

A People of the Book
8-Year Curriculum
Year 3, Quarter 3

A Study of
Selected Texts from
Paul's Epistle
To The
Romans

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Introduction

Paul “wrote...this great treatise of truth with two negatives in mind and a powerful positive. The negatives are that salvation from sin comes neither by the Mosaic System nor by personal merit. Proud Jews needed the first of these negatives; arrogant Gentiles needed the second negative. Positively, salvation is by faith in Christ. ...Salvation is by grace (God’s part) and faithful obedience (man’s part). Both the divine and the human are at work in man’s redemption.” (Robert R. Taylor, Jr., *Studies in Romans*, p. 4)

Recommended Study Aids

David Lipscomb & J. W. Shepherd, *A Commentary on the New Testament Epistles: Romans*

James Burton Coffman, *Romans* (southernhills.searchgodsword.org/com/bcc/)

James William Boyd, *System of Salvation: Comments on Romans*

Robert R. Taylor, Jr., *Studies in Romans*

Tom Wacaster, *Studies in Romans: A Commentary on Paul’s Letter to the Church at Rome*

The schedule for this class is listed below. Students are encouraged to read the texts prior to class and study the worksheets provided.

Schedule

- 1) July 5 – Introduction and Purpose of the Letter (Romans 1:1-17)
- 2) July 12 – Human Depravity (Romans 1:18-3:23)
- 3) July 19 – Justified (Romans 3:24-5:21)
- 4) July 26 – The Need for Holiness (Romans 6:1-23)
- 5) August 2 – Redemption Comes Not by the Law (Romans 7:1-25)
- 6) August 9 – Redemption Comes by Christ (Romans 8:1-39)
- 7) August 16 – Reactions to the Gospel (Romans 9:1-33)
- 8) August 23 – Christ: The End of the Law to Believers (Romans 10:1-21)
- 9) August 30 – The Remnant (Romans 11:1-36)
- 10) September 6 – Christian Character (Romans 12:1-21)
- 11) September 13 – The Christian and Law (Romans 13:1-14)
- 12) September 20 – Christian Liberty (Romans 14:1-23)
- 13) September 27 – Conclusion (Romans 15:1-16:27)

Introduction and Purpose of the Letter

Read: Romans 1:1-17

Review of the Reading

1. How does Paul describe himself in the opening verse of the book?
2. Where was the Romans' faith spoken of?
3. Why did Paul desire to see the Romans?
4. "For I am not _____ of the gospel of Christ, for it is the _____ of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the _____ of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, "The _____ shall live by faith.""

Thought Questions

1. Paul identifies the Christians in Rome as "saints." How does this differ from the way some religious groups use the word "saints" today?
2. Paul told the Romans that he wanted to "impart to you some spiritual gift" (1:11). Had the Romans already been visited by another apostle previously? Consider Romans 12:6-8.

Human Depravity

Read: Romans 1:18-3:23

Review of the Reading

1. Against what is the wrath of God revealed?
2. “For there is no _____ with God. For as many as have sinned without law will also _____ without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be _____ by the law.”
3. Circumcision is profitable only if one does what?
4. Who is under sin, according to Romans 3:9?
5. Who witnessed the revelation of the righteousness of God apart from the law?

Thought Questions

1. How is God “clearly seen” and “understood by the things that are made”?
2. What are some of the sins that are identified in these passages? How are these sins viewed by society in our day?

3. What does Paul say about consistency in man's judgment of others? How does this compare to God's judgment of man?

4. Paul calls Isaiah 52:5 to the reader's mind in Romans 2:24. Explain the application of this prophecy to Paul's writing.

5. Why do we need the gospel? Consider Romans 3:21-23.

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

Justified

Read: Romans 3:24-5:21

Review of the Reading

1. Who will be justified by God?

2. How are the wages counted to him who works?

3. What does the law bring?

4. When did Christ die for the ungodly?

5. “And not only that, but we also glory in _____, knowing that
_____ produces _____; and
_____, _____; and
_____, _____.”

