

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

A NOTE TO THE STUDENT

The book of Romans is a difficult book to understand without careful, diligent study. If you wait until the day before a few hours before class you begin studying the week's assignment, and then spend a few minutes trying to answer the questions, much of the benefit of this wonderful book will be completely missed. If you will have a fair understanding of Romans, then you must be willing to spend a fair amount of time in study and preparation. The following procedure is suggested.

1. Read the assignment thoroughly, looking up the extra scripture references and reading them.
2. Each week, start at the beginning of the book, and read through the week's assignment. In this way, you'll keep the assignment in its proper setting, and will become real familiar with the book.
3. As you study, make notes on points you especially want to remember. Make additional notes in class during discussion and keep them for future reference.
4. Commentaries of the right kind are useful in helping to understand difficult passages. However, these should be used only as helps and not as authorities. Those which we would suggest for the average student are:

R.L. Whiteside, A New Commentary on Paul's Letter to the Saints At Rome

Moses Lard, Commentary on Romans

McGarvey and Pentleton, Commentary on Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Thess.

The above commentaries are written by brethren and are sound so far as doctrine is concerned. Some other commentaries that are of benefit if used carefully and judiciously are:

Albert Barnes, Romans in Barnes' Notes

Barmby, in Pulpit Commentary on Romans

Murray, Romans in the New International Commentary (2 vol

Commentaries that are of great benefit to those who can use the Greek Testament are as follows:

Sanday and Headlam, Romans in the International Critical Commentary

James Denny, Romans in Expositor's Greek Testament

If the student will follow the above study procedure, the book of Romans will prove to be one of the greatest spiritual feasts in your experience.

Bv

James Montgomery



## PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

### Lesson 1

#### Beginning of the church at Rome

Nothing definite is known about the beginning of the church at Rome. Passages such as Rom. 1:13, 15:22 indicate that the church had been there for many years. All the world had heard of their faith (1:8). When the gospel was first preached on Pentecost, "so-journers from Rome" were present (Acts 2:10). They could have returned and preached the gospel at Rome. Priscilla and Aquila were from Rome, and the scriptures seem to indicate that they were already Christians when they came to Corinth (Acts 18:1-2).

#### Date and place of writing

The letter can be dated by the collection for the poor saints at Jerusalem (Rom. 15:26) cf. (1 Cor. 16:1-3, 2 Cor. 8-9). He was about to sail for Jerusalem to deliver this collection (Rom. 15:25) cf. (Acts 20:1-6). According to Acts 20:3, Paul spent only three months at Corinth before a plot of the Jews drove him off. Romans must have been written from Corinth during this three month stay in the year 56-57 A.D. He commended Phoebe from the nearby city of Cenchrae (16:1) (look at a map and locate this city and Corinth). Gaius of (Rom. 16:23) is probably the same Gaius as the one mentioned in 1 Cor. 1:14. This evidence all seems to support Corinth as the origin of the letter.

#### Purpose of the Letter

Paul, in this instance, was writing to a church with which he had had no personal contact. He intended to go to Rome (Acts 19:21) (Rom. 1:11, 15). He was going to Jerusalem first, and didn't know how things would turn out there (Rom. 15:30-31) cf. (Acts 20:22-23). Paul wanted the brethren to pray for him in this hour of anxiety, and hoped to later use Rome as a base of operations for preaching the gospel in Spain (Rom. 15:28).

The apostle seems to be concerned with answering two problems. First, the section 1:16 - 8:39 answers the question of Israel's failure. If Israel was the chosen people of God and their religion was the true religion, then why did they fail? Paul answers this by showing the inadequacy of the law in the acquiring of righteousness. Since the law could not take away sin (3:20), God has provided a system in which both Jew and Gentile can be made free from sin through Christ. Second, the section, chap. 9-11 answers the question of how God could reject Israel without being unfaithful and unjust to them. It wasn't God who left Israel--in reality, Israel left God! They were cast off because of unfaithfulness on their part. The letter makes large use of the Old Testament. The importance of the Old Testament scriptures is emphasized (1:2, 3:1-2, 15:4, etc.). The practice of grouping scriptures together on a



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certain theme is illustrated in (3:10ff). The church seems to have been composed mostly of Gentiles (1:13). Some object to this, saying that if the letter was written to a group predominantly Gentile, then such extensive use of the Old Testament scriptures would have been made. However, the book of Galatians was written primarily to Gentiles, yet use is made of the Old Testament in that letter.

