

From the Garden to Glory

Romans

Author: Paul the Apostle

Written to: Roman Christians

Timeline: c. 57 - 60 A.D. written from Corinth, a city in Greece, near the end of Paul's third missionary journey (Acts 20)

Theme: Righteousness through Faith in Jesus Christ

Purpose of writing: Paul wrote to let the Church in Rome know of his desire to come and meet them in person (Romans 1:10-11) and to lay out God's plan of salvation.

Introduction:

The book of Romans is the most important book theologically in the whole New Testament as it is full of great doctrinal truths.

Romans is also a very influential book which has transformed many lives including those of Augustine, Martin Luther, John Wesley and John Calvin. From Luther's study of the book of Romans, he came to understand the meaning of God's righteousness and the fact that "the just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17); the Protestant Reformation was launched from that understanding. Wesley received assurance of salvation through hearing the preface to Luther's commentary on Romans and thus the Wesleyan Revival began. John Calvin wrote, "When anyone understands this Epistle, he has a passage opened to him to the understanding of the whole Scripture."

As we begin our study of the book of Romans consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. As you read above, the theme of the book of Romans is righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ. Why is this concept foundational in the life of the Christian? How would you explain this concept to a non-believer?
2. Rome was the largest city in the world at this time with a population of approximately one million. It was *the* diplomatic and trade center of the world. Many Romans were wealthy, cosmopolitan, and devoted to the worship of pagan gods. In your opinion, what aspect of this culture would have presented the greatest danger to the Christian? Why?
3. Paul's letter to the Romans was written during the reign of Emperor Nero who authorized the capture, torture and murder of Christians. What do you think it would have been like to be a member of the Christian minority in Rome at the time of Paul's epistle?

What We Are by Nature

Read Romans 1:1-3:20

1. Read 1:1-6 and 16-17. What do you learn about the Gospel from these verses? Write out verses 16-17. What does it mean to be *ashamed of the gospel of Christ*? What does it mean that Paul was **not** *ashamed of the gospel of Christ*?
2. Paul spoke about God's wrath in 1:18-32. Who is guilty before God? Why is man without excuse? What behaviors result from man's refusal to worship God?

3. Look at 2:25-29 concentrating on verses 28-29. What does it mean to have a circumcised heart? How has your heart been circumcised? Ask the Lord to show you if there is something else that He would like cut away from your heart.

How to Become a Christian

Read Romans 3:21-5:21

1. Look at 3:23-26. Some have said that these verses contain the *Bad News-Good News*. What is the *bad news* found in verse 23? How would you explain the *good news* of verses 24-26 to a non-believer? Use your own testimony as an example.
2. Take some time today to read 5:1-11 several times. How were you formerly an enemy of God (verse 10)? What do these verses say that Jesus Christ has done for you? How does this impact the way you live your life?
3. Read 5:12-21 and fill in the chart below with what you learn about Adam and Jesus Christ.

Adam	Jesus Christ

How to Live a Christian Life

Read Romans 6:1-23

1. Verses 3-10 describe how the Christian has been *baptized into Christ's death*. What do you learn about this from each of the following verses?

- verse 4
- verse 5
- verse 6
- verse 7
- verse 8

2. Fill in the missing words from Paul's exhortation found in verse 11:

Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be _____
_____, but _____
_____.

Paul listed some specific ways that the Romans could live out this exhortation in verses 12-14. List the three main points from these verses. Choose one of these points and explain how you can make this a practice in your life.

3. How did Paul define slavery in verse 16? In verses 15-23 Paul contrasted being a slave to sin with being a slave to righteousness. Make a note of what you learn about each of these.

- being a slave of sin

- being a slave of righteousness

A Struggle

Read Romans 7:1-25

1. Paul used the analogy of a marriage in verses 1-6. He said that if one was no longer *bound* to the law then that person could be *married to another*. If you are a Christian, to whom do you belong now? (See verse 4.) Verse 6 says that we should now *serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter*. What does that mean? How do you do it?
2. What do you learn about sin from verses 7-12? Look at verse 11. How is sin filled with deception and false promises?
3. Read verses 13-25. Summarize Paul's struggle. Describe a time when you experienced a similar struggle.

The Life of Victory

Read Romans 8:1-39

1. Read verses 1-4 concentrating on verse 1. Look up the word *condemnation* in a dictionary. Using this definition, write out verse 1. How does your life reflect the truth of this verse?
2. Look at verses 28-30. Share a time when the Lord used some difficult thing in your life to conform *you* to the image of His Son. Paul listed five things that God has done for us (note the past tense) in verses 29-30. What are they?

3. Meditate on verses 31-39 throughout the day today. Record your thoughts. Take some time to thank and praise the Lord for His provision in your life.

The Jews Set Aside

Read Romans 9:1-11:36

1. What were Paul's feelings about his fellow Jews who had rejected Christ (9:1-3 and 10:1)? Is there someone very dear to you who is rejecting the Lord? If so, take time today to pray for that person.
2. Read 9:30-10:4. The Jews were zealous in their pursuit of righteousness, but they were in error about the method for doing so. What did Paul say was wrong with their method?
3. Write out Paul's question and answer in 11:1. How does 11:5 further answer the question? As you read chapter 11 make a note of everything that indicates that the Jews' rejection of Christ was neither total nor final.

The Christian's Service

Read Romans 12:1-21

1. Look up each of the following words in a dictionary and then using your definitions re-write verses 1-2. List at least one practical way that you can obey Paul's exhortation from these verses.

present:

living sacrifice:

holy:

acceptable:

reasonable service:

conformed:

transformed:

renewing:

2. What do you learn about spiritual gifts from verses 3-8? What is your spiritual gift(s)? How are you exercising it/them for the benefit of the body of Christ?

3. Look at Paul's exhortation to Christians in verses 9-21. Select three of these specific instructions and make a note of how you will do each of these this week.

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of Romans consider the following questions and write your answers:

1. What is the most significant thing that you have learned from your study about the Lord, His character, or His attributes? How does this encourage you? Take a few moments to thank and praise the Lord for the things that you learned about Him.

2. What is the most important lesson or new insight that you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?

