

Evangelism

in

Romans

*A Bible Study based in Romans concerning salvation
and how Christians can share their faith.*

Lesson 1 - Introduction to Romans

Central Passage: Romans 1:1-17

Paul wrote Romans in 57 A.D. near the end of his third missionary journey (Acts 18:23-21:14; compare Romans 15:19). He probably wrote this letter to the Roman church while staying with Gaius of Corinth (16:23). At the time of Paul's writing, Rome was the greatest city of the world. Certainly the population numbered over one million. One inscription describes Rome as a city of four million inhabitants. Most of the people who lived there were slaves.

Paul had not yet visited Rome. He did not found the Roman church. The tradition that Peter founded the Roman church is extremely unlikely. The evidence points to displaced Christians from other parts of the Roman empire, perhaps from those Asian cities Paul had visited.

The polytheistic Roman religion patterned modeled after that of Greece was in sharp decline. Perhaps Christianity was beginning to fill the spiritual gap. The church in Rome was probably predominantly Gentile (1:13; 11:13, 28-31; 15:15-16) but there were also a substantial number of Jewish believers (2:17-3:8; 3:21-4:1; 7:1-14; 14:1-15:12).

Paul is clearly the author and Roman Christians were his audience. This epistle examines the doctrines of salvation thoroughly from both Gentile and Jewish perspectives. Several important words are thereby introduced, which we shall examine in detail throughout the Bible study portion. I think **Romans 3:21-25** forms an excellent key passage for this book. Stated here is perhaps the most concise statement of salvation doctrine to be found in the scriptures.

Read Romans 1:1-17

1. How does Paul describe Himself in these verses? How does he relate Himself to the gospel? Take note of the verbs that Paul uses to describe himself.
2. What is the subject matter of verses 2-4?
3. To whom was this letter written? (v7) What does it mean to be "called" (v6,7)? To what was the reader called?
4. Where did grace come from? (V5,7)

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5. Why is Paul thankful? (v8)
 6. Paul calls himself a servant of God in verse 9. He specifically mentions serving in the gospel of the Son of God. He hopes to come to visit the Roman Christians. Why? (v9-11)
 7. How could the gospel message “establish” a Christian? (v11-12)
 8. Why did Paul want to preach the gospel in Rome? (v13-15)
 9. How might a person show “shame” at the gospel of Christ? (v16-17)
 10. Who is included in salvation? (v16-17)
 11. Paul quotes from the prophets in verse 17 when he writes “*The just shall live by faith*” (Habakkuk 2:4). Do you think this quotation meant something special to the Jew? Why or why not.

Application: God emphasizes that salvation is for everybody in this passage. Jews and Gentiles share in the blessing brought to us by Jesus Christ. Paul, in writing this letter, seems to express an eagerness to present the gospel message to the Romans. Read **Acts 1:8**. Jesus expresses a pattern in spreading the gospel: Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Uttermost parts of the earth. List below a similar pattern for your community, state, nation, etc. How important is it to preach the gospel to all the people in each? Do you pray that the gospel of Jesus will be preached in each of the regions you listed?

Lesson 2 - Man's Condition

Central Passage: Romans 1:18-32

1. What, specifically, is the wrath of God revealed against? (v18)
2. What has God shown to unrighteous men? (v19)
3. God's "invisible attributes" are "clearly seen" and "understood" by the "things that are made". What are those "invisible attributes" (v20). Who is "without excuse"? (v20)
4. Verse 21 continues the same sentence begun in verse 20. Write down all the descriptive words used in reference to the unrighteous men in verse 21.
5. What was God's glory turned into? (v22-23)
6. What did these unrighteous people exchange God's truth for? (v24-25).
7. This concept of truth is critical in understanding this passage. Where did truth come from? (v18-21). How long has truth been available to people? (v20) What excuse do people have for not understanding the truth? (v20)
8. List some of the results of unrighteous belief in lies rather than truth. (v26-31)
9. What do people who commit the sins listed above deserve as a result? (v32).

Word Study: Righteous The Greek word *dikaioo* (dik-ah-yo'-o) and its derivatives appear more than 50 times in Romans. God is said to be righteous. Deeds of men are said to be righteous. Unrighteousness of men is condemned. Look up the following verses and write down what you think that verse contributes to your understanding of what righteousness means. Take notice of who or what this adjective describes. Pay attention to parallel concepts in each verse. Then answer the questions at the end. Each verse is to be found in **Romans**. Those verses marked by double stars relate to the questions at the end.

1:17-18 **

1:29

1:32

2:26

3:21-26 **

4:3-6

5:7

5:17-21 **

6:16

8:4

10:3-6 **

14:17

1. The righteousness of God is revealed through what? What does the “it” of **Romans 1:17** refer to? How does this contrast with the unrighteousness of men in verse 18?
2. In **Romans 3:21-26**, what is the righteousness of God revealed by? List all statements in this regard.
3. Righteousness is called a gift in **Romans 5:17**. Whose act of obedience brought this gift to people in verse **Romans 5:19**?
4. Read **Romans 10:3-6**. There are at least 3 varieties of righteousness listed here, perhaps 4. What are they? Are these similar or are they very different from one another? Which one do you think is functioning in **Romans 10:10**?

