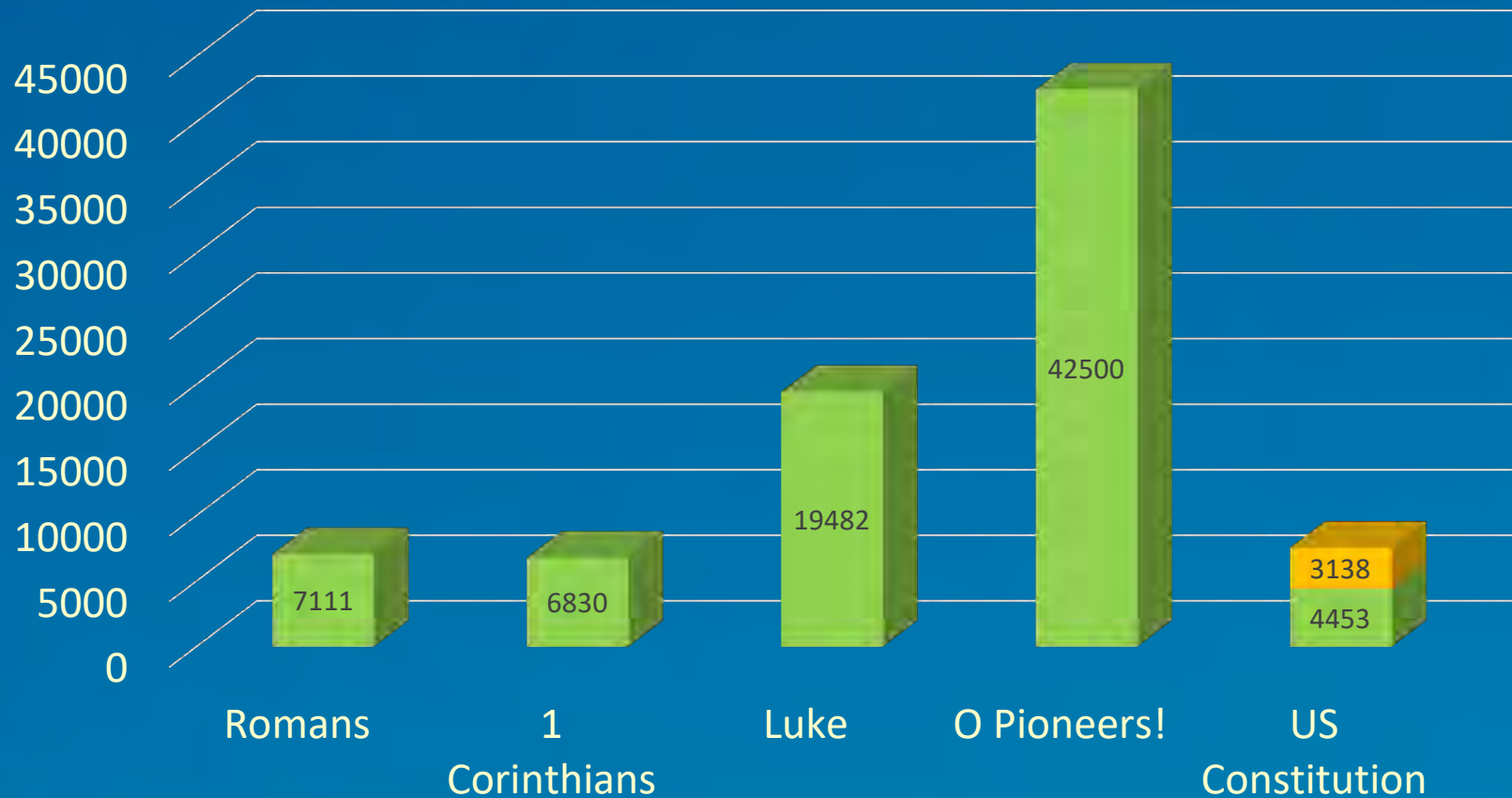
February 11, 2020

TODAY'S GOALS

1. See Romans as a whole
2. Highlight the “big ideas” →
3. Apply Paul’s message →



ROMANS AMONG OTHER BOOKS



- At an *oral reading* pace, you can read the entire book of Romans in 1 hour and 6 minutes (NIV Audio Bible).
- Densely packed. You can spend a lifetime studying it.

