

## Section I: Bad News

*Paul's letter to the Romans begins like... a letter. He identifies himself and his audience and even reveals his credentials for writing such an important letter. He expresses his desire to see them face to face, but since he can't yet preach the gospel with his mouth, he uses this letter to preach it with his pen.*

*The point of the letter is set out in verses 16-17, but it takes a full sixteen chapters to begin to unpack all the implications of this marvelous idea.*

*Before the good news can really sink in, Paul has to shake his audience from their apathy about the current state of things. Like a cardiologist who help his patient "get it," Paul paints a dire picture of the unrighteous world. He expects his readers, then and now, to be humbled by his introduction and appreciate the gospel.*

### **Pray:**

- For ears to hear how this passage speaks to me
- For the scripture to reveal my own unrighteousness and desperate need for Christ
- For stamina to study and grasp this beautiful letter.

**Read:** Romans 1

### **Study Questions:**

1. List three ways Paul identified himself in verse 1:
2. The gospel was "promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures." List 3 of these scripture references. (Use a study Bible, cross reference tool, or Google to help!)
3. How was Jesus declared to be the Son of God?

4. The “from” section in verses 1-6 and the “to” section in verse 7 share an interesting identifying word. What is it?
5. Why had Paul not yet come to see the Romans?
6. What is the power of God for salvation?
7. Define the gospel as used in verses 1, 9, 15, and 16. What does it mean?
8. Who is the gospel for, specifically, in verse 16?
9. Locate the Old Testament source of the quotation in verse 17.
10. What do verses 16-17 mean?
11. What do unrighteous people do to the truth?
12. What attributes of God have been made plain since the creation of the world?
13. What happened to the thinking of the wicked?
14. What happened to the hearts of the wicked?
15. What causes people to “give up natural relations”?
16. What do you think “God gave them up” means in this context in verses 24, 26, and 28?
17. What do the wicked “know” in verse 32?

## Research Questions:

1. When was Romans written? How do you know that?
2. How does the background of Romans help us apply the book?
3. Who are the wicked being spoken of in verses 18-32?
4. Summarize the major ideas of chapter 1 in a few sentences or less:

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 1 affect our walk with God?



## Section 2: Worse News

*Last week's text ended by railing against the wicked. He says they "suppress the truth" (1:18) and are "without excuse" (1:20). They "became fools" (1:22), and "God gave them up to dishonorable passions" (1:26). They "deserve to die" (1:32). It seems these wicked are in really bad shape. This sermon could be fun to listen to. You can almost hear someone in the crowd, "You sure told them!" But if that's your attitude, the first verse of chapter 2 is certain to slap you in the face.*

*Paul turns his focus from "them" to "us." He quits preaching and starts meddlin'. Let the toe-stomping begin...*

### **Pray:**

- For the ability to see our own sin as clearly as we see the sin of others
- For our hearts to be freed from hypocrisy
- To move from the shame of sin to the glory of the gospel
- For those who have not yet experienced the wonderful news introduced in this chapter

**Read:** Romans 2:1-3:20

**Highlight:** Select a unique color of marker or highlighter and mark all of the questions you can find in the book of Romans.

### **Study Questions:**

1. The wicked didn't have an excuse in 1:20. Who doesn't have an excuse in 2:1?
2. What did the judge and the judged have in common according to 2:1-3?
3. How did Paul describe their hearts?

4. The phrase “the Jew first and also the Greek” appeared in 1:16. It appears here again in 2:9-10. What is the contrast being made? What’s the point?
5. Who are those who sinned “without the law”?
6. Who are those who sinned “under the law”?
7. What will “accuse or excuse” those who lived without the law?
8. Reread 2:17-24. What is Paul saying to the Jews?
9. Locate the Old Testament quotation from 2:24. What was going on in that text?
10. Rephrase 2:28 in your own words. What does it mean to *really* be circumcised?
11. “Does their faithlessness nullify the faithfulness of God?”
12. Is God “unrighteous to inflict wrath on us”?
13. What is the gist of the questions in 3:1-8? What is the argument?
14. Despite the *advantage* of Judaism (see 3:2), are Jews any better off? (3:9)
15. What is the point of 3:10-18?
16. Who will be justified by the works of the law?

