

# A Study of Romans

*The Gospel, the Law, Righteousness & the Glory of God*

## **Introduction:**

Rome A.D. 56 was the seat of one of the greatest empires the world has ever known. Its mighty emperors ruled in lavish dominion over the cosmopolitan center of one million inhabitants. Roman law and Roman forms of worship ruled supreme, demanding that attention and respect in the hearts of its men and women. Within this environment, a tiny sect known as Christians flourished.

To these believers, Paul wrote the longest of his New Testament letters, introducing himself in advance of his upcoming visit. The book of Romans presents a beautifully detailed doctrinal statement of Christianity.

Paul presents the need for all people to realize where they stand with God—a standard which falls short of God’s design and plan for their lives. However, by an act of God’s grace and faith they are restored to their rightful relationship with God. Because of the confidence of forgiveness, all believers can present their talents, gifts, and abilities—whatever they are—as an act of worship to God.

Paul encourages his readers to realize that God is always in control. He also comforts them with the knowledge that nothing can separate them from the love of God. This was especially appropriate for the Roman church, for they were to face much persecution from both their Roman overlords and the Jews who lived in Rome and yet, nothing could separate them from the love of God. The church in Rome grew to be a great center of faith.

Paul gave great words of faith which are as alive and vital today as they were to the first Christians who read them nearly two thousand years ago. The knowledge of God’s grace and forgiveness frees us not only from sin, but from anxiety, guilt, depression, and a negative self-image. The stresses of life flow out and salvation flows in.

The book of Romans is the most important letter that you will ever read. It is Paul’s masterpiece, the clearest and fullest explanation of the gospel in the Bible. Enjoy your studies as you read what Paul has to say about this life and our future with Christ.

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# Lesson 1: Paul's Motivation

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 1:1-17

## **Introduction:**

Paul's introduction to this gospel begins with all the good news he wants to impute to the Romans. The good news about Jesus Christ, the promise, the provision, the purpose, and the privileges associated with the good news. How do we react to good news? Don't we want to shout it to our friends, our loved ones, even to the world? It is just too hard to keep it to ourselves.

What motivates Paul to write this gospel? It is not only the good news that he has, but also the motivation that comes from spiritual gift-giving, from an obligation of debt to both the Greeks and other outsiders, and from the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul's goal was to preach in Rome soon, but many other things would happen before Paul would preach in Rome. So first went the letter to the Church in Rome to which he had as yet never been.

## **Lesson Questions:**

1. What do we want to do with the good news when we hear it? Why don't we always treat the good news of the gospel the same way?
2. What do we learn about Paul as a person from Romans 1:1,5? How would you describe him to someone else based upon these two verses?
3. From Romans 1:1-5 what do we learn from Paul about what the gospel is all about and why it is so important? What provision is made to each of us through the gospel?
4. What three privileges of the good news are given by Paul in Romans 1:7?
5. What was Paul's attitude toward the Romans based upon what he wrote in Romans 1:8-13? Why do you think Paul was so motivated to come to Rome? What was the double benefit of Paul going to them?
6. How eager and prepared was Paul to preach in Rome based upon Romans 1:14? What opportunities do we have to preach the same gospel? Who would be your chosen audience?
7. Based upon your answers to the above question, what would be your approach to reach out to this chosen audience whenever the opportunity would present itself?
8. In Romans 1:15-16, Paul states that we can either be eager to preach the gospel or be ashamed of it. What has happened in our lives in the past that may have caused us to be ashamed? What event caused us to be eager to preach the gospel? Why is our attitude not always eager?
9. Romans 1:17 talks about the righteousness of God. How is the righteousness of God through the gospel revealed to us? Is it passed from one faithful person to another, or does it come from above, or from all the above? How do we know where it came from?

## Lesson 2: The Wrath of God

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 1:18-32

### **Introduction:**

Man was created with a conscience that provides the ability to distinguish what is right and what is wrong according to the word of God. But man attempts to pervert God's ways through many devices, such as the suppression of truth and the perversion of that same truth. God is patient to His people and waits for them to return to Him, but once God is totally rejected the wrath of God is revealed in these scriptures. Paul lists a number of the sins that are examples of what these rebellious people commit. This text is one of the most damning in the Bible. It describes that man has the inner knowledge of God and of sin, and from within man knows that God hates and judges sin. That man despite this knowledge persists in sin, even so far that man eventually condones, then approves, and rejoices in the sin of others and finally man joins in those sins; rejecting all the knowledge that God has provided to man through his conscience.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. Why it is so hard for a sinner to recognize sin in their life? Does that recognition get any easier after baptism, conversion, or altar call experiences?
2. Romans 1:18 gives a brief description of God's wrath and against whom it is revealed. How does this wrath differ from the sinful anger or violent temper condemned by Scriptures? Against whom is it revealed?
3. What all do we learn about God from Romans 1:19-20? What truths are revealed about Him that gives man no valid excuse of ignorance?
4. Discuss the four ways stated in Romans 1:21 in which men reject God. How does this relate to what is stated in Romans 1:18?
5. What happens when men substitutes his own philosophies and religions for God's truth (Romans 1:22-24)? What is God's response to this?
6. When Paul refers to women being used against nature, to what is he referring in Romans 1:26?
7. What is the final thing that God "gives man over to" in Romans 1:28? Having done this, what is the only natural progression for man?
8. Examine the lists of sins as given in Romans 1:29-31. What do they tell us about a debased mind? How many of these same sins do you see in the world today?
9. When we think of the wrath of God we normally think of a future judgment. However, Romans 1:18 states that God's wrath is now revealed. How is this wrath revealed and evidenced in Romans 1:24-32?
10. We have often heard the expression that people are basically good. What have you learned from Romans 1:18-32 that would give you evidence to the contrary?

