

Romans: The Foundation of Our Faith

Student Study Guide

Part One

*Unless otherwise marked scripture is from the NKJV Bible.

The importance of this study.

Merely reading the Bible will not permanently change you.

Bible study should be bathed in prayer.

Relying on the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Scripture to your understanding.

When you diligently apply biblical revelations to your life, transformation can and will occur.

Background of The Letter to The Romans

Date: 57-58 A.D. written from Corinth by the Apostle Paul.

The Church in Rome come from a Scripture referenced in Acts Chapter 2.

Act 2:5

And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

Jews in Jerusalem who came for the celebration of the Pentecost Feast.
Jews from many nations.

Some history of Paul:

He took 3 missionary journeys.

Wrote 5 books:

Galatians, First and Second Thessalonians, and First and Second Corinthians

He was a Christian Believer for over 20 years.

An apostle and evangelist for 10 years.

Paul had been prepared, throughout his life, to write the book of Romans.

Through his birth and training as a child

Through his education in the synagogue

He was as a student of Gamaliel, an elder who had become a leading authority in the Sanhedrin, which was the highest Jewish court in Jerusalem.

Paul was called by Jesus Christ, as an Orthodox Jew, to be converted to Christianity.

He received the infilling of the Holy Spirit

He experienced the healing for his blinded eyes

He was commissioned by God, to preach the Gospel to the Gentiles.

Many Christian leaders through the centuries have been greatly influenced and transformed by the powerful message of the Book of Romans.

Among these leaders are:

Martin Luther; John Wesley; John Calvin; and John Bunyan of Pilgrim's Progress fame⁶

Some feel so strongly about the importance of this book that they have stated:

"If you correctly understand the message of the Book of Romans, you have in place the greatest protection from falling into doctrinal error."⁶

If taught correctly, and we receive it properly, there is great benefit.

If not, there is doctrinal misinterpretation.

Many have a tendency to "eat" what we like, missing many benefits.

The how and why of Salvation:

How does salvation come?

The specific steps that brings salvation, from God through Jesus Christ to us.

The why...why does salvation demand change?

This is all important and current today as when it was written in the First Century.

Themes that are presented and explained in The Book of Romans:

God's Plan for mankind

Man's responsibility in salvation

Justification by Faith

The Grace of God manifested in my life

The sinfulness of sin

Freedom from the power of sin

Important questions that will be addressed:

How can a loving God condemn a man to hell?

How can a sinful man stand in the presence of a holy God?

How do all these diverse messages in the Bible all fit together?

There *is* a connection from Abraham and Jesus.

The Gift of God, Salvation through Jesus Christ.

A Bloodline of Redemption runs from Genesis through the book of Revelation.

Romans contains a powerful message:

The message of Salvation. Salvation through Jesus Christ alone.

We don't have to understand Salvation before we receive it.

Important concepts in the Book of Romans:

We can rest with confidence in the assurance of your salvation.

How to live as a Believer in Jesus Christ.

To understand what you have received in salvation.

Confidence to explain and communicate the Gospel message to another person.

The teaching of God and man; sin and salvation will give us doctrinal understanding, combined with the confidence to explain it to others:

1. What you believe.
2. Why you believe it.
3. The steps of how others can have it also.

What changed?

The life changing experiences of Martin Luther, John Wesley, John Bunyan, and many others, you might ask . . .

“What was it that transformed you from a regular Christian to a firebrand for God?”
All give the same answer, the message of the Book of Romans, especially Chapter one.

We can study the same inspired verses that they studied, and allow the same transformation to take place in our hearts.

The common element is the message of the book of Romans.

Transforms their life from being a “normal Christian” to a “firebrand for God!!

The Good News is...we can still study the same verses that they studied!

We can experience the same transformation.

Romans 1:1-7

1Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.

2which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,

3concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,

4and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

5Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,

6among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;

7To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's Introduction to himself and The Letter of Romans

Romans 1:1

Paul introduces Paul

Paul's relationship and our relationship to Jesus Christ.