## Research Questions:

1. Chapter 2:25-39 discuss circumcision and the law. Locate another place in the New Testament that makes a similar argument about circumcision vs uncircumcision.
2. In 3:4, Paul answers his own question with the phrase “By no means!” This phrase occurs 10 times in Romans. Locate and list all of the references and questions it is used to answer.
3. List all of the OT passages cited in Romans 3:10-18.
4. A friend who isn't a Christian in any meaningful sort of way tells you that he tries to be a pretty decent guy, he pays his taxes and he gives to charity, so he and God must be good. How does Romans 1-3 speak to him? How might you discuss that with him?
5. Summarize the main ideas of this passage in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 2:1-3:20 affect our walk with God?





### Section 3: A Door Cracked to Hope

*Romans 1:1-3:20 are simply oppressive and depressing. Wicked people deserve punishment—and we're all wicked. Those who are trying not to be wicked end up being hypocrites. We are doomed.*

*Sometimes Christians have a habit of rushing to the end of the story too quickly. We know the resurrection is coming, so we skip past Good Friday. We know that grace is coming, so we want to dispense with this talk of sin and condemnation as quickly as possible. Paul doesn't have this habit in Romans 1-3. He knows that the more deeply we understand the weight and severity of our sin, the more fully we can appreciate the love of God. When we recognize that we are as doomed as others, the edge of our judgmentalism will begin to melt away. We can be empathetic to sinners because we were in the same boat, and it was the Titanic!*

*In this week's text, after 2 ½ dark chapters, Paul begins to let us see the light. He waits until we are hungry to serve us this meal. How delicious the grace of God is to a starving sinner like me! Read this text with anticipation and joy for the work of God. See, in hindsight, how God's mysterious hand has been at work since the beginning of time.*

#### **Pray:**

- That you will feel the full weight of sin and the full joy of its release
- That as you experience the grace of God, that you will be able to share it with others
- That God's grace will permeate your life and your treatment of others
- That everyone will know the goodness of God!

**Read:** Romans 3:21-31

**Highlight:** Choose a new color of highlighter or marker and highlight all of the words that you can find in the family of just, justify, righteous, righteousness, and justice. If time allows, do this for the entire book.

## Study Questions:

1. Verse 21 says that “now” the righteousness of God has been manifested. “Now” is a word that contrasts with some time in the past—“then.” When is “now”? What makes this moment “now”?
2. What does it mean that the righteousness of God has been manifested *apart from* the law? How would this idea seem shocking to a Jewish person?
3. What does it mean that the Law and Prophets bear witness to the righteousness of God?
4. “There is no distinction” between whom or what in verse 22?
5. Who has sinned?
6. Who can be justified by his grace?
7. His grace is a...
8. How is the propitiation to be received according to verse 25?
9. Verse 25-26 say twice that this was “to show his righteousness”. What does that mean?
10. What happens to our boasting?
11. What do we do with the law according to verse 31?

## Research Questions:

1. These short paragraphs are dense and powerful. Identify one idea that you find interesting, research it, and share it.
2. What does it mean that God is “just and justifier” in verse 26?
3. Research the words righteousness, justified, and just. See (δικαιοσύνη, Strong's #1343)
4. Using the image below and notice how significant words that have “righteousness” as their root are in the passage. What do you notice?
5. Summarize the main idea of this passage in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 3:21-3:31 affect our walk with God?

<sup>19</sup> Now we know that whatever <sup>v</sup>the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, <sup>w</sup>so that every mouth may be stopped, and <sup>x</sup>the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup> For <sup>y</sup>by works of the law no human being<sup>z</sup> will be justified in his sight, since <sup>z</sup>through the law comes knowledge of sin.

### The Righteousness of God Through Faith

<sup>21</sup> But now <sup>4</sup>the righteousness of God <sup>b</sup>has been manifested apart from the law, although <sup>c</sup>the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup> the righteousness of God <sup>d</sup>through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. <sup>e</sup>For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup> for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> and are justified <sup>h</sup>by his grace as a gift, <sup>i</sup>through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God <sup>j</sup>put forward as <sup>ka</sup>a propitiation <sup>l</sup>by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in <sup>m</sup>his divine forbearance he had passed over <sup>n</sup>former sins. <sup>26</sup> It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup> Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup> For we hold that one is justified by faith <sup>p</sup>apart from works of the law. <sup>29</sup> Or <sup>q</sup>is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles also? Yes, of Gentiles also, <sup>30</sup> since <sup>r</sup>God is one—who will justify the circumcised by faith and <sup>s</sup>the uncircumcised through faith. <sup>31</sup> Do we then overthrow the law by this faith? By no means! On the contrary, we uphold the law.

