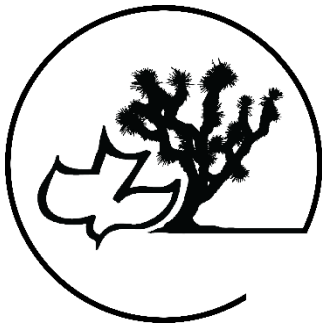




CALVARY CHAPEL
APPLE VALLEY

The Power of the Gospel

The Book of Romans

Study Guide

The Book of Romans Introduction

The Book of Romans is considered by many to be the greatest letter ever written. The apostle Paul wrote it in anticipation of his upcoming trip to Rome. He had never been to Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire, but knew many of the believers living there.

The Book of Romans was written to the believers from Corinth on Paul's third missionary journey around A.D. 55 – 57. Paul dictated the letter to Tertius just before returning to Jerusalem to deliver the offerings gathered by the churches in Asia to help the church in Jerusalem. Apparently, Paul had finished his work in the east, and he planned to visit Rome on the way to Spain after first bringing the offering to Jerusalem. The letter was probably carried by Phoebe according to Romans 16: 1, who lived at Cenchrea, the seaport that served Corinth. Paul's friends Aquila and Priscilla were originally from Rome and from the greetings to them in Romans 16: 3, we discover that they had returned there.

The question has been asked how did there come to be groups of believers in Rome? Paul does not address his letter to "the church at Rome" but rather "to all who are in Rome" which suggest that there was not one local assembly where the believers met but most likely met in homes. How, did the Gospel get to Rome? According to Acts 2:10 there were people from Rome at Pentecost who were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit who went back to Rome. Priscilla and Aquila were Roman Jews who knew the Gospel and had a home fellowship. Also, notice the names in Romans 16 are Gentile Christians from other cities that came to Rome and carried the Gospel with them. These people were probably converts of Paul from other churches he had visited. Rome was the great center of the world in that day, and it was not unlikely that thousands of believers made their way over Roman highways and came to Rome ready to share the Gospel. There were also many Jews who had converted to Christianity as well who lived in Rome.

Although, many miles, barriers and burdens separated them, Paul felt a bond of love for these believers in Rome. They were his brothers and sisters in Christ, and he longed to see them face to face. Paul sent this letter to make a clear declaration of the Faith.

It has been said "If there is one book that every Christian should understand, it is this letter." Why? Because it presents the doctrinal truth of justification, sanctification, adoption, judgment, and identification with Christ. It presents dispensational truth in chapters 9 – 11, showing the relationship between Israel and the church in the eternal plan of God. This book also presents practical truth, teaching the secret of Christian victory over the flesh, the duties Christians have toward each other, and their relationship to government. The Book of Romans is a great exposition of the

Faith. It is the complete and most logical presentation of Christian truth in the entire New Testament.

The theme of the Book of Romans is found in Romans 1: 16 – 17. God offers the gift of His righteousness to everyone who comes to Christ in faith. Paul wrote to the believers revealing God's sovereign plan of salvation, to show how Jews and Gentiles fit into that plan, and to encourage them to live righteous and harmonious lives. Paul moves from condemnation to glorification and positional truth to practical truth. The key words he uses are *righteousness*, *faith*, *law*, *all*, and *sin* each appear at least sixty times in this letter.

Again, Paul gives clear practical guidelines for the believers in Rome and to us as well. The Christian life is not abstract theology unconnected with life, but it has practical implication and application that will affect how we choose to behave each day. It is not enough just to know the gospel; we must let it transform our life and let God saturate every aspect of our lives.

A Suggested Outline of Romans by Warren Wiersbe:

Introduction (1: 1 – 17)

Salutation (1: 1 – 7)

Explanation (1: 8 – 17)

I. **Sin** (1: 18 – 3: 20) Righteousness Needed)

- The Gentiles under sin (1: 18 – 32)
- The Jews under sin (2: 1 – 3: 8)
- The whole world under sin (3: 9 – 20)

II. **Salvation** (3: 21 – 5: 21) Righteousness Imputed))

- Justification explained (3: 21 – 31)
- Justification expressed (the example of Abraham (4: 1 – 25)
- Justification experience (5: 1 – 21)

III. **Sanctification** (6 – 8 – Righteousness Imparted)

- Our new position in Christ (6)
- Our new problem in the flesh (7)
- Our new power in the Spirit (8)

IV. **Sovereignty** (9 – 11 – Righteousness Rejected)

- Israel's past election (9)
- Israel's present rejection (10)
- Israel's future redemption (11)

V. **Service** (12: 1 – 15:13 – Righteousness Practiced)

- Consecration to God (12)
- Subjection to authority (13)

- Consideration for the weak (14: 1 – 15: 13)

VI. Conclusion (15: 14 – 16: 27)

- Paul's faithfulness in the ministry (15: 14 – 21)
- Paul's future in the ministry (15: 22 – 33)
- Paul's friends in the ministry (16: 1 – 23)
- Paul's final benediction (16: 24 – 27)



Lesson 1

Please begin your study through the Book of Romans by reading the first four chapters this week. Look for verses that would help you understand: 1) the purpose of this letter, 2) what is the main message, and 3) how does this letter apply to your life. Also read the “Romans Introduction”.

Read Romans 1: 1 – 17

Introduction: Paul gives clear and practical guidelines for the believers in Rome. The Christian Life is not an abstract theology that is disconnected with our lives but has practical implications that will affect how we choose to behave each day. The Christian Life is not just merely to know the gospel message but allowing God to transform every aspect of our lives. Paul begins his message to the Romans by vividly portraying the sinfulness of all people, explaining how forgiveness is available through faith in Christ, and showing what believers experience in life through their new faith. In this section, we learn of the centrality of faith, how to become a Christian and to live the Christian life. Apart from faith, we have no hope in life.

Life Application Study Bible

1. In Romans 1: 1 we learn that Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome. What three insights does Paul express about his ministry in verse 1?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
2. What is the Gospel or (Good News) of God according to Romans 1: 2 – 4?
 - a. What Old Testament Scriptures come to mind regarding the promise of the Messiah (Jesus Christ) about His birth, death, resurrection, and deity?

b. According to Romans 1: 4 what three things mark the deity of Jesus?

1)

2)

3)

3. What have you received through your relationship with Jesus according to Romans 1: 5 – 7?

a. How does John 1: 14 – 17 and Ephesians 2: 8 give you further understanding of grace?

b. According to Mark 16: 15 what did Jesus tell us to do with the Gospel?

c. What do the following words mean to you?

- Grace

- Apostleship

- Faith

- Called

- Saint

4. Read Romans 1: 8 – 15 (NLT). Paul’s heart’s desire was to preach and teach the gospel in Rome. How did Paul encourage the believers in Rome?

a. What “spiritual gifts” has the Holy Spirit given to you and how are you using those gifts?