STRUCTURE OF ROMANS



1-11

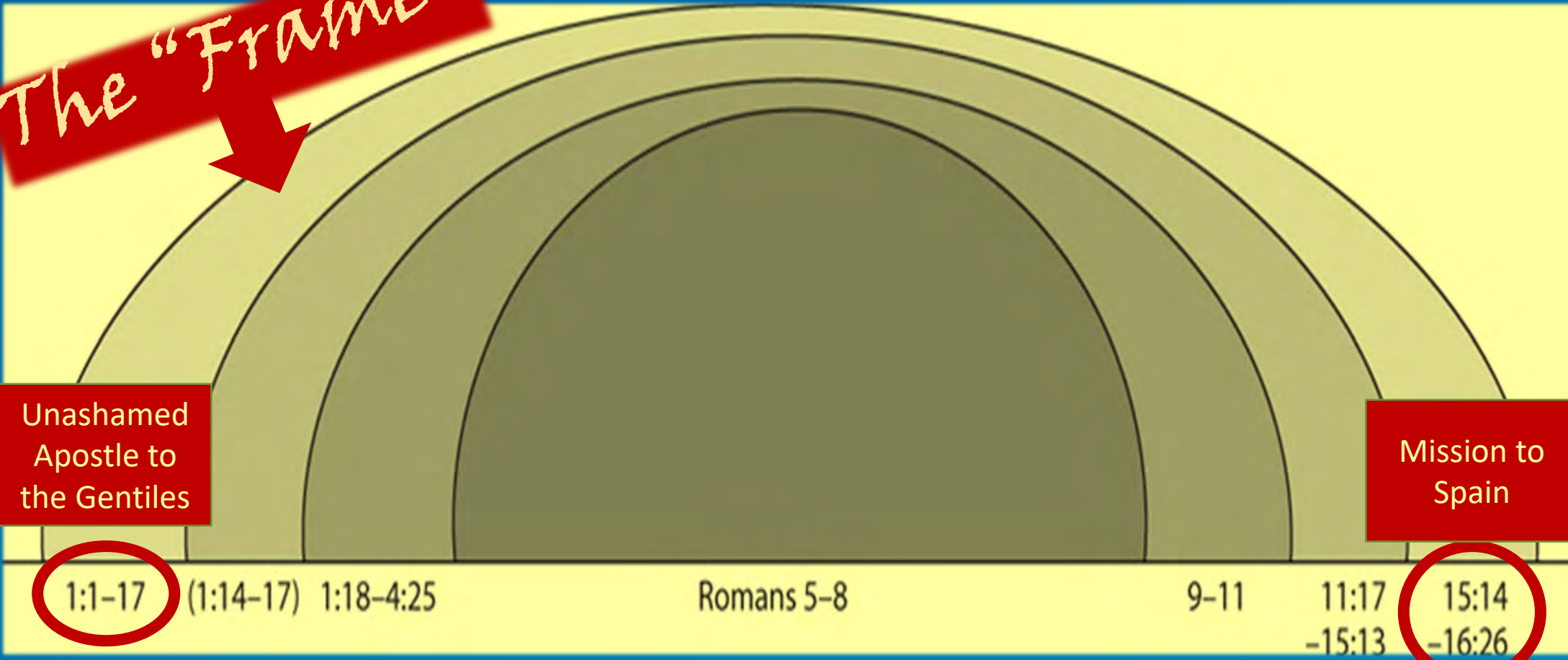
- What To Believe

12-16

- How to Behave

STRUCTURE OF PAUL'S EMBEDDED ARGUMENTS

The "FRAME"



Unashamed
Apostle to
the Gentiles

Mission to
Spain

1:1-17

(1:14-17) 1:18-4:25

Romans 5-8

9-11

11:17
-15:13

15:14
-16:26

FOUR KEY PLACES IN ROMANS

- Corinth ★
 - Paul's apparent location when he writes Romans
 - Next to Cenchrea
- Jerusalem ★
 - Paul's next destination
 - Where he will deliver money collected for the Judean churches enduring famine
 - Where he knows he will face challenges and opposition
- Rome ★
- Spain
 - The western frontier of the Empire where Paul wants to preach the Gospel



Roman Empire in 47 AD





THE “FRAME” OF ROMANS

- Romans 1:1-17

- V. 5: “...apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles...”
- V. 7: “...beloved of God...”
- V. 8: “...faith proclaimed throughout the whole world...”
- V. 9-10: “...how unceasingly I make mention of you...” that “I may succeed in coming to you”
- V. 11: “...impart some spiritual gift to you...”
- V. 12: “...may be encouraged together with you...”

ROMANS 1:14-15

NASB

- ¹⁴ I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.
- ¹⁵ So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.





THE “FRAME” OF ROMANS

- Romans 15:14 - 16:26

- “...I have had for many years a longing to come to you whenever I go to Spain...to be helped on my way there by you...” (15:23-24)

- “...Strive together with me in your prayers...that I may be rescued...and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable...that I may come to you...” (15:30-32)

- “...My gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ...has been made known to all the nations, leading to obedience of faith...”

WHAT WE LEARN

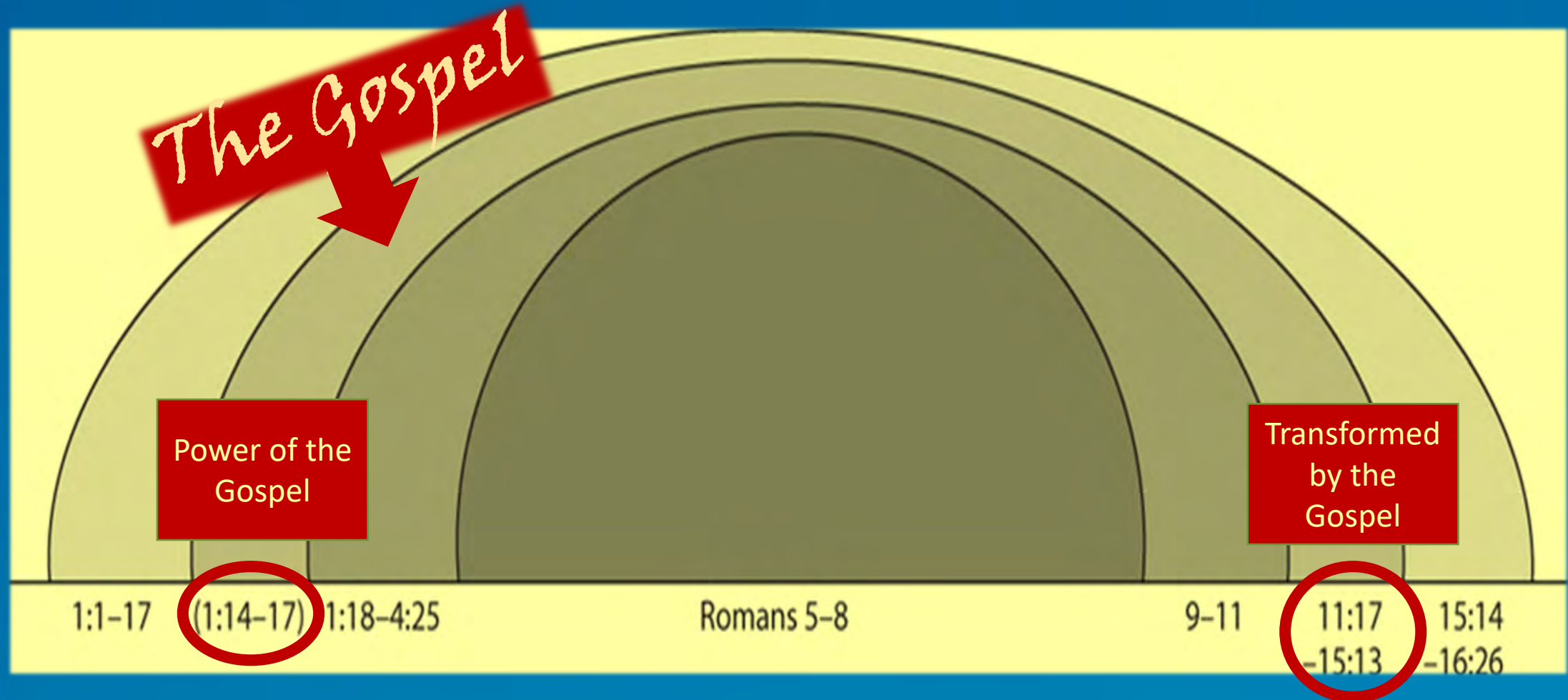
- Jews look down on Gentiles.
- Cultured Gentiles look down on “Barbarian” Gentiles.
- Paul’s letter is an extended, artful rebuke of Roman pride.



