



THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

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Romans was not Paul's first epistle but appears first in Scripture because it came to be seen as the pinnacle of his writings. While all Scripture is worthy of our study and we shouldn't regard any inspired book as having less value, this is indeed a grand epistle and worthy of our most careful study.

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The Chapters of Romans

1. God's Power to Save; the Unrighteousness of the Gentiles
2. Indictment of the Jews
3. All Have Sinned, But by Faith in Christ All Can Be Righteous
4. Example of Abraham's Faith
5. Christ Is Greater Than Adam
6. Slaves of Righteousness (Walking in Newness of Life)
7. The Law Brings Knowledge of Sin
8. No Condemnation in Christ; More than Conquerors
9. God Chose to Save Believers
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13. Government, Neighbors, and Holiness
14. Dealing with Some Differences
15. Exhortation to Unity; Paul's Plans
16. Greetings

Introduction; Romans 1:1—3:20

Before our first class please read the following condensation of Romans, and then read the entire epistle. As you read look at the “Chapters of Romans” and focus on the main points of each chapter.

Paul, an apostle who preaches the gospel of Jesus Christ, to God’s holy ones in Rome.

I hope to be with you soon and preach the gospel in person to you. I am not at all ashamed of this gospel for it is God’s power to save all that believe. It shows men how to become right in the sight of God.

And all men certainly need this salvation or righteousness, for everyone has sinned. The Gentiles have allowed themselves to become so corrupted that God has given them up to all manner of wickedness. The Jews want to think that they are better than the Gentiles, but even their own law convicts them of sin. Yes, all have sinned, but by the free grace of God everyone who trusts in Jesus can be made righteous, for Jesus died as the propitiation for the sins of everyone.

I urge everyone to realize that Abraham was an imperfect man, yet he put his faith in God and not himself and was acknowledged as righteous. We too, both Jew and Gentile, can be righteous if we will live with the same kind of faith that believed God could give life to the dead.

When we put our trust in Jesus we can be made right and have hope, especially since we see that the grace of God that was manifested in Jesus is greater than the sin Adam brought into the world.

But don’t for a moment think that grace gives license to sin. We who were baptized into Christ have broken free from the bondage of sin which was killing us, and we are now the servants of righteous living which produces holiness now and eternal life in the future.

I think back to the time I was striving to the best of my ability to please God under the law and realize how often I felt guilt, but I am now dead to that law and married to Christ, and in Him I have escaped condemnation. O, how blessed it is to be freed from condemnation in Christ and to know that with God on our side we can win a complete victory.

But you may be wondering why God’s chosen people have been lost. I say to you that God has always made choices and in Jesus Christ He has chosen to save the believer, and, unfortunately, most in Israel have sought to be righteous by the law instead of by faith, and so they remain lost. Yet, the simple righteousness of faith is available if they would just listen to the preaching of the word and allow it to produce saving faith in them. And in fact, some have proven themselves to be true Israelites and constitute a faithful remnant. At this time, the majority of the Israelites remain lost, but by God’s grace they will be accepted again if they put aside their unbelief and trust in the Redeemer.

Having thought on the abundant mercies of God, I charge you to be holy, loving, spiritual, forgiving, merciful, etc. I also urge you to be obedient to the earthly rulers. They are charged by God with punishing evildoers, so pay your taxes and obey their laws. Be certain to love your neighbor as yourself. Never forget that those who belong to Christ are not going to live according to their fleshly desires.

I know there are some differences among you, but I urge you to resolve these with an awareness that God is the ultimate judge and we are to live in such a way as to be a help and not a hindrance to each other.

Please pray for me as I carry a generous contribution to the needy saints at Jerusalem. After that I hope to see you and then go on to Spain.

Welcome Phoebe as she arrives in Rome and give greetings to my friends. Avoid evil and be confident of victory. Praise God!