5. Paul was never ashamed to share the Gospel. He would look for opportunities to share one on one or to preach to a crowd. Paul was ready in a prison cell, on a ship in a storm, on a deserted Island and even standing in a royal court to share the Gospel. He knew the Good News was the only way someone could be saved. This is the theme Scripture for the entire Book of Romans.

a. Please thoughtfully write out Romans 1: 16 – 17 in your own words.

b. Do you know the Gospel well enough to share with someone how they could be saved? What Scriptures would you share with them?

c. When the “*power of God*” is at work in a person’s life what must they do to receive salvation according to Romans 1: 16 and John 3: 16?

d. According to Romans 1: 17 how is the *righteousness of God* revealed in my life? God has justified those who believe, how then should we be living? (Read Ephesians 2: 1 – 10)

Lesson 2

Read Romans 1: 18 – 32

Introduction: At the end of our last lesson the Apostle Paul boldly proclaims *“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes.”* Paul goes on to tell us what the Gospel will do in a person’s life and how this will be accomplished. *“This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scripture says, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”* If you want to be holy and blameless before God, you must have faith. If you want to have life abundantly on earth and forevermore in Heaven, you must have faith. Today, we need faith! In our present world faith has been replaced by tolerance and acceptance of wrong behavior. However, we are called to live by what the Bible teaches us. God’s Word reveals to us right from wrong, good and from evil, and how to discern the Truth rather than believing the lie. Paul would later tell us in Romans 10: 17 *“Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”*

Rick Myers

1. How has God made the truth obvious to mankind according to Romans 1: 18 – 20?
 - a. What do we learn from Psalm 19: 1 – 6?
2. Because God gave them a witness through His creation of heaven and earth Paul said, they have no excuse for not knowing God. What was the result of man’s rejection of God as Creator according to Romans 1: 21 – 23?

- a. When Moses was up on the mountain receiving the Law from God what were the Children of Israel doing according to Exodus 32: 1 – 6?
 - b. God's people today are waiting for Jesus' return! After reading Matthew 24:42-51 consider how you are spending your time waiting! Do you see any similarities between today's church and the Children of Israel as they waited for Moses?
- 3. People had the knowledge and understanding about God, but they did not know God. They rejected God's Word and His Son Jesus Christ and worshipped images of people, animals, and nature. According to Romans 1: 24 – 27 when people or society abandon God what will be the outcome?
 - a. How is this type of behavior reflected in our society and even in our churches today?

- b.** How would you navigate these waters with family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers? Does unconditional love mean unconditional acceptance?

- 4.** According to Romans 1: 28 – 32 these people thought they were wise, loving, and gracious but because of their ungodly, unrighteous behavior what did God say would be the end results of their foolish lifestyle?

- 5.** What did the Apostle Paul say would be the signs of the last days found in 1 Timothy 4: 1 – 3 and 2 Timothy 3: 1 – 5?

- 6.** Read 2 Peter 2: 4 – 9. What hope can we receive from these verses?

Lesson 3

Read Romans 2: 1 – 11

Introduction: God had given Israel great material and spiritual riches: a wonderful land, a righteous Law, a temple and priesthood, God's providential care, and many more blessings. God had patiently endured Israel's many sins and rebellions, and He even sent them His Son to be their Messiah. Even after Israel crucified Christ, God gave the nation nearly forty more years of grace and withheld His *judgment*. It is not the judgment of God that leads men to repentance, but the *goodness* of God; but Israel did not repent. In verses 6 -11, Paul was not teaching salvation by character or good deeds. He was explaining another basic principle of God's judgment; God judges according to deeds, just as He judges according to truth. Paul was dealing here with the consistent actions of a person's life, the total impact of his character and conduct. True saving faith results in obedience and godly living, even though there may be occasional falls. When God measured the deeds of the Jews, He found them to be as wicked as those of the Gentiles.

Warren Wiersbe

1. The first three verses of Romans 2 will stop you in your tracks as you examine your own heart. This was Paul's intention. What did Jesus say in Matthew 7: 1 – 5?
 - a. Read Psalm 51: 1 – 12. David was confronted by Nathan the prophet regarding his sinful behavior. How did David respond when he was caught in his sins? What did David ask God to do?
 - b. What words of wisdom did David give to his son Solomon in 1 Chronicles 28: 9 – 10? How do these words speak to your heart? What has God chosen you to do?

2. What did Jesus say concerning the condition of the heart according to Matthew 15: 17 – 20?

a. The Lord knows your heart and the only way you can have a clean heart is by giving Him your heart. How does Psalm 139: 1 – 2 & 23 – 24 speak to your heart? Have you adopted this Psalm as your prayer?

b. How does Proverbs 4: 18 – 27 encourage you in your walk with the Lord?

3. According to Romans 2: 4 it is God's goodness and kindness that causes someone to turn from their sins. How does God's goodness, kindness, love, mercy, and grace lead people to repentance?

4. Our God is just, fair, and righteous in His judgment without favoritism. He will judge everyone according to what they have done, what they know or not know. What is made clear about the Lord's judgments according to Romans 2: 5 – 9?

a. What is the difference of the judgment in 2 Corinthians 5:10 compared to the judgment in Revelation 20: 11 – 15? How do you feel when the Bible speaks about judgment?

b. According to Matthew 25: 31 – 46 what did Jesus say concerning the final judgment? (Give a summary)

5. What are the three things God will give those who practice a life of doing good according to Romans 2: 10 – 11?

1)

2)

3)

Lesson 4

Read Romans 2: 12 – 29

Introduction: Paul was pointing out that the true intent of the Law is to govern and judge the attitudes of men more than their actions. This is the very thing that Jesus pointed out in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:17-18). Using five examples, He showed how the Law was being misinterpreted by the scribes and Pharisees and what God meant when He gave it. In each case, the scribes were applying the Law to a man's actions when God was judging his attitudes. The whole purpose of the Law was voided by their misinterpretation.

By applying the Law only to actions, the scribes felt very self-righteous. However, the Law's purpose was to make the whole world guilty before God by revealing sin and, thus, drive men to the grace of God in Jesus Christ. By misunderstanding the intent of the Law, the reaction of the scribes in their smugness and self-righteousness was exactly the opposite of what God intended.

Chuck Smith

1. According to Romans 2: 13 what makes us right in God's sight concerning the Law?

2. What do we learn from Romans 2: 14 – 16 concerning God showing fairness and no favoritism?
 - a. We are told that God will judge our secret life. He knows not only our actions but our attitude and inner thoughts of the heart. What insight do we discover in Hebrews 4: 12 – 13?

- b.** What do we learn about actions and attitudes according to Matthew 12: 33 – 37? How powerful are the words you speak?
- 3.** Read Romans 2: 17 – 24. Paul was pointing out that the true intent of the Law is to govern and judge our attitudes even more than our actions. This is the very thing that Jesus pointed out in Matthew 23 and in the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5: 17 – 48. What five or six examples did Jesus use to show how the scribes and Pharisees were misinterpreting the Law according to Matthew 5?
- 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)
 - 6)
- 4.** Paul now gives the example of circumcision in Romans 2: 25 – 29. Circumcision refers to the special sign of God's covenant with His people. All Jewish males were required to submit to this rite according to Genesis 17: 9 – 14. Notice this was before the Law. A true Jew is one who has had an inward spiritual experience in the heart, and not merely an outward operation. How do Christians make the same mistake today relying on outward rituals?