### Abraham Justified by Faith

<sup>4</sup> What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, <sup>t</sup>our forefather according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but <sup>u</sup>not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the Scripture say? <sup>v</sup>“Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now <sup>w</sup>to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. <sup>5</sup> And to the one who does not work but <sup>x</sup>believes in <sup>z</sup>him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness, <sup>6</sup> just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:

## **Section 4: Father Abraham Had Many Sons...Who Are They?**

*Usually when something seems too good to be true, it is.*

*What Paul is describing in Romans seems too good to be true. But it isn't.*

*In Romans 4, Paul begins to defend and confirm what he taught in Romans 1-3. A Jewish person might be tempted to feel like Paul has just thrown away the significance of their entire legacy. A Gentile person might be tempted to totally ignore the holiness ideals of Judaism. In this week's reading, we see how God's plan, ultimately, has been unchanged throughout time.*

*Sometimes we read the new covenant as if it is entirely disconnected from the old covenant. The heretic Marcion (and his many modern grandchildren) effectively divorce the two halves of the Bible, but that's a terrible plan! Romans 4 demonstrates that God has always sought a relationship based on faith. On the opposite side of the spectrum, others have failed to see what is new about the new covenant. Romans 4 helps with that as well.*

### **Pray:**

- That you will see the real purpose of God throughout the ages
- That you will appreciate "Father Abraham" and what God did in, through, and for him.
- That you will come to lean fully on the promises of God in faith

### **Read:** Romans 4

**Highlight:** Choose a new color of highlighter or marker and highlight all of the words that you can find in the family of faith, trust, or believe.

## Study Questions:

1. Whose “forefather according to the flesh” was Abraham?
2. For a worker, wages are counted as...
3. What is counted as righteousness?
4. Based on the argument in verses 9-10, was the blessing of righteousness for the circumcised or uncircumcised?
5. What was “the purpose” in Abraham’s circumcision and its timing?
6. Who was Abraham the father of in verses 11-12?
7. What happens to faith and the promise if the heirs are only the adherents to the law?
8. What does the law bring?
9. Why does it depend on faith?
10. What does the line “in hope he believed against hope” mean in your own words?
11. What was Abraham fully convinced about?
12. For whose sake were the words “it was counted to him as righteousness” written?
13. For whom will it be counted as righteousness now?

## Research Questions:

1. Do a Bible word study on “counted” (λογίζομαι, Strong’s #3049). What does it mean?
2. What would Romans 4 mean to a Gentile believer in Rome?
3. What would Romans 4 mean to a Jewish believer in Rome?
4. What would Romans 4 say to a Jewish person who didn’t believe in Jesus?
5. There is a famous argument in church history about Romans 4 vs James 1:21-26. How do these two passages live in harmony?
6. Re-read the story of Abraham (Genesis 12-25) in light of what you have read in Romans 4. What do you notice now?

7. Where else can you see God's promise and faith at work in the Old Testament?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Summarize the main arguments of this passage in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 4 affect our walk with God?



## Section 5: What this Jesus Stuff Means...

*Here's what we know so far. Everybody's messed up—except for Jesus, of course. The law just highlighted the messed-up-ness of the Jewish people. God, being just and loving, sought a way to un-mess-up all his people. Jesus is the way to that redemption, and that power is accessed through faith. This isn't a new concept: good ol' Father Abraham actually pioneered it when he believed and it was credited to him as righteousness.*

*This chapter begins with a “therefore.” Based on this beautiful concept of justification by faith in Jesus, Paul begins to expound all of the world-changing implications of the life of Jesus. It will be hard not to get excited and read this chapter with a smile seeing what God has been doing for us.*

### **Pray:**

- To see all of the effects of the saving work of Jesus in this life and the next
- That God will use these words to rekindle your spiritual flame and begin revival in our lives
- That everyone will know the amazing work of Jesus

### **Read:** Romans 5

**Highlight:** Choose a new color of highlighter or marker and highlight or circle all of the words that you can find in the family of grace or gift.

### **Study Questions:**

1. What do we have since we have been justified by faith?
2. What are we now able to access by faith?
3. How do we respond to suffering?

4. Who did Christ die for?
5. How did sin enter the world?
6. Why did death spread to all men?
7. What did the judgment following one trespass bring?
8. What does one man's obedience do?
9. What does it mean that "the law came in to increase the trespass"?
10. What will reign through righteousness?
11. Which is more powerful: sin or grace?