1. He is a Servant 'bondservant' of Jesus Christ. A voluntary slave or property that is owned.
2. He is an Apostle. Sent under authority with a commission, a missionary. Understand the specific will of God for your own life.
3. He is set apart or separated for the purposes of the Gospel of God.

Romans 1:2

The Gospel which God promised beforehand in the Old Testament through the prophets and through written Scripture.

The Gospel is not new, it is freshly explained, revealed, and illustrated.
The subject of the Gospel is The Eternal Son, from Genesis 3:15 forward.

Romans 1:3

As a human Jesus is a descendant of King David.

Romans 1:4

Declares the identity of the Gospel, Jesus Christ.

The Bible is all about Jesus.

Be careful if you think you can go deep in the Word without realizing that it is Jesus that is getting you there.

Jesus Christ is:

The Son of God, demonstrated by the resurrection.

Our Lord is, according to the Spirit of God.

Jesus Christ, God's Son is Paul's subject.

Romans is part of the revelation that Paul received from God through his experiencing the Holy Spirits teaching.

Imagine, when comparing the testimonies of the eyewitnesses of those who was taught by Jesus.

And they were the same understanding that he, Paul received from the Holy Spirit.

Different kind of revelation, but a single source of knowledge!

Romans 1:5

Through whom we have received:

All aspects and benefits of salvation are received through the grace, the accomplished work, and the effort of Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:6

You are also the called. Called unto grace and unto ministry.

Romans 1:7

The recipients of the letter:

All who, are the beloved of God!

Specifically, the saints in Rome.

We are the saints because we are the called by God to the same Grace and Ministry the same as Paul.

The desire of Paul:

The literary signature of Paul the Apostle:

Grace and Peace are mentioned in each of Paul's 13 letters in the New Testament.

Grace, the unmerited favor of God.

Grace has a humbling element to it when you accept something that you did not earn or deserve.

You should not have grace, but God in His infinite love and wisdom conveys grace to you, even when you don't deserve it.

Peace, the peace of God that passes all understanding.

Peace cannot have a place in your life until the work of grace has been established in your life. Then and only then can peace be established in your life and peace will reign over your life.

The signature of Paul's Teachings:

Grace is the unmerited favor of God!

Unearned!

Accepted with humility

When you become knowledgeable of this you begin to grow in maturity and responsibility, and strengthen your faith and then you become worthy in God's sight.

Peace that passes all understanding!

Romans 1:8-12

8First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

9For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

10Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.

11For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established;

12That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

The attitude of Paul:

Thankful, Prayerful, and Loving.

Romans 1:8

Paul expresses his concern for the welfare of those at the church at Rome with his attitude: Thankfulness.

The faith, of people of the Church at Rome, was known all over the Roman Empire.

Paul was thankful!

Romans 1:9-10

Paul's thankfulness to God for them resulted in more than warm thoughts, he prayed for them.

Thankfulness brings motivation for prayer!

Paul knew some of the people in Rome.

Paul didn't know some of them (most likely most of them);

Paul prayed *for all* of them from the Church at Rome!

There are people praying for you, in the same way, that you do not know.

Romans 1:11-12

Paul expresses his love in a real and identifiable way, "I long to see you".

A loving desire to see and contact with them.

Paul wanted to impart a spiritual gift to them.

Paul is not in ministry for what he will receive,

He is in ministry for what he can give to others.

Verse 12, the gift Paul has in mind involves those in Rome becoming stronger and being established in the faith.

Paul is not arrogant about serving someone else's disciple.

When we do that it a self-serving and out of place motivation!

A great pattern:

The older Christian wanting the younger Christian to be strong.

The strong faith of the younger Christian, in turn, is an encouragement to the older Christian.

Romans 1:13-15

13 Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.

14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

Preparation and motivation for ministry.

Romans 1:14 A debt is owed.

When you realize that you have received so much from God, a heart of justice cries out, I must repay, *I want to repay*.