**OBEDIENT FAITH in JESUS is the only valid
BOUNDARY MARKER for the KINGDOM.**

*Allowing ethnic, social, cultural boundaries within the church
threatens our mission and dishonors God*

STRUCTURE OF PAUL'S EMBEDDED ARGUMENTS



ROMANS 1:16-17

NASB

- ¹⁶ For I am **not ashamed of the gospel**, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone **who believes**, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
- ¹⁷ For in it the **righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith**; as it is written, “**BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.**”





THE “RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD”

- Paul uses this phrase 9 times in the NT; 8 of them in Romans.
 - **Attributive Sense:** Righteousness as an intrinsic attribute of God
 - **Source Sense:** Righteous that comes from God
 - **Subjective Sense:** Righteousness that God is doing
- **In the Septuagint:**
 - God vindicating His people, judging the wicked (Psalm 50)
 - God delivering His people from bondage (Isaiah 51:4-8)
 - God giving of a new status to people (Isaiah 56:10-13) – less clear than NT.



WHY GOD NEEDED TO VINDICATE HIMSELF

- His promise to Abraham.
 - Now that Israel has disobeyed
- His promise to David
 - Now that Israel is governed by Edomites and Romans
- Within this ancient honor-shame culture:
 - Human disobedience has publicly dishonored him.
 - Patrons prove themselves trustworthy and powerful.

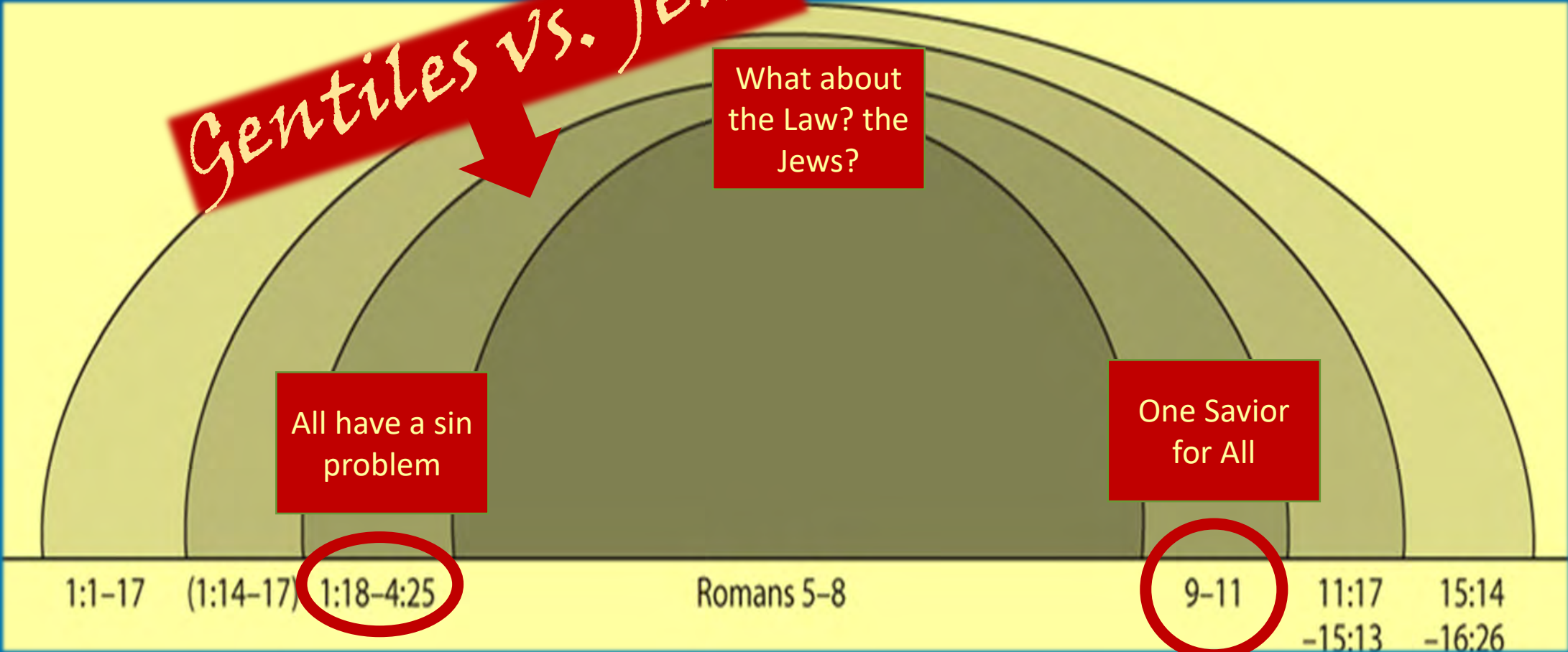
STRUCTURE OF PAUL'S EMBEDDED ARGUMENTS

Gentiles vs. Jews

What about the Law? the Jews?

