

Romans Workbook

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LESSON 1: INTRODUCTION AND OPENING

1:1-17

INTRODUCTION

This Epistle is placed first among Paul's epistles, not because it was the first written, but because of the length and importance of the Epistle itself, as well as the importance of the church in the imperial city.

Perhaps, on the whole, there is no book of the New Testament that demands more a humble, docile, and prayerful disposition in its interpretation than this Epistle. Its profound doctrines, its abstruse inquiries, and the opposition of many of those doctrines to the views of the unrenewed and unsubdued heart of man, make a spirit of docility and prayer especially necessary in its investigation.

No one has ever found opposition to his doctrines recede, and difficulties vanish, who did not bring the mind in an humble frame to receive all that has been revealed; and that, in a spirit of humble prayer, did not purpose to lay aside all bias and open the heart to the full influence of the elevated truths which the apostle Paul inculcates.

Romans teaches us...what human beings really are like and what they need, what God has done to provide a way of escape from our estrangement and mortality, and what a lifestyle that grows out of a Christian worldview looks like. Such topics should certainly not be dry or boring. - Douglas J. Moo, [NIV Application Commentary on Romans](#)

QUESTIONS

1. In verses 1 through 7 Paul identifies himself, the Lord he served, and the church to whom the letter is written. Please summarize each description.
 - a. Paul

 - b. The Lord

 - c. The Church

2. Why was Paul thankful for the Roman church? (vs. 8)

3. What did Paul expect would happen when he eventually got to see the saints in Rome? (vs.10-13,15)

4. Why hadn't Paul been to visit the Roman church prior to the time of writing? (vs. 13)

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1. Against whom and why is the wrath of God revealed from heaven? (vs. 18-20)
2. Summarize the Gentiles' slippery slope that led them away from God. (vs. 21-28)
3. List all the sins which typified the Gentile world. (vs. 29-31)
4. Notice that not only those who practice the sins listed are in trouble. What else can bring the wrath of God? (vs. 32)
5. What is wrong with practicing a sin and simultaneously condemning someone who also practices it? (2:1-3)
6. To what should God's kindness lead us? (vs. 4)
7. What can people who practice the following expect at the judgment?
 - a. Those who do good and seek glory and honor? (vs. 7)
 - b. Those who are selfishly ambitious and disobey the truth? (vs. 8)
8. With respect to the above, does it matter whether the person is a Jew or Greek? (vs. 9-11) YES NO Explain.
9. Which is more important? Hearing the Law or Keeping the Law? (vs. 13)
10. List some reasons why Jews might have been over confident. (vs. 17-20)
11. A hypocrite is one who pretends to live by a higher standard than he actually lives (vs. 21-23). What happens when we are hypocrites? (vs. 24)
12. How can circumcision become uncircumcision and visa-versa? (vs. 25-29)

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1. What was the single greatest advantage Jews had over Gentiles? (vs. 1-2)
2. The point Paul made in chapter 2, that Jews were sinners just like the Gentiles, must have stung the Jews. In verses 3-9 Paul considers five possible arguments that could be used to refute that Jews were sinners. Please summarize the arguments and be ready to discuss them in class.
3. In verses 10-18 Paul quotes several Old Testament passages that confirm the fact that Jews were also sinners. Please list the passages quoted.
4. What does the Law bring? (vs. 20)
5. Apart from the Law how has God's righteousness been manifested? (vs. 21-25)
6. Please explain how God is both just and justifier in Jesus Christ. (vs. 26)
7. Paul sets forth a statement in verse 28 that he will spend several chapters explaining. What is that statement?
8. Concerning faith what do Jews and Gentiles have in common? (vs. 30)
9. Paul concedes in verse 2 that if Abraham was justified by works he had something to boast about. But then Paul proceeds to show Abraham was justified by faith. What Old Testament passages does Paul quote to prove this in verses 3, 7, and 8?
10. In verse 9 Paul re-quotes Genesis 15:6. Quoted twice it must be of great significance. The key to Paul's argument lies in when the commandment of circumcision was given. Please locate the scripture in which the commandment of circumcision was given.
11. Where in the Bible do we find the promise to Abraham?
12. So which came first? The Law of Moses or Abraham's justification by faith?
13. What really challenging ideas did Abraham need a big faith to believe? (vs. 19)
14. Why does Paul spend an entire chapter on the idea that Abraham was justified by faith? (vs. 23-25)