## Lesson 3: The Judgment of God

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 2:1-29

### **Introduction:**

When we think of judgment, we often think about our Nations' form of judicial laws and procedures which are at best flawed. There are just too many ways in which a criminal can either avoid or escape punishment and oftentimes the punishment doesn't fit the crime. Compare this to the judgment of God in which the punishment has already been established; the Judge is a righteous judge, and there is no escaping from what we have done. Another difference is that we have an advocate in Christ, who knows our hearts and minds, and if we have followed Him, He will speak for us. The judgment of God is perfect.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. Other than through race or religion, what other bases do we use to judge other people? Are any of these comparable to the way that we would want either them or God to judge us (Romans 2:1)?
2. Using Romans 2:1-4 as a basis, how do people reveal both an understanding and a misunderstanding of God's judgment when they are judgmental of others? What is the standard of God's judgment?
3. Based upon Romans 2:4, why could God's kindness possibly lead people to be either repentant or presumptuous?
4. Romans 2:5-16 describe a future day of judgment known as the "the day of God's wrath" (Romans 2:5). How will man be judged on that day? Distinguish between the rewards of the redeemed and the penalties of the unredeemed? Is this a fair judgment for all?
5. What standards does God use to judge, based upon Romans 2:12-16. How are they similar to each group? How are they different for each group?
6. In Romans 2:17-20 Paul focuses his attention on a hypocritical Jew. How does such a person view himself and others? Is knowledge of the law sufficient for salvation?
7. In Romans 2:21-22 of what moral and spiritual hypocrisy were the Jews guilty?
8. How has religious hypocrisy hurt the Christian world today? Give some specific examples of such hypocrisy?
9. Jews placed great value on circumcision as a visible sign of being God's people. How had some of them placed more importance on the practice than what it was intended to represent? Do we today treat visible signs such as baptism, confession, membership, etc. in the same manner?
10. What is the true definition of a Jew, based upon Romans 2:28-29?

## Lesson 4: The Final Verdict

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 3:1-20

### **Introduction:**

What do you believe would be the final verdict on our lives if we were left to determine where we stood? If it was based solely upon your quality of life and the level of obedience to God, how do you think that you would fare? In Romans 3:1-20 Paul talks about the advantage that the Jews had over other peoples, and yet how they all fell short. We have all sinned, both the Jews and the Greeks, and therefore we all fall short in many ways that would seem to make the outcome for us at best, quite bleak. But we are not the final judge, who then not only looks at our outside works, but sees what is in our hearts and minds too. We need to reflect on the fact that we cannot make it on our own. But we need not only the laws of God to recognize sin but also to recognize the grace of God, a gift that we do not deserve, then we have hope in that final verdict.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. Describe how you would feel if you were on trial for committing a serious crime and knew that you were guilty? How is this any different than where we stand with God in our lives compared to our example – Jesus Christ?
2. From Romans 3:1-2, what does Paul state were the spiritual advantages of being a Jew? What is the greatest advantage a Jew had (Romans 3:3)?
3. Why might some Jews have accused God of being unjust (Romans 3:3-8)? How does Paul respond to these accusations?
4. What warning is given to Paul's false accusers (Romans 3:8)?
5. Do we today have any advantages over others that have been granted to us by God? If so, how have they helped you in your Christian walk?
6. Paul charges both the Jew and Greek with what (Romans 3:9)? How is this charge supported in Romans 3:10-18?
7. In Romans 3:13-18 Paul describes how the various parts of our bodies are involved in sin. What does that tell us concerning our carnal bodies and the battles we must fight to overcome all those parts?
8. What three specific acts of misconduct are formally charged by Paul in Romans 3:15-17?
9. What is the final verdict upon unredeemed mankind (Romans 3:19-20)? What would be our hope if Romans 3 had ended with these verses? Wouldn't God be just in taking wrath on us for all we have done that was opposed to Him? But isn't it great that He is also merciful and gracious, and loves us in spite of what we do?