In chapters one and two of Romans Paul was speaking about the pagan who had never heard the gospel but was without excuse because nature reveals the glory of God. The Gentile moralist is without excuse because they establish a high philosophical standard and code for living but is unable to live up to that code. The Jew is without excuse because they do not keep the standard of the Law but rather attempt to establish their own self-righteousness by the works of the Law. All are guilty and without excuse.

5. What was Paul's definition of being a Jew according to Romans 2: 28 – 29?

a. You are not a Christian because you were born into a Christian home. You are not a Christian because you are an American. What makes you a Christian?

b. What glorious truth do we learn from Galatians 3: 26 – 29 that gives us hope in the present and faith for the future?

Lesson 5

Read Romans 3: 1 – 31

Introduction: What a depressing picture Paul is painting! All of us, pagan Gentiles, humanitarians, and religious people are condemned by our own actions. The law, which God gave to show the way to live, holds up our evil deeds to public view. Is there any hope for us? Yes, says Paul. The law condemns us, it is true, but the law is not the basis of our hope. God Himself is. He in His righteousness and wonderful love, offers us eternal life. We receive our salvation not through the law but through faith in Jesus Christ. We do not, cannot earn it; we accept it as a gift from our heavenly Father.

Life Application Study Bible

1. The more we know the more we are responsible for what we know. What three benefits did the Jews have as God's chosen people? Please look up the following scriptures to answer the question.
 - a. Romans 3: 1 – 2
 - b. Isaiah 11: 1 – 10 and Matthew 1: 1 – 17
 - c. Genesis 17: 1 – 16 and Exodus 19: 3 – 6
2. What are some of the benefits and blessings we have as Christians? Read Romans 8: 1 – 17 and Ephesians 1: 7 and make a list of those benefits and blessings.

3. What does Romans 3: 3 – 4 say about the character of God?

4. In Romans 3: 5 – 8 Paul makes a hypothetical argument regarding people who say that their sinful lifestyle brings more glory to God. What was Paul's main point for condemning such an argument?
 - a. Does this type of thinking still prevail in our church and culture today?

5. What was Paul's final analysis concerning our righteousness before God according to Romans 3: 9 – 18?

6. What is the purpose of the Law found in Romans 3: 19 – 20?

7. We have all sinned and we have all fallen short of God's righteous standard. How can we be made righteous before God according to Romans 3: 23 – 26? (Read in the NLT Bible)

8. According to Romans 3: 27 – 31 what is our acquittal based on?

a. What is the definition of "acquittal"?

b. How many times is the word "faith" used in these verses?

c. What is "faith" according to Hebrews 11: 1 – 6? Do you consider your life and walk with the Lord to be pleasing to Him? Why or why not?

Lesson 6

Read Romans 4: 1 – 25

Introduction: Whenever the writers of the Bible wanted to give a classic example of a person with faith, they pointed to Abraham. In fact, Abraham is called “the father of the faith.” The first key to Abraham’s faith is that he did not consider his or Sarah’s age to be an obstacle to God. He did not limit God’s ability to override human difficulty. In contrast, that is often the first thing we consider. We often apply our own limitations to God. Secondly, he did not waver at any of God’s promises. Here is a good motto: “If God said it, I believe it.” The Bible is so rich with promises that you can always find one that you can fit your present need. God covers all the bases – and you can trust what He says. Thirdly, Abraham gave glory to God. He praised God even before seeing any evidence that God would keep His promise. Why? Because faith believes that God is able, to perform whatever He has promised. Though it took a miracle to do so, God did keep His word to Abraham. And He will keep His word to you. One day you will see the fulfillment of His promises to you if you will just follow the keys to faith.

Chuck Smith

1. According to Romans 4: 1 – 3 what did Abraham discover about being made right with God? (Note: The word “accounted” means “counted, credited, imputed or reckoned”)

2. What do we learn in Romans 4: 4 – 5 concerning our righteousness and forgiveness before God? How can we be acceptable in His presence?
 - a. What is the role of faith in the believer’s life?

- 3.** David was declared righteous without working for it because He came to God in faith believing God for who He is. What three things do we see in Romans 4: 6 – 8 that caused David's heart to be full of joy?

1)

2)

3)

- a.** Read Psalm 32. What do you see as the key verses to David being forgiven and restored by God the Father? Write out the verses:
- b.** Describe what happened to David's spiritual life when he kept silent about his sin found in Psalm 32: 3 – 4. Have you ever kept silent about your sinful behavior?

- 4.** What made Abraham righteous before God? See Romans 4: 9 – 12

5. What was God's promise to Abraham based on Romans 4: 13 – 15?
- a. What insights do we learn about the law according to Romans 4: 14 – 15?
- b. Does this mean we do not have to follow or obey the law?
6. What was God's reasoning when God told Abraham, "I have made you the father of many nations" in Romans 4: 16 – 17?
- a. According to Genesis 12: 1 – 3 what were God's promises to Abraham and when did Abraham believe that God could bring the dead back to life?
7. Read Romans 4: 18 – 25. What did the Apostle Paul say about Abraham's faith and how it benefits us today?

Lesson 7

Please begin your study by reading Romans chapters 5 – 8 this week. Look for verses that would help you understand: 1) the purpose of this letter, 2) what is the main message, and 3) how does this letter apply to your life.

Read Romans 5: 1 – 21

Introduction: In salvation we are declared righteous, but God wants to do more than declare a person righteous. Justification does not *make* a person righteous. It means that before God's holy court, before the bar of heaven, a lost sinner is now declared righteous, but his heart has not been changed. My friend, if you think God intends to leave a sinner in his sin, you are wrong. God wants to make us the kind of folk we should be. So God also has a plan in salvation whereby He not only *declares* a sinner righteous, but He is also going to *make* a sinner righteous. That is, God provides a way that a sinner may grow in grace and become sanctified (set apart) for God.

J. Vernon McGee

1. Romans 5 is Paul's explanation of the last two words in Romans 4: "our justification." He explained two basic truths: the blessings of our justification (Rom. 5:1-11), and the basis for our justification (Rom. 5:12-21). Since we have been made right with God by grace through faith, what has He given to us according to Romans 5: 1 – 2?

2. In Romans 5: 3 we are told to "rejoice" in our problems and tribulations. The word "tribulations" in Greek is the same word used for "crushing olives" to produce olive oil. God allows us to go through problems and trials in life so we may fruitful and become more like Jesus. Sometimes it feels like we are being crushed. What five things is God producing in our lives as we go through various trials found in Romans 5: 3 – 5?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)

- a. What aspects of the fruit of the Holy Spirit do you see in Romans 5: 3 – 5? (Compare with Galatians 5: 22 – 23 and James 1: 2 – 3)

- 3. Today, our world has many who would willingly give their life to save another. We honor the firefighter, the police, hospital worker, or military member and call them heroes. However, when we hear of an evildoer, or someone we consider an enemy, many of us might hesitate to give their life to save that person. According to Romans 5: 6 – 8, how did God show His love for you?