Conclusions:

Lesson 3 - Judgment

Central Passage: Romans 2:1-29

The specific audience referenced in the first 10 verses is often debated. Clearly Paul is addressing Jewish believers in v11-29. Do the first 10 verses specifically apply to Jews or to the broader audience of all Christians? The first chapter seems to apply to all people, although this too is in dispute among reputable scholars. I believe the first 10 verses of Romans 2 apply to all Christians, just as does chapter 1. The “Therefore” of verse 1 ties them together.

The central theme of Romans 2 is that no person can escape the judgment of God. Jews are particularly reminded of this fact beginning in verse 11. Our lesson will examine some principles concerning God’s judgment of people and exactly what a guilty verdict means.

1. What basic problem do people have when we attempt to judge other people? (v1)
2. What forms the basis for the judgment of God? (v2) What are the “such things” at the end of verse 2?
3. Read verse 3 and compare it to **Psalm 139:7-12**. People can escape judgment of civil crimes in 4 ways. First, they are sometimes never caught. Second, they can leave the jurisdiction of the court (flee to another country). Third, a legal technicality may free them. Fourth, they may be convicted but escape from prison. Do any of these methods of escaping judgment work with God? Why or why not?
4. The judgment of God is described in verse 4 as “goodness”, “forbearance” and “longsuffering”. It is said to lead to repentance. Does repentance mean weeping in sorrow for your sin or does it imply change of behavior? How is God’s judgment described in verse 5?
5. Read verses 6-10. These verses form the end of a single sentence. Who or what is the subject of the sentence? (Who is carrying out the action?)
What is the main verb of the sentence?

On what basis is God rendering judgment in verse 6?

This sentence actually has its beginning in verse 5 which begins with “but”. A contrast is being made with the requirement of repentance given in verse 4. The judgment of God given to those who repent and to those who do not repent is described in verses 6-10.

Write down these two very different judgments in your own words below.

6. A Jew's religion is based upon obedience of the law, ie. the Old Testament. Read verses 11-16. How important is the law in determining the judgment of God?

What are the secrets of men judged by (v16)?

7. Read verses 17-29. A stinging rebuke is offered based on Ezekiel 16:27 (verse 24). The hypocrisy of the Jews in their faithless keeping of the law is revealed. What can a Jew do under the law to win favor with God?

What can a non-Jew (uncircumcised) do to win favor with God in these verses?

What is the important difference between the requirements of the Jew as compared to the Gentile, if any?

Application: This chapter begins with the conclusion that mankind is without excuse for sin. God's judgment of sin is described. The basis for that judgment is given. The judge is God, the court is spiritual. The essential sin which causes the wrath of God to descend on a person is called an "impenitent heart" in verse 5. Have you ever refused to repent of sin for a time?

Do you think all people have at one time or another refused to turn away from their sin?

Do you believe the judgment of God is just?

Lesson 4 - Salvation

Central Passage: Romans 3:1-31

This passage serves as the key for the entire book of Romans. In particular, verses 21-26 seem especially pertinent. Many important concepts are developed in this chapter. Many words significant to the study of salvation are found here. We should therefore take a little time to discern the meaning and scope of these words.

For each of the words listed below, write down the Webster dictionary definition. Optionally, if you have access to a *Vine's* dictionary of Bible words or some similar reference work, write down the New Testament definition(s) of the Greek word. Finally, look up each of the verses listed and write down anything new you learn about each word.

<u>Guilty</u>	Romans 3:19	I Cor. 11:27	James 2:10	
<u>Justified</u>	Romans 3:20	Romans 5:8	I Cor. 4:4	Galatians 2:16
<u>Glory (of God)</u>	Romans 3:23	Romans 5:2	I Cor. 10:31	Revelation 21:23
<u>Grace</u>	Romans 3:24	Romans 6:14	Romans 11:5,6	2 Cor. 8:9
<u>Redeem</u>	Romans 3:24	Galatians 3:13	Titus 2:14	I Peter 1:17-19
<u>Propitiation</u>	Romans 3:25	Hebrews 2:17	I John 2:2	I John 4:10

Lesson 5 - Salvation

Central Passage: Romans 3:1-31

A most complete summary of salvation doctrine is to be found in verses 21-26. The chapter begins with the emphasis that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile under God. Several scriptures from the Old Testament are then quoted to show that all people are born under the suffocating blanket of sin. Only God offers hope to sinful humanity.

1. Read **Romans 3:9-18**. Read each of the following passages from the Old Testament and compare them to their quotations in Romans 3. For each passage, write down the identity of the person or persons who are said to be sinning.

Psalm 14:1-3

Psalm 5:9

Psalm 140:3

Psalm 10:7

Isaiah 59:7-8

Psalm 36:1

2. Several physical body parts are mentioned in verses 9-18. What does each part seem to symbolize?
3. What was the purpose of the law in verses 19-20?
4. Describe the relationship of the righteousness of God to the law and the prophets as described in verse 21.
5. What is the main verb of verses 21-22? To what is the action applied?
6. To whom is the righteousness of God applied? (verses 21-22) How is it applied?