Thought Questions

1. What does it mean that Christ was “set forth as a propitiation by His blood”?

2. Compare Paul’s reference to Abraham (Romans 4) with James’ reference to Abraham (James 2:20-26). How do these passages complement each other?

3. There are many passages that speak of tribulations or suffering (Matthew 5:11; Acts 5:41; Romans 5:3; II Corinthians 12:10; I Peter 4:12-13). How should the Christian react to such circumstances, and why?

4. Discuss the significance of Romans 5:6-11.

5. The system of Calvinism teaches that man inherits the guilt of the sin of Adam, often citing Romans 5:12 as support. In what way is this a perversion of the text? What is the truth concerning the guilt of sin, as opposed to the consequence brought upon all mankind by Adam's sin?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

The Need For Holiness

Read: Romans 6:1-23

Review of the Reading

1. Those who are baptized into Christ Jesus are also baptized into what?
2. What should we do when we are raised from the waters of baptism?
3. What is our relationship to sin after we are crucified with Christ?
4. Of what do we become slaves when we are set free from sin?
5. “For the wages of sin is _____, but the gift of God is _____ in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Thought Questions

1. In what way does baptism parallel Christ’s death?
2. Discuss the concept of dying with Christ, and as a result living with Him.

Redemption Comes by Christ

Read: Romans 8:1-39

Review of the Reading

1. For whom is there no condemnation?
2. Who cannot please God?
3. Who are “sons of God”?
4. To whom do all things work together for good?
5. What is able to separate us from the love of God?

Thought Questions

1. What is “the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus”? What is “the law of sin and death”?
2. Explain Romans 8:13.

Reactions to the Gospel

Read: Romans 9:1-33

Review of the Reading

1. For whom did Paul suffer “great sorrow and continual grief”?
2. What were some of Israel’s advantages, as suggested in this chapter?
3. Why was Pharaoh raised up?
4. Why did Israel not attain to the law of righteousness?
5. “What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not _____ righteousness, have _____ to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, _____ the law of righteousness, has not _____ to the law of righteousness.”

Thought Questions

1. What does Romans 9:3 say about Paul’s character and compassion for others?
2. Is the Calvinistic doctrine of predestination taught in this chapter? Explain your answer.

Christ: The End of the Law to Believers

Read: Romans 10:1-21

Review of the Reading

1. What did Israel do in the place of submitting to the righteousness of God?
2. What must one confess and believe to be saved?
3. “For with the heart one _____ unto righteousness, and with the mouth _____ is made unto salvation.”
4. How does faith come?
5. How does hearing come?

Thought Questions

1. What was wrong with Israel’s zeal? Do we face the same danger today? What must we do to avoid the same mistakes?
2. “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”
What does this mean?

3. Is confession and belief all that is necessary for salvation? Why isn't repentance or baptism mentioned in these verses?

4. Can false doctrine produce true Christian faith? Explain.

5. How important are preachers of the gospel? Are preachers given the respect they deserve?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

The Remnant

Read: Romans 11:1-36

Review of the Reading

1. Of which tribe was Paul?
2. Who obtained what they sought? What happened to the rest?
3. Salvation came to the Gentiles to provoke Israel to what?
4. “Therefore consider the _____ and _____ of God: on those who fell, _____; but toward you, _____, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be _____ off.”
5. Paul marvels at the depth and riches of what?

Thought Questions.

1. Discuss the word “foreknew” (Romans 11:2). In what sense did God foreknow His people?
2. What lessons can we learn from Elijah?

Christian Character

Read: Romans 12:1-21

Review of the Reading

1. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living _____, _____, _____ to God, which is your _____ service.”
2. To what should Christians not conform?
3. In what should one rejoice? In what should one be patient? In what continue?
4. How should we strive to live with others?
5. To whom does vengeance belong?