1. What evidence suggests this letter was written from Corinth?
2. Romans was written by Paul while on his _____ preaching (missionary) journey.
3. “Obedience to the faith” in v. 5 is a key phrase.
 - a. Literally “obedience of faith,” the same phrase is found in 16:26 and helps us see the nature of the faith described in this book.
 - b. More emphatically than any other epistle, Romans shows that salvation is an undeserved act of God’s grace and granted only to those who put their faith in Jesus, but what is the nature of this faith?
 - c. The saving faith of Romans is not merely mental assent, but a wholehearted trust that will “walk in the steps of the faith which our father Abraham had.” 4:12
4. Think carefully on the following analysis of 1:16 by I. B. Grubbs.

The Gospel	<i>versus</i>	The Law
(1) The Power	<i>versus</i>	Legal Weakness, 8:3-4.
(2) Of God	<i>versus</i>	Human Righteousness, 10:1-3 and Phil. 3:9.
(3) Unto Salvation	<i>versus</i>	Legal Condemnation, 7:9-10; II Cor. 3:6-9.
(4) To Every One	<i>versus</i>	Jewish Exclusiveness, 3:21-23; 10:11-13.
(5) That Believeth	<i>versus</i>	Legal Works, 9:30-32; 10:3-5.

5. What OT writer does Paul quote in 1:17?
6. 1:16, 17 speaks of a means of salvation, a revelation of God’s righteousness. 1:18—3:20 develops the need for this righteousness and 3:21—5:21 shows us how this righteousness of God can be ours.
7. Define the following terms:
 - a. Wrath
 - b. Ungodliness
 - c. Unrighteousness
8. Why were the ungodliness and unrighteousness of the Gentiles inexcusable?
9. Though men knew God, they did not do what two things? 1:21
10. To what did God give men up/over? 1:24, 26, 28
11. What “unnatural” sin had become common among the people of the first century?
12. God’s righteous verdict was that men practicing the sins listed in Rom. 1 were worthy of what?
13. Though Paul does not use the word Jew in this chapter until 2:9, I believe v. 1 marks a transition from the ungodly Gentiles to the Jews who could see that the righteous judgment of God was going to fall on the Gentiles but failed to see that they were equally guilty of sin.
14. Why is the man of 2:1 inexcusable? (Note the lack of excuse in both 1:20, 21 and 2:1, but for different reasons.)

15. What was the goodness of God intended to do? Note the contrast between God's actions in 2:4 with those of 1:24, 26, 28.
16. God's righteous judgment will be according to each one's _____.
17. Who will receive eternal life?
18. What will the self-seeking, disobedient ones receive?
19. 2:11-16 may present some difficulties, but the main points are...
 - a. No one will escape God's judgment which will even include the secrets of men.
 - b. Some will be judged for having violated the written Law (of Moses), while others, who were never under that Law, will be judged for having violated the laws they were aware of.
20. What did the Jews think of themselves? 2:17-20
21. Why was the name of God being blasphemed among the Gentiles?
22. What was the significance of circumcision when it was first given to Abraham? Gen. 17
23. Who were the true Jews?
24. If circumcision did not provide the Jew with an "automatic" advantage, what advantages were there to being a Jew? See also 9:1-5.
25. Did the Jewish rejection of God's word change His word in any way?
26. In 3:5, 6 Paul anticipates an objection. Someone might say, "Because our unrighteousness makes God appear all the more righteous, God shouldn't be angry with us for sinning."
27. What slanderous lie was told regarding Paul's teachings?
28. Does 3:10-18 describe men who are guilty of sin by inheritance or personal choice?
29. Whatever the law says is said to those _____ the law.
30. Who will be justified by the deeds of the law?
31. What does the law (or Law) bring in regard to sin? 3:20; cf. 7:7.