- 4. Look at Romans 5: 9 – 11. How are we justified and what have we been saved from? (Compare with Ephesians 1:7)
 - a. How are we reconciled to God? (Compare to 2 Corinthians 5: 17 – 21)

5. According to Romans 5: 12 – 14, because of the sin of one man, sin and death spread through all men like an unchecked virus. But it is not our exposure to sin that makes us a sinner, rather it is because sin has become part of our nature. Where did this sin first originate and why is Adam mentioned and not Eve?

6. Read Romans 5: 15 – 21 in NKJ & NLT Translation. How many times is the word “gift” and “grace” mentioned? How many times is the phrase “one Man” mentioned?

“Gift” =

“Grace” =

“One Man” =

- a. What was the result of God’s gracious gift, Jesus Christ, given for all mankind?

What we have as Adam’s children

What we have as God’s children

Lesson 8

Read Romans 6: 1 – 23

Introduction: This section deals with *sanctification* – the change God makes in our life as we grow in the faith. Chapter 6 explains that believers are free from sin’s control. Chapter 7 discusses the continuing struggle believers have with sin. Chapter 8 describes how we can have victory over sin. Paul begins Chapter 6 by saying if God loves to forgive, why not give Him more to forgive? If forgiveness is guaranteed, do we have the freedom to sin as much as we want to? Paul’s forceful answer is *Of course not!* Such an attitude – deciding ahead of time to take advantage of God – shows that a person does not understand the seriousness of sin. God’s forgiveness does not make sin less serious; His Son’s death for sin shows us the dreadful seriousness of sin. Jesus paid with His life so we could be forgiven. The availability of God’s grace and mercy must not become an excuse for careless living and moral laxness.

Life Application Study Bible

1. The word Paul uses in v.1 “*continue*” refers to living a habitual life of sin. According to Romans 6: 1 – 4 we have died to sin’s control. Please write in your own words the definition of “*Baptism*”:
 - a. What does it mean to you to be “*in the likeness of His resurrection*” v.5?
2. What does Romans 6: 6 – 11 tell us about our relationship to sin and death compared to our relationship with Jesus Christ? (See Galatians 2:20)

- 3.** Read Romans 6: 12 – 14 in the New Living Translation. What are we told we should Not Do?

Do Not,

Do Not,

Do Not,

- a.** What did Paul tell us to do and the reason why we should do them?

i.

ii.

Reason why:

- b.** How are we to present our body to the Lord according to Romans 12: 1 – 2?

- c.** How does God want us to live before Him while here on earth according to Colossians 3: 5 – 14?

4. Read Romans 6: 15 – 21. In Romans 6 we discover that we have a *New life*, a *New nature*, and a *New freedom*. We have the freedom to choose who we will serve. Who are you serving today? Who is your master?

5. What did Jesus say in John 8: 31 – 36?
 - a. Read Galatians 4: 1 – 7. What blessings do you as a believer receive from God?

6. Please write out Romans 6: 22 – 23 in the NLT and allow the Holy Spirit to impress and imprint these things on your heart.

Lesson 9

Read Romans 7: 1 – 25 (Read NLT)

Introduction: Paul testifies to the inner struggles he had between his old nature and the new life in Christ, and how they speak to our hearts if we are honest! It is comforting to know a man of Paul's stature was once beset by such heartaches and struggles. These verses are not Christian experience, but the experience of a Christian, for Paul realizes he is not always on a spiritual "high", but can be carnal, "fleshly" (v.14). He could not keep himself from doing that of which he disapproved (vv. 14 – 17). He could not do that of which he does approve (vv. 18 – 20). Then he came to the conclusion which this experience forces on him in v.18, "nothing good dwells in me". Isn't that the story of your life too? How Paul longed for a holy life, free from all the battles with himself (vv. 21 – 24)! No doubt that is your heart cry too. It is caused by failure to grasp the truth of our union with Christ, sharing His resurrection life by His indwelling. It is failure to reckon that our self-life is "dead", that we live either dominated by the old nature, or by God's Spirit, and there is no fence between on which we sit. Therefore, the breakdown is due to the fact, that He is not in control of our whole life, every facet of it.

Alan Redpath

1. Paul gives us an example of no longer being bound by the law in Romans 7: 1 – 3. What was Paul's point according to verse 4?
 - a. Read Galatians 5: 22 – 24. What fruit does God want us to produce?
2. When we were under the control of our sinful nature what harvest did it produce in us according to Romans 7: 5?

3. What are the results of being delivered or released from the law according to verse 6?

4. Read Romans 7: 7 – 13. What did Paul discover about the law?

a. Is there a conflict between God's law and God's promises? What does the apostle Paul say in Galatians 3: 21 that defines the purpose of the law?

5. In the Old Testament the law was given for moral and spiritual guidance. The law promised blessings for obedience, captivity for disobedience, and restoration for repentance. We too have been given "great and precious promises". Read 2 Peter 1: 3 – 7. How do these verses give you guidance for growing as a Christian?

a. What areas of your life are in need of discipline and obedience?

6. The problem is not with the law but according to Romans 7: 14 – 17. What is the real problem?

7. What conclusion did the apostle Paul come to as found in Romans 7: 18 – 21?

a. Have you ever wrestled or battled with your flesh over good and evil, right from wrong, or desiring to do good but failing? (If you feel comfortable, share your experience with the group.)

8. What principle of life did Paul discover according to Romans 7: 22 – 24?

The word “wretched” in the Greek reveals a person exhausted after a battle. What could be more wretched and miserable than exerting all your energy to try to live a good life, only to discover that the best you do is still not good enough?

a. Hopefully and prayerfully, we have all come to that place of broken surrender. According to Romans 7: 25 who will free us from this life that is dominated by sin and death? (Compare to Galatians 2: 20)

Lesson 10

Read Romans 8: 1 – 17 (Read NKJ, ESV & NLT)

Introduction: People who imagine that Christ's life was given us merely as an example to follow, make a great mistake. It condemns us utterly. Like the veil in the temple, it bars us from the presence of God; and like that veil which was rent in twain, so the body of Christ had to be rent at Calvary. Essential as His immaculate life was the completion of redemption's plan, it is not His life that saves; it is His death. The four Gospels place heavy emphasis on the death of Christ. During His life, the Lord Jesus demonstrated the possibility of God's law being fulfilled in a human life, a life lived in the flesh; that is, in the body. Through the miracle of Christ's indwelling the believer, the life that Jesus lived can now be reproduced in us by His Spirit. It is not reproduced *by* us, but *in* us if we "walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."

John Phillips

1. Romans 8: 1 is a great verse with a great message. What does it mean to you regarding "*no condemnation*" for those who are in Christ Jesus compared to those who "*walk in the flesh*"?

a. What glorious and sobering truth do we learn from John 3: 17 – 21?

b. How does Isaiah 54: 17 encourage you today?