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1. The key elements of the Christian's assurance are presented in 5:1-11. Please fill in the missing key words from the passages below (taken from the NASB). Be prepared to discuss each in more detail in class.
 - a. (vs. 2) we exult in _____ of the _____ of God
 - b. (vs. 5) hope does not _____,
 - c. (vs. 9) we shall be saved from the _____ of God through _____.
 - d. (vs. 10) having been _____, we shall be _____ by His life.
2. Notice the progression of character attributes Paul lists in vs. 3-4.
 - a. Tribulations bring _____ which brings proven _____ which brings _____ which does not disappoint. Please describe how these attributes are connected in our lives.
3. Can you think of some examples in our society where men put themselves in a position to die to protect another man?
4. The point Paul makes in 5:10 centers on how the work of reconciling a sinner compares in difficulty to saving a forgiven sinner.
5. Paul compares the works of Jesus and Adam in 5:12-21. What did each do in terms of...
 - a. What they brought into the world (12)
 - b. The magnitudes of their works (15-20)

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1. Show the parallels between Christ's passion and a Christian's rebirth. (6:1-6)
2. We know Jesus was tempted in all points as we are. The difference is that we sin and he didn't (Hebrews 4:15). Evidently after His resurrection He was no longer tempted to sin (7) and death no longer had any power over Him (9). How is the regenerate Christian like the resurrected Christ? (11)
3. The great choice before all Christians is whom they will serve; either righteousness or unrighteousness (13). Discuss the results of the choice we make (16-23).
4. How long does a marriage covenant remain in force? (7:1-3)
5. How long was the Law of Moses in effect? (4-6)

One of the biggest problems for any Christian is sin. We often would like to blame someone or something else for our sin. In Romans 7 Paul considers the idea of blaming our sin on the Law. "It's the law's fault."

6. Can we blame our sin on the Law? (7) Why or why not?
7. Was the Law sinful and bad? (12) Why or why not?
8. Can we blame sin for our sin? (9-11,13,17)
9. What principle did Paul discover working in himself? (21)
10. Paul sees himself in two parts: the inner man and his body. (22-23) In a sense he was imprisoned by the law of sin. Who would be able to set Paul free from this bondage? (24-25)

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1. What sets Christians free from the Law of sin and death? (8:1-2)
2. Paul contrasts walking by the flesh and walking by the Spirit in a number of his epistles. So he does in Romans 8:1-17. Briefly summarize the differences between being led by the flesh and led by the Spirit.
3. Clearly there is much suffering in this world. How does it compare with the glory to come? (18)
4. Romans 8:23 says Christians have the first-fruits of the Spirit. What are they?
5. How does the Spirit help Christians? (26-27)
6. As Romans 8 draws to its close the theme of assurance is revisited with some of the most encouraging language in the New Testament. Briefly summarize the sections listed below:
(28-30)

(31-36)

(37-39)

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1. What emotions were stirred in Paul when he considered fellow Jews who had not yet come to Christ? (9:1-3)
2. List some of the privileges the Jews enjoyed with respect to God. (4-5)
3. Why might some think that the word of God had failed? (6)
4. Please summarize the argument Paul makes in verses 7-13 based on Abraham and Isaac's children.
5. In Romans 9:15 Paul quoted Exodus 33:19. Please review the context of the Exodus passage.
6. In Romans 9:17 Paul quoted Exodus 9:16. Please review the context of the Exodus passage.
7. How do Paul's quotations from Hosea and Isaiah (9:25-29, 33) relate to his claim in Romans 1:2?
8. Why did so many Jews not attain righteousness? (30-32)
9. The analogy of potter and clay is used in verses 20-24. Please summarize this analogy.
10. What does Paul say about the Jews' zeal for God? (10:2-3)
11. To whom should the Law of Moses have led the Jews? And how? (4)
12. From what Old Testament passage does Romans 10:6-8 come?
13. Please describe the process of a lost soul coming to Christ as described in Romans 10:9-17.
14. The great issue dealt with in Romans 9-11 is the fact that most Jews rejected Christ while many Gentiles accepted Him. In Paul's day Gentile converts were more numerous than Jewish converts. Was this foretold in prophecy? (Romans 10:16-21)
15. Did the Lord pre-judge or predestine who could be saved? (8:29-30, 10:12-13)