This Gospel-debt is something that requires a payment:

1. To those in the sophisticated and progressive Greco-Roman culture, and also to those unwashed masses of the heathen and the barbarians who are outside the culture.

2. To those who are intelligent, have wisdom, and understand our presentation and especially to those who are not intelligent, not wise, and not deep in their understanding.

Out of a heart of gratitude comes the desire to return payment to return good back to a generous God.

The debt to God, is paid to other men and women in ministry.

God gives opportunity for you to be in a place where you recognize that He blesses you and you in turn bless His people.

A gentle tap on the shoulder from the Holy Spirit,
“Deposit your gratitude here.”

Romans 1:15 Paul was eager to visit them.

Eager: Ready or prepared

Many have responded, with good intentions, to the appeals of the needs of ministry only to quickly discover their lack of preparation:

Preparation of heart

Preparation of head

Preparation of hands

A three-part preparation in order to respond the same as Paul.

Paul is prepared!

He was eager, prepared, and ready to go.

The Gospel gives confidence.

Romans 1:16-17 KJV

16For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, “The just shall live by faith”.

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the Gospel.

Double-negative:

Not ashamed, equals fully confident or proud.

Paul is not ashamed of:

The Origin of The Gospel: A message from the King.

The Operation of The Gospel: It contains the power to change the lives of men and women.

The Outcome of The Gospel: Product is forgiveness, cleansing, and deliverance.

The Power of The Gospel: The energy, the force, the dynamic element.
The power of God for salvation to everyone.

Misquote: To all who behave? . . .
No, to all who believe.

The power of God brings the Good News of salvation
through Jesus Christ to you.

Romans 1:17

One of the most important verses in all of Scripture.

“The righteousness of God is a righteousness originating in God, prepared by
God, revealed in the Gospel and therein offered to me.” Anders Nygren

Righteousness is not from our goodness, ministry, or from our good
works.

Righteousness comes from God Himself and is revealed to us through the
Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Some see enough to believe initially for salvation, but have not fully gripped the
answer to the question.

How am I going to live as a Christian after this wonderful experience of
accepting Jesus Christ as Savior?

Paul answers:

Habakkuk 2:4

"Behold the proud, His soul is not upright in him; But the just shall live by his
faith.

The righteous man shall live by faith!

The progression of an Idol Worshiper.

Paul's fist focus, is upon the Gentile or the heathen (non-Hebrews).

Paul comes to the conclusion that man is without excuse, or defense.

Paul wants to help guard against unknowingly participating in the process of idolatry.

Is God fair? Is God just?

Does God really send people to their punishment, to hell?

Does God really send people to their eternal reward, to heaven?

God is a Divine Being that is responsive and interactive.

A comparison with sales:

A *need* of the product or service that you are offering.

Paul uses this point, Man has need of the salvation of God.

Romans Chapter 1

The Universal Revelation of God to Man

Group #1 The Barbarian or Pagan Man

First Major Point:

The heathen man, the non-religious man, the barbarian, is without excuse.

The usage of the term man in Romans:

Anthropos, is a reference to human beings without any gender reference.

Romans 1:18

18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

The righteousness of God versus the wickedness of sinful man.

Paul establishes the need for man to have a right standing before God.

Every group, society and culture need what God offers, salvation.

The basic foundational sin, the root of all sin, is idolatry.

You were built to worship.

When man will not worship the ONE true God of creation as supreme, as in control, then man will find and worship a god that is false.

Author Warren Wiersbe from a New Testament Commentary writes,

“Man will worship a god that is false, even if he has to manufacture it himself.”

British theologian G. K. Chesterton:

“They do not believe in nothing; they believe in anything.”

If God is under my control, then this is what happens:

Thought and behavior develops from idolatry, to total involvement, total indulgence and complete immorality.

When The Law Giver Himself has been removed, then there ceases to be any consequence connected to any chosen action, either for good purposes or for evil purposes.

