
A Study of ROMANS



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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Lesson One: Background Information	2
Lesson Two: Textual Introduction (1:1-17)	6
Doctrinal Instructions (1:18 - 11:36)	
Lesson Three: Justification by Faith - I (1:18 - 3:31)	7
Lesson Four: Justification by Faith - II (4:1-25)	10
Lesson Five: Justification by Faith - III (5:1-21)	11
Lesson Six: The Life of the Believers (6:1 - 8:39)	12
Lesson Seven: The Problems of Israel's Rejection (9:1 - 11:36)	14
Practical Exhortations (12:1 - 15:13)	
Lesson Eight: As Members of the Church and Citizens of the State (12:1 - 13:14)	16
Lesson Nine: Questions of Conscience (14:1 - 15:13)	17
Lesson Ten: The Conclusion	18

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Lesson One: Background Information

I. Author: The Apostle Paul (1:1)

- A. He was born and raised in Tarsus of Cilicia, one of the great learning centers of the eastern world. (Acts 22:3)
 1. His parents were Jews who possessed Roman citizenship, therefore, he was both a Roman and a Jew. (Philippians 3:5; Acts 22:25-29)
 2. Typical of Jewish males, he learned a manual trade—tent-making. (Acts 18:3)
 3. He was sent to study in Jerusalem under Gamaliel. (Acts 22:3)
 - a. He excelled in his studies. (Galatians 1:14)
 - b. He was found “blameless” by the Law. (Phil. 3:6)
- B. His conversion and ministry.
 1. He is first mentioned in Scripture as the young man who held the robes of those who stoned Stephen. (Acts 7:58)
 - a. He zealously persecuted Christians. (Acts 22:4; 26:10-11; Gal. 1:13)
 - b. Christians were deathly afraid of him. (Acts 9:13,26)
 2. Jesus Christ manifested Himself to him on the road to Damascus. (Acts 9:1-16)
 - a. He obeyed the gospel. (Acts 22:16)
 - b. He became the apostle to the Gentiles. (Acts 9:15; Gal. 1:16; Romans 11:13)
 3. The early years of his ministry were spent mainly in Syria, Arabia, and Judea. (Acts 9:19-29; Gal. 1:17-21)
 - a. He then went to Tarsus for about nine years. (Acts 9:30)
 - b. Barnabas brought him from Tarsus to Antioch of Syria. (Acts 11:25-30; 12:25)
 4. Antioch was his home base for three missionary journeys. (Acts 13:1 - 14:28; 15:36 - 18:22; 18:23 - 21:17)
 5. While at Jerusalem he was arrested and imprisoned. (Acts 21:18 - 23:30)
 6. His imprisonment continued in Caesarea for two years. (Acts 23:31 - 26:32)
 7. After a difficult voyage he arrived in Rome where he was under house arrest for two years. (Acts 27:1 - 28:31).
 - He was apparently released, according to tradition, enabling him to resume limited travels. (1 Timothy 1:3; Titus 1:5)
 8. When the persecution by Nero began in 64 A.D., he was again arrested and taken to Rome where he was imprisoned once more.
 9. Tradition states that he was beheaded about 67 A.D. in Rome.

II. The City of Rome

- A. It was founded in 753 B.C. Mythical tradition states that it was started by Romulus, a son of Mars, who was preserved physically both by a wolf and a shepherd’s wife after he was forced out of his house by wicked relatives.
- B. Located in Italy on the Tiber River, it was built on seven hills: Palatine, Capitoline, Quirinal, Caelian, Aventine, Esquiline, and Viminal.
- C. By New Testament times it had grown to a population of about one million, the majority of which were slaves.

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- D. It was the center of the Roman Empire.
 - 1. It attracted all kinds of people and religions. It had an estimated 420 temples in it.
 - 2. Jews had been introduced there in large numbers by Pompeius the Great in 63 B.C.
 - a. Augustus, being a friend of the first Herod, had improved their condition and given them a section of the city beyond the Tiber River.
 - b. Claudius banished them when quarrels arose between them and Christians.

III. The Church at Rome

- A. The origin of it is unknown but tradition states that it was founded by the apostle Peter but such a view is inconsistent with known facts and without any supporting evidence.
 - 1. Peter's own epistles were neither addressed to nor written from Rome.
 - 2. In Paul's letter to this church he makes no mention of Peter.
 - 3. In epistles Paul wrote from Rome while in prison there, he makes no mention of Peter.
 - 4. No mention is made of Rome in the writings of Peter and no inspired writer mentions Peter in connection with Rome.
 - 5. If Peter were in Rome, why were there no spiritual gifts in the church there? (1:11)
- B. Probable origin.
 - 1. Some of those present on the day of Pentecost recorded in Acts 2 returned to teach the gospel and establish a church there. (Acts 2:10)
 - 2. Some who were scattered after the stoning of Stephen may have journeyed there. (Acts 8:1-4)
- C. It was composed of both Jews and Gentiles. (11:13; 7:1)

IV. The Purpose and Message of the Book

- A. To state Paul's longtime desire to visit them. (1:13; 15:23)
- B. To express Paul's thankfulness for their faith. (1:8)
- C. To show that both Jew and Gentile are under condemnation because of sin. (3:9)
- D. To explain that justification was not by the Law of Moses but rather by faith. (3:28; 5:1)
- E. To indicate how saved people, Christians, should conduct themselves.