## Lesson 5: Being Right with God

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 3:21-31

### **Introduction:**

Having proclaimed us to be condemned and guilty and worthy of the wrath of God, what comes next in Romans 3 is amazing in its revelation and hope. We see the true righteousness of God and His nature as a loving and caring God. These verses change our outlook from death to life, from bondage to freedom, from condemned to pardoned. These verses are some of the most important verses in the entire Bible and we must spend some time analyzing what they mean for us now and our future. We must understand fully the nature of God and why He does what He does. Being right with God is what being a Christian is all about.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. From Romans 3:21-22, how is the righteousness of God revealed? To whom is the provision of righteousness given? From what does it come?
2. How is the righteousness from God (Romans 3:22-24) different from righteousness by law (Romans 2:5-13)? How can anyone be justified from sin?
3. What does it mean to have faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:22)?
4. Romans 3:24-25 refers to being justified by His grace. What does this mean to us and how does it apply to our relationship to Jesus Christ?
5. What is the payment (propitiation) for our sins (Romans 3:25)?
6. Redemption is a term applied to slavery which means to buy someone out of slavery (Romans 3:24). From what slavery has Christ delivered us?
7. People oftentimes struggle over how God can be both just and gracious at the same time. How do the justice and grace of God meet at the cross (Romans 3:25-26)?
8. Can we ever justify boasting about ourselves for our redemption in Christ (Romans 3:27-31)? How does boasting betray a fundamental misunderstanding of the gospel?
9. Are there times in your lives that you feel unacceptable to God? Give some examples.
10. Romans 3:31: If being right with God comes by faith and not by works, what should be done with God's law? Do we truly grasp what Jesus Christ has done for each of us? Let us thank Him today.

## Lesson 6: Abraham and the Power of Faith

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 4:1-25

### Introduction:

Hebrews 11 is often referred to as the faith chapter, using both definition and examples to define what faith is. Romans 4 states Abraham as an example of someone who used his faith, not his inheritance or circumcision, to accomplish much and obey God without question. We sometimes feel hopeless, facing situations that appear beyond hope. Our natural response during such times is often despair and even depression. Abraham knew what it meant to face seemingly insurmountable obstacles. He could have felt hopeless, yet somehow found a renewed reason to hope. It was through the power of faith that Abraham overcame these obstacles and continued to obey God. We can have that same power in our lives.

### Lesson Questions:

1. Briefly describe a situation in which you felt hopeless. What helped you to overcome this feeling?
2. According to Romans 4:1-8, how did Paul say that the saints such as Abraham and David were justified? According to David, in what three ways is the person of genuine faith blessed? Was there anything that Abraham did of his own that caused him to receive benefit from God?
3. From Romans 4:4-8, is there any difference between justification by faith and justification by works?
4. Romans 4:9-12. Of what benefit to future generations was the fact that Abraham was not yet circumcised when he received the seal of righteousness of the faith and became the father of all those who believe? Today we sometimes state that unless you be baptized (similar to the Jewish claim concerning circumcision) we have no hope of being saved. How does Abraham's experience refute this belief?
5. In Romans 4:13-17 Paul states that God promised that Abraham and his offspring would inherit the world. Who are Abraham's offspring and what is it that they inherit? Does it make any difference whether this promise to Abraham and his offspring is fulfilled by law or grace?
6. Why can men never be saved by keeping the law? Romans 4:15-16.
7. How strongly did Abraham believe in God's word (Romans 4:18)?
8. Comment about the quality of Abraham's faith in Romans 4:19-22. Why did Paul recount these qualities to the Romans at this time?
9. How does Abraham illustrate our own hopeless predicament as non-believers and the solution provided in Jesus Christ (Romans 4:18-25)?
10. Why did Christ die on the cross, and why was He raised from the dead (Romans 4:25)?



## Lesson 7: Rejoicing in the Lord

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 5:1-21

### **Introduction:**

Rejoicing in the Lord is something that we all wish that we did more of, but generally, reserve for special occasions. Mostly we are sometimes just too busy to stop and take the time to rejoice. Romans 5 gives us some very special reasons to rejoice in all that we do, to take the time to remember where joy really comes from and to make the effort even when we are suffering some trying times. It is amazing how quickly we can forget the feeling that rejoicing in the Lord provides for us. As we read these words, let us think of ways in which we can spend more time in rejoicing and less in worrying about what may happen to us. We truly have much for which we can rejoice and very little in the way of valid excuses for not rejoicing.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. What are some of the things in life that make you joyful and cause you to want to rejoice? How can we make them last longer or reoccur more often in our lives?
2. Romans 5:1-2. How has faith in Jesus Christ changed our relationship with God? What new hope comes to us by the forgiveness of our sins?
3. From Romans 5:2-11 what reasons does Paul give for rejoicing?
4. What does it mean to rejoice in the hope of the glory of God (Romans 5:2)?
5. How does suffering for Christ's sake relate to rejoicing in the Lord (Romans 5:3-4)? Can a person rejoice in tribulation and if so, what spiritual benefits are received for doing so?
6. In what ways does God commend his love for us (Romans 5:5-8)?
7. What certainty of deliverance does a believer possess and experience in Christ (Romans 5:10-11)?
8. Why should God's outpouring of love and His complete acceptance of us cause us to rejoice (Romans 5:11)?
9. How are Adam and Christ similar (Romans 5:12, 18-19)?
10. How did sin and death enter the world (Romans 5:12)? How did death spread to all men? What consequence did the sin nature produce in men even before the giving of the law (Romans 5:13-14)?
11. How were Adam's and Christ's acts opposite in nature (Romans 5:18-19)?
12. Why did God give the Law (Romans 5:20)? Give several reasons for your answer based upon what the Law has done for you and for others in history.