But the question is, what is the primary purpose of the book called Romans? What type of problems existed in the church that would call forth this book from the pen of Paul? As we've already seen, the first members of the church were probably Jews, but as time went on, it would be natural for Gentiles to outnumber them in the Gentile city of Rome. As the influence of the Gentile Christians increased, there seems to have been a decrease in their effectiveness in converting the Jews to Christ. Later on, when Paul arrived at Rome, the Jewish leaders of that city hadn't even become acquainted with the truths of Christianity! (Acts 28:17-22). The only answer to this situation was that the church hadn't been getting their message across to the Jewish population in Rome! Since the only way that Jews could be convinced that Jesus was Christ was to be shown that he came in fulfillment of all the Old Testament prophecies, then those who would convert them must be thoroughly acquainted with the Old Testament scriptures. Is it possible that the church at Rome, as the Gentile element outnumbered the Jewish, and the Gentile influence grew stronger, was putting too little emphasis upon the Jewish background of Christianity? A careful reading of the book of Romans shows that Paul wasn't so concerned with too much Judaism in the church, as he was with their having too little knowledge of Judaism! Passages such as chap. 9-11, 15:1, 27 seem to indicate this. Isn't there a tendency among Christians today to neglect the Old Testament scriptures? The book of Romans shows how important the Old Testament is to an understanding of the New Testament of Christ.

Romans doesn't deal with the specific problems of specific people as Paul's other letters do, but it is more of a general nature. Its purpose is to teach and instruct, rather than to rebuke and admonish. Romans is said to contain the entire Gospel as preached by the Apostle Paul, and it certainly does comprehend the entire Christian religion to a greater extent than any other New Testament book.

Outline of Contents

1. Salvation and thanksgiving (1:1-15)

2. Theme of the book--the revelation of God's righteousness (1:16-17)

1. What is known about the beginning of the church at Rome? Discuss the different possibilities.
2. How can the letter be dated? Where was it written from? Harmonize with Acts
3. What did Paul hope to do when he arrived at Rome?
4. What did he want from the brethren at the time he wrote this letter?
5. What two main problems does the book of Romans deal with? How are they answered?
6. What about the practice of grouping scriptures together upon a single theme? Is this a legitimate way to use the Bible?
7. Was the church at Rome mostly Jew, or Gentile?
8. What seems to be the main purpose of Romans?
9. Why is a good knowledge of the Old Testament important for Christians? Do you believe the average Christian knows the Old Testament as well as he should?
10. Does Romans rebuke and admonish, or does it teach and instruct? Are both kinds of lessons needed? Discuss.

### QUESTIONS

3. Both Jew and Gentile lack righteousness (1:18- death of His son (3:21-5:21)
4. God has provided righteousness for man through the
5. God's righteousness transforms the life of a sinner (6:1 - 8:39)
6. God's righteousness in dealing with Israel (9:1 - 11:36)
7. A justified man's responsibility (12:1 - 15:13)
8. Paul's future plans (15:14-29)
9. Salutation and benediction (15:30-33)
10. Introductory letter for Phoebe (chap. 16)

### Lesson 1

### PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS



## PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

### Lesson 2

### ALL OF MANKIND SUBJECT TO GOD'S WRATH

#### Chapters 1-2

After his opening remarks to the church at Rome (1:1-15), Paul begins to introduce the theme of the letter; the righteousness of God as revealed in the gospel (1:16-17). First, he pictures the heathen world in general (1:18-32). They had known God at one time (vs. 21), but had refused to serve Him. In chapter 2, Paul condemns those who judge others. Vs. 1-16 is speaking of both Jews and Gentiles. The Gentiles hated and looked with contempt upon the Jews, but they had no right to look down upon anyone, seeing that they themselves were corrupt (2:1). The Jews had no right to condemn the Gentiles, either, because they were just as bad! (2:17-29). The main point that Paul is making, is that the only hope of Jew and Gentile is faith in Christ (2:16).

#### QUESTIONS

1. Where was the gospel promised before the actual coming of Christ? Give examples.

2. What proof did those who preached the gospel have of Christ's divinity? (1:4)

3. What was Paul's apostleship supposed to accomplish? (1:5)

4. Was the church at Rome well known in the world? Explain.

5. What would cause Paul to long for the association of his brethren at Rome, even though he had never seen them? (1:12). Should all Christians have this relationship to each other? Discuss (see 1 Pet. 1:22-23)

6. Why would anyone be ashamed of the gospel? What are the consequences of such an attitude?

7. How must all be saved?

8. Discuss how God's righteousness is revealed in the gospel. Does this mean:

- (a) The righteousness of God's dealings with man? (10:3)
- (b) The righteousness we acquire when we are cleansed from sin? (Phil. 3:9) (2 Cor. 5:21)
- (c) Something else?