### **Research Questions:**

1. The Bible frequently uses a "how much more" argument. This a type of reasoning often called *a fortiori*. One example is when Jesus said that evil humans take care of their children, *how much more* will a perfectly good and generous God take care of us? (Matthew 7:11). Other examples can be found in Matthew 6:30 and 2 Corinthians 3:9. Paul uses this logic a few times in Romans. Find an example or two in Romans 5 and explain what they mean.

2. Verse 14 says that Adam “was a type of the one who was to come.” How was Adam a type of Jesus? In what ways does Adam resemble Jesus? In what ways was he different?
  
3. Reconciliation is a major theme of chapter 5. What does that word mean? What does reconciliation with God look like? What does reconciliation with fellow man look like?
  
4. Summarize the idea of Romans 5 in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 5 affect our walk with God?



## Section 6: Sin vs Grace

*Most of us imagine that sin is more powerful than grace. We imagine it as a stain that no bleach can remove, but Romans 5 pictures God's grace as an incredibly powerful force. It can beat sin on its own turf. It can reverse an epidemic. God's grace is more powerful, more effective, more "contagious" than sin. Wow!*

*So what does it mean to live in that grace?*

*In these chapters, Paul will ask and answer several questions about life in grace. He will explain the things that it isn't and how it shouldn't be abused. Make sure though, that, in the description of what grace isn't, that you don't lose track of what it is!*

*Grace transforms lives—individually and in community. A person who has experienced grace is an easier person to live with. If you're in a relationship with a grace-person, even if you haven't tasted it yet, you'll get a glimpse of it through the actions of your friend. The church is the place for grace to abound and overflow.*

*Imagine what good would happen if every church really understood this...*

### **Pray:**

- The words of Amazing Grace as an offering to God while you reflect on his grace in your life
- Thank God for the grace he has given and will continue to give.
- Reflect on the sustaining power of God's grace

**Read:** Romans 6:1-7:6

**Highlight:** Choose a new color of highlighter or marker and highlight or circle all of the words that you can find in the family of law.

## Study Questions:

1. Should we continue in sin that grace may abound?
2. What will happen if we are united with him in a death like his?
3. What happened to our body of sin?
4. Will Christ ever die again? What does this mean for our relationship to sin?
5. Read 6:1 and 6:15. Compare and contrast these questions and answers.
6. Practically, what does it mean to be a “slave of righteousness”? What does this concept communicate?
7. What was the fruit or the wage of sin?
8. What is the fruit or the wage of God’s gift?
9. How long is a law binding?
10. Is the law still alive to us?
11. Who are we married to now that our relationship with the law is over?

12. What does it mean that our sinful passions were “aroused by the law”? (7:5)
13. What does it mean to “serve in the new way of the Spirit”? (7:6)

### **Research Questions:**

1. If you were hearing about God’s grace for the first time, what questions might you ask?
2. Romans 6:3 marks baptism as the moment of unification with the death of Jesus. Research and locate other passages that describe baptism in a similar way.
3. Imagine that you had a friend who noticed that Romans 6 speaks in a pretty black-and-white way about Christians and sin. He reads the passage and recognizes that he still is struggling against sin, and concludes that he must not be in Christ, since he has not been set free from sin, and sin seems very much to still be alive. He’s about to give up. What could you say to him?

4. Summarize the main ideas of this passage in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 6:1-7:6 affect our walk with God?



## **Section 7: I Fought the Law and God Won!**

*It seems like we've been going back and forth. Is the law good? None of us kept it, and we're being set free from it. Why did God make it if that's what it is like? These are some of the questions that a Jewish person might wrestle with after his conversion.*

*Imagine what it would have been like to go your whole life without a bacon cheeseburger, and then be given a perfect one. Would you be upset about the years they were forbidden? Would you want to know why you had that burden? Or, despite the wonderful taste, could you ever really be comfortable sinking your teeth in without feeling a twinge of guilt? That's a silly example, but it's an example of the strange place a Jewish Christian might find himself in as he begins to understand the gospel, and it's one of the reasons the Jewish Christians and Gentile Christians had trouble seeing each other eye-to-eye.*

*Modern Christians often miss this difficulty, because we can't begin to imagine living in the world of the Jewish sacrificial system with its Kosher food. When we read these texts, we're just grateful we never had to deal with all that law stuff. Without realizing it, we've discounted a lot of how God has worked.*