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1. Our normal association with the word “remnant” is the group of Jews who returned from the Babylonian captivity (Nehemiah 1:3). What two other remnants are referred to in Romans 11? (2-5)
2. List the Old Testament passages quoted in verses 8-10 and review the context in which each was originally applied.
3. In what way might the Gentiles’ salvation have saved the Jews? (11-15)
4. In what way might the Gentiles’ salvation have caused the Gentile converts to stumble? (17-21)
5. Please list three examples of God’s goodness and three of His severity.
6. The objection posed at the start of this section (9:6, 27) and throughout (10:21, 11:5) was that not all Israel would be saved. As Paul closes this section (and the doctrinal section) he states, “and so all Israel will be saved” (11:26). Was all Israel saved or not?
7. Can you find a verse similar to Romans 11:32 in chapter 3?
8. For what does Paul praise God in Romans 11:33-36?

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1. What changes when we become a disciple of Christ? (12:2)
2. Christians have different avenues of service. List these avenues as they stated in verses 6-8.
3. In this section Paul gets exceedingly practical, as though he were answering the question, "What does a faithful Christian do?" Review what Paul listed in verses 8-20. Be prepared to define each admonition and to give a practical example of how you might accomplish each in your life.
4. The last verse of chapter 12 sums up the list of good works. What is the Christian's response to evil in this world? (12:21)
5. Who is exempt from obedience to governing authorities? (13:1)
6. What is the purpose of government? (vs. 3-4,6)
7. Why is it important for us to obey the government? (vs. 5-7)
8. Verse 4 says that the government is an avenger. Please review these Old Testament passages that describe the avenger and list what you find.
Numbers 35:9-29

Deuteronomy 19:1-12

Joshua 20:1-9

Psalm 99:8
9. What is the context for Romans 13:8? That is, in what way should we owe nothing to anyone?
10. How does love relate to the Law? (vs. 8-10)
11. The last four verses of chapter 13 summarize godly living and provide a sense of urgency for living that godly life. Please summarize this passage.

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1. Chapter 14 begins with a command to accept those who are weak in the faith. Give some examples of those who might be weak in the faith. (14:1-2,5)
2. What is the common reaction to one who is weak in the faith? (vs. 10)
3. And why is that common reaction the wrong thing to do? (vs. 11-12)
4. When we perceive that a weaker brother might be offended by a practice of ours, what does love call us to do? (13-21)
5. The most difficult aspect of applying the principles of Romans 14 is knowing to which issues this applies. In verse 14 Paul says that “nothing is unclean in itself.” Certainly adultery and fornication are unclean no matter whether the perpetrator is a strong or weak brother. To which issues, then, does Romans 14 apply?
6. Does this chapter authorize or recommend the practice of a weaker brother demanding that a stronger brother forego a practice because the practice offends the weaker brother?
7. The bottom line in this chapter is that we have to make judgment calls. What warning does Paul give about making such calls? (vs. 22)
8. And what do we call it when we do something we think is wrong? (vs. 23)
9. In the previous chapter Paul exhorted the stronger brethren to bear with scruples of the weaker. Who is our example in pleasing others? (Romans 15:3)
10. What effect should scripture have on us? (15:4)
11. In what sense or way did Christ become “a servant to the circumcision”? (15:8)
12. Paul quotes from the Old Testament in 15:9-12. Please identify the sources of these quotes and their context.
vs 9)
vs 10)
vs 11)
vs 12)
13. With what do the Father and Spirit fill us? (15:13)

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14. To whom did Paul primarily minister at the time of writing of Romans? (15:16)
15. When Paul felt like boasting in what did he boast? (15:17-19)
16. What was Paul's criterion for where to preach? (15:20-21)
17. Please list the places Paul planned to visit after writing Romans. (15:22-25,28).
18. Paul mentions some financial arrangements in 15:22-27. Please summarize them.
19. In addition to financial support what other support did Paul request of the Romans?
(15:30-31)

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1. Please give the description given in Romans 16 for the following characters.
 - a. Phoebe (1)
 - b. Prisca (3)
 - c. Aquila (3)
 - d. Epanetus (5)
 - e. Mary (6)
 - f. Andronicus and Junias (7)
 - g. Ampliatus (8)
 - h. Urbanus (9)
 - i. Apelles (10)
 - j. Aristobulus (10)
 - k. Herodion (11)
 - l. Narcissus (11)
 - m. Tryphaena and Tryphosa (12)
 - n. Rufus (13)
2. What kind of greeting were the Roman Christians to give each other? (16)
3. Paul did not say much about church discipline prior to this but he mentions it in verses 17-19. Summarize what he says about it.
4. What would the God of Peace soon do to Satan? (20)
5. List the men who were with Paul at the time of writing of Romans. (21-23)
6. Please read Paul's benediction in Romans 16:25-27.