All have a sin problem

One Savior for All



1:1-17

(1:14-17)

1:18-4:25

Romans 5-8

9-11

11:17

15:14

-15:13

-16:26

ROMANS 1:18-19

NASB

¹⁸ For the **wrath of God** is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

¹⁹ because that which is known about God is evident within them; for **God made it evident to them.**



God reveals
Himself through
Nature.

ROMANS 1:20-21

NASB

- ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, **have been clearly seen**, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
- ²¹ For even though they knew God, they **did not honor Him as God** or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.



ROMANS 1:22-23

NASB

²² Professing to be wise, they became fools,
²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible
God for an image in the form of corruptible
man and of birds and four-footed animals and
crawling creatures.



GLORY IN ROMANS

...exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image ...

1:23

Glory Lost

3:23

Glory Restored

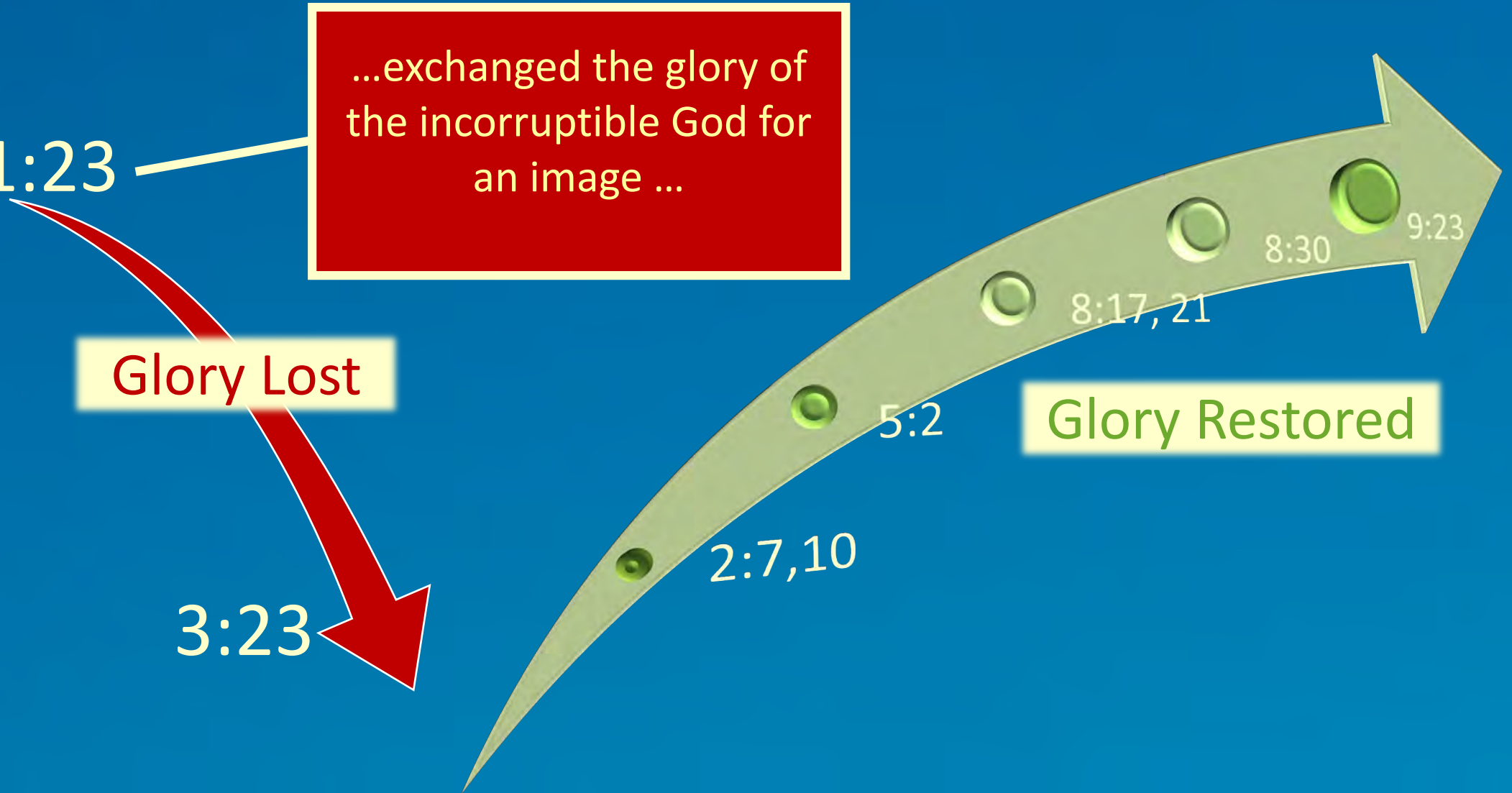
2:7,10

5:2

8:17,21

8:30

9:23



GLORY IN ROMANS

1:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Glory Lost

3:23

2:7,10

5:2

Glory Restored

8:17,21

8:30

9:23



HUMANS FORSOOK THEIR ROLE

God Creates Humans...

- To rule over creation
- To bear His Image

Instead, Humanity...

- Disobeys God
- Worships the Creation instead of the Creator



GLORY IN ROMANS

God is storing up glory,
honor, eternal life, peace
for those who do good

1:23

Glory Lost

3:23

2:7,10

5:2

8:17,21

8:30

9:23

Glory Restored



GLORY IN ROMANS

1:23

We exult in the hope of
the glory of God

Glory Lost

3:23

2:7,10

5:2

Glory Restored

8:17,21

8:30

9:23



GLORY IN ROMANS

...heirs with Christ if we suffer with him...we may also be glorified with him (v17)

1:23

Glory Lost

3:23

2:7,10

5:2

8:17,21

8:30

9:23

Glory Restored



GLORY IN ROMANS

1:23

...set free...into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. (v21)

Glory Lost

3:23

2:7,10

5:2

Glory Restored

8:17, 21

8:30

9:23



GLORY IN ROMANS

...These whom He called...He justified and...He also glorified.