9. What is meant by the expression "from faith to faith"? (1:17)

10. What does it mean to "live by faith"?

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Lesson 2  
Romans 1 and 2

11. What is actual saving faith? Contrast it with dead faith.
12. How is God's wrath revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men? (1:16-18)
13. Why are all the ungodly without excuse? (1:19-23)
14. Do men today worship and serve the creature rather than the creator? Discuss.
15. Did man start out without a knowledge of God?
16. Is man's depraved condition a result of original sin? (or, is man helpless when it comes to resisting sin?)
17. Are the sinful tendencies in 1:29-31 common now?
18. Why is a man condemned when he judges others? Did Jew or Gentile have any righteousness to boast of?
19. In view of man's guilt, what should lead him to repentance? (2:4)
20. What keeps people from repenting?
21. What does the person who refuses to obey the truth have to look forward to?
22. Is there any real faith apart from obedience? (2:8,12,13) Discuss.
23. Did the Jew have any special claim to salvation that the Gentiles didn't have? (2:9,10,11)(2:16)
24. How could a man be a "doer of the law" if he hadn't had the law? (2:12-15)
25. Does (2:14-15) teach that God hadn't revealed his will to the Gentiles at all? What about Balaam? (Num.22-24)
26. Did the Jews live up to the law?
27. What claims did they make?
28. Did circumcision profit anything if it wasn't accompanied by obedience to God's law?
29. Did the Gentiles' uncircumcision make them any less righteous to God?
30. Explain the meaning and application of (2:28-29)
31. In the final analysis, who could be saved? Could either Jew or Gentile be saved without Christ?



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Lesson 3

CHAPTER 3

In the first eight verses of chapter 3, Paul suggests some possible objections that one might raise in regard to the Jews and then answers them. The objector might say after the remarks made in chapters 1 and 2, "The result of what you've been saying is, that there is no difference between Jew and Gentile, they are in exactly the same position." Another objection might be, "Many Jews broke God's commandments of the Law and came under condemnation. Does this mean that God broke his promise to them and is therefore unreliable? Carefully reread the first and second chapters of Romans, then study chap. 3. Answer the following questions.

1. Were the Jews and Gentiles in exactly the same position? What was the difference and who had the advantage? (3:1)
2. Do Christians today have an advantage over other people? Explain. Do we also have a greater responsibility?
3. Did God prove himself unreliable when he rejected the Jewish nation? (3:3-6) Explain.
4. Is God's judgement fair to all men?
5. Can men do evil that good may come of it? (3:7-8). Explain.
- In verses 9-20 Paul proceeds to show the testimony of the Old Testament in regard to universal sinfulness. Carefully read this section, looking up all the Old Testament references that are quoted here.
6. Give book, chapter, and verse for each Old Testament quotation in 3:10-18.
7. What was the main purpose of the Law of Moses? (3:20)
8. What was the greatest failing of the Law, so far as meeting man's needs is concerned?

In 3:21-31 Paul shows that the righteousness of God manifested in Christ is apprehended by faith and is available to all men.

9. Which "righteousness apart from the Law" did the prophets and the Law witness to? Give some examples.

10. Prove that righteousness could exist apart from the Law.

11. What is the Jews' only hope of salvation? Is he saved any differently than the Gentile?

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Lesson 3  
CHAPTER 3

12. In your own words, give a definition of faith in Christ. What are its implications?
13. Explain Romans 3:25 to the best of your ability.
14. Does man deserve salvation? Why would God save man? How did God reconcile justice and mercy?
15. What kind of "law" is man able to live up to? (3:27)
16. Why can man not save himself by the works of the law?
17. In the final analysis, how have all men been saved since the beginning of the human race?
18. Does faith completely do away with the value of the law? If a man has real faith, how will he respond to God's law?



# PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

## Lesson 4

### ABRAHAM'S FAITH AS AN EXAMPLE, ROMANS CHAPTER 4

In this section Abraham is shown to have been justified by faith and not by works of the Law of Moses. All true believers are his heirs. The student should review the life of Abraham in the Old Testament in connection with your study of this lesson. Also read (James 2:21-24) and (Gal. 3:6-29).