An Outline of the Book of Romans

I. The Introduction (1:1-17)

- A. The salutation. (vv. 1-7)
- B. The interest of Paul in the Roman Christians. (vv. 8-15)
- C. The theme of the epistle. (1:16-17)

II. Doctrinal Instructions (1:18 - 11:36)

- A. Justification by faith. (1:18 - 5:21)
 - 1. The universal need of righteousness. (1:18 - 3:20)
 - a. The guilt of the Gentile world. (1:18-32)
 - b. The principles of divine judgment. (2:1-16)
 - c. The guilt of the Jew. (2:17 - 3:8)
 - d. The whole world condemned. (3:9-20)

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2. The divine method and provision. (3:21-31)
 3. The proof from Scripture. (4:1-25)
 4. The blessed results. (5:1-11)
 5. The universal application. (5:12-21)
- B. The life of the believers. (6:1 - 8:39)
1. Dead to sin and alive unto God. (6:1-14)
 2. Free from sin and servants of righteousness. (6:15-23)
 3. Free from law and united with Christ. (7:1-6)
 4. The inward struggle. (7:7-25)
 5. Life in the spirit. (8:1-17)
 - a. The possibility of holiness. (vv. 1-11)
 - b. The duty of holiness. (vv. 12-17)
 6. Patience in suffering. (8:18-30)
 - a. The hope of glory. (vv. 18-25)
 - b. The divine help and purpose. (vv. 26-30)
 7. The assurance of salvation. (8:31-39)
- C. The problem of Israel's rejection. (9:1 - 11:36)
1. The rejection of Israel is not complete. (9:1-29)
 - a. Paul's sorrow for Israel. (vv. 1-5)
 - b. Israel's rejection and God's promise. (vv. 6-13)
 - c. Israel's rejection and God's justice. (vv. 14-29)
 2. The rejection of Israel is not arbitrary. (9:30 - 10:21)
 - a. Israel's failure to accept Christ. (9:30-33)
 - b. Israel's refusal of God's righteousness. (10:1-15)
 - c. Israel's neglect of the Gospel message. (10:16-21)
 3. The rejection of Israel is not final. (11:1-36)
 - a. The present election of grace. (vv. 1-10)
 - b. The future salvation of Israel. (vv. 11-32)
 - c. The doxology. (vv. 33-36)

III. Practical Exhortations (12:1 - 15:13)

- A. As members of the church. (12:1-21)
1. The appeal to consecration. (vv. 1-2)
 2. The exercise of gifts. (vv. 3-8)
 3. The manifestation of love. (vv. 9-21)
- B. As citizens of the state. (13:1-14)
1. Civil duties. (vv. 1-7)
 2. The animating principle of love. (vv. 8-10)
 3. The purifying motive of hope. (vv. 11-14)
- C. Questions of conscience. (14:1 - 15:13)
1. Do not judge others. (14:1-12)
 2. Do not tempt others. (14:13-23)
 3. Follow the example of Christ. (15:1-13)

IV. The Conclusion (15:14 - 16:27)

- A. Paul's reasons for writing. (15:14-21)
- B. Paul's personal plans. (15:22-33)
- C. The commendation of Phoebe. (16:1-2)
- D. Paul's greetings to the Romans. (16:3-16)
- E. A warning against false teachers. (16:17-20)
- F. Greetings from Paul's companions. (16:21-23)
- G. The doxology. (16:25-27)

A Chapter Summary of the Book of Romans

Chapter One: The guilt of the Gentile world.

Chapter Two: The guilt of the Jewish nation.

Chapter Three: The guilt of all and God's provision to save.

Chapter Four: The Old Testament proves the proposition of Romans. (It is found in 1:16-17)

Chapter Five: A comparison of Adam to Christ.

Chapter Six: The Christian life—dead to sin, alive to God.

Chapter Seven: A contrast of the freedom of the Christian to the bondage of the Law.

Chapter Eight: A contrast of walking by the flesh to walking by the Spirit.

Chapter Nine: Has God rejected Israel?

Chapter Ten: Israel's rejection is due to unbelief, their acceptance is by faith.

Chapters Eleven through Fifteen: Practical application of the proposition.

Chapter Sixteen: Closing and salutations.