## Lesson 8: Dying to Live with Christ

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 6:1-14

### **Introduction:**

It seems almost inconceivable to us the concept of dying and then being reborn during our lifetime here on earth. What is so wrong with our mortal bodies that we have to bury it in water? There are many things in life that we have obtained through sweat and tears, and now we are asked to give them up because they interfere with living with Christ. Until we are able to let go of these things, they will always be a stumbling block to our relationship to God. But we just don't see the harm, and in fact, think in our rational minds two distinct thoughts; there is always time and I can always be forgiven if need be. In order for us to truly live for Christ, we need to make a clean break from our past and live according to His wishes. No matter how old that man is, we need to become a new creature dedicated to obedience and love of Christ. Dying to live with Christ is a necessary and essential process.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. When you became a Christian, was the change in your life dramatic, gradual, or imperceptible? If not dramatic, have you truly died, given up all those things of the past, or are you still holding on to something that you feel you still need?
2. What is the significance of being baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3-5)? Why would the baptism be considered both a funeral and a resurrection?
3. What is the great benefit of being "crucified with Christ?" (Romans 6:6-7). If sin was rendered powerless through being crucified, why do we still sin?
4. What specific work of Christ gives believers assurance and confidence that they will live with Christ forever (Romans 6:8-10)?
5. When we realize that sin is no longer our master, how should our lives be different (Romans 6:12-14)? Must we continue to resist sin after receiving Christ?
6. What depth of commitment should a believer make to righteousness (Romans 6:13)?
7. What declaration does Paul make concerning sin's dominion (Romans 6:14)?

## Lesson 9: New Life, New Lifestyle

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 6:15 – Romans 7:6

### **Introduction:**

What does it mean to us to assume a new lifestyle? Do we change houses, our jobs, our friends, our clothes, our plans? Is it just a matter of how we act in Church one day out of the week, or does it affect us every day? For most Christians, the change that comes from baptism is minimal. They may have to act a little nicer to their Christian brethren to reflect their new life in Christ, but for the most part, everything remains the same. The new lifestyle spoken of in Romans 6 involves every aspect of our lives, not just one day a week (or a few hours out of that day). We think differently, we act differently, we treat people differently, our priorities change, and things that used to be important to us no longer have significance. Our master has changed from someone who thinks only of themselves to someone who has only our best interests in mind. Our life now becomes one of giving instead of one of taking, acquiring, hoarding, coveting. Without these changes, the old man never truly died, and the new man looks just like the old man.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. In Romans 6:15-18 Paul compares both our old life and our new life, to slavery. Why is this analogy appropriate in each case? What act transforms a man from being a slave of sin to a servant of righteousness (Romans 6:17-18)?
2. How does our slavery to God differ from our slavery to sin (Romans 6:19-23)? What fruit is there in sin? What is the fruit of righteousness?
3. At what point does the Law of God no longer have jurisdiction over a person's life (Romans 7:1-3)?
4. What does "dying in Christ" mean in our relationship to the Law (Romans 7:4-5)?
5. Contrast serving God in newness of spirit to the oldness of the letter (Romans 7:6)?
6. Paul uses baptism, slavery, and marriage to illustrate the differences between our old life and our new life. What common themes are emphasized in these illustrations?
7. What assurance and encouragement is Paul giving us in our struggle against sin?

## Lesson 10: Our Inner Conflict with Sin

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 7:7-25

### **Introduction:**

Paul talks about a real dichotomy in life from which we all suffer as Christians. We are tempted almost daily by things that we know are not right, but we don't always make the right decisions. We know that we don't need that extra piece of pie, but nevertheless, we may have it anyway. We may watch a movie that is overall very good but has parts in it that may be immoral, contain bad language or imply behavior that is totally inappropriate. We all know what is right from wrong but tend to see some things as gray areas that we can live with. We struggle with the new lifestyle, still living in the past of certain things we just don't think are that bad that we have to give them up. Paul sees things for what they are but still struggles with doing the right thing. Our inner conflict with sin oftentimes is not because we don't recognize the sin for what it is, but because we don't see the harm in eating that piece of pie (it is just a minor temptation). Paul is a wretched man because of the carnal body in which he lives, having to fight temptation each day and not always winning those battles.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. Why is it often such a struggle to do the things that we know we should do and not do the things that we know we shouldn't do?
2. Paul opens in Romans 7:7 by asking if the law is sin. What has he said previously that could possibly lead us to this conclusion?
3. How did the law create in Paul a vivid awareness of sin? What did sin use as a point of attack in Paul's own life (Romans 7:11)?
4. Why would it be wrong to blame the law for Paul's spiritual death (Romans 7:13-14)? What is the great benefit of the law for man?
5. What is the inner struggle that Paul refers to in Romans 7:14-20?
6. In Chapter 6 of Romans, Paul stated that Christians are no longer slaves to sin. Yet here he claims he is a slave to sin (Romans 7:14). How would you explain this apparent inconsistency?
7. What reason does Paul give for his inability to perfectly fulfill the law (Romans 7:16-17)?
8. What confession does Paul make about the corruption of his flesh (Romans 7:18-19)? Can sin that we struggle with internally, cause us to act against our own will (Romans 7:20)?
9. How can a person's anguish and frustration with sin be beneficial (Romans 7:24-25)?
10. What two laws are within every redeemed believer (Romans 7:21-24)?
11. What is our only hope for complete deliverance from sin (Romans 7:25)?