#### QUESTIONS

1. What kind of "works" is Paul discussing in Rom. 4? (see 3:20)
2. Is James in Jas. 2 discussing works of the Law, or works of faith? What is the difference between the two?
3. Does Paul contradict James on the subject of faith and works? Explain the difference between Rom. 4 and Jas. 2.
4. How would a man have to live in order for God to be in debt to him? (as 4:4 indicates). Under such conditions, can God be in debt to anyone?
5. Are those who "work not" (4:5), those who do nothing in order to be saved, or are they the ones who do not depend upon works alone to save them?
6. If a man depended upon the Law of Moses for salvation, could he hope to be saved? Explain.
7. Who is the man to whom the Lord will not "impute sin"? (4:6-8). Does this teach that a Christian can't do anything to be lost, or is it speaking of those who meet the requirements of salvation?
8. Discuss the faith of Abraham and compare it with God's requirements for us today.
9. Was Abraham saved by faith before or after circumcision? Can circumcision be compared to baptism? THINK.
10. According to Paul's reasoning in Rom. 4, why was it absurd to expect Gentiles to be circumcised?
11. Was God's promise to bless the world through Abraham's seed (Gen. 12:3) a promise to do so through the Law of Moses?
12. Explain (4:14-15).
13. Explain the meaning of Grace and its application in (4:16). How does grace and faith make the promise sure to all?
14. When Abraham believed that Sarah would bear a son, was he believing the impossible? Are we required to have like faith?

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### Lesson 5

#### RESULTS OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, ROMANS CHAPTER 5

Paul begins by showing that as a result of faith in Christ we can be at peace with God (vs. 1-5). Then he shows how God proved his love for mankind (vs. 6-11). The remainder of the chapter contrasts what first Adam, then Christ did for the human race.

#### QUESTIONS

1. How is a man justified by faith?
2. What does such justification do for man that the law could never do?
3. Define the words, tribulation, patience, experience as they are used in 5:3-4.
4. Do troubles actually help us to the extent that we could even be thankful for them?
5. When a man puts his hope in God, can anyone take it away from him?
6. Explain Rom. 5:5.
7. How did God prove his love for us?
8. How was man "weak" when Christ died? (5:6). What does the term "in due time" mean in this verse? What is so unusual about Christ's death for mankind?
9. What is a man saved from? Explain. (5:9)
10. After being reconciled to God by the death of His son, how are we saved "by his life"? (Rom. 5:10 cf. Heb. 7:25)
11. Does Rom. 5:12 teach that we are all guilty of Adam's sin? Or do we only suffer the consequences and not the guilt of sin? Is it possible for someone to suffer for another's sin without being guilty of that sin? Explain.
12. Explain (Rom. 5:13-14)
13. Which is stronger--the grace of God or the destructive effects of sin? (vs. 15)
14. How are Adam and Christ compared in chapter 5?
15. What did the law of Moses accomplish? (vs. 20-21)



# PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

## Lesson 6

### MAN'S CHANGE OF MASTERS, ROMANS CHAPTER 6

In Romans 1-3 Paul shows the sinfulness of all mankind and the hopelessness of trying to be justified by the law. In Rom. 4-5 he shows what it means to be justified by faith in Christ. In chapter 6, he shows what takes place when a person changes from a life of sin to a life of righteousness.

#### QUESTIONS

1. Can we who are Christians "trade" on the mercy of God? (can we sin deliberately, knowing that God will forgive?)

2. What does it mean to "live in sin"?

3. What is baptism symbolic of? Could sprinkling or pouring fit the symbolism?

4. Baptism is "into" Christ (vs. 3). Is there any way to be saved without being in Christ? (Rom. 8:1, Eph. 1:3, 2 Cor. 5:17, 2 Tim. 2:10)

5. When a man becomes "dead to sin", what is implied? Discuss. (see Gal. 2:20, 5:16-24, 6:14) (Col. 3:1-17)

6. Discuss the "newness of life" as referred to in Rom. 6. See John 3, 1 Pet. 2:2.

7. What does it mean to be in bondage to sin?

8. Why does sin lose its power in the life of a Christian? (vs. 9-11)

9. Does verses 12-14 suggest that Christianity is more than just an emotional experience? Do emotions have to be translated into actions to be of any value? Discuss.

10. What choice is a man presented with in the world in regard to the use of himself? Does God or Satan accomplish their purposes without using people? (vs. 12-14) Discuss.