*There's another issue we face: even if we don't have much interest in Jewish ceremonial law, we resurrect our own Torah. We create our own system, often unspoken and unwritten, of what is right and wrong, and what is allowable for "true Christians" like me and you. Just like the Pharisees created a law around the law, we have often created a law and held others to it (even though we don't keep it perfectly ourselves. See chapters 1-3!)*

*In this week's reading, we'll look at the purpose and scope of God's law, and what our relationship is to them now.*

### **Pray:**

- That we will never lose our hunger for holiness and right living

- Thank God for his word. Praise him for his commandments
- Offer God the words of Psalm 119 in praise for his law
- Praise him further still for the Word who became flesh and dwelt among us

**Read:** Romans 7:7-8:11

**Highlight:** Choose a new color of highlighter or marker and highlight or circle all of the words that you can find in the family of flesh.

**Study Questions:**

1. Is the law sin?
2. What good things did the law do? (7:7)
3. What bad things came through the law? (7:8)
4. What seized an opportunity through the law?
5. Did what is good bring death?
6. What really caused the problem?
7. In 7:14, where is the problem: in me or in the law?
8. What wages “war against the law of my mind?” (7:23)
9. What is the distinction between law and flesh in verse 25?

10. What do those “in Christ Jesus” no longer have? (8:1)

11. How did God condemn sin in the flesh?

12. Who cannot please God?

13. What determines whether you are in the flesh or the Spirit? (8:9-11)

### **Research Questions:**

1. Sometimes Paul sounds very positive about the law, as in 7:12 “the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.” Sometimes he sounds very negative—like in the verse prior “sin...deceived me and killed me” (7:11). How do we reconcile these two images. How would you describe the law?
2. What does Paul mean when he said that he “was once alive apart from the law”? (7:9)
3. What was the purpose of the law?

4. When Paul describes his struggles with sin in 7:15-20, when is he writing about? Is this pre-conversion? Is this a current struggle? How do these verses apply to us today?
  
5. There is a distinction between Paul's mind and his flesh in 7:25. Where else does Paul talk about "flesh" in this way? What is he describing?
  
6. Sometimes Christians have replaced one law with another. How would you explain the "law of the Spirit of life" in 8:2?
  
7. Summarize the main ideas of this passage in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 7:7-8:11 affect our walk with God?

## Section 8: Life in the Spirit

*Some version of the word Spirit or spiritual occurs 37 times in Romans, and 21 of those occurrences are in chapter 8 alone. Spirit is the most common noun in the book, beating God (x18), and I/we (x15). The next most common “interesting” word in the chapter is the word that means flesh (x13). Your highlighting will make this obvious!*

*Take a moment to recap last week’s introduction to the Spirit: the Spirit has set us free (8:2), we walk by the Spirit (8:4), and if Christ is in us, even our sin-deadened bodies have the Spirit of life (8:10). We anticipate having life by the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead (8:11).*

*This is good and beautiful news. It’s absolutely true! But, at the moment, our Spirit-powered bodies are still living in a very fleshly world. We are surrounded by wickedness, and there are some corners of our hearts where wickedness still has a foothold. How do we deal with the reality of these powerful promises and the reality of our brokenness? Romans 8 deals with life in the Spirit, both now and in the future.*

### **Pray:**

- For patience as God continues to work in us
- To follow the Spirit of God more closely and reject the flesh more easily
- To praise the Spirit who gives life!
- In praise of God using the words of 8:31-39

**Read:** Romans 8:12-39

**Highlight:** Choose a new color of highlighter or marker and highlight or circle all of the words that you can find in the family of Spirit or spiritual.

## Study Questions:

1. What does it mean that we are debtors in 8:12?
2. How do we put to death deeds of the body?
3. Who bears witness that we are children of God?
4. If we are children of God, what does that make us? (8:17)
5. What is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God?
6. What “part” of the Spirit do we have according to 8:23?  
What does this imply?
7. How does the Spirit help us? (8:26-27)
8. What wrong answers do we sometimes give to the question in verse 33?
9. What wrong answers do we sometimes give to the question in verse 34?
10. If nothing can separate us from the love of Christ, why is it that some get separated from the love of Christ?

## Research Questions:

1. Romans 8:26-30 makes use of the term “called.” Locate it elsewhere in Romans. What does it mean? Who is called?
2. Romans 8:28 is often quoted by itself. How does its context in Romans affect your understanding of it?
3. Research the predestination and foreknowledge language in verses 29-30. How do those verses connect to the prior verses? These verses have been controversial. What do you think the best application of them is?
4. Select one verse and memorize it.
5. Summarize the main ideas of this passage in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 8:12-39 affect our walk with God?





