





DISCIPLE SERIES

D-3 "Romans"

Monday Overview:

Romans is a book to study for the rest of your life. The Graciousness and Sovereignty of God are its themes. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is its subject, and the implications are earth shattering. Are you ready to be immersed in the Gospel? Let's begin.

Let's look at an outline of the first 3 chapters. In this letter to Roman believers, Paul crafts a careful argument to explain and defend that salvation is by grace through faith Jesus not through obedience to the Mosaic Law, and further that this is available to both Jews and Gentiles. There is much more, but this is the main idea.

Outline: Chapter 1: God is righteously wrathful.

Chapter 2: Everyone is condemned.

Chapter 3: Righteousness comes not by obedience to the Law (because the Law finds you guilty), but "through faith in

Jesus Christ for all who believe."

Romans is really about God, and how He glorifies Himself to sinful people by showing His love in giving the righteousness of Christ to a sinner by faith, so that He is both just and merciful at the same time. In verse 3:21-26, we gain major insight: the righteousness of God; (for) all who believe (you don't have to be Jewish); (by the) gift of grace through the redemption of blood received by faith in Christ who died on the cross. Read Genesis 22:1-19 and Hebrews 11:17-19. Can you see what God was modeling?

Bible Reading:

- Romans 3
- Genesis 22:1-9
- Hebrews 11:17-19

Now What?

This is the stuff of raw theology. But it won't hit home until we take it to heart and realize the intense freedom and joy that believing this about God will produce in us. 1) That God is just and obligated to judge us. 2) That we have nothing to say in our defense; we're guilty. 3) God graciously made the gift of a saving sacrifice to us. This is just the beginning.

- 1. Why do you think God required this sacrifice?
- 2. How does Jesus solve our problem?
- 3. How does this passage connect to our Memory Verse?

The 4 Q's

- 1. Is there anything hard to hear about ourselves in this?
- 2. What are some reasons that 3:21-26 would be called good news?
- 3. How can believing this truth about God change your life?
- 4. Do you think that it would have been surprising to learn that the Gospel could save Gentiles too?

Things To Pray For	:
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Memory Verse:

Romans 5:1-2

Tuesday Overview:

Diamonds are not only beautiful because of their many facets, but they are also useful! As the hardest substance on earth, they cut through tough materials. These next 3 chapters—4, 5, 6—are like diamonds. We see not only beautiful facets of Christ and His saving work, but also hard implications. Truth about God leads us to marvel at Him in worship and live in the light of who He is.

The main idea of Chapter 4 is that God's promise comes through faith because God receives glory when we believe Him and salvation is guaranteed for both Jews and Gentiles. The way you live your life speaks loudly about who you believe God to be.

Chapter 5 holds two main themes. The first "Peace, Hope, and Love." The second, "Jesus vs. Adam." Jesus shines brightly, and we begin to see connections between the Gospel and Christian life. Jesus gives us peace with God. God gives us fuel to get through hard times. A further priceless facet is the revelation of Jesus' love in 5:6-11: Jesus died for us when we were still sinners! The depths of this love are beyond our ability to understand.

In 5:12-20 we see Jesus' work contrasted with the fallout of Adam's sin. Where Adam's sin led to death for all, Jesus' grace leads to life. Adam's sin led to the reign of death in all people. Jesus' grace leads to the reign of His resurrected life in the lives of all who believe in Him. Sin is a formidable enemy, and we will see more how Jesus conquered it in Chapter 6.

It is through faith in Christ we have union with Him and this means that sin can't dominate our will. We have a choice.

Bible Reading:

Romans 4-6

Now What?

So many times when life gets us down we focus on the negatives and don't allow God to work through us and produce hope!

- 1. What 2 results do we have in our lives because we have been justified?
- 2. What kind of relationship did we have with God before we became reconciled?
- 3. Paul uses the words *reconciled* and *justified*. What do these words mean? Why do you think that he used them?

The 4 Q's Things To Pray For: Memory Verse: 1. Can you rejoice in sufferings from your past? Romans 5:1-2 "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God 2. Would you have done what Christ did? through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we 3. Why does this hope not disappoint? now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God" 4. How do reconciliation and justification relate in this passage and your life?

Romans

Wednesday Overview:

You are already dead...if you have faith in Christ. In Romans 6, we learn that we have been united with Christ in His death and resurrection. This means that sin has lost its power over us. In Romans 7, we see that we have died not only to Sin, but also to the law. So, why is that important? The law is from God, so it is good, right?

Paul explains that although the law is good, sin takes the opportunity to provoke us against the law, so we find ourselves not doing the things that we should. The good news comes in verse 6: "But now we are released from the Law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit."

Romans 8 thunders in triumph over this good news. Sin and death and the Law no longer dominate us, but the Holy Spirit empowers us to obey God, as the Law could not!