Romans 3:21—5:21

1. “All the world [has] become guilty before God” (3:19), so how can God make men righteous through the gospel (1:16, 17)?
 - a. 3:21-31 announces that the propitiating sacrifice of Jesus allows God to be both just (His character) and the justifier (our salvation) of one who puts his faith in Jesus.
 - b. Ch. 4 uses Abraham to show that justification before God has always required putting one’s faith (trust) in God and not ones own self.
 - c. Ch. 5 then emphasizes the blessed hope the justified enjoy in Christ.
 - 1) The last section of the chapter (5:12-21) can be a difficult section, but the key emphasis is that Christ is greater than Adam, and by faith in Christ we can overcome the penalty of sin and with an “abundance of grace” reign in life through Jesus Christ. Cf. 5:17.
2. What is said to bear witness to the righteousness of God that is revealed in the gospel?
3. The righteousness of God is through _____ in Jesus Christ, to all who _____.
4. Define the following words:
 - a. Redemption.
 - b. Propitiation.
 - c. Forbearance.
5. By what law is boasting excluded?
6. Does the necessity of faith make void (nullify) the law? According to Gal. 3:19-25, what purpose did the law serve?
7. How was Abraham justified before God?
8. Faith is accounted (reckoned) for righteousness to the one who believes on Him who justifies the _____.
9. Was Abraham counted as righteous before or after being circumcised?
10. Of whom is Abraham said to be the father?
11. Those who would be justified must _____ in the steps of the _____ which Abraham had while still _____.
12. Where there is no law, there is no _____.
13. Who is meant by “all the seed” in 4:16? Cf. Gal. 3:26-29.
14. Abraham believed that the Lord could bring life from his dead _____ and the dead _____ of Sarah.

15. Why was Jesus delivered up (to crucifixion)?
16. Why did God raise Him from the dead?
17. Define the word peace.
18. How is the Christian able to glory (exult, rejoice) in tribulations (suffering)?
19. Our hope will not lead to disappointment because of the _____ of God.
20. What four terms are used to describe the condition of men when Christ died for them? 5:6, 8, 10
21. Pay careful attention to the past and future tenses of vv. 8-11.
 - a. Past tense: Christ died for us; justified by His blood; reconciled to God.
 - b. Future tense: Shall be saved from wrath; shall be saved by His life.
 - c. The assurance of the future blessings is based on what God already done in the past. If He gave Jesus to reconcile those who were His enemies, those who are now reconciled have no doubt but that He will complete their salvation.
22. 5:12-21 compares and contrasts Adam and Christ. On a separate sheet, draw a line down the middle of the page and list the actions and effects attributed to Adam on one side of the paper, and then do the same for Christ on the other side.
23. How did death enter the world? How did death spread to all men?
24. What came to reign because of Adam's sin? 5:17
25. Notice carefully that v. 19 speaks of men being "made" sinners and then "made" righteous. Were men automatically (i.e. by no choice or action of their own) made sinners by Adam's transgression? Are people made righteous by the obedience of Christ automatically and unconditionally?
26. Though sin abounded, _____ abounded much more.
27. _____ reigns through righteousness to eternal life through _____.

Romans 6

1. To understand the question raised at the beginning of ch. 6, look back to 5:20, 21. Though sin abounded, grace abounded much more, and that raises the question...
2. "Shall we continue in _____ that grace may _____?"
3. Paul answers this question by asking two questions that took them back to their conversion.
 - a. "How shall we who _____ to sin _____ any longer in it?"
 - b. "Or do you not know that as many of us as were _____ into Christ Jesus were _____ into His death?"
4. Those who have been _____ with Christ in baptism into death should now walk in _____ of _____.
5. How can a person escape the slavery of sin? 6:6, 7
6. The Christian should consider himself dead to _____, but alive to _____ in Christ Jesus.
7. Does 6:14, 15 teach that the Christian is completely exempt from all law?
8. Don't miss the point made in 6:16-19. Everyone is a slave to something or someone. The choice is the master and the reward.
9. To what does slavery to sin lead? 6:16, 19, 21, 23
10. To what does slavery to God (obedience, righteousness) lead? 6:16, 19, 22, 23
11. How did the slaves of sin escape its mastery to become slaves of righteousness? 6:17, 18
12. The wages of sin is _____, but the gift of God is _____.