7. In verse 23, sin causes people to fall short of what? How many fall short?
8. What does justification cost in verse 24?
9. What word in verse 24 best describes what Jesus did to accomplish justification?
10. Who did God “set forth” in verse 25? Why?
11. What does God pass over in verse 25? Why?
12. Verses 21-25 explain the process of salvation in detail. List the steps a person must take to be “justified”. Put these steps in the order in which you think they must occur.
13. Verse 26 tells us why God justifies people. Write this down in your own words.
14. How is a “justified” person described in verse 26? Why is this important?

Application: How can we help an unjustified person understand the steps you wrote down in question 12?

Do you think all people are capable of understanding these steps?

Lesson 6 - Heirs

Central Passage: Romans 4:1-25

The example of Abraham's justification is expounded in detail in this chapter. Abraham is said to be an "**heir**" and all Christians are said to be "**heirs**" of Abraham. Righteousness is "**imputed**" as a result

1. Look up the word **heir** in the dictionary. What does it mean?
2. Look up each of the following verses containing the word heir or heirs. For each of these verses, write down the identity of the heir and what is being inherited and from whom.

Romans 8:16-17

Galatians 3:29,4:1-7,30-31

Ephesians 3:1-6

Hebrews 1:1-2

I Peter 3:7

3. Look up the word **imputed** in the dictionary. What does it mean?
4. The word imputed is used 5 times in this chapter in verses **6, 8, 11, 23 & 24**. It is also used in **Romans 5:13**. Read each of these verses and write down 3 things for each. First, who is the person that is "imputing"? Second, what is imputed? Third, to whom is it imputed?
5. What is the relationship of "heir" to "imputed" in Romans 4?
6. In verses 23-25, how does Jesus and people's belief in Him relate to the concepts of inheritance and imputation?

Lesson 7 - Justification

Central Passage: Romans 5:1-21

Most of this chapter amplifies justification, which leads to hope.

1. According to verse 1, justification by faith in Jesus produces what desirable result?
2. Verse 2 introduces us to the word **hope**. Look up the word in an English dictionary. Read verses 2-5. Also read **Romans 8:23-24**, **2 Corinthians 3:12** & **Colossians 1:3-5**. Describe what hope means in these 4 sets of verses. Does hope in these verses express “maybe” or does it express something more solid? What emotions does **hope** express in these passages?
3. Why does hope not disappoint in verse 5?
4. Give an earthly example, either a true story or a fable, that teaches the same lesson about sacrifice that verses 6-8 do. How does the example of Jesus’ unselfish sacrifice show that God is love?
5. We have a progression in these first verses of Romans 5. Tribulation, Perseverance and then hope lead to understanding about God’s sacrificial love. In verse 9, what accomplishes justification for us? From our human perspective, how might tribulation and perseverance lead us to the certain expectation (hope) of salvation from the wrath of God?
6. What does **reconciled** mean in the English dictionary? Describe how **reconciled** relates to **saved** in verses 10 and 11.

7. **Death** is a word which dominates verses 12-21. Death in scripture usually means “separation”. Look up death in the dictionary and write the definition which most closely resembles “separation”. For each passage below, write down what is separated by “death”.

Romans 6:11

Revelation 20:14

Hebrews 9:27

8. According to verses 12-14, how many people deserve death for sin? What kinds of death are meant in verses 12-21?

9. The opposite of the reign of sin is the reign of what? (Verse 21) This results in what?

Application: Prayerfully read and meditate on **I Peter 3:15**. Write down several “lines” you might use to begin talking about “a reason for the hope that is in you”.

Lesson 8 - Dead to Sin, Alive to God -- Sanctification!

Central Passage: Romans 6:1-23

Romans 6 expounds on the change that takes place when a person trusts Jesus. The “old man” who was a slave to sin may now be ignored and the new man who is a slave to God reigns. This continuous work of God in the life of the believer is called sanctification, even though the word is not used in this chapter.

1. How is a person “dead” to sin in verse 1-2?
2. Describe the meaning behind the act of water baptism in verses 3-6?
3. Using verses 7-12 to inspire your thoughts, describe several ways a Christian demonstrates he is “alive to God”?
4. Read **Romans 12:1** and then verses 13-14. The main verb in these two passages (“present”) is the same, though some translations use different English renditions. How can our bodies be used as “instruments” or tools of righteousness to God?
5. Count the number of times “obey” or “obedience” or its derivatives appear in verses 15-20. Specifically what are we to obey? How can obedience show we are slaves of God rather than slaves of sin?
6. Where is the gray area in verses 21-23? Fruit, grown from our own behavior, leads to what two things?

Application: Read **Hebrews 10:14** carefully. How are you “being sanctified”? How does the “old man” (v6) damage your sanctification? (Think holiness). How can sanctification increase when you “present your members”? Pray that God would sanctify you.

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