# Lesson 11: The Spirit and the Flesh

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 8:1-17

## **Introduction:**

In chapter 7 of Romans, Paul told us that we have an internal struggle with sin, even after we have been freed from the law. We, on our own, will continually struggle against our own flesh to win these battles on a daily basis. Romans chapter 8 begins with a new hope for us in waging this battle. We can only win this battle with the help of the Holy Spirit, which will provide the strength and answers that we need. Paul talks about the life-giving effects of the Spirit. The battle changes from our own strength which fights with our own flesh to a spiritual battle directed through the Holy Spirit within us. So, as Paul stated in the last verse of Romans 7: *“I thank God--through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.”*

## **Lesson Questions:**

1. The Holy Spirit brings life to every Christian at the moment of conversion. What were some early signs of life when you became a Christian?
2. What has God done to free us from the law of sin and death (Romans 8:1-4)? What remarkable forgiveness do we have in Christ, and how was it achieved?
3. Contrast the focus and the fate of the carnal mind to that of the spiritual mind (Romans 8:5-8)? Paul divides all humanity into two categories: those that live according to the sinful nature and those who live according to the Spirit. What are some characteristics of each category? According to Romans 8:9, how do we know which category we are in?
4. How does God compensate for the corruption of our flesh and sinfulness (Romans 8:10-11)? What are the results of having the Spirit live in us?
5. Paul refers to an obligation (Romans 8:12) that we have as Christians. What are the positive and negative aspects of that obligation (Romans 8:12-14)? What is the only way that man can gain a victory over his flesh?
6. How do we experience the reality and privileges of being God’s children (Romans 8:15-17)? How does the Holy Spirit bear witness with our spirit?

## Lesson 12: Glorious Conquerors

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 8:18-39

### Introduction:

Roman conquerors returning from the wars enjoyed the honor of a triumph, a tumultuous parade. In the procession came trumpeters, musicians and strange animals from the captured territories, together with the spoils of war that consisted of both people and material. In Romans chapter 8 Paul describes Christians as glorious conquerors, who by God's grace overcome all forces arrayed against us. The glory we receive is not in parades or spoils, but in eternal life.

### Lesson Questions:

1. Why is it so often difficult for us as Christians to feel like a glorious conqueror? What event in your life can you remember that caused you to feel that way? Did God get the credit for that event?
2. Read Romans 8:18-27. What words and vivid images in these verses underscore the difficulties of the present time in which we live?
3. What future event has all of creation waiting in suspense (Romans 8:19)?
4. How much is creation really suffering from the fall of mankind (Romans 8:22)?
5. How important is hope in our future redemption (Romans 8:24-25)?
6. How does the Holy Spirit help us in overcoming our vast shortcoming in prayer (Romans 8:26)?
7. In Romans 8:28-29 Paul speaks of "the good:" and "His purpose." What is God's good purpose for us?
8. How do the words: foreknew, predestined, called, justified and glorified, help us to understand how God accomplishes His purpose for us?
9. How complete is God's plan of redemption (Romans 8:30)?
10. What encouragement do you find in Romans 8:31-32 about Paul's question and response about these things?
11. How might hardship, trouble, persecution, famine, nakedness, danger or the threat of death, cause us to question God's love for us (Romans 8:35-36)?
12. In spite of all these things that could interrupt our relationship with God, why does Paul proclaim that we are more than conquerors (Romans 8:37-39)?
13. What grand finale of assurance does Paul give to show our absolute security in God's love (Romans 8:38-39)?

## Lesson 13: Review Summary – Chapters 1-8

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 1-8

### **Introduction:**

Reviews are something with which we should be very familiar, having suffered through many during our school days, at our workplace and even at Church on occasion. Now that we have gone through the first eight chapters of Romans, it is good to recall what we have discussed and see how it applies to our everyday lives. Paul has taken us from being condemned and worthy of God's wrath, the gift of grace, the hope of faith, the frustration of having to deal with our carnal natures, and finally the hope that we have for our future. Before we begin the rest of Romans, let us review in part what we already studied as a foundation for the rest of Romans.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. List some reasons which cause people, especially Christian people, today to be ashamed to preach or even talk about the gospel.
2. Which of these reasons do you personally have difficulty in "overcoming?"
3. How can Paul's discussions in Romans 1-8 make it easier for you to not be ashamed of the gospel, even to the point of making you eager to preach or talk about the gospel?
4. If you were to present the gospel to someone using Romans 1-5 as your reference, what would be the most important points of Paul's message that you would use to convince someone about the good news?
5. If you are witnessing to a fellow Christian who is suffering from a sinful habit that they have been unable to break, what could you use from Romans 6-8 that would be a help to them in their struggle? Consider both the struggle and the solution.
6. Based upon what you have studied so far in Romans, list some reasons given by Paul why we can expect suffering to be a normal part of our Christian walk.
7. What reasons are given for Christians to be rejoicing both in the present and future times? What effect, if any, should tribulation have on our rejoicing in the Lord?
8. In Romans 1:16 Paul refers to the gospel as "the power of God." Now that you have studied Romans 1-8 how is that power more evident to you? Give any specific incident in the last quarter that shows to you the power of the gospel.
9. What has been the highlight to date of your studies of Romans? What have you learned that you didn't know before? What has been most useful in helping you in your everyday life?