Romans 7, 8

1. As you read ch. 7, keep in mind the thoughts presented in ch. 6 relating to law and grace (forgiveness).
 - a. When one is baptized into the death of Christ, the old man of sin is crucified and he is thereby made free from the rule of sin. 6:3-7
 - b. Those who are raised with Christ no longer allow sin to reign in their lives, but instead serve righteousness. 6:4, 11-14, 16-18
 - c. Sin does not have dominion over the saved, for they are under grace and not law (or the law). 6:14
2. Based on Paul's description of the Christian in ch. 6, I do not believe the latter part of ch. 7 describes the "inner struggle" of a Christian. Paul was not "carnal, sold under sin" (7:14), but (in my judgment) uses the first person to describe the struggle a pious Jew felt as he sought to keep the law.
 - a. Romans 7 is a reminder to the Jewish Christians that apart from Jesus they had felt a sense of wretchedness, but in Christ they had found deliverance.
3. To whom did Paul speak in ch. 7?
4. How long does the law have dominion over a man?
5. How can a woman marry a second husband without being called an adulteress?
6. Christians have become dead to the law that they might _____ to another.
7. Having been delivered from the law, they were to serve in the newness of the _____ and not in the oldness of the _____.
8. Think! At what time or stage in his life was Paul alive without the law?
9. Who or what is portrayed as being in control in vv. 13-23?
10. Who is the answer to the question of v. 24?
11. In contrast to the hopelessness of the Law, ch. 8 speaks of the blessedness of life in Christ.
 - a. No condemnation. 8:1
 - b. Life and peace. 8:6
 - c. Sons, children, heirs of God. 8:14-17
 - d. Awaiting the glory to be revealed in us. 8:18
 - e. The Spirit makes intercession for us. 8:26, 27
 - f. All things will be freely given us. 8:32
 - g. Christ makes intercession for us. 8:34
 - h. We are more than conquerors. 8:37
 - i. Nothing can separate us from the love of God. 8:38, 39

12. One of the difficulties in this chapter involves the word spirit. Both the English word and its Greek equivalent (*pneuma*) can have a variety of meanings.
 - a. *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary* offers 14 definitions for the noun spirit and some of the 14 are further subdivided.
 - b. Vine gives 18 different shades of meaning for *pneuma* in his *Expository Dictionary*.
 - c. As you read ch. 8, carefully study the context to determine if the word spirit has reference to a disposition (attitude) or the inner man or the eternal soul or the Holy Spirit or something else.
13. There is no _____ to those who are in Christ Jesus. 8:1
 - a. From Romans 6:3, 4 and Galatians 3:26, 27, how do we enter into Christ Jesus?
14. What two laws does Paul contrast in v. 2?
15. How did God fix the inability of the law to solve the problem of sin?
16. What two "mindsets" are contrasted in v. 5?
17. What are the contrasting results of the two mindsets mentioned in v. 5?
18. Define the word carnal.
19. Who is said to be unable to please God?
20. The Christian is a debtor to what/whom?
21. By what are the sons of God led?
22. The Christian has not received the spirit of _____ again to _____.
23. How will the Christian's future glory compare to his present suffering?
24. Study carefully Romans 8:19-23 and try to identify the following:
 - a. Creation (the KJV has creature). Vv. 19-21.
 - b. The whole creation. V. 22.
 - c. We who have the firstfruits of the Spirit. V. 23
 - d. Romans 8:18-39 is intended to help the Christian persevere through the sufferings of this present time, knowing that glory awaits and God will help him make it through the tough times. Don't allow the difficulties to obscure the great hope set before us in this chapter.
25. What were those with the firstfruits of the Spirit eagerly awaiting?
26. What does the word hope mean?
27. How does the Spirit help us in our weaknesses?
28. For whom do all things work together for good?
29. List the things said to have been done for those whom God foreknew.

30. What is meant by the promise in v. 32 that God will give us *all* things?
31. Though we may be counted as _____ for the slaughter, through Him who loved us we are more than _____.
32. What can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ?