1:23

Glory Lost

3:23

2:7,10

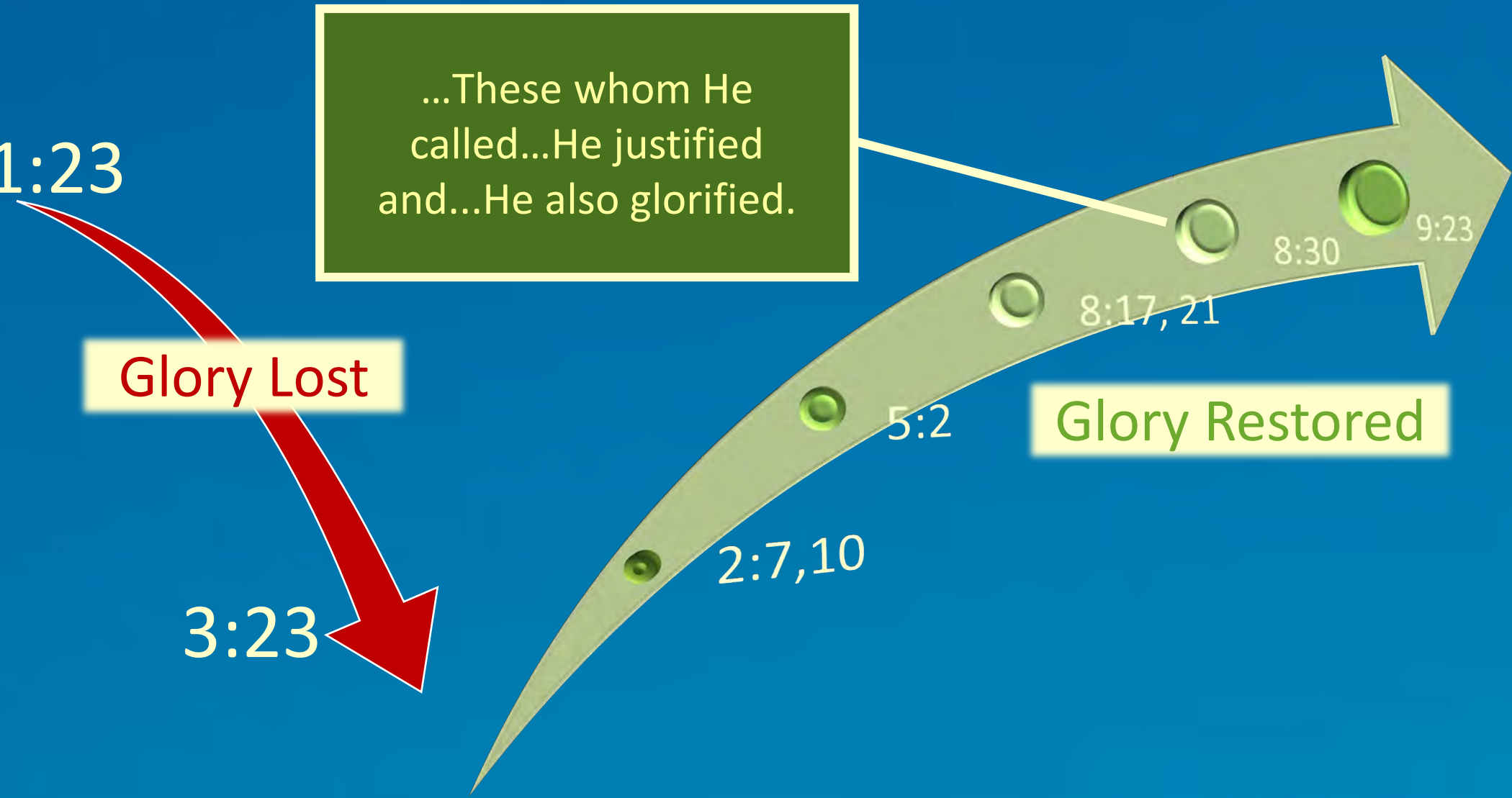
5:2

8:17, 21

8:30

9:23

Glory Restored



GLORY IN ROMANS

He did so to make known
the riches of His glory
upon vessels of mercy...

1:23

Glory Lost

3:23

2:7,10

5:2

8:17, 21

8:30

9:23

Glory Restored




HUMANS FORSOOK THEIR ROLE

God Creates Humans...

- To rule over creation
- To bear His Image

Instead, Humanity...

- Disobeys God
- Worships the Creation instead of the Creator



So God restores us to share and reflect His glory. We are to be His agents in bringing about the New Creation, bearing His image.



HUMANITY'S GLORIFICATION

- Refers to being placed into “an exalted status of honor associated with a position of authority or rule”
 - Being conformed to the image of Christ (the New Adam)
 - Bearing God’s image, reflecting His character and kingship
 - Fulfilling God’s purpose of filling the earth with His glory
 - Reigning as “Servant Rulers” over creation, as God originally intended



God glorifies us by enabling us to reflect His glory and share in it.

ROMANS 2:28-29

NASB

- 28** For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.
- 29** But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.



ROMANS 3:28

NASB

28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith
apart from **works of the Law**.



JUSTIFICATION

NASB

One Greek root word gives all these English meanings:

- Righteous (adj), Justified (adv)
- Righteousness (noun)
- Justify (verb) – a “speech act”
- Justification (noun)



ROMANS 4:3

NASB

³ For what does the Scripture say? “ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

JAMES 2:23

²³ ...“AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” ...



JAMES 2:19-23



¹⁹ You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons also believe, and shudder.

²⁰ But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

²¹ Was not Abraham our father **justified by works** when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar?

JAMES 2:19-23



²² You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected;

²³ and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, “AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,” and he was called the friend of God.