## Lesson 14: The Potter and His Clay

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 9:1-29

### Introduction:

Paul uses strong dialogue in talking to the Jews about their unbelief in following after Jesus. The Jews seemed to feel that they were already saved due to their birthright (Of the lineage of Abraham). He tells them that the children of God are those who follow after Jesus and His teachings. Paul also emphasizes that you cannot attain this relationship through baptism, church membership, confirmation or any other works. We are saved by grace, not by birth or works. We are still to do the works, but not so we can *earn* the right to become heirs of God.

An example of this teaching proving God's election is the choice of Jacob over Esau. Today we would say that this was not fair, that Esau had that right by birth, and it should not be taken away by some form of trickery. But God chose Jacob and told of this promise to Rebecca before either Jacob or Esau was born.

Becoming children of the promise (election) is not of works, but of God who calls men to salvation. In this chapter, Paul focuses on the difficult subject of God's sovereignty. He is the potter and we are His clay to be molded and perfected in His image.

### Lesson Questions:

1. Ten people are guilty of the same crime. The judge decides to pardon all but one, who serves the full sentence. How would you evaluate the judge's decision?
2. From Romans 9:1-5, why does Paul have great sorrow for the people of Israel?
3. How do Romans 9:6-13 of Romans 9 demonstrate that God has not failed in His promises and purposes for Israel? Who are the true children of God? Discuss how man's selections and salvation are by God's own election and grace, and not by personal merit (works).
4. How do you respond to the idea of election (Romans 9:11), God choosing certain people to be the objects of mercy?
5. From Romans 9:14-18, is God being unfair when He selects one man and rejects another, or when He favors one people and not all? In reply, Paul speaks of God's mercy rather than His justice or injustice. Do you agree with Paul? Why?
6. Based upon Romans 9:19-21, does man have the right to question God, or to dispute God's sovereignty? Can you identify with the Jew's objection raised in Romans 9:19?
7. How does the illustration of the potter and his clay help us gain a proper perspective (Romans 9:20-23)?
8. From Romans 9:24-29, if God has rejected the Jews, then who are the "chosen"? Are they just the Gentiles?



## Lesson 15: Misguided Zeal

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 9:30-10:21

### Introduction:

For 15 centuries the Jews had followed the Mosaic Law, the Levitical priesthood, and all the practices associated with them. Now, Jesus has come to change all these things and institute new practices centered around Him. All these old things are no longer necessary, and the center of their faith should no longer be with old practices, but instead, be concentrated on the words of Jesus and His ministry. Giving up these long-established traditions is hard.

Paul is telling them that a new revolution has taken place and that an entirely new manner of life has been set before men, by God. The righteousness of God, which He wished to make effective in the lives of men, is made available under new conditions of the risen Christ coming to live His life in the hearts of those whom He has redeemed.

The world is full of religious people: Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, and many others. Many of these people are zealous, dedicated and sincere. But are zeal and sincerity enough? Are there many paths to God or just one?

Paul continues to wrestle with the problems of Israel's unbelief. Having considered the problem from the standpoint of divine election, he now focuses on Israel's, and on our own, responsibility to believe the gospel.

### Lesson Questions:

1. Have you ever known a sincere and devout non-Christian? How do you respond to his or her zeal?
2. From Romans 9:30-33, why was Jesus more of a stumbling stone to the Jews than to the Gentiles? What hindered the Jews from obtaining true righteousness?
3. From Romans 10:1-4, many people believe religious zeal and sincerity are all a person needs to be saved. How would Paul respond to this belief? Is anyone now made righteous by keeping the Law?
4. In Romans 10:6-8 Paul rewords Deuteronomy 30:11-14 in order to describe righteousness by faith. How do verses 6-8 stress the simplicity of this righteousness? How does it differ from the righteousness by law (Romans 10:5)?
5. First-century Christians publicly confessed that "*Jesus is Lord*" at their baptism. Why do you think public confession (Romans 9:9-13) is important to the belief in one's heart? What specific exercises of faith are absolutely necessary for man to be saved (Romans 9:8-10)?
6. From Romans 10:14-15, why is it so important that we be involved in the great commission? Why is it so necessary to preach the Gospel?
7. From Romans 10:16-21, what is revealed about the reasons for Israel's unbelief? Did Israel have any valid excuse for their lack of faith?
8. How patient was the Lord with Israel's rebellion (Romans 10:21)?

## Lesson 16: Future of Israel

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 11:1-14

### **Introduction:**

For centuries the people of Israel awaited their Messiah. But when He came, very few believed in Him. This situation has persisted to the point where Christianity is now considered a gentile religion. What happened to God's promises and plans for Israel? Has God rejected His people?

In this chapter we get further insight about the rejection of Christ by Israel and the consequences. Only a remnant it appears would remain, being replaced by the Gentiles who accepted Jesus and followed His teachings. Paul preaches the riches of Christ to the Gentiles so that the Gentiles might receive the same glorious gifts that were to be taken from the Jews. And in so doing, Paul hopes to provoke the Jews to have the same zeal as the Gentiles concerning the riches of Christ.