Romans 9-11

1. As you read Rom. 9-11 think about the great conclusion of ch. 8, i.e. that nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. But if that is the case, how do we explain Israel's rejection? Can the Christian really feel confident about the future knowing that God had rejected those who were once His people?
 - a. Ch. 9 emphasized that God had kept every promise made to Israel and was righteous in all His dealings with them. Israel had not complained when God chose Isaac and Jacob over Ishmael and Esau, so why were they were complaining now when He chose to show mercy to those that put their faith in Jesus?
 - b. Ch. 10 emphasized God's willingness and desire to save Israel and blames their rejection upon their refusal to hear, accept. and obey the word of God which had been preached to them.
 - c. Ch. 11 concludes this section with the contention that not all Israel was lost (i.e. a remnant was saved) and those who were lost could still be saved if they would put their faith in Christ.
2. What blessings did the Israelites possess? Cf. 3:1, 2.
3. Were all the descendants of Abraham and Isaac chosen by God to be heirs of the promises?
4. When did God choose Jacob over Esau?
5. Upon whom does God show mercy? (9:15)
6. For what purpose did God raise up Pharaoh (in the days of Moses)?
7. To better understand the potter/clay analogy read Jeremiah 18:1-10, where it is clear that people have the power to choose right and wrong, but if the wrong choice is made the Almighty can turn that disobedient person into a vessel of dishonor. God is able to use everyone, including a rebellious man like Pharaoh.
8. In conjunction with 9:22-24 read 2 Peter 3:9, 14-16. What did Peter give as the reason for God's longsuffering?
9. Hosea foretold the salvation of the Gentiles when he wrote, "I will call them My _____, who were not My _____."
10. What does the word remnant mean?
11. How did the Gentiles attain to righteousness?
12. Why were the Jews unable to attain to righteousness?
13. What was Paul's desire and prayer?
14. What was lacking in the zeal Israel had for God?
15. _____ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Cf. Gal. 3:22-25.

16. With the _____ one believes unto _____, and with the mouth _____ is made unto _____.
17. What OT passage is quoted in Rom. 10:13? Where else in the NT do you find this quotation?
18. Men cannot call on the Lord unless they do what? (Trace the four-step process that leads to calling on the Lord.)
19. Faith is said to come by what?
20. Was Israel's lack of faith a result of not having had an opportunity to hear the gospel?
21. Why did Paul mention his ancestry in 11:1?
22. What was the Lord's response to Elijah when he thought he was alone in God's service? (Where in the OT would you find this story?)
23. Did God impose blindness on Israel despite their desire to be saved? (11:8-10; cf. 9:32, 33; 10:11-18)
24. Who/what is represented by the wild olive branches?
25. What is the root that supported the Gentile Christians?
26. Why were the Gentile Christians warned against being haughty?
27. What would happen to those who failed to continue (by faith) in God's goodness?
28. Who is able to serve as a counselor to God?
29. To God be the glory!

Romans 12, 13

1. The appeal in Romans 12 is based on our having received the mercies of God. List some of the mercies of God found in Romans 1-11.
2. What usually happened to a body that was offered in sacrifice?
3. Instead of being _____ to this world, we are to be _____ by the renewing of the mind.
4. How should each Christian think of or evaluate himself?
5. Though every Christian is different, we form one _____ in Christ.
6. Love must be without _____.
7. How does the transformed life view evil and good? 12:9
8. We are not to be lagging or slothful in _____.
9. What does the word hospitality mean?
10. What are we to do when someone curses us?
11. Thought question. Is it easier to weep with those who weep or rejoice with those who rejoice? Why?
12. What attitude/spirit/characteristic is God demanding of us in vv. 3 and 16?
13. Why is it not just forbidden, but unnecessary for saints to avenge themselves?
14. How are we to treat our enemies?
15. To understand more fully the Christian's relationship to civil government read the following Scriptures. Matt. 22:15-22; 1 Tim. 2:1, 2; Titus 3:1, 2; 1 Peter 2:13-17
16. Why are we to be in subjection to the governing authorities (higher powers)? 13:1
17. What will happen to those who resist God's ordinance (by resisting the lawful authority)?
18. What are we to do if we wish to be unafraid of the government?
19. What is meant by the reference to "bear the sword?"
20. What two reasons are given for obeying the governing authorities? 13:5
21. What additional reason do we find in 1 Peter 2:13-17?
22. What is the one debt we can never "pay in full?"
23. What did Jesus list as the two greatest commandments of the law?