11. According to verse 14, why can sin no longer have dominion over us if we resist? Explain.

12. What is the "doctrine" (teaching) that speaks of in vs. 17? What is the "form" of the teaching? (see 1 Cor. 15:1-3)

13. Is obedience a necessary step in order to the forgiveness of sins? (vs. 18) Can a person become a Christian solely through an emotional experience? Or, must there first be instruction and obedience to the instruction?

14. What are the differences between the "fruits" of a sinful life and the "fruits" of a sanctified life? (vs. 21-23)

## PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

### Lesson 7

#### ROMANS, CHAPTER 7

This chapter continues the subject of chapter 6. Paul shows how the Christian is freed from the law. The law had made a right relationship with God impossible. But now in Christ, we can be delivered from the death that came through the law. Vs. 1-6 describe the liberation from the law; 7-13 show the actual workings of the law; and in 14-25 we are shown that this working of the law is not due to a deficiency in the law itself, but to the power of sin in the flesh.

#### QUESTIONS

1. How long does law have dominion over man? How did Paul illustrate this?

2. When does man become dead to the law? (The New Testament teaches in Eph. 2:15, Col. 2:14, etc., that Christ's death on the cross fulfilled and abolished the law of Moses, but the question is, when does the individual become dead to law--or the condemnation of sin that is in the law?)

3. What keeps man from keeping on in sin, once he's under grace instead of law?

4. Discuss different motives that restrain people from doing wrong and show which motive is the more effective.

5. When is a person joined or united with Christ? (the word "married" isn't in the original language)

6. Is a Christian "married" or espoused to Christ? (cf. 2 Cor. 11:1-3, Rev. 19:6-9). Look up the meaning of an espoused in the New Testament times if you have the research tools.

7. What is the inevitable result of being united with Christ in regard to fruit-bearing? Discuss.

8. What is the meaning of the term "flesh" as used in verse 5? Isn't a man still in his fleshly body after he becomes a Christian?

9. Discuss the differences between serving in the spirit and the letter of God's law.

10. Does all of this mean that the law is actually bad? If not, why not? (vs. 7)

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Lesson 7 (cont.)

11. Why is sin dead apart from the law? If sin is dead apart from the law, wouldn't it have been better not to have given the law? Discuss.

12. What part of his life is Paul likely referring to in vs. 9? Explain the meaning of vs. 10 in connection with this. (when does a person come to realize that he's a sinner and accountable before God?)

13. What are some of the ways in which sin deceives people?

14. Discuss the main idea in (vs. 12-13).

15. wherein is the real weakness--in man, or in the law? (vs. 14)

16. Discuss the two natures of man as pictured in vs. 14-23.

17. From where can man find deliverance? (vs. 24-25)

SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT: Read again, the note to the student in the front of this workbook.

# PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

## Lesson 8

### ROMANS, CHAPTER 8

The subject of this chapter is the spiritual life in which sin's power is broken and the believer is enabled to life for God. Verses 1-11 describes the spirit as opposed to the flesh and sets this forth as the principle of righteousness. Verses 12-27 shows that this spiritual is the result of adoption into God's family, and verses 28-39 concludes the argument, glorying in the assurance of God's love in Christ Jesus.

### QUESTIONS

1. What does a person have to do to be free from condemnation?
2. Are Christians under a law? Explain.
3. What is the "law of sin and death"? (cf. Gen. 2:17, Ezek. 18:20)
4. What does it mean to walk after (from the word kata, meaning according to) the flesh? What does it mean to walk according to the spirit?
5. Did Jesus do what the law couldn't do? How?
6. Explain the meaning of (8:4). How is the requirements (or righteousness, KJV) of the law fulfilled in us?
7. What is the condition of people who look at everything from a purely human viewpoint?
8. Why isn't the carnal mind subject to the law of God? Can we please God if we act from human motives?
9. From the standpoint of (8:9), what makes a person serve God in an acceptable way?
10. Where does spiritual life come from?
11. What are the implications of legal adoption that Paul uses in (8:12-17) to show our relationship to God?
12. How does the Holy Spirit bear witness with our Spirit?
13. How has sin affected the whole creation? How is this related to man's life-situation? (8:18-25)

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14. Give some definite reasons why man cannot pray a perfect prayer (8:26-27). What does the Spirit do for us?
15. What requirements does God have for us to meet in praying?
16. Who will have all things working together for good for him?
17. What did God foreordain for his followers in Christ? Does this teach that certain individuals are predestined for salvation and others are not? Explain.
18. What assurance do we have that God will never let us down?
19. Who would try to accuse God's elect? (see Rom. 8:33, Rev. 12:10) Why can he not lay anything to our charge?
20. Can anything or anyone separate us from the love of God?