Let us look closely as Paul addresses these issues with the hope that both the remnant and the Gentiles would draw closer to each other and to Christ. God only rejects those who reject Him.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. What difference does it make whether God has rejected Israel?
2. From Romans 11:1-6, how does Paul know that God has not rejected His people? What was Paul's witness concerning a remnant of Israel in the present time? What was Paul's reason for a remnant existing?
3. What were the spiritual consequences for those Israelites who rejected Jesus Christ (Romans 11:7-10)? Was God's response to their faithless and rebellious nature justified? Why are these consequences inevitable for anyone who persistently rejects the gospel?
4. How did Israel's rejection of Christ result in riches for others (Romans 11:11-14)?
5. Why is Paul convinced that even greater blessings will come from their acceptance of Christ (Romans 11:11-14)?
6. Did Paul have an ulterior motive in writing to and working among the Gentiles (Romans 11:13-14)?

## Lesson 17: Israel's Restoration

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 11:15 -36

### Introduction:

Paul's final summation is that both Jews and Gentiles have to be objects of God's mercy and love. All have sinned and are unworthy of His love and mercy. By rights, we should be objects of His wrath and abandonment. No matter what we do, we fall short. Our works are necessary, but they by themselves will never save us.

It is only through His grace and love that we can be a part of His soon coming kingdom. Most of Israel rejected Christ because He just wasn't the leader that they were expecting. But Paul refers to a remnant that will survive and restore Israel through that remnant. And the Gentiles now have a place reserved for them through their obedience and faith in Christ. Riches will come that no one can fathom, provided by God because of their acceptance of His son.

God is the God of mercy. He expressed this mercy in times past when He cared for His ancient people Israel and God will be the God of mercy in the future as He restores His ancient people, who are now in disobedient unbelief; to a position of glory and fellowship with Him.

### Lesson Questions:

1. What promise does the salvation of Israel hold for the whole world (Romans 11:15)?
2. Are Gentiles now allowed to be partakers of the same promises and blessings as Israel (Romans 11:16-17)?
3. Why is it wrong for the wild branches (Gentiles) to boast against the natural branches (Israel) (Romans 11:18)?
4. From Romans 11:17-24, why should Paul's illustration of the olive tree prevent Gentiles from feeling superior to unbelieving Israelites? Why is it just as foolish today for Christians to feel superior to non-Christians? How may the Jews be grafted back into the olive tree?
5. It is sometimes claimed that God no longer has a special relationship with ethnic Israel. How would you respond to this claim in light of Romans 11:25-32?
6. In this chapter Paul has argued that Israel's unbelief is partial (Romans 11:1-10), purposeful (Romans 11:11-16), and temporary (Romans 11:25-32). How does this make him feel about God (Romans 11:33-36)? How can Paul's description of God also encourage us to trust and praise Him?
7. Discuss how God is the source, the means and the end of all things (Romans 11:36).

## Lesson 18: Living Sacrifices

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 12:1 -8

### Introduction:

Having told us the previous chapters what God will provide to us because of His mercy, love, and grace, what should be our proper response. We are all sinners, not having the right because of all our faults to be a part of His kingdom. It is a gift, not a reward for our position, status, works, membership, baptism, etc.

What does it mean to be a living sacrifice? Does that mean that we have to give up everything we have, everything we need, everything we hope for, to serve Him? We are usually willing to give up some things to follow Him, but there are other things which we have earned and hold dear that we just don't think we need to sacrifice. We can serve God and still keep these things.

Paul tells us that it is our reasonable service to sacrifice those things as well as to follow after Him who has done so much for us. The sacrifice of His son was more than He asks us to do (living versus death) and that was for all those who were yet to come, including us.

Living sacrifices to God are what Paul thinks is our part in response to what God has already done for us through His love, mercy, and grace. That should be our proper response without leaving something out that we don't think God needs. He needs our total commitment, not just most of it.

### Lesson Questions:

1. What is meant by "...*present your bodies a living sacrifice...*" (Romans 12:1)? In what manner are we to give ourselves to the Lord? Why do you think Paul uses the imagery of "living sacrifices" to describe our proper response to God's mercy?
2. What are some ways we can renew our minds (Romans 12:2) and so be transformed? Sometimes we view God's will as something to be avoided rather than desired. How can the last part of Romans 12:2 correct this distortion?
3. Why is it important that we discuss God's will (Romans 12:2)?
4. From Romans 12:3-8, how can the realization that we are members of a body prevent us from thinking too highly of ourselves? As you think with sober judgment about yourself, what gift(s) do you think God has given to you? How can you use them to benefit the body of Christ?
5. What does Paul teach about men wisely and properly estimating themselves (Romans 12:3)?
6. What honor should we give to other believers (Romans 12:4-5)?

## Lesson 19: Fellowship and Love

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 12:9-21

### **Introduction:**

Sometimes we feel that as Christians we are truly on our own, especially if our faith has drawn us away from our own family and friends. We truly need fellowship with like believers to help us to survive in this world full of trials and tribulations. That fellowship comes from our local church organization.

