

## Obedience of faith ... and the application of the BETTER PRINCIPLE.

### ■ The obedience of faith is believing what God says and trusting him enough to do it.

#### 1) We obey God in **what we understand**. [Clear instruction such as adultery ... ]

- (Leviticus 18:20 ESV) And you shall not lie sexually with your neighbor's wife and so make yourself unclean with her.

#### 2) We obey God in **what we understand but struggle to accept**. [Love your enemy.]

- (Luke 6:27 ESV) But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you.

#### 3) We obey God in **what we only partially understand**.

- We preach the GOOD NEWS OF GOD whether or not we understand predestination, election or the free will of man.
- (Romans 10:15 ESV) As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"
- Predestination: (Romans 8:29 ESV) For those whom he foreknew he also predestined ...
- Election: (Romans 9:21 ESV) Has the potter no right over the clay ...
- Free will: (Romans 10:13 ESV) For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

#### ► The BETTER principle:

- I will only give up what I have for something better. The BETTER principle will overrule everything else. We will disregard clear teaching because of the BETTER principle.

### "To bring about the obedience of faith": How do we do that? What does that mean?

#### 1) First we need **data**. Our source for data is God via his Holy Book the Bible. From this Holy Book we gather theological and doctrinal data to process.

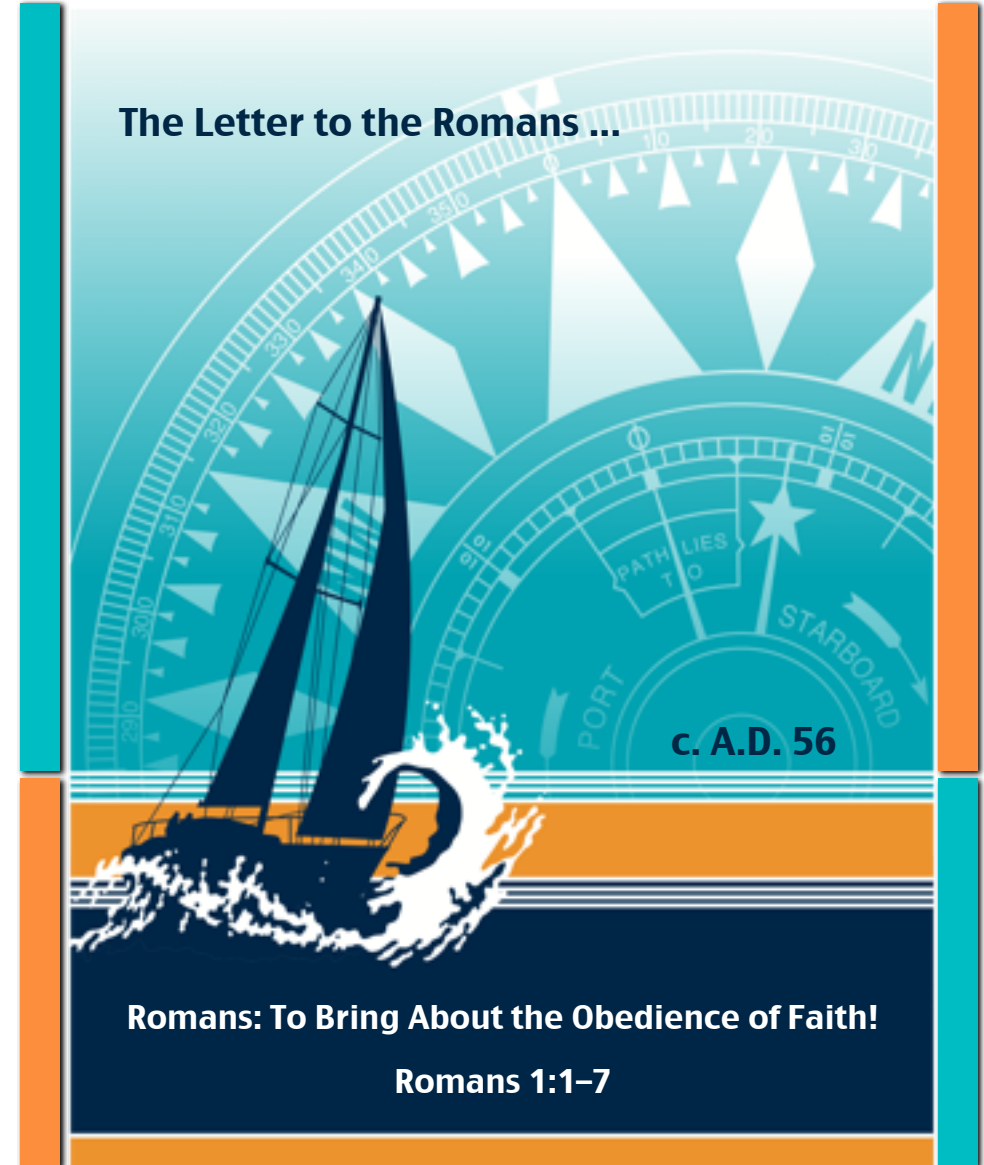
#### 2) Then when we have the data, we have **choices** to make. Believe? Obey? Not believe? Disobey?

#### 3) Then we analyze our **motivations** and the reasoning behind, or underlying, our choices.

- If we do not obey what we say we believe, then we do need to question what we actually and truly believe. We also need to examine what causes our disobedience.
- What does it take for me to obey God in proportion to my belief in God?
- The BELIEF principle: We obey what we truly believe in and rely on.

#### ► Obedience of faith ...

- Faith is to believe in, trust in, rely on.
- So ... to bring about the obedience of what we have faith in, believe in, trust in and rely on.



#### 1) We don't let just anyone tell the Story, v1.

- Paul has been given the credentials to direct us to the good news of God.

#### 2) We don't let just anyone be the Savior, vv2-4.

- Paul directly links the good news of God to Jesus Christ our Lord.

#### 3) We don't let just anyone call us to the obedience of faith, vv5-7.

- We are very clearly directed to one cause and one Name!