Lesson Two: Textual Introduction

Text: 1:1-17

1. How was Paul a servant of Jesus Christ?
2. What is the meaning of the phrase “gospel of God, which he promised afore?”
3. What two-fold description of Jesus is in verses three and four?
4. What is the “grace” mentioned in verse five?
5. What is meant by “obedience of faith?”
6. Who was included in the apostle’s greeting?
7. Why did Paul:
 - a. Give thanks through Jesus Christ?
 - b. Long to see them?
8. How was Paul a debtor? To whom was he a debtor?
9. In setting forth the major proposition of this epistle, how did Paul describe the gospel?
10. What is meant by the “righteousness of God?”

Lesson Three: Justification by Faith I

Text: 1:18 - 3:31

1. What is the significance of the “wrath of God?” How is it revealed?
2. How does His creation speak of God’s “everlasting power and divinity?”
3. What caused God to give up the Gentiles? To what three things had He given them up?
4. Define the following terms.
 - a. Unrighteousness.
 - b. Fornication.
 - c. Wickedness.
 - d. Covetousness.
 - e. Maliciousness.
 - f. Envy.
 - g. Murder.
 - h. Debate.
 - j. Deceit.
 - k. Malignity.
 - l. Whisperers
 - m. Backbiters.
 - n. Haters of God.
 - o. Despiteful.
 - p. Proud.
 - q. Boasters.
 - r. Inventors of evil things.
 - s. Disobedient to parents.
 - t. Without understanding.

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- u. Covenant-breakers.
 - v. Without natural affection.
 - w. Implacable.
 - x. Unmerciful.
5. What constitutes an inexcusable person?
 6. What is the “judgment” of 2:2?
 7. What is one thing that leads people to repentance? Why?
 8. What will determine a person’s reward?
 9. What is involved in “rendering according to works?”
 10. Name four things that will come to those who are contentious and do evil.
 11. Does the teaching of 2:13 conflict with that of 3:20? Explain.
 12. How did the Gentiles become a law unto themselves?
 13. By what will God judge the secrets of men?
 14. Who rested in the law and made his boast of God?
 15. What principle is taught in 2:21-22?
 16. How can one commit sacrilege?
 17. How was the name of God blasphemed among the Gentiles?
 18. How could a Jew’s “circumcision” be made “uncircumcision?”
 19. Describe the “outward Jew.” Describe the “inward Jew.”
 20. What advantage did the Jew have over the Gentile?
 21. Define the phrase “oracles of God.”
 22. Who did Paul say was “righteous?” Why?

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23. What is meant by the following phrases?
- a. “Throat is an open sepulchre.”
 - b. “Poison of asps is under their lips.”
 - c. “Mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.”
 - d. “Feet are swift to shed blood.”
24. What are some usual consequences in the life of one who has no fear of God?
25. Could the Law justify anyone? Why?
26. What is meant by the phrase “for by the law is the knowledge of sin?”
27. How is one justified?
28. Define “propitiation.”
29. What is “the law of faith?”
30. Of whom is God “the God?” Why is that important?
31. Is law made void by faith? Explain.
32. How does one “establish the law?”

Lesson Four: Justification by Faith II

Text: 4:1-25

1. How was Abraham justified?
2. What is meant by the phrase “counted unto him for righteousness?”
3. What does “God imputeth righteousness without works” mean?
4. How are one’s sins covered?
5. How does “the law work wrath?”
6. Why is it true that “where there law is, there is no transgression?”
7. What is the promise of verse 16?
8. How is Abraham the “father of us all?”
9. In what way did Abraham “hope against hope” to be the father of many nations?
10. What is “imputed” to us? How is it imputed? Why is it imputed?

Lesson Five: Justification by Faith III

Text: 5:1-21

1. How does one have “peace with God?”
2. To what do we have “access?”
3. Why should one glory in tribulations?
4. Define the following.
 - a. Patience.
 - b. Experience.
 - c. Hope.
5. How is love shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit?
6. What in this chapter tells of the magnitude of God’s love?
7. How is one justified by the blood of Christ?
8. What does it mean to be “reconciled?”
9. Describe how death passed to all men by the sin of one man?
10. What came by Jesus Christ?
11. Upon whom did the “free gift” come?
12. Unto what did sin reign? Through what and by what does grace reign?

Lesson Six: The Life of the Believers

Text: 6:1 - 8:39

1. Can a Christian continue in sin? Why?
2. How is one “baptized” into Christ’s death? For what purpose is one baptized into His death?
3. What does it mean to “walk in newness of life?”
4. How is “the body of sin destroyed?”
5. Define “dominion.” Why does death not longer have “dominion” over Christ?
6. What is not to reign in one’s body? Why?
7. Define “yield.” Unto what is one not to “yield?” Unto whom is one to “yield?”
8. How had the recipients of this epistle become “servants of righteousness?”
9. What is the fruit of righteousness? What are the wages of sin?
10. How long is a woman bound to her husband? Why?
11. If the wife marries another while her husband is living, what is she? Why?
12. What is the lesson of the illustration of marriage in verses one through four?
13. Explain how Paul “had not known sin, but by the law?”
14. Did the law teach Paul to lust? Explain.
15. Define “concupiscence.”
16. How was Paul “alive without the law once?”
17. How was Paul “carnal?”
18. Did Paul mean it was his “sinful nature” that he could not control that caused him to sin? Explain.