- 2.** What benefits do you have for being in Christ found in Romans 8: 2 – 4?
- a.** How would the requirements of the Law be fully satisfied through Christ's death?
- b.** It is through faith we have received the promises of God. What did Jesus rescue us from and what promises has He fulfilled and given to us according to Galatians 3: 13 – 14 and Galatians 3: 24 – 29?
- 3.** What do you have if you are controlled by the Holy Spirit according to Romans 8: 5 – 9?
- a.** What do you have if you are controlled by your sinful nature?
- b.** What are some things you can do to please God?

4. According to Romans 8: 10 we will all die because we are still living in our sinful flesh and under the curse pronounced upon Adam. What good news are we given in verses 10 – 11?

5. What does the apostle Paul make very clear in Romans 8: 12 – 14?

6. The Lord has delivered us from the bondage of this world and has adopted us into His kingdom. Read Romans 8: 15 – 17. What does it mean to be His child?
 - a. What does it mean to you that we “*share in His suffering*”?

 - b. What does it mean to you to “share in His glory” or “be *glorified together*”?

Lesson 11

Read Romans 8: 18 – 30 (Read NKJ & NLT)

Introduction: In Romans, Paul presents the idea that salvation is past, present, and future. It is past because we were saved the moment we believed in Jesus Christ as Savior our new life (eternal life) begins at that moment. And it is present because we are being saved; this is the process of sanctification. But at the same time, we have not fully received all the benefits and blessings of salvation that will be ours when Christ's new Kingdom is completely established. That's our future salvation. While we can be confident of our salvation, we still look ahead with hope and trust toward that complete change of body and personality that lies beyond this life, when we will be like Christ.

Life Application Study Bible

1. According to Romans 8: 17 – 18 we find that *“if we are to share in his glory, we must also share in His suffering.”* What does it mean to you to *“share in His suffering”*?
 - a. How does Romans 8: 18 and 2 Corinthians 4: 16 – 18 encourage you today?
2. Romans 8: 19 – 22 is an amazing portion of scripture when we consider our environmental challenges. What understanding do you come away with after reading these passages?

3. What are we and all creation eagerly hoping for according to Romans 8: 20 – 25?

a. When were we given this hope?

b. What do you find yourself groaning about these days?

4. According to Romans 8: 26 – 27 what amazing truth do we discover about how God helps us in our weakness?

a. How did the apostle Paul deal with his weaknesses according to 2 Corinthians 12: 1 – 10? What truth did he discover?

b. How does Hebrews 4: 14 – 16 confirm God's help?

5. What does Romans 8: 28 mean to you? How do you reconcile this passage when hardship, suffering and pain comes into your life? Are all things still working together for good? Why or why not?

6. God knew you and chose you to be His. He has a plan and purpose for your life. God not only chose you but what else did He do according to Romans 8: 29 – 30?

1)

2)

3)

“God knew in advance who would respond to His love and grace, and these He predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son. [...] When did God choose me? Was it when I surrendered my life to Jesus? No. When I decided to serve Him? No. When He saw that He could do some work in me? No. God chose me before He ever formed “the foundation of the world” (Ephesians 1:4). He established the glorious plan for my life millenniums ago. My future with Him is as good as accomplished, because He knows it’ll be worked out perfectly.” (Chuck Smith)

7. What encouragement do we receive from Jeremiah 29: 11 – 13?

Lesson 12

Read Romans 8: 31 – 39 (Read NKJ & NLT)

Introduction: These words were written to the church that would soon undergo terrible persecution. In just a few years, Paul's hypothetical situations would turn into painful realities. This passage reaffirms God's profound love for his people. No matter what happens to us, no matter where we are, we can never be separated from His love. Suffering should not drive us away from God but help us to identify with Him and allow His love to comfort us. In these verses contain one of the most comforting promises in all Scripture. Believers have always had to face hardships in many forms, persecution, illness, imprisonment, and even death. These sometimes cause them to fear that they may have been abandoned by Christ. But Paul explains that it is impossible to be separated from Christ. His death for us is proof of His unconquerable love. Nothing can separate us from Christ's presence. God tells us how great His love is so that we will feel totally secure in Him. If we believe these overwhelming assurances, we will not be afraid.

Life Application Study Bible

1. Please read Romans 8: 28 – 30. We are being conformed into the image of His Son Jesus as we walk with Him daily. This walk is called "*sanctification*". How would you define the following phrases?

He has *chosen* us:

He has *called* us:

He has *justified* us:

He will *glorify* us:

2. Read Romans 8: 31 – 35. How has God demonstrated He is for us?

3. Write in your own words what this verse means to you *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* Who do you consider to be against you?

a. What has the Lord freely given to us according to the following scriptures?

Romans 8: 2 & 32

Ephesians 2: 8 – 9

John 8: 32 – 36

1 Corinthians 2: 12

4. According to Romans 8: 33 – 34 has anyone ever accused or condemned you for your faith in Christ? (Explain)

5. Read Romans 8: 35. Have you ever gone through trials, hardships, and sufferings that you questioned God's purpose and love for you? (Explain what happened during group time if you feel comfortable)

a. What was Paul's answer according to Romans 8: 37?

6. Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Write out Paul's answer in Romans 8: 38 – 39.

a. What did the Apostle John say about God's love for us and how we should demonstrate that love according to 1 John 4: 7 – 16 & 1 John 3: 16 – 18?

Lesson 13

Read Romans 9: 1 – 18 (Read NKJ & NLT)

Introduction: The next three chapters deal with Israel's spiritual history: past (chap. 9), present (chap. 10), and future (chap. 11). Paul's purpose is to explain how God could set aside His chosen people and save the Gentiles, and how He will restore the nation at some future date. Keep in mind the election discussed in Romans 9 – 11 is national and not individual. To apply all the truths of these chapters to the salvation or security of the individual believer is to miss their message completely. Paul's purpose in this chapter is to explain Israel's position in the plan of God. Israel was an elect nation, given privileges that no one other nation had; yet it failed miserably to follow God's program of blessing the world. The entire chapter exalts the sovereign grace of God without minimizing the responsibility of men and women for making right decisions. God's Word will prevail regardless of human disobedience; but disobedient sinners will miss the blessing. No human mind can fathom or explain the wisdom of God, but this we know; without the sovereign grace of God, there would be no salvation.

Warren Wiersbe

1. The Apostle Paul had a great love for the nation and people of Israel, even though he had faced great hardship, suffering and persecution from them. What was Paul willing to do for Israel to be saved according to Romans 9: 1 – 3?
 - a. Have you ever had such a burden and love for someone to be saved that you would trade your salvation and become eternally lost that they could be saved for all eternity?
2. What six things did God give to the nation of Israel according to Romans 9: 4 – 5?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)
 - 6)

- a. What does Romans 9:5 reveal about the lineage and Person of Christ?

- b. What did God say to the nation of Israel in Deuteronomy 7: 6 – 11?

- c. According to 1 Peter 2: 9 – 10 what did Peter say about the Christian Jews and Gentiles who are now called the Church?

- 3. Read Romans 9: 6 – 9. What did Paul mean when he said, *“Has God failed to fulfill his promise to Israel? No, for not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God’s people! Being descendants of Abraham doesn’t make them truly Abraham’s children.”* Why not?
 - a. What do we learn from Galatians 3: 16 and Hebrews 11: 11 – 12, 17 – 19?