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Lesson 8

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PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Lesson 9

ROMANS, CHAPTER 9

This chapter starts the second major division of the book of Romans. This section, chapters 9 through 11, answers the problems of Israel's rejection by God. Paul shows that God was not unjust, that his promises didn't fail, but that the failure was in the Jews themselves, and God had foreseen their rejection of Christ and had prophesied it.

QUESTIONS

1. How strongly did Paul feel about the spiritual condition of the Jews?

2. What does Paul mean when he says that the "adoption" was the Israelites' when and how were they adopted? (Ex. 19:5 cf. Ex. 4:22) (Hoshea 11:1)

3. What is meant in verse 4 by "the glory"? What were the "covenants", what were the promises? Who were the "fathers" spoken of here? What relationship did the Jews sustain to Christ? Was it fleshly or spiritual? (see Gen. 15:18, 17:9, Ex. 31:16, Deut. 4:13, 5:3, Deut. 29:1, Jer. 31:31-34, Heb. 8:7, Gal. 3:24, etc.)

4. Did all of Abraham's fleshly descendants have the promise? Did fleshly Israel recognize a distinction between the children of Isaac and the children of Ishmael? Between the descendants of Jacob and the descendants of Esau? (see Gen. 21:12 cf. Rom. 9:7)

5. In view of the above argument, did the Jews ever have a promise of salvation on the basis of fleshly descent? What kind of birth does it take to be the "children of promise"? (see Isa. 2:2-4, 4:2-4, 11:10-16) (Jer. 31:33-34), also (John 3:3-5, Rom. 2:28-29)

6. In view of verses 14-18, answer the following questions:  
(a) When God chose Isaac and Jacob, did that mean that Ishmael and Esau were "cut off" from God? Did God's choice affect their own salvation?  
(b) Was God in any way unjust in His choice? Why would God be eminently qualified to choose whom he would and wouldn't use to accomplish His purpose?

(c) In God's choice, and in all His dealings with men, has He ever interfered with their own personal freedom of choice in matters pertaining to their salvation?



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Lesson 9

(d) When God "hardened" Pharaoh's heart, how did he do it? Was it a matter of being told to do what's right? How should the plagues affected Pharaoh? Does the gospel of Christ harden some people's hearts? What about the Jews whom Paul speaks of here?

7. What illustration does Paul use to show the absurdity of questioning God's wisdom in the way He does things?

8. Who are the "vessels of wrath" and the "vessels of mercy" in Rom. 9:22-23? Did God in any way interfere with anyone's opportunity to be either kind of vessel? Explain.

9. What had the prophets said concerning the salvation of Israel and the Gentiles? Did the Jews ever have a promise of exclusive salvation? (Gen. 12:3)

10. Whose fault was it that Israel was rejected?

11. Why were Gentiles able to obtain righteousness that many Jews failed to attain?

12. What was the "stone" that Israel stumbled at?

This chapter continues the theme started in chapter 9. Paul shows that God's rejection of Israel wasn't due to an irreversible decree of God, but that they had heard the gospel like everyone else and had rejected it. All of this happened in spite of the many warnings from the Old Testament prophets (10: 17-21)

QUESTIONS

1. Were the Jews as a nation, lost because of an irreversible decree of God? Explain.
2. Did Paul love his kinsmen? Did he pray for them to be saved in their unbelief?
3. What is the meaning of "zeal"? Could we use more of it? Is zeal enough if it doesn't have the guidance of knowledge?
4. What is the difference between God's and man's righteousness? How may both be obtained?
5. When Paul said in verse 4 that Christ is the end of the law, he could have meant one of the following: (1) Termination, (2) fulfillment, (3) aim, or purpose. All three of these are true, but which do you think is meant in this verse?
6. What did the law demand of man? (Rom. 10:5 cf. Gal. 3:10-12)
7. Is faith in Christ something that we are incapable of? (vs. 6-8)
8. What are the demands of faith? Contrast this with the demands of the law.
9. What are the full implications of confessing Jesus as Lord? What does it mean to "believe with the heart"?
10. Were Jews deliberately excluded from salvation? (vs. 11-12)
11. How does one call upon the name of the Lord? What is a prerequisite to calling on the name of the Lord? (see Matt. 7:21, Acts 22:16, Lk. 6:46, etc.)
13. How are preachers "sent"? (2 Thess. 2:14) cf. (Matt. 28:18-20, Mk. 16:15-16)
14. Had the Jews heard the gospel? How does faith come? Who was to blame for Israel's rejection?
15. Did the Jews have any previous warnings concerning the rejection of Christ? How should those warnings have affected them?