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19. What is the law in Paul's members "that warred against the law of his mind?"
 20. Who has no condemnation? Why?
 21. How did God "condemn sin in the flesh?"
 22. How does one walk after the flesh? How does one walk after the Spirit?
 23. How is one led by the Spirit? How are those who are "led by the Spirit" sons of God?
 24. What does it mean to be a "joint heir with Christ?"
 25. How does the "whole creation groan and travail in pain together?"
 26. What is the "adoption" of 8:23?
 27. What is hope?
 28. How does the Spirit aid the Christian's prayers?
 29. How do "all things work together for good to them that love God?"
 30. Whom did God "predestinate?"
 31. Define predestination and how it is accomplished.
 32. What can separate one from the love of God? Explain.

Lesson Seven: The Problems of Israel's Rejection

Text: 9:1 -11:36

1. Why did Paul have heaviness and sorrow in his heart?
2. How are "they not all Israel which are of Israel?"
3. What does it mean when it is said of God "Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated?"
4. Why would anyone accuse God of unrighteousness?
5. What is the lesson of the potter and the clay?
6. What is a "vessel unto honor?" What is a "vessel unto dishonor?"
7. Why did Paul appeal to the prophecy of Hosea (KJV: "Osee")? Why did he appeal to the prophecy of Isaiah?
8. How did the Gentiles attain to righteousness? Why did not the Jews?
9. What is the "stumblingstone and rock of offence?"
10. What was Paul's prayer for Israel?
11. What had Israel done with respect to righteousness?
12. Who is the "end of the law for righteousness?" Why?
13. What is one to confess concerning Christ? Why is confession of Christ important?
14. How is there no difference between Jew and Gentile?
15. Who does 10:13 say will be saved? Explain.
16. What is involved in "calling upon the name of the Lord?"
17. What is the role of the preacher?

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18. How does faith come? Can it come any other way? Explain.
 19. Had God rejected Israel? Explain.
 20. What Old Testament incident in the life of Elijah is cited? Why?
 21. What is meant by the “election of grace?”
 22. What negates grace? Why?
 23. What purpose did the “stumbling” of the Jews serve?
 24. What was Paul’s message to the Gentile concerning the Jews?
 25. Describe the “grafting” process presented in chapter eleven. What did it accomplish?
 26. What two aspects of God’s nature is presented in 11:22?
 27. What does “so all Israel shall be saved” mean?
 28. What caused Paul to praise the wisdom and knowledge of God?

Lesson Eight:

Members of the Church - Citizens of the State

Text: 12:1 - 13:14

1. What is the Christian to present as a sacrifice to God?
2. How is such a sacrifice as the one above “reasonable (ASV: “spiritual”) service?”
3. Rather than being conformed to the world, what is the Christian to do? How does one do this?
4. How can one think “soberly?”
5. What is to be the attitude between Christians when they possess different gifts or abilities?
6. Define “dissimulation.”
7. What practical admonitions did Paul give these Christians?
8. What does it mean to be “wise in your own conceits?”
9. What is to be the Christian’s attitude toward vengeance?
10. What should the Christian do for his enemy? Why?
11. What are “higher powers?” How are they ordained of God?
12. To what are rulers a “terror?”
13. Why does one pay tribute?
14. What does it mean to “owe no man anything?” Is the Christian forbidden to borrow? Explain.

Lesson Nine: Questions of Conscience

Text: 14:1 - 15:13

1. What are “doubtful disputations?”
2. What does it mean to “esteem one day above another?”
3. In what respect is the Christian not to judge his brother?
4. Who shall give account to God?
5. How can “good be evil spoken of?”
6. Of what does not the kingdom of God consist? Of what does it consist?
7. How can one person edify another?
8. What does 14:23 say is sin? Why is it sin?
9. What are the strong to do in regard to the weak?
10. Why is one to please his neighbor?

Lesson Ten: Conclusion

Text: 15:14 - 16:27

1. Where did Paul strive to preach the gospel? Why?
2. What had hindered Paul from coming to Rome?
3. Why was Paul going to Jerusalem?
4. Who was Phoebe?
5. Who were Priscilla and Aquila?
6. What is a “holy kiss?” Must we greet one another in that manner today? Explain.
7. Who were the Christians at Rome to “mark?” Why?
8. How would God “bruise” Satan under their feet?

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