Thought Questions

1. Discuss the significance of the word “reasonable” in Romans 12:1.
2. What are some ways one might practice patience in the face of trials and tribulations?

3. Romans 12:13 speaks of “distributing to the needs of the saints.” Does this imply that we are to ignore the physical needs of those outside the body of Christ? Consider Galatians 6:10.

4. Paul tells the Romans to, “as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men” (12:18). Does this mean we should not stand up for the truth when it is under attack? Refer to Jude 1:3.

5. Discuss the dangers of human vengeance.

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

The Christian and Law

Read: Romans 13:1-14

Review of the Reading

1. What is the source of all authority?
2. How can one be “unafraid of the authority”?
3. What does the authority execute upon evildoers?
4. What are all of the commandments based upon?
5. “But _____ on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no _____ for the _____, to fulfill its _____.”

Thought Questions

1. In the history of the world, we have seen some atrocious governments, such as Nazi Germany led by Hitler. Reconcile the appalling acts of such governments with Paul’s affirmation in Romans 13:1 that “the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”
2. Capital punishment – can it be supported by the New Testament Scriptures? Explain your answer.

Christian Liberty

Read: Romans 14:1-23

Review of the Reading

1. Over what things should we not dispute?
2. To whom does one stand or fall?
3. What shall all stand before?
4. “For the kingdom of God is not _____ and _____,
but _____ and _____ and _____
in the Holy Spirit.”
5. What is unclean?

Thought Questions

1. What are some of the “doubtful things” which were disputed in Paul’s day? What are some of the “doubtful things” disputed today?
2. What is the difference between “doubtful things” and matters of doctrine?

3. Reconcile Paul's statements reference judging others in Romans 14 with the Lord's words in Matthew 7:1ff and John 7:24.

4. By whose standards must we live? To whom must we answer for our actions (and inactions)?

5. How sensitive should we be to the consciences of our brothers and sisters in Christ?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

Conclusion

Read: Romans 15:1-16:27

Review of the Reading

1. “For whatever things were written before were written for our _____, that we through the _____ and _____ of the Scriptures might have _____.”
2. In what manner should Christians receive one another?
3. When did Paul intend to visit Rome?
4. Who did Paul identify as “fellow prisoners” and “of note among the apostles”?
5. What were the Romans urged to do about those who caused divisions and offenses?

Thought Questions

1. How important is the study of the Old Testament Scriptures? What dangers do we face if we ignore that portion of the Bible?
2. Paul encourages them to be “like-minded” and to glorify God “with one mind and one mouth.” Can this be done with other religious groups with whom we have very fundamental differences? Consider Ephesians 4:1-6.

3. There are some who contend that Phoebe was a “deaconess” of the church in Cenchrea. How do we know that such a contention is incorrect? Refer to the qualifications set forth for deacons by Paul in I Timothy 3:8-13.

4. Are the churches of Christ a denomination? Defend your answer.

5. Why should we note and avoid those who teach false doctrine?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

A People of the Book 8-Year Curriculum

	January - March	April - June	July - September	October - December
2007	<i>Matthew</i>	<i>Genesis</i>	<i>Galatians & Ephesians</i>	<i>Isaiah</i>
2008	<i>Exodus</i>	<i>I & II Timothy, Titus</i>	<i>Hebrews</i>	<i>Minor Prophets I (Hosea-Obadiah)</i>
2009	<i>Mark</i>	<i>Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy</i>	Romans	Jeremiah & Lamentations
2010	I & II Thessalonians	Joshua, Judges, Ruth	James, I & II Peter	Minor Prophets II (Jonah-Habakkuk)
2011	Luke	Samuel, Kings, Chronicles	I, II, III John & Jude	Daniel
2012	Acts	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	I Corinthians	Minor Prophets III (Zephaniah-Malachi)
2013	John	Job	II Corinthians	Psalms
2014	Philippians, Colossians & Philemon	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	Revelation	Ezekiel

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