 - b. According to John 8: 37 – 47 what did Jesus say to the Jewish religious leaders about Abraham’s descendants?

4. In Romans 9: 10 – 16 Paul gives us another example of God's election, sovereignty, and human responsibility regarding free-will. How do these verses speak to your heart concerning God's love and righteousness?
- a. Have you ever had a circumstance in your life that didn't make sense where you were either going to trust the Lord or not? (Explain)
- b. What did God say to Moses found in Romans 9: 15 – 16?
- c. How has God shown mercy and compassion to you?
5. Read Romans 9: 17 – 18. World leaders will rise and fall according to God's plan and purpose. Did Pharaoh have the free-will to either receive or reject God's purpose and plans for his life?
- a. How do these scriptures bring peace to your heart? Romans 8: 20, Ephesians 1: 9 – 14.

Lesson 14

Read Romans 9: 19 – 33 (Read NKJ & NIV)

Introduction: You will never be able to reconcile the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of man. But Paul is making it very clear here that if you are going to be saved it is *your* responsibility. It is “whosoever will may come” (see Mark 8:34) and “... him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37). You can come; don’t stand on the sidelines and say, “I’m not elected.” But I have never heard of anybody being elected who didn’t run for office. If you *want* to be saved, you are the elect. If you don’t, you’re not. And that is all I know about it. I cannot reconcile election and free will. I have come to the place in the sunset of my life that I can say that God is sovereign and He is going to do this according to His will. And His will is right – there is no unrighteousness with Him.

J. Vernon McGee

1. The Apostle Paul brings out a good point, “who are we to argue against God?” Yet there are many today that will come against the true meaning of God’s Word. According to Romans 9: 19 – 21 what was Paul’s answer and example he used to make his point?
 - a. Read Jeremiah 18: 1 – 17. What did God make very clear to the men of Judah and those who lived in Jerusalem? What would be the consequence of their disobedience?
 - b. According to Isaiah 64: 8 – 9 and 2 Timothy 2: 20 – 21 how can you become a vessel of honor and be prepared for God to use you?

2. God has been very patient and merciful to His chosen people (Israel) but they continued to rebel against Him and even rejected Jesus as their Messiah. What do we discover in Romans 9: 22 – 24 about God's mercy and grace?

- a. How did God make known to us "*the riches of His glory*" found in Ephesians 2: 4 – 10?

3. According to Romans 9: 25 – 26 what do we learn from the prophecy of Hosea? What title are we given?

- a. What did Jesus say in John 10: 14 – 16?

4. What important information do we discover in Romans 9: 27 – 29 concerning the prophecy in Isaiah about the children of Israel? Why is there only a remnant saved?

5. What was Paul's conclusion concerning Israel and the Gentiles being made right with God according to Romans 9: 30 – 33?
- a. Who or what is this “*stumbling stone and rock of offense*” that Isaiah is referring to that causes people to stumble and fall?
- b. What contrast did the Apostle Peter give us in 1 Peter 2: 4 – 8? How do people stumble or fall according to verse 8?
6. Write out 1 Peter 2: 9 – 10. What purpose has God given you to do “*as His own special people?*”

Lesson 15

Read Romans 10: 1 – 21 (Read NKJ & NLT)

Introduction: Now we come to chapter 10, which presents us with the other side of the coin: *human responsibility*. The fact is, the Word of God teaches both God's elective sovereignty and man's responsibility, though it does now show us how to reconcile this paradox. In this respect it is parallel to the doctrine of the Trinity. How can three be one and one three? Those who insist they can resolve this mystery do so at the expense of one truth or the other. Very often the Deity of Jesus Christ or of the Holy Spirit is sacrificed to uphold the idea of one God, or the truth of the unity of God is compromised. The mystery of the Trinity is to be believed rather than entirely understood. Romans 9 teaches divine election – chapter 10 teaches human responsibility.

R. Kent Hughes

1. According to Romans 10: 1 – 4 what was the longing of Paul's heart for Israel? What did he see as the problem?
 - a. What does Paul make very clear in verse 4 on having a right relationship with God?
2. The only way to become righteous with God is to believe by faith. According to Romans 10: 5 – 8 if you want to be righteous with God by keeping the Law you must live a perfect life of obedience. What did God say to His people in Deuteronomy 30: 8 – 20?

- a. Do you think you could live a life of perfectly obeying God's Word and all His commandments and statutes apart from a living a life of faith?
 - b. Becoming righteous in God's eyes is not how religious we are or how much we sacrifice in service. It's not how much we give or how good of a person we are. Getting right with God is living a life of faith. What does God say in Romans 10: 8 – 13 that is the only way of salvation?
- 3. What wonderful truth do we discover in Romans 10: 12 and Galatians 3: 26 – 29?
- 4. How does Romans 10: 14 – 15 encourage you to share your faith in Christ? What did Jesus say in Mark 16: 15 – 16?
 - a. What examples do we see in the Book of Acts of men sharing their faith? Give one or two examples that motivate you to share your faith.

5. It is sad when people reject the Gospel (the Good News). How do we learn about faith according to Romans 10: 17?
- a. What is the definition of faith and the lessons we learn about applying faith found in Hebrews 11: 1 – 8?
6. According to Romans 10: 18 – 21 Israel not only heard and understood the message, but they did not receive it by faith. What is Isaiah's prophecy in Romans 10: 20 that we can rejoice over?

Lesson 16

Read Romans 11: 1 – 21 (Read NKJ & NLT)

Introduction: In this chapter Paul points out that not all Jews have rejected God's message of salvation. There are still a faithful few. Paul himself, after all, was a Jew, and so were Jesus' disciples and nearly all the early Christian missionaries. God chose the Jews ("His own people") to be the people through whom the rest of the world could find salvation. But this did not mean the entire Jewish nation would be saved; only those who were faithful to God were considered true Jews. We are saved through faith in Christ, not because we are part of a nation, religion, or family. Paul had a vision of a church where all Jewish and Gentile believers would be united in their love of God and obedience to Christ.

Life Application Study Bible

1. What was Paul's answer and reasoning to his question "Has God rejected His own people"?
 - a. Read Romans 11: 2 – 5. How did Paul explain why there was still a remnant remaining of God's chosen people?
 - b. Is there someone in your family or friends that you have wondered "Has God rejected them"? Do you think some people's behavior is so bad that God couldn't possibly save them?
2. Read Romans 11: 5 – 6 in the New Living Translation. What does Paul make very clear concerning salvation for Jew or Gentile based on works or grace? (Refer to Ephesians 2: 8 – 9)

3. The nation of Israel has always been a rebellious people with only a few walking by faith. According to Romans 11: 7 – 12 why was Israel given a spirit of sleepiness, blindness, and deafness?

4. Jesus spoke many times to the religious leaders rebuking them for their self-righteousness. In Matthew 21: 33 – 44 Jesus taught the parable of a landowner who planted a vineyard. What is the meaning of this earthly story with a heavenly conclusion?