Romans 14:1—15:13

1. To help us understand this section I want to begin with a couple of questions that should help us get an overview of the passage.
2. Read the following verses and list the things Paul is hoping to accomplish (both positively and negatively). 14:13, 15, 16, 19, 20, 21; 15:2, 5, 6
3. We ought to view our fellow-saints as...
 - a. Another's _____. 14:4
 - b. Our _____. 14:10
 - c. Those for whom _____ _____. 14:15
 - d. The work of _____. 14:20
 - e. A _____. 15:2
4. In 14:1 the strong is to _____ the one who is weak in faith.
5. Notice the different renderings for the last part of 14:1.
 - a. "But not to disputes over doubtful things." NKJV
 - b. "But not to doubtful disputations." KJV
 - c. "But not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions." NASB
 - d. "But not to quarrel over opinions." ESV
6. What were the "issues" under discussion in Romans 14?
7. What "motivations" were behind the different actions of the strong and weak? 14:6
8. To whom do all of us belong?
9. Who will pass the final judgment on both our actions and those of our brother?
10. Rather than pass judgment on our brother, we ought to be determined not to do what? 14:13
11. How can our good (or good thing—NASB) be spoken of as evil?
12. What things should we pursue?
13. Who is described as a happy man?
14. Why should the weak brother avoid eating anything about which he had doubts?
15. When we choose the course that pleases our neighbor, we do so to produce _____.
16. What purpose is assigned to the Old Testament Scriptures in 15:4?

17. What was Paul's prayer in 15:5, 6?
18. We must not miss the point made in 15:7-12. The aim of all this instruction is the glorifying of God. Let us never forget that it is all about our Lord and not us.
19. What three qualities did Paul hope to see in these saints? 15:13
20. Bonus discussion. Premillennialists view Isa. 11 as predictive of a still future millennial reign of Christ on the earth, yet Rom. 15:12 quotes Isa. 11:10 in reference to the conversion of Gentiles in the first century. The Root of Jesse came and His reign of peace began in the first century and continues today for all who will "rally to His banner."

Romans 15:14—16:27

1. Paul was confident that the Roman saints were full of _____, filled with _____
_____, and able to _____ one another.
2. Paul served as a special apostle to what group of people?
3. In what did Paul glory (boast)?
4. To whom did Paul give credit for the conversion of the Gentiles? (15:18, 19)
5. Why had Paul not been to Rome?
6. Where was Paul hoping to go after visiting with the saints at Rome?
7. In conjunction with 15:25-33 read 1 Cor. 16:1-4 and 2 Cor. 8, 9.
8. To whom was this gift from the Christians in Macedonia and Achaia being sent?
9. Why did the Gentiles have a special obligation to help Jewish Christians? Cf. Gal. 2:9, 10.
10. Paul wanted the Romans to pray for what two things?
11. Locate Cenchrea on a map.
12. What were the saints at Rome to do for Phoebe?
13. Where had Paul first met Priscilla and Aquila?
14. With what were the brethren to greet one another?
15. Compare the different translations of 16:17.
 - a. “Note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine....” NKJV
 - b. “Keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching....” NASB
 - c. “Mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine....” KJV
 - d. “Watch out for those who cause divisions and create obstacles contrary to the doctrine....” ESV
16. How are the divisive often able to win over the hearts of some?
17. They were to be _____ in what was good, and _____ concerning evil.
18. What would the God of peace do for them?
19. What great service did Tertius perform?
20. What prominent position did Gaius hold?
21. To God be the glory through Jesus Christ!