JAMES 2:26



²⁶ For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also **faith without works is dead.**



Ephesians 2:10

¹⁰ For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works**, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

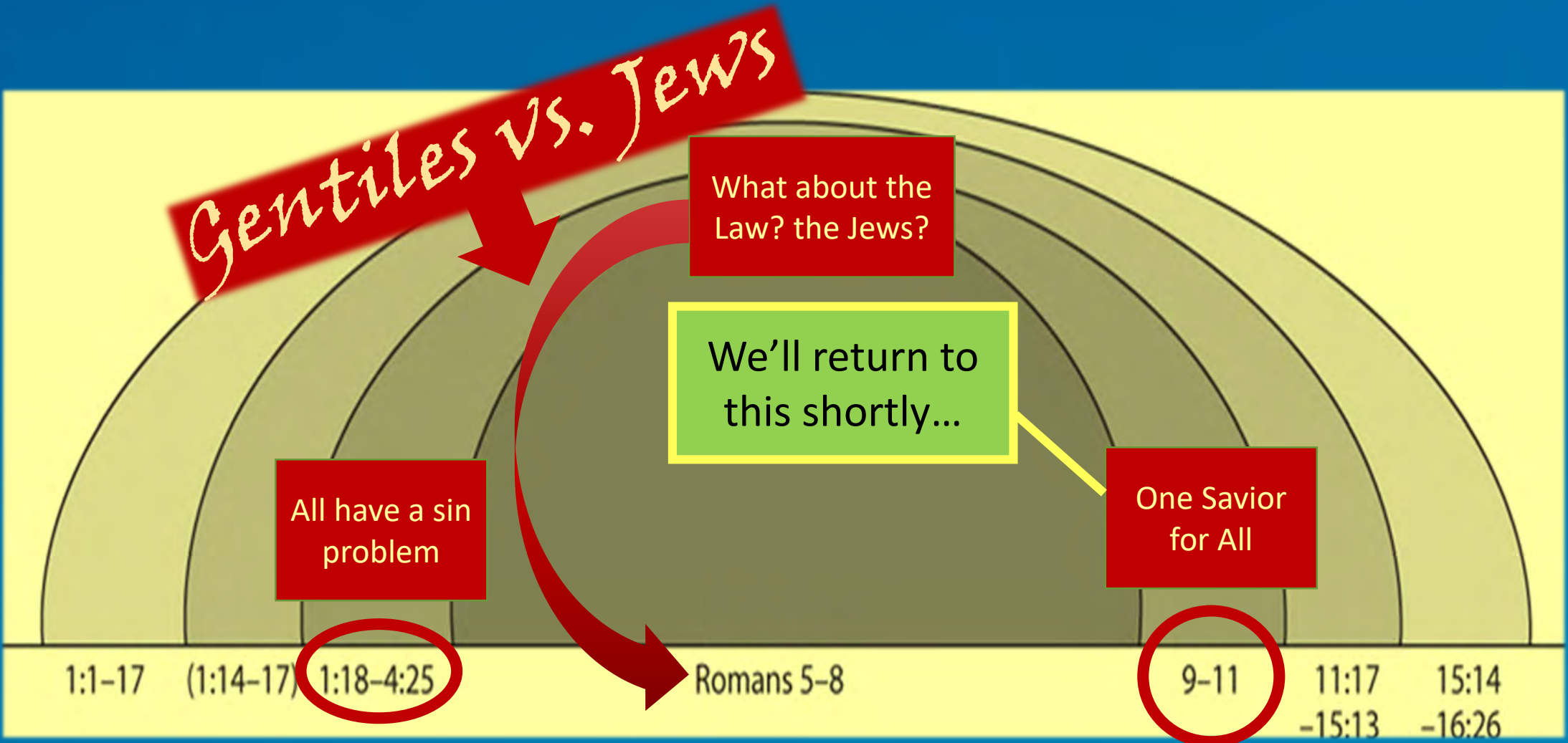
SAVING FAITH



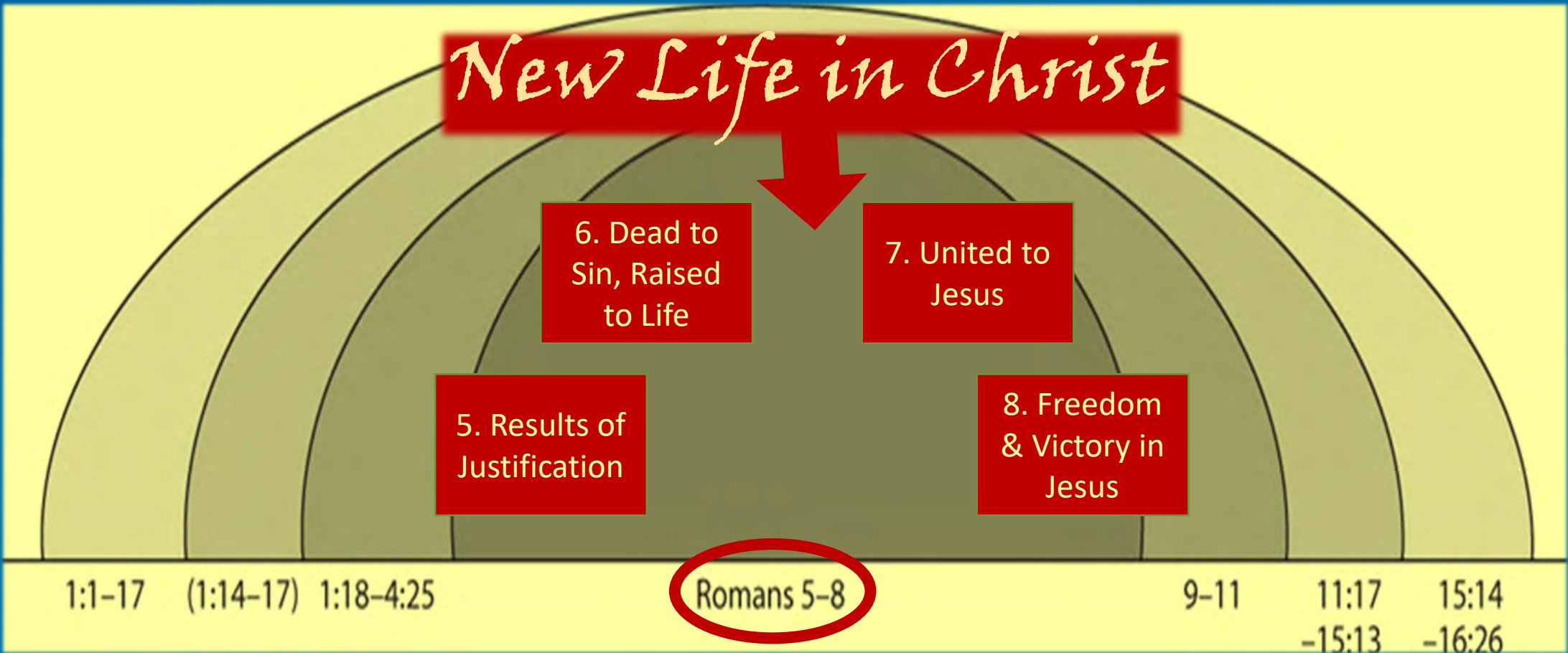
Together, James and Paul show us that a
“SAVING” FAITH is an OBEDIENT FAITH.