## Section 9: God's Plan and God's Choices

*Don't forget while you read that Paul was Jewish. Very Jewish. While he was "circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews" (Philippians 3:4-6), we are so used to him preaching Christ that we forget that his mom, his dad, his best friend, his mentor, and his next-door neighbors were Jewish people. Not all of them appreciated his shift towards Jesus.*

*Paul felt a great deal of love for his Jewish family. They were his family! It was incredibly difficult for him to watch Israel as a whole continue to reject Jesus and hold on to something that wouldn't last. Paul could see the writing on the wall. He knew that Jerusalem's days were numbered. If Romans was written in A.D. 57, it would be only 13 more years before Titus would besiege and destroy Jerusalem and everything in it.*

*Paul wanted to pull out all the stops in reaching his Jewish friends. At the same time, he was compelled to preach the goodness of God. Israel's failure wasn't God's failure!*

*As people who have friends and neighbors who don't know the wonderful grace of Jesus, we can relate to Paul in this passage. We know that God is good. We just wish everyone else did, too.*

### **Pray:**

- By name for our friends who don't know Jesus
- For our hearts to be softened to the lost
- Thanking God for the kindnesses and advantages he has given us that we most certainly do not deserve

**Read:** Romans 9-11

**Highlight:** If you haven't already, mark or highlight all of the questions in this week's reading.

## Study Questions:

1. Why was Paul in great sorrow and unceasing anguish?
2. What advantages did the Israelites have in following God? (9:4-5)
3. According to 9:8, who are really the offspring of Abraham?
4. In 9:6-13, what reasons were given for the selection of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?
5. Was it unjust that God selected Jacob? (9:14) Why not?
6. If God makes choices, is it still okay for him to make judgments? Why or why not? (9:19-21)
7. Who attained righteousness? Who did not?
8. What was Paul's desire and prayer to God?
9. For whom is Christ "the end of the law for righteousness?" (10:4)
10. Read 10:5-13 in several translations. What point is Paul making in this paragraph?
11. The gospel must first be heard to be believed. According to 10:18, has Israel heard?

12. According to 10:21, how come Israel did not respond appropriately?
13. Has God rejected Israel? (11:1)
14. What effect has the Gentiles' salvation had on Israel? (11:11)
15. Why did Paul do to make Israel jealous? (11:13)
16. In Paul's agricultural metaphor, what were the Gentiles in the past? What had they become?
17. How should the Gentiles NOT treat the branches?
18. How long did a partial hardening come over Israel?
19. What does 11:32 mean in your words?

**Research Question:**

1. A friend says to you, "God isn't fair. How is it right that he judges Pharaoh, when God hardened his heart?" How does Romans 9-11 help you answer this question?

2. In Romans 9:20-24, Paul uses the metaphor of God as a potter working with clay. Locate other examples of this metaphor being used in the Bible. What is being taught in these cases?
  
3. How does Romans 9:30-33 reconcile with the teaching of Romans 1-2 that no one is righteous. Are these passages in conflict? If not, how do you resolve the tension?
  
4. Research the idea of election. Where do you see it in scripture? How is it used?
  
5. Summarize the main ideas of this passage in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 9-11 affect our walk with God?

Griffith Thomas proposed this outline of Romans:

- Righteousness needed by sinful men (1:17 — 3:20)
- Righteousness provided by God (3:21-26)
- Righteousness received through faith (3:27 — 4:25)
- Righteousness experienced in the soul (5:1 — 8:17)
- Righteousness guaranteed as permanent blessing (8:18-39)
- Righteousness rejected by the Jewish nation (9 — 11)
- Righteousness manifested in practical life (12 — 16)

## Section 10: So What?

*Romans 12 marks a new section in the letter. Romans 1-11 were the doctrinal and theoretical sections. They explained what God had been up to. Romans 12-16 are the practical and applicational sections. In light of what God has done, how do we live?*

*One of the great mistakes we make is inverting the two sections. If we preach “what must I do” before we preach “what God has done,” we march headlong into the error this book was intended to correct.*

*Many well-intended sermons, classes, and articles have ripped powerful phrases out of Romans 12-16 but disconnected them from their source of power in Romans 1-11.*

*I can have a cell phone that is a technological marvel. It can have a beautiful screen with an incredible processor. It can have a camera that is studio quality, but if it isn't hooked up to a cellular network, it won't do what it was made to do.*

*The following chapters demonstrate how the features of Christianity work when they are connected to the doctrine of salvation by grace through faith.*

### **Pray:**

- For your brothers and sisters in the local church
- For the relationship of all the churches in our area, that we may be united
- For wisdom in living in the church and patience as we need it

**Read:** Romans 12

**Highlight:** Choose a new color of highlighter or marker and highlight or circle all of the words that you can find in the family of “other” (like “one another”). Underline all of the occurrences of “brother.”