5. Read Romans 11: 13 – 21. What did Jesus say about the various trees and fruit according to Matthew 7: 17 – 20 and John 15: 1 – 6, 16?
 - a. It is because of God's love, grace and mercy we Gentiles have been "grafted" into the Vine. What does it mean to you to be "grafted in" and what was Paul's message in Acts 13: 44 – 49?

Notes

[illegible][illegible]

Lesson 17

Read Romans 11: 22 – 36 (Read NKJ & NLT)

Introduction: *For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in (Romans 11: 25).* This blindness has happened to Israel until “the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.” This indicates that God has chosen a certain number among the Gentiles to believe. They constitute the fullness of the Gentiles. I believe that the moment the last Gentile chosen by God surrenders their life to Jesus Christ and is born again that this dispensation will come to an immediate close. The Lord will gather His Church to Himself, and God will once again deal with the nation Israel.

Chuck Smith

1. How has the “goodness” and “severity” of God changed your life? How has the Lord been good to you?
 - a. In what ways have you demonstrated His “goodness” to those around you?

2. In Romans 11: 23 we read “*God is able.*” According to the following scriptures what is God able to accomplish?

Daniel 3: 17

Acts 20: 32

Romans 8: 38 – 39

1 Corinthians 10: 13

2 Corinthians 9: 8

Hebrews 7: 25

Jude 1: 24

3. What point is the Apostle Paul trying to convey in Romans 11: 24 – 27?

4. Jesus taught in Matthew 7:13 – 14 that there is a narrow gate and a wide gate. The wide gate leads to destruction and the narrow gate leads to life. Sadly, many will take the wide gate, but few will choose the narrow gate. According to 2 Peter 2: 9 what is the heart of God?

5. How has God, our Heavenly Father shown His mercy and love to us according to Romans 11: 25 -28?
6. What does Paul mean in Romans 11: 29? What gifts and calling have the Lord given to you? How are they being used to serve the Lord?
7. How many times is the word “mercy” used in Romans 11: 30 – 32? Compare with Ephesians 2: 1 – 6, what stands out to you in verse 4?
8. In Romans 11: 33 – 36 Paul expresses his praise to the Lord for His wisdom, knowledge and understanding. God had revealed to Paul a great mystery that was hidden in the Old Testament. How would you describe all that God has done for you? Write out your own words of praise and exaltations to the Lord:

Lesson 18

Read Romans 12: 1 – 21 (Read NKJ & NLT)

Introduction: The most reasonable, intelligent, thoughtful, purposeful, spiritual thing you can do with your life, in view of all these great facts that Paul has declared to you, is to give yourself to God and to live for Him. Nothing else can fulfill you to any degree. Therefore, give yourself to Him as a living sacrifice. It's the only reasonable thing to do! How do we do that? How do we offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God? That's what the rest of Romans is about: Practical application of these truths in our everyday lives. When you follow these principles, you will find your life being changed in all your relationships. First, it is changed with regard to your Christian brothers and sisters, as Romans 12:3-13 shows. Presenting your body as a living sacrifice affects your life in the church. Next, as we see in Romans 12:14 through the end of chapter 13, Paul shows how this way of life affects our relationships to the governing powers and to society in general.

Ray C. Stedman

1. According to Romans 12: 1 if you desire to worship God what sacrificial offering does God require?
 - a. What did Jesus say to the women at the well about worship in John 4: 20 – 24?
 - b. According to 1 Corinthians 6: 12 – 20 what important message do believers need to receive?
2. God desires unconditional surrender of your life to Him. According to Romans 12: 1 – 2 what are those three conditions? Why are they so important?
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)

3. What valuable lessons do we learn from Romans 12: 3 & 16? Why do you think the apostle Paul had to press the Roman believers this way?
- a. Are you honest in your evaluation of yourself? Have you examined your motives and attitude before the Lord as a spouse, parent, friend, and co-worker?
4. What great truth do we learn from Romans 12: 4 -5 and 1 Corinthians 12: 12 – 14?
5. In order, to live a full and fruitful life in Christ we must be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. In Galatians 5 we are told to walk, to be led, and to live in the Spirit. In Romans 12, Ephesians 4, and 1 Corinthians 12 – 14 we find several gifts of the Spirit. In the Book of Acts we see the power and demonstration of the Spirit at work in the church. Read Romans 12: 6 – 8 (NLT). What are the seven gifts listed, and what is the encouragement given to use them?
- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- a. How are these gifts used practically in your daily living?

6. In Romans 12: 9 – 13 we are given some great bullet points of wisdom and practical advice. The word “love” is the word “agape” in the Greek. The word “affectionate” speaks of “family love” and the word “fervent” means “brought to a boil”. Pick two points of wisdom that speak to your heart and write out how and why they bless you.

1.

2.

7. It’s important that we have a heart of compassion and forgiveness as Jesus did. This is difficult when you are persecuted and being attacked for your faith. According to Romans 12: 14 – 21 how are we to behave as Christians when suffering persecution?

a. What did Jesus say in Matthew 5: 10 – 12, 38 – 45 about dealing with your enemies?

b. According to Romans 12: 21 how do we overcome evil?

Lesson 19

Read Romans 13: 1 – 14 (Read NKJ & NLT)

Introduction: Over the years, one of my jobs as a dad was to wake my kids up for school. I'd lift their blankets to rouse them from sleep. Similarly, the apostle Paul exhorted the believers in Rome to rise from sleep because the return of Christ was near. Friends, it is easy to grow sleepy in this world. We carry on, forgetting our call and the imminent return of Jesus. We ignore the fact that this world is not all there is to life, and that ultimately, we're headed toward heaven. The signs surround us. Are you aware of the next major event on God's prophetic calendar? Nothing else needs prophetic fulfillment before the rapture of the church! Our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. In light of our Lord's imminent return, how should we respond? In Romans 13, Paul shares four wise choices: (1) Cast off works of darkness. (2) Put on the armor of light. (3) Walk properly in the Spirit. (4) Put on the Lord Jesus Christ. Now is the day to open our eyes, for the signs of the Lord's return are near.

John Randall

1. What is clearly stated in Romans 13: 1 – 2 regarding submitting to government authority?
 - a. In today's political climate how do we come to terms with Romans 13: 1 – 5?
2. Jesus did not submit to the religious leaders, but He did submit to the Roman authorities. What did Jesus do when He was confronted by the Pharisees about paying Roman taxes according to Matthew 22: 15 – 22? Why is this important for us to understand? (See Romans 13: 6 – 8)

- a.** How did the Apostle Peter respond to the religious leaders when they opposed the apostles preaching in the name of Jesus found in Acts 4: 1 – 20 and Acts 5: 12 – 32? What key verses speak to you?
 - b.** How did Paul and Silas react to being arrested by the authorities in Philippi according to Acts 16: 25-34? What did Paul demand from the city officials? (See Acts 16:35-40)
- 3.** According to Romans 13: 8 – 10 and Galatians 5: 13 – 14 how can we fulfill the requirements of the Law?
 - a.** What did Jesus say in Matthew 22: 37 – 40?
 - b.** What practical steps can we take each day to show love to those around us?