- Paul rejects **works of the Law of Moses** as a basis for earning salvation.
- Salvation can never be **EARNED** – not by faith, not by works.
- God ascribes righteousness to a person based on faith, and that faith is characterized by obedience and good works stemming from our gifts (not from the rituals of the Law)

STRUCTURE OF PAUL'S EMBEDDED ARGUMENTS



STRUCTURE OF PAUL'S EMBEDDED ARGUMENTS



ROMANS 5:19

NASB

19 For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.



6. Dead to
sin. New Life!

ROMANS 6:1-2

NASB

- ¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?
- ² May it never be! How shall **we who died to sin** still live in it?

We live transformed lives.
Grace is not a license to sin.



6. Dead to
sin. New Life!

ROMANS 6:22-23

NASB

22 But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive **your benefit**, resulting in **sanctification**, and the outcome, **eternal life**.

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



ROMANS 7:4, 6

- ⁴ Therefore...you also were made to **die to the Law** through the body of Christ, so that you might be joined...to Him who was raised from the dead, ...that we might **bear fruit for God**.
- ⁶ ...we have been **released from the Law**...so that we **serve in newness of the Spirit** and not in oldness of the letter.



ROMANS 8:1-2

- ¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**
- ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.**



ROMANS 8:28-30

- ²⁸ And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.
- ²⁹ For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren;
- ³⁰ and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also **justified**; and these whom He justified, He also **glorified**.



ROMANS 8:33-35

- 33 Who will bring a charge against God's elect? God is the one who justifies;**
- 34 who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.**
- 35 Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?**



ROMANS 8:38-39

NASB

38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,
39 nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.



STRUCTURE OF PAUL'S EMBEDDED ARGUMENTS

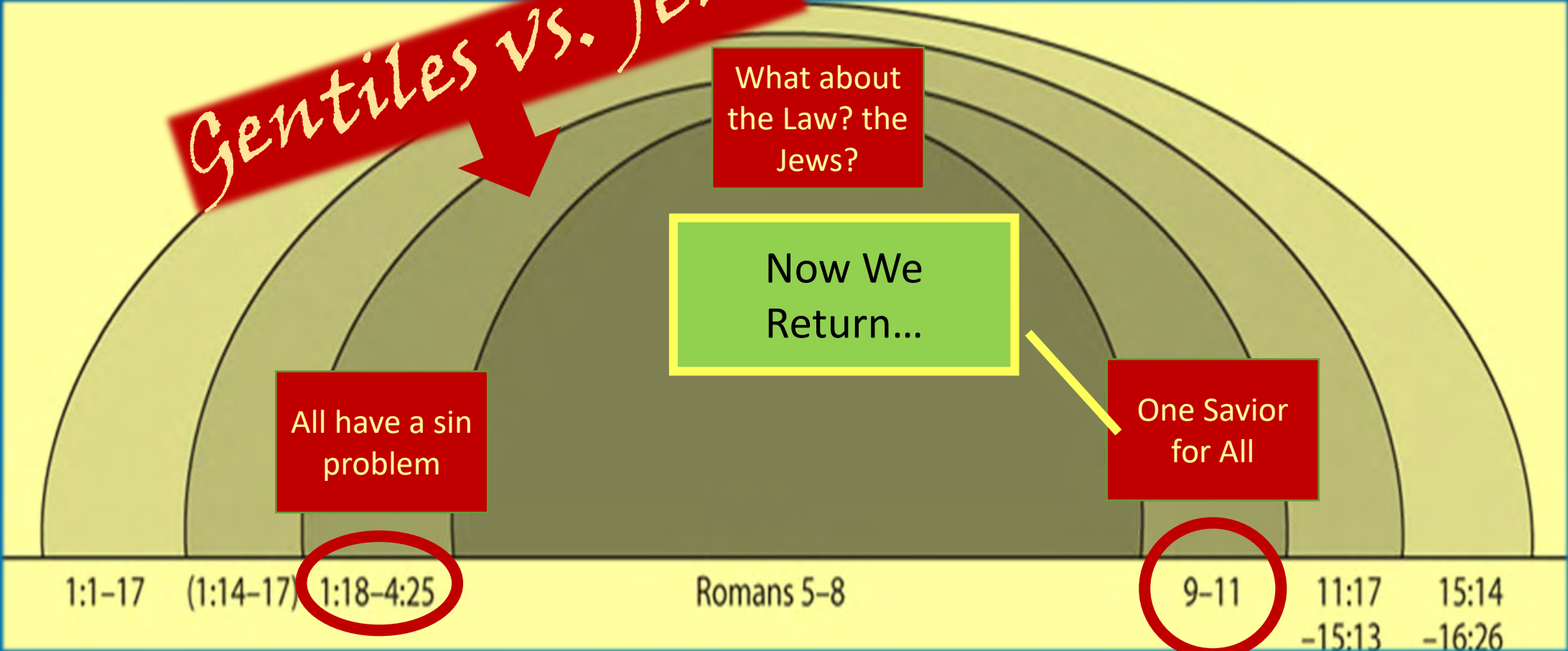
Gentiles vs. Jews

What about the Law? the Jews?