When we receive the Spirit we can relate to God as His children, not as slaves who are afraid of Him. As children we begin to show God's nature in our lives, just as we might have the same characteristics of an earthly father. The Spirit helps us to hope in suffering for the final redemption, the glorified status of eternal life in a new body. And remember this thought: "nothing can separate us from the love of Christ" and so, "we are more than conquerors!"

Bible Reading:

Romans 7-8

Now What?

- 1. What does Paul teach about sin in Chapter 7? How does sin lose control of you?
- 2. Name three actions that the Holy Spirit does in Chapter 8. Where do you see this in your life?
- 3. What does Paul mean when he says, "There is no condemnation?"

The 4 Q's

- Do you resonate with the experience of Paul in 7:13-20?
- 2. How does the truth of adoption in 8:15 change the way you live your life?
- 3. Give three pieces of good news in these two chapters.
- 4. How can Rom. 8:28 comfort you?

Encouragement...

Things To Pray For:

Memory Verse:

Romans 5:1-2

Romans D-3.4

Thursday Overview:

In Matthew 10, Jesus warned his Jewish disciples they would suffer persecution from their own families. Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of all of God's promises, so why did so many people reject Him? Paul takes up this question in Chapters 9-11. In 12, he uses the image of a 'living sacrifice' to picture how both Jews and Gentiles should live in Christ.

Paul's first consideration is to affirm that God's Promise to Abraham has not failed. In 9:8-13, Paul demonstrates that God's Promise was not a guarantee of physical children, although He certainly did provide that, but of Children of Promise who are ordained by God's will ordained to receive mercy.

9:14-29 requires careful reading, and can be difficult for some people. Paul's desire is to show that God is free to have mercy on whom He wills, and this is not unjust, since mercy is a gift, not a debt.

In 10 and 11, Paul's heart turns back to the Jewish people whom he prays earnestly for. He encourages followers of Jesus to preach the Gospel and share their testimonies. He also warns against jealousy and pride.

In 12 Paul describes three ways in which we can present ourselves to God as living sacrifices: 1) the renewal of our minds; 2) the cultivation of humility towards others and sharing of our gifts; and 3) following instructions in 12:9-20. Paul describes this lifestyle as our act of spiritual worship.

Bible Reading:

Romans 9-12

Now What?

- 1. What do you think it would have felt like for Paul as a Jew to see some of his people reject Jesus?
- 2. What does 10:8-17 teach us about sharing the Gospel?
- 3. God's "promise-keeping" is a major theme in Romans. What examples do we see of it in these four chapters?

Activity:

What are your gifts? Do any of the gifts in 12:6-8 describe you? How can you share them at camp, home, and in your life?

The 4 O's

- How can we learn how to respond to our Jewish friends from what you read?
- How can you use your gifts to help further God's Kingdom?
- 3. How is God renewing your mind?
- 4. Pick an instruction from 12:14-20.

My Gifts...

Things To Pray For:

Memory Verse:

Romans 5:1-2

Romans D-3.5

Friday Overview:

As we wrap up Romans, we continue to see Gospel theology and life direction gel. In these final four chapters, the Apostle Paul provides instructions for specific situations in the life of the church. Having seen the full implications of the Gospel, we now see living in the light of the Gospel play out in "real time."

Paul covers hard subject like "doubtful matters" - how to handle issues that God does not directly address in Scripture.

Going along with this theme of love, Romans also provides a list of resources to build up Christian unity. We are to follow Christ's example in going to great lengths to do each other good. Paul also gives us insight into his mission to the Gentiles, after praising God for how Christ's mission to Israel confirmed God's earlier promises, and made mercy to the Gentiles possible.

Finally, in Chapter 16 we see a long list of shout-outs to believers that Paul especially wanted to mention. Some of these entries are intriguing. Paul's final warning and prayer are too! Paul commends his readers to be strengthened according to "my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ!"

Bible Reading:

• Romans 13-16

Now What?

- 1. According to Paul, how are we to respond to authorities?
- 2. In Romans 13, why do you think Paul uses the imagery of waking from sleep?
- 3. What issues might be examples of "idol meat" in your church? How can you respond?
- 4. Discuss how Romans 15:13 connects back to themes we have already discussed.
- 5. Read Romans 16:25-27. Why do you think Paul ends the letter this way?

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- 1. How does understanding the Gospel change the way we live?
- 2. How can you apply 14:1-4 to your life?
- 3. How can we take the example of Jesus to heart and build up our neighbor?
- 4. How can we "stay awake?

Things To Pray For:

Memory Verse:

Romans 5:1-2

Journal:	

The Final Q's

- Which promise would be made void if faith were based on works?
- 2. Why should we rejoice in our sufferings?
- 3. Describe three things ways to love someone:

Memory Verse:
Romans 5:1-2
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