4. According to Romans 13: 11 – 12 now is the time to “wake up, look up, and cast off” because our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. What did Jesus say in Matthew 24: 42 – 44?

a. What did the Apostle Paul say in Ephesians 5: 8 – 13 that reminds us of our past and present condition?

b. How does 1 Thessalonians 5: 4 – 11 encourage and convict you concerning the times we are living in now?

5. Read Romans 13: 13 – 14 in the NKJ and NLT. How do these verses encourage you to be awake and aware of how you are living in these last days?

Lesson 20

Read Romans 14: 1 – 23 (Read NKJ & NLT)

Introduction: The believers in Rome were divided over special diets and special days. Some of the members thought it was a sin to eat meat, so they ate only vegetables. Other members thought it a sin not to observe the Jewish holy days. If each Christian had kept his convictions to himself, there would have been no problem, but they began to criticize and judge one another. The one group was sure the other group was not at all spiritual. Unfortunately, we have similar problems today with many “gray areas” of life that are not clearly right or wrong to every believer. Some activities we know are wrong because the Bible clearly condemns them. Other activities we know are right because the Bible clearly commands them. But when it comes to areas that are not clearly defined in Scripture, we find ourselves needing some other kind of guidance. Paul gave principles of this guidance. He explained how believers could disagree on nonessentials and still maintain unity in the church. In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, love.

Warren Wiersbe

1. What would you consider areas of strength in your faith? (Please list them)
2. What would you consider areas of weakness in your faith? (Please list them)
3. What would you consider to be a “gray area” in the Church today?

- a.** Is, there a “gray area” in your personal walk with the Lord you struggle with? (Share with the group if you feel comfortable)

- 4.** According to Romans 14: 4 – 13 what are the main points concerning criticism and judgement of one another? What verse stood out to you?
 - a.** What did Jesus tell us to do in Matthew 7: 1 – 5?

 - b.** What does God’s Word say about our Christian liberty in 1 Corinthians 10: 23 – 31 and Galatians 5: 13 – 15?

 - c.** We are told in Romans 14: 13 not to judge one another any longer but resolve our issues and not cause another believer to stumble and fall. What do we need to be aware of according to 1 Corinthians 8: 9 – 13 and 1 John 2: 9 – 10?

- 5.** Read Romans 14: 14 – 21. What was Paul's conclusion concerning walking in love and liberty?
- a.** According to Romans 14: 17 how do we show the world the Kingdom of God living within us?
- b.** Paul closes chapter 14 with a question "Do you have faith?" Ask yourself the same question. Do you have a strong, mature faith? Perhaps you have a weak but growing faith? Or would you say, 'I have no faith at all?'

Lesson 21

Read Romans 15: 1 – 33 (Read NKJ & NLT)

Introduction: The Scriptures were written for our learning, so we would have hope through their message of patience and comfort. Paul prayed for the Ephesians that God would open their eyes of understanding, that they might know the hope of their calling (Ephesians 1:18). If we only understood all that God has in store for us in His eternal kingdom, we would gladly sacrifice to deny our flesh now for the hope of that glorious future with Him. We should strive for unity of mind and heart, receiving one another and accepting our differences within the body of Christ. Differences do exist, but they need not divide us into splinter groups. We can accept one another in love, because, Christ has received us all. This accepting love marks true spiritual maturity.

Chuck Smith

1. The Bible teaches that we are to “build-up” one another and not just please ourselves. What are some practical ways we can “build-up” and encourage one another?
2. Romans 15: 3 speaks of Jesus Christ. What does the phrase “The reproaches (insults) of those who reproached You fell on Me” mean? (See Psalm 69: 7 – 21)
3. There are many churches today that only teach out of the New Testament. They believe because we have a new covenant with Christ, we no longer need the Old Testament teachings. According to Romans 15: 4 what did the Apostle Paul say about the teaching of the Old Testament? Why was it written? What does it give us?

4. Read Romans 15: 5 – 6. We are to live in harmony with one another resulting in praise and glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. According to Romans 15: 7 – 12 what are we giving glory to God for?

5. Write out Romans 15: 13. How does this benediction speak to you personally? What key words stood out to you?

6. According to Romans 15: 14 – 22 what was Paul's reason and purpose for writing this letter to the Roman believers?
 - a. Paul was careful not to boast of himself but what Christ has done through him. Upon reading Romans 15: 19, how do we discover the Gentiles were convinced of the Good News Paul was preaching?

 - b. What was it that convinced you to give your heart to the Lord Jesus Christ?

7. What were Paul's future traveling plans as found in Romans 15: 23 – 29?

a. We are all called to serve the Lord in some capacity. Do you have a plan for serving the Lord?

i. If yes, what is your plan?

ii. If no, ask the Lord right now to give you one.

8. Paul knew for his plan to be successful that it needed to be covered in prayer. What did Paul ask the church to specifically pray for according to Romans 15: 30 – 33?

a. Is there something specific you need to be prayed for?

Notes

[illegible][illegible]

Lesson 22

Read Romans 16: 1 – 27 (Read NKJ & NLT)

Introduction: As Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life, Rome was the world's political, religious, social, and economic center. There the major governmental decisions were made, and from there the Good News spread to the ends of the earth. The church in Rome was a cosmopolitan mixture of Jews, Gentiles, slaves, free people, men, women, Roman citizens, and world travelers; therefore, it had potential for both great influence and great conflict. Though Paul had not yet been to Rome, he had met fellow believers in other places on his journey.

We too live in a cosmopolitan setting with the entire world open to us. We also have the potential for both widespread influence and wrenching conflict. Listen carefully to Paul's teaching about unity, service, and love so you may apply them.

Life Application Study Bible

1. Paul now closes his letter by greeting his friends and fellow workers. Paul begins by commending Phoebe his sister in the Lord. What did Paul say about Phoebe?

2. What did Paul say about Priscilla and Aquila? See Romans 16: 3 – 4.
 - a. What further information do we learn about Priscilla and Aquila found in Acts 18: 1 – 3, 18?

3. Paul had many special friends and co-workers. What's amazing is he remembers not only their names but makes comments about their character as a person. What are some of the remarks Paul makes in Romans 16: 5 – 16?

a. Are there people in your life that you could make the same type of comments Paul did concerning their character? What do you think others would say about your character?

b. Do you regard your family and home as gifts through which God can accomplish His work? How might God want to use your home and family to serve Him?

4. In Romans 16: 17 – 18 Paul gives some final instructions with a strong warning. What does he say the church needs to be aware of even as Christians?

a. What warning did the Apostle Paul give to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3: 1 – 5?

- b.** According to Romans 16: 19 – 20 what encouraging words were given to the believers in Rome?

- 5.** Read Romans 16: 21 – 24. What do you find interesting in the descriptions of those who were with Paul who sent greetings?

- 6.** The Apostle Paul closes this great letter with an amazing benediction. What mystery has been kept secret since the world began and has now been made known to all nations? See Romans 16: 25 – 27
 - a.** How has God been able to establish you and make you strong as you have been obedient to the faith while studying through the Book of Romans?