### **Study Questions:**

1. How should people in the church NOT think? (12:3)
2. How many bodies do we have?
3. How many members do we have?
4. What should we do with the gifts we have? (12:6)
5. Out do one another in...
6. Who should we attempt to live at peace with?
7. How should we overcome evil?

### **Research Questions:**

1. What is the difference between being transformed and being conformed?
2. Research the words translated “spiritual worship.” Look at this phrase in many translations. What does it mean?

3. In Greek, 12:9-13 makes up one long sentence. What do all of these disparate commands have to do with each other? What's the big idea?
  
4. Locate the Old Testament reference behind 12:20 ("heap burning coals on his head.") What does this mean?
  
5. Romans 1-11 tries to correct our thinking about God and gospel. Correcting our thinking about God and gospel will correct our actions, as spelled out in Romans 12-16. Where do you think the modern church needs a correction in our thinking that will affect our acting?
  
6. Summarize the main ideas of this passage in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 12 affect our walk with God?





## Section 11: Submission?

*We really shouldn't have taken a break between Romans 12:21 and Romans 13:1, but Romans 13 has so many verses that have been cherry-picked, they need a little extra attention.*

*Romans 12 discussed how we treat each other in the church. Romans 13 discusses how we treat those outside the church, particularly those who are in a position of power.*

*Christianity is not Christianity if it only affects how we treat our friends. Jesus, on the cross, gives us the ultimate example of how believing in the power of God changes how we treat our enemies.*

### **Pray:**

- For those who are currently being persecuted – and for those doing the persecuting
- For someone you really don't like
- For the government in all forms
- For your own attitude in dealing with all of the above

**Read:** Romans 13

### **Study Questions:**

1. Who should be subject to the governing authorities?
2. Who might have been the governing authorities Paul had in mind?
3. Locate the passage(s) where Jesus talked about paying taxes. How do they relate to Romans 13?
4. Who has fulfilled the law?

5. What does it mean when Paul says that “salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed”? (13:11)

### **Research Questions:**

1. Romans 13 says that the authorities are “instituted by God” (13:1) and are “God’s servant” (13:4). Does that mean everything they do is approved by God?
2. Based on Romans 13:1-7, is civil disobedience ever justified? If so, in what cases? What passages support your argument?
3. Locate other passages that describe a Christian’s relationship to the government. What do they say?
7. Does Romans 12:8 belong in a Dave Ramsey book?
8. Summarize the main ideas of this passage in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 13 affect our walk with God?

## Section 12: Strong and Weak

*Paul continues to walk through specific examples of how our gospel understanding affects our treatment of others. Each case gets progressively more difficult. We can all agree, in theory, that we should love the people we know at church. It gets harder when we're told to joyfully obey the government. It gets harder still when we are told that love means giving up my rights for the sake of someone else.*

*Obedience to Romans 14 could virtually end church splits and reshape the religious world. Obedience to Romans 14 will only come when we've really understood Romans 1-11.*

### Pray:

- That the church may be unified
- For a weaker brother to grow stronger in the faith
- For sensitivity to see when your liberty might be a stumbling block to a brother

**Read:** Romans 14:1-15:13

**Highlight:** Choose a new color of highlighter or marker and highlight or circle all of the words that you can find in the family of “judge” (quarrel, pass judgment on, esteem, and decide). If you have time, go back to chapters 1-3 and do the same.

### Study Questions:

1. What should you do to the weak brother?
2. After reading Romans 14:1-9 what sort of person do you think was considered a “weak brother”?
3. What examples of differences in opinion were listed in Romans 14?