Now We Return...

All have a sin problem

One Savior for All



1:1-17

(1:14-17)

1:18-4:25

Romans 5-8

9-11

11:17-15:13

15:14-16:26

One Savior
for All

ROMANS 9:6

NASB

⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;



God keeps His promise to Abraham when He saves a faithful, believing REMNANT of Israel.

One Savior
for All

ROMANS 10:1

NASB

¹ Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation.



One Savior
for All

ROMANS 10:11-12

NASB

11 For the Scripture says, “WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call on Him;



One Savior
for All

ROMANS 11:22-23

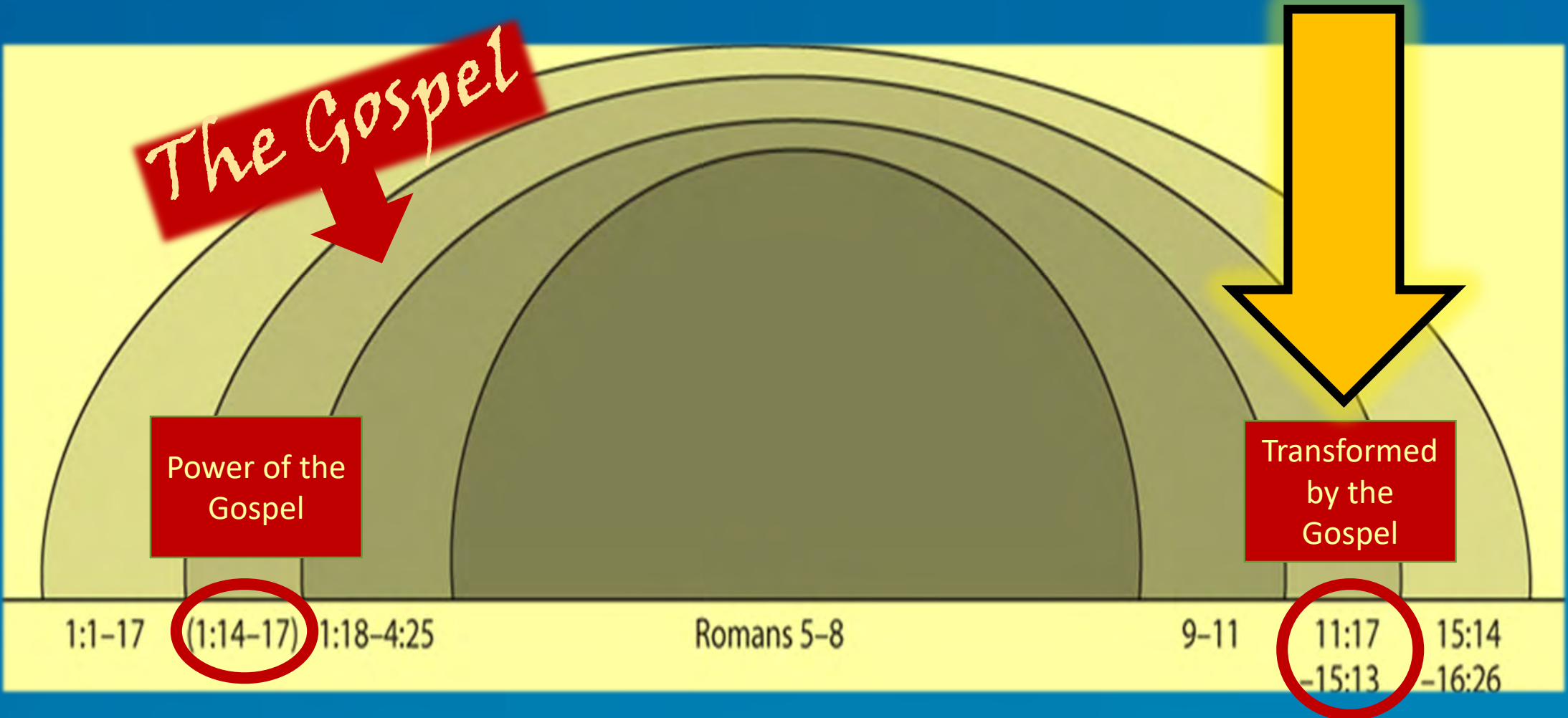
NASB

22 Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

23 And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.



STRUCTURE OF PAUL'S EMBEDDED ARGUMENTS



ROMANS 12:1-2

NASB

¹ Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

We don't offer lambs and goats. We keep ourselves holy, offering ourselves as sacrifices.



ROMANS 12:1-2

NASB

² And do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed by the renewing of your mind**, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.



As New Creatures, we are to participate
submissively in our own inner transformation.



ROMANS 13:1

NASB

¹ Every person is to be in **subjection to the governing authorities**. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God.



ROMANS 13:10

NASB

¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

We are free from the Law, but we fulfill the Law by truly loving others. We even act in love toward ungodly outsiders.



ROMANS 14:13

NASB

¹³ Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—**not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.**



ROMANS 15:2

NASB

² Each of us is to please his neighbor for his good, to his edification.



ROMANS 15:7

NASB

⁷ Therefore, accept one another, just as Christ also accepted us to the glory of God.

The love of Christ COMPELS us to LOVE OTHERS to the point of renouncing our own preferences, and rights!



TODAY'S GOALS

1. See Romans as a whole
2. Highlight the “big ideas” →
3. Apply Paul’s message →





SUMMARY OF APPLICATIONS

- Worship God by offering our bodies as holy sacrifices. (“Mortify the deeds of the flesh.”)
- Submit to the renewal of your mind.
- Submit to governmental authorities (except where they violate God’s commandments).
- A God’s agent in the New Creation, act to build up the Kingdom by accepting others who are different.
- Act in love toward others—for the sake of the New Creation, the Kingdom (the church).



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