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS  
Lesson 12  
ROMANS, CHAPTER 12

In this last section of Romans, Paul gives some practical instruction for living the Christian life. It is good to search out the "deep things" of God as Paul does in Romans, but it is also necessary to consider the practical side of life. Christianity does not consist of just great ideas, but it results in great lives. A careful study and application of chapters 12-15 will result in the kind of life that God requires of his children.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the meaning of "beseech" and "mercies of God"?
2. Does God actually own our bodies? Explain.
3. Explain what the word sacrifice really means. What would be the consequences of following Rom. 12:1-2 so far as service to God is concerned?

4. What kind of sacrifices were required under the old Law? What were the requirements that had to be met? (see Lev. 22:21-24)
5. What does it mean to be "transformed"? Is this essential? What does it mean to be "fashioned" (or conformed) to this world?

6. Does this passage indicate that we can have complete control over the actions of our bodies?
7. What does the advice in vs. 3 have reference to? Explain its connection with the following verses.
8. Can a Christian consider himself independent from the rest of the church? Explain

9. Are the gifts in vs. 6-8 all of a miraculous nature? What should a man do with his gifts? (cf. 1 Pet. 4:11). Discuss each of these gifts.

10. Do you think this passage teaches that a person should more or less "specialize" in the type of work for Christ that he or she is best able to do? Doesn't this make sense?
11. Under what circumstances would love be hypocritical?

12. What does the word "abhor" mean? Is it a good quality if used right? Illustrate.

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS  
Lesson 12

13. Give some good reasons why Christians should love each other. Is the church a society of friends, or a family?

14. What does it mean to "prefer" one another?

15. What does "diligence" mean? What is the meaning of "slothful"? Why should a Christian always be "fervent in spirit" when he serves the Lord?

16. Explain verse 12.

17. What does it mean to be "given to hospitality"? Can a person be a real Christian without this virtue?

18. Discuss the principle set forth in verse 14.

19. What does it mean to "rejoice with those that rejoice and weep with those that weep"? Why would anyone do this?

20. Can a Christian consider himself better than a brother or sister in Christ?

21. Should all of a Christian's actions be open and above-board?

22. What are the conditions that we must meet in "being at peace with all men"? Does this mean that we should seek peace at any price? (see Matt. 10:34ff)

23. What are three reasons Paul gives for not taking revenge?



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS  
Lesson 13

ROMANS, CHAPTER 13

In this chapter, Paul discusses first, the Christian's duty toward his "civil government, then his relation to all men, and his duty to "put off" the works of darkness, and put on the Lord Jesus, making "no provisions for the flesh".

QUESTIONS

1. What are the "higher powers" of verse 1? Could such a power exist without God's indulgence? What does the Bible teach in other places concerning God's control over human governments? (see Col. 1:16, Psalms 24:1, Isa. 10:5, Jer. 18:1-10)
2. Can we break the laws of the land without sinning against God? Name some ways in which many members of the church sin in this way.
3. What will happen if such sins are persisted in?
4. Generally speaking, how do civil governments actually promote good? If we always do good, will we need to fear? Do governments in general appreciate the influence of Christianity? What would be some exceptions?
5. How does God use governments as a "sword" against evil-doers? Does God's using of men or governments in this way necessarily indicate that He approves of the ones whom he uses?
6. How are some ways in which the Roman government actually helped Paul in his spreading of the gospel? (see Acts 16: 37-38, 22:24-29, 23:27, 25:11)
7. Are there instances when a Christian can be justified in breaking a civil law? Explain.
8. What motives besides fear of being punished should cause a Christian to respect the laws of the land? (Vs. 5) cf. (1 Pet. 2:13) (Eph. 6:5-8) (Col. 3:22-24)
9. Is the idea that "you're not guilty of breaking law until you are convicted by a court of law" true so far as we're concerned?
10. Why should we pay taxes? Does God hold us responsible for what the government uses our tax money for?
11. Should we give respect to our government officials, regardless of our knowledge or opinions regarding their character?