4. Who makes his servant stand? (14:4)
5. Who will we give an account of? (14:12)
6. What must should we do no longer? (14:13)
7. What must we decide never to do? (14:13)
8. What should we pursue? (14:19)
9. Where should you keep “the faith that you have”? (14:22)
10. What do the strong have an obligation to do? (15:1)
11. May the God of all hope fill you with... (15:13)

### **Research Questions:**

1. Research the word “weak” in 14:1 (ἀσθενέω Strong’s #770). What does it mean?
2. Research the word “opinions” in 14:1 (διαλογισμός Strong’s #1261). What does it mean? What qualifies as an “opinion”? What doesn’t? How did you make that distinction?

9. Think over your Christian walk. Can you think of a time that you gave up something that you could have enjoyed for the sake of your brothers? Has a brother given something up for your sake?
  
10. Locate other passages that describe giving something up for the sake of a brother.
  
11. Summarize the main ideas of this passage in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 14:1-15:13 affect our walk with God?



## Section 13: Our Friends in Rome

*In the last chapter and a half, Paul truly practices what he preaches. He explains his mission, he discusses his travel plans, and he names a lot of names.*

*Frankly, this list of names is difficult for us. Most of these names are unknown to us elsewhere in scripture or history. To many, it feels a lot like reading someone else's yearbook autograph pages. It's vaguely familiar, but not personally connected.*

### **Pray:**

- For the people who have made a difference in your spiritual life
- For the people whose faith life you are involved in helping

**Read:** Romans 15:14-16:27

**Highlight:** Count the number of names mentioned in today's reading. Write it in the margin of your Bible.

On a notes page, make a list of the names of people who have been significant in your spiritual journey from birth until today. What would you say to them?

**Listen:** Fred Craddock preached what may be the best sermon on Romans 16 entitled "When the Roll Is Called Down Here." Take 21 minutes and listen to it with your Bible open to the passage.

Sermon Audio: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X20Sd8NKLsk>

Sermon Transcript:

<https://www.preachingtoday.com/sermons/sermons/2010/july/whentheolliscalleddownhere.html>



## **Study Questions:**

1. What was Paul satisfied about? (15:14)
2. Paul didn't want to speak of anything except... (15:18)
3. Where did Paul want to preach?
4. When did Paul hope to see the Romans?
5. What was Paul presently going to do in Jerusalem?
6. Paul asked them to pray that he be delivered from whom?
7. Who was Phoebe?
8. What did Prisca and Aquila do?
9. What was special about Rufus' mom?
10. How did he tell them to greet each other?
11. Who should they watch out for?
12. Who actually penned this letter?



## Research Questions:

1. Select a name in this chapter to research. What did you learn?
2. Why would Paul not want to preach on another person's foundation?
3. What do we do with the instruction to greet one another with a holy kiss? (16:16)
4. Why might Tertius have written this letter?
5. Summarize the main ideas of this passage in a few sentences or less.

**SO WHAT?** How does what we learn in Romans 15:14-16:27 affect our walk with God?



## Every Question in Romans

2:3	4:9	9:14	11:1
2:4	4:10	9:19	11:2
2:21	6:1	9:20	11:4
2:22	6:2	9:21	11:7
2:23	6:3	9:22	11:11
2:26	6:15	9:23	11:12
3:1	6:16	9:24	11:15
3:3	6:21	9:30	11:24
3:5	7:1	9:31	11:34
3:6	7:7	9:32	11:35
3:7	7:13	10:6	11:36
3:8	7:24	10:7	13:3
3:9	8:24	10:8	14:4
3:27	8:31	10:14	14:10
3:29	8:32	10:15	
3:31	8:33	10:16	
4:1	8:34	10:18	
4:3	8:35	10:19	

# Tentative Schedule

## Romans Class

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Text</u>
9/12/2018	Reading a Letter	
9/19/2018	Background & Info	
9/26/2018	Bad News	Rom 1
10/3/2018	Worse News	Rom 2-3:20
10/10/2018	A Door Cracked to Hope	Rom 3:21-31
10/17/2018	Father Abraham Had Many Sons	Rom 4
10/24/2018	What this Jesus Stuff Means	Rom 5
10/31/2018	Sin Vs Grace	Rom 6:1-7:6
11/7/2018	I Fought the Law and...	Rom 7:7-8:11
11/14/2018	Life in the Spirit	Rom 8:12-39
11/21/2018	Thanksgiving Devo	
11/28/2018	God's Plan and God's Choices	Rom 9-11
12/5/2018	So What?	Rom 12
12/12/2018	Submission? Do I Have To?	Rom 13
12/19/2018	Strong and Weak	Rom 14:1-15:7
12/26/2018	Our Friends in Rome	Rom 15:8-16:27