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ROMANS SUMMARY BY CHAPTER

- 1 Paul writes to the church in Rome. He longed to visit them but had thus far been hindered. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ. Rather he was ready to preach it to those in Rome. The gentile world had turned their back to God and had no excuse for doing so since creation had effectively declared that God exists. As they departed God let them go and they slid into even more heinous sins.
- 2 Jews were as guilty of sin as the gentiles even though they thought they were better. In fact, at times the gentiles had been more righteous than the Jews.
- 3 Even though the Jews had many advantages over gentiles the Jews had sinned. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. God concluded all in sin that He might justify them all by grace through faith.
- 4 Consider Abraham and see that justification by faith is nothing new. Abraham had faith and it was accounted to him as righteousness before he was circumcised and long before the Law of Moses came. This is not just an academic lesson. This is a lesson for us so that we might become God's children by faith just as Abraham did.
- 5 When justified by faith we have peace with God. God saved us while we were in sin so we can have confidence that He will glorify us at the end of time. Adam and Jesus both brought something into the world. Adam brought sin and Jesus brought salvation. Jesus' gift was much more powerful than Adam's.
- 6 Salvation by faith does not encourage us to continue sinning. The saved are to consider themselves dead to sin as Jesus is now dead to sin. The saved are slaves to righteousness as they were formerly slaves of sin.
- 7 As marriage law is binding until death so law, in general, binds us until death. We die to the law when we put on Christ. This does not mean that the law was bad or defective. The law served its purpose. But law fails to bring peace or satisfaction.
- 8 Jesus sets us free from the law of sin and death. If Christ is in us the body is dead but the spirit is alive. In this new relationship we are not slaves as before but adopted children. Difficulties in this present realm are not worthy to be compared with the joys that await in the next. God helps us through our trials. Only we can separate ourselves from Him.
- 9 As Paul considered his fellow Jews he wished they could be saved. All Israel will be saved but not all "fleshly" Israel. God has the right to choose whom He will or will not save as demonstrated with Isaac, Jacob, and Moses.
- 10 The Jews had zeal for God, but they had ignored God's righteousness in Jesus and substituted their own. People need to hear the gospel preached, believe it, repent and be baptized (6:3). But most of the Jews had ignored the message and remained disobedient.
- 11 It was not too late for the Jews to be saved. Gentiles had been saved as a strange branch is grafted into a tree. So, the Jews could be grafted back in. Also, the gentiles could be easily removed if they became disobedient. God has shut up all in disobedience that He

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might show mercy to all. That is how all Israel is saved. Paul praises God for such salvation.

- 12 Because of this we should each present our bodies as living sacrifices to God. We are to be humble, to use our gift, to hate evil and cling to good. We are to bless when cursed and never to repay evil with evil. We should overcome evil with good.
- 13 We are to obey those who have authority over us because governments are ordained of God to keep peace. We are to love our neighbors and to wake up, realizing that the end of our days is closer than ever before. We are to put on Christ and make no provisions to sin.
- 14 We should not judge a weaker brother or do anything that would cause such a one to stumble. Every knee shall eventually bow to Christ and it is to Him that we answer. Refrain from anything that would cause a weak brother to fall.
- 15 The strong should bear the loads of the weak, as Jesus did for us. Accept one another in Christ. Paul had spoken very plainly but only what the Lord accomplished through him.
- 16 Commendations and greetings are passed on. They were to turn away from all who caused dissensions or heresies. To God be the glory. Amen.

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ROMANS MEMORY VERSES BY CHAPTER:

- 1 16-17 *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."*
- 2 1 *Therefore you have no excuse, every one of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.*
- 3 23 *...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*
- 4 3 *For what does the Scripture say? "ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."*
- 5 1 *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*
- 6 23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- 7 5 *For while we were in the flesh, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death.*
- 8 37 *But in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us.*
- 9 15 *For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOM I HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOM I HAVE COMPASSION."*
- 10 17 *So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.*
- 11 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.*
- 12 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.*
- 13 10 *Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*
- 14 11 *...for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."*
- 15 4 *For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.*
- 16 16 *Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.*