However, that local church may not treat us any different than our job, our neighbors, our society. It should be a place that we can go to and feel at home, where we can share our troubles, where we can go to obtain advice without being ridiculed. We should look forward to each Sabbath and the opportunity to share with others who love us and care for us.

Our local church should be a sanctuary where we can feel the peace and love and closeness to Jesus Christ. It is a place of praise and prayer, a place of learning more about God and each other. It is a representation of a body, and we as members represent the parts of that body. No part is any more important than any other, and if one or more of those parts is not functioning the entire body suffers.

It should be a place that we can rejoice when God provides for our needs and be sad when something bad happens to another member. Fellowship and love should be what we feel when we are there, and miss when we are not present. Paul thinks that it is *essential* that we have such a place and treat it as someplace special, that we look forward to being a part of each week.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. How would the kind of love Paul describes in Romans 12:9-16 transform our relationship with other Christians?
2. How important is it to be enthusiastic in all that we do (Romans 12:11)?
3. What attitude and responsibility should a believer have toward those in need (Romans 12:13)? Should we treat a stranger any different than we treat a fellow member? To whom should we extend our homes?
4. How should we speak about those who mistreat us (Romans 12:14)?
5. Is it ever proper to seek revenge (Romans 12:17-19)?
6. How would Paul's advice in Romans 12:17-21 help us to overcome our enemies and evil?

## Lesson 20: Submitting to Government

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 13:1-14

### Introduction:

Civil authority today is oftentimes viewed as something oppressive and evil, not something that we should submit to and respect. Paul was a Roman citizen and used that citizenship for his benefit on a couple of occasions, causing fear in his jailers and avoiding trial by the Jewish leaders. In Romans 13 he speaks about civil authority as something God has ordained and controls, and therefore we should submit to it and show it proper respect.

But what if that authority is no longer based upon the principles of God, but instead upon evil and corruption? Did God ordain such authority? Paul's answer is that God ordained the position of authority, but the people who are placed in those positions do not necessarily follow those Godly precepts. The problem is not the civil authority, but the people who fraudulently perform those roles. The system should take care of such people eventually.

Because we see so much corruption, we think that we can ignore civil laws and claim that they are no longer applicable to Christians. But the United States was founded upon the Ten Commandments and other Godly precepts, most of which still exist today. We can't simply throw away the baby with the bathwater, but instead exercise our civil authority to vote into office those who follow our own standards, morals, and principles.

We all need civil authority to protect us from harm, from evil, from wrongdoing, theft, murder, etc. Policemen and firemen are oftentimes overlooked as the heroes that they are because of a few bad apples. We need to teach our children to respect civil authority whenever it is doing what it is supposed to do. Respect the office, not necessarily the officeholder.

### Lesson Questions:

1. What is Paul's view of authority and those who exercise it (Romans 13:1-5)? What should be our attitude toward civil authority? Who ordained the existence, authority, and offices of government?
2. What are some reasons Paul gives for submitting to those in authority (Romans 13:1-5)? What two reasons does Paul give for careful obedience to governmental laws?
3. Examine the dual responsibility of one in authority (Romans 13:4)?
4. Do you think that it is ever appropriate to resist rather than to submit to the authorities?
5. Why does Paul admonish us to pay taxes (Romans 13:6)?
6. What is the one thing we will always owe to our fellow man (Romans 13:8)? Is there any other debt that we can incur?
7. In Romans 13:11-14 Paul uses several vivid images to describe "*the present time.*" How does each one give us a picture of how we should live?
8. How does Paul admonish the Romans to walk (Romans 13:13)?
9. What does it mean to be clothed with Jesus Christ (Romans 13:14)?

## Lesson 21: Self-Righteousness

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 14:1-12

### Introduction:

In the late 1800s, robed choirs were considered worldly by some Christians. More recently bowling, reading novels and drinking coffee or tea have been severely condemned. Even chewing gum has come under attack.

The Bible contains many clear commands. But it is also silent or ambiguous about many moral issues. These “gray” areas have always been a source of dispute and conflict among Christians, even though the specific areas of dispute change from time to time. What principles should guide us when our actions are criticized by others or when we feel critical toward them?

Paul refers to the weak and the strong, and the strongest admonition is saved for the strong who oftentimes become so certain they are right that they become self-righteous. Those who feel that strongly, oftentimes, condemn those who don’t abide by the rules of the strong.

Condemnation is wrong for three specific reasons: we are all servants of God and therefore it is not right to condemn another servant, secondly, the fact that the practices of others differ from ours, they grow from a common root – all are done in order to honor God, and thirdly, it is God and not man who judges in such manners.

It is dangerous to set up something other than God as God, in this case, oneself and one’s own preferences. Many times those convictions that we have are simply traditions that have been handed down from generation to generation, and have little, if any, Biblical basis. Before we criticize another, we need to be able to support our own convictions.

### Lesson Questions:

1. What are some of the areas of dispute between the “weak” and the “strong” in Romans 14:1-6? How are we to accept other believers who disagree with us on secondary issues of doctrine (Romans 14:1)? By what aspect of living does Paul show how we may differ in opinion on certain issues and still accept each other (Romans 14:2)? What types of behavior do Christians disagree about today?
2. What attitudes do the weak and the strong tend to have toward each other (Romans 14:1-4)? Why might they feel this way?