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS  
Lesson 13

12. Does a genuine respect for authority manifest itself in every realm? If a person shows no respect whatever for the civil law, is he likely to have real respect for God's law?
13. Should "owe" anything to any man so far as the things in (vs. 7) are concerned? What is the one thing that we'll always owe and can never completely pay in full to our fellow man?
14. To "owe" as it's used in (vs. 8) means to fail to pay a just debt. How can this be applied to our business dealings? (Matt. 7:12)
15. If we commit the wrongs enumerated in (vs. 9), then we "owe" our fellow man in the sense that we've failed to pay him our respect and give him his just considerations. What is the one thing that would eliminate all such debts?
16. How can love fulfill the whole law?
17. The passage in (vs. 11) translated more literally means, "the time has already past for you to be spiritually awake", or, "you, as children of God, should already be aware of these things". How does a person actually become "awake" when he is converted to Christ?
18. In what sense is our salvation closer that when we first believed? Is this true of all?
19. In vs. 12-14 Paul uses terminology of one who speaks of taking off soiled, worn out garments and putting on new, clean clothing. What are the works of darkness that must be put off when we become Christians?
20. What is involved in "putting on the Lord Jesus"? (Gal. 3:27) (Eph. 4:21-24) (Col. 3:12) (Rom. 8:1-16). What does it mean to "make no provisions for the flesh"?



## PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

### Lesson 14

#### ROMANS, CHAPTERS 14-16

It seems that in the church at Rome, there were tendencies toward two extremes. One extreme was an inclination to be too lax in Christian living. To this group, chapters 12 and 13 are especially directed. They needed to understand that their liberty from the law of Moses didn't mean license to sin. On the other hand, there were those who were very scrupulous about eating certain foods and observing certain days. This was probably a result of their Jewish background. Because of the way they'd always lived, they were unable to completely understand that all food was clean and that holy days of the Old Law were no longer of any religious significance. In this section of the letter we can see the results of people from two different backgrounds--Jewish and Gentile, being brought together in the church. Each should be tolerant of the other and be guided by love in all their dealings with each other. Those who understood the full implications of the gospel shouldn't be impatient with those who didn't understand fully. Those who didn't understand shouldn't be overly critical of those who didn't see eye to eye with them.

The last part of chap. 15 deals with Paul's plans and his request for their prayers. Chap. 16 is a letter to the church introducing Phoebe, who most likely carried the letter to Rome.

### QUESTIONS

1. Who is the one who is "weak in the faith" that 14:1 speaks of? Does the "weakness" consist in a lack of dedication, or a lack of understanding? Which would be worse?
2. Should brethren be extremely critical of each other? Discuss ways in which they are many times overly critical?
3. Name some convictions that brethren might have from a lack of understanding that are harmless as long as they are tolerant toward those who do not see it their way.
4. What happens when convictions of "weak" brethren (weak in understanding) are forced upon someone else? What happens when those who are "strong" make no allowances for the weak? Does this tolerance have to work both ways?
5. Is there any indication that both the "weak" and the "strong" brethren that Paul speaks of here are honestly trying to serve the Lord?
6. Does this passage indicate that the "weak" brethren are probably those in the Jewish minority? Why would they be inclined to feel this way?
7. Who are all conscientious Christians trying to please? Who will they give account to?

# PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

## Lesson 14

8. What is the one way in which we may "judge" each other? What does it mean to judge?
9. When Paul says that "nothing is unclean in itself" (14:14), does he literally mean that nothing we may partake of will harm the body?
10. What is the one Christian characteristic that will cover all the relationships between the weak and the strong?
11. Are such matters as eating and drinking of paramount interest in the kingdom of God? (14:17-21) Discuss
12. Should the "weak" brother ever violate his conscience? (14:22-23).
13. How does the example of Christ teach us in regard to our treatment of each other? (15:1-7)
14. Does (15:8-13) indicate that at least part of such differences between brethren was due to their different backgrounds?
15. How did Paul show his authority to write these things to a church which he had never visited? (15:18)
16. What plans did Paul have at the time he wrote this letter?
17. Where else do we read of the contribution for the poor of Jerusalem that Paul mentioned in (15:25-26)?
18. Why did Paul want the special prayers of brethren at Rome? (15:30-32). What actually happened when he arrived at Jerusalem? (see Acts 21:17ff)
19. Who was Phoebe? Is there any indication that she was a preacher? Explain.
20. Who were Priscilla and Aquila?
21. What was to be done about those who caused division? (16:17-18).
22. What is meant in 16:20?
23. Who was with Paul when this letter was written? Who did he dictate it to?