

R & R BIBLE STUDY 2019-20



breath-taking grace

THE BOOK OF ROMANS

LESSON 1

Today is an exciting day we're starting our study of Romans! There's so much "meat" in this book that I think we could literally spend a year mining the gems that it contains. Irving L. Jensen wrote, "Romans is Paul's masterpiece, a key that unlocks the door to vast treasures of Scripture." People who have read and studied this epistle cannot find words sufficient to describe its worth. "The most profound book in existence." (Coleridge) "Cathedral of the Christian faith." (Godet) "The chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel." (Luther) "A thorough study of this epistle is really a theological education in itself." (Griffith Thomas) Sadly, we are only taking 20 weeks. That being said, we may have to go through some of the themes and topics faster than you might like. If you find this to be the case, please take the extra time to study more in depth on your own. Don't limit yourself to the questions that are asked in the study. Feel free to explore as much as you'd like! Dig, dig, and then dig some more.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to skydive in Oceanside. (Yeah, Groupon!) As I literally leaned out of the plane, the rush I felt was amazing!! After you jump and "freefall" for a while, they pull the cord and the parachute shoots you back up. From there you slowly descend and what seems so vast and abstract becomes more clear and recognizable. Everything becomes clearer. From way up high we got a great view of the entire area and as we got closer to the ground, we had a clearer picture of what we were really seeing. I think the analogy is perfect for what I want you to do for your lesson this week. The best way to study any book of the Bible is to get an overview of the entire book first and get a good idea of the basic themes, topics, and direction the author is taking as he writes. It's always best to read straight through a book before digging into each chapter. I'll be asking you to read through the book of Romans in one week, not slowly, looking for things like repeated words, subjects, or themes. You don't need to analyze it, just read it and let it sink into your soul. As we then go chapter by chapter, things get a little "clearer" in light of the entire epistle. I hope that makes sense.

Back to skydiving for a minute. When we jumped, I felt all kinds of things. Things that I expected and things that I didn't. (Ummm, like almost throwing up!) Some parts were smooth sailing, but my landing was anything but smooth. (I guess I'd call it bumpy!) Again, the analogy is very clear to me ... as you read Romans, expect to feel things you expect as well as the unexpected. The "awfulness" of sin that Paul describes is enough to make your stomach turn. The blessings we receive as we become a child of God, well, there are no words to explain the gratefulness in my heart. Some of the application points are no problem to receive, while some cause your soul and conscience to "land hard" as the truth is revealed. Lots of feelings and emotions will be felt as God's truth is clearly presented by our dearly beloved Paul. May you have fun, be challenged, be reflective, be honest, and be ready to grow in the faith and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Beginning next week, the study will be written in a 5-day format, with about 8-10 questions each day. I encourage you to complete your homework daily, rather than in one sitting, so you aren't hurrying through and missing something the Holy Spirit might be saying to you. The goal isn't simply to get your lesson done, but to personally hear from the Lord. He wants to speak to your heart; He wants to meet with you to answer your questions, calm your fears, and stir your heart. I pray you find time each day to spend sweet time with Him.

First through Fifth Day

This week's study will look a little different than the norm. Like I mentioned in the paragraph above, you're going to be asked to read through all sixteen chapters of the book of Romans. Please take a look at the questions below, which will hopefully help guide and direct you. Read the questions first so you know what you're looking for and can answer them as you go.

1. Please read Romans chapters 1 through 11, which are mostly *doctrinal*. (Chapters 12-16 are mainly *practical*.) The space below is for you to write your thoughts, questions, and comments. (The questions below are to help you process through what you're reading.)
 - a. What's your first impression of these chapters?
 - b. Are you confused by anything?
 - c. Why do you think this book is considered "life-changing"?
 - d. Why do you think this letter was so crucial to the Christian church?

(More space for your thoughts and observations.)

2. Who is the author of the book, and what does the first chapter tell us about him? (What does he say about himself?) What additional things do you know about him from other Scriptures and studies?
3. What are some key words and/or phrases in the first 11 chapters?
4. What was Paul's purpose in writing? Who was his audience?

9. What are the key words and/or phrases?

10. Do you notice any repeated and recurring themes?

11. How did Paul feel about governing authorities? Does this surprise you, or would you have expected it?

12. How would you describe Paul's conclusion in chapter 16? What was his tone, etc.?

13. What personal application do you see from these chapters?

14. Why do you think it's crucial to have a humble spirit as you study this book?

15. Ok, ladies, one last question. What have you learned about God from this first read-through of Romans? What have you learned about His character? His nature?

Romans answers many question concerning God and man, such as ... what is the Good News of God? Is Jesus really God? What is God like? Why do men reject God and His Son? How good is man in himself? How evil is man in himself? Can a person keep the Law? The answers to these and many others are found in this amazing book.

Are you ready to begin unpacking each chapter starting next week? I certainly am! The Holy Spirit has so much to say to us through Paul. He's one of my favorites. I'd love to be more like him when I grow up! His love for Jesus is inspiring to say the least. I pray that you will be captivated as well as refreshed.

I love this quote by Swindoll, "Romans is no light snack for the soul. It's a full-course meal meant to be savored over time. So don't just blitz through the kitchen, yank off a drumstick, and head out for soccer practice. Take some time. Sit down at the table. Anticipate the tastes. Enjoy the spicy aromas wafting out of the kitchen. Appreciate the presentation."

One more great quote regarding this book from popular expositor Donald Grey Barnhouse; "A scientist may say that mother's milk is the most perfect food known to man, and may give you an analysis showing all its chemical components, a list of the vitamins it contains and an estimate of the calories in a given quantity. A baby will take that milk without the

remotest knowledge of its content, and will grow day by day, smiling and thriving in its ignorance. So it is with the profound truths of the Word of God."

See you next week!

Memory Verse of the Week: "Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Romans 1:7b

Romans at a Glance

FOCUS	REVELATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS			VINDICATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS			APPLICATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS	
REFERENCE	1:1 ———— 3:21 ———— 6:1 ———— 9:1 ———— 9:30 ———— 11:1 ———— 12:1 ———— 14:1 – 16:27							
DIVISION	NEED FOR GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS	IMPUTATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS	DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS	ISRAEL'S PAST: ELECTION	ISRAEL'S PRESENT: REJECTION	ISRAEL'S FUTURE: RESTORATION	CHRISTIAN DUTIES	CHRISTIAN LIBERTIES
TOPIC	SIN	SALVATION	SANCTIFICATION	SOVEREIGNTY			SERVICE	
	DOCTRINAL						BEHAVIORAL	
LOCATION	PROBABLY WRITTEN IN CORINTH							
TIME	C. A.D. 57							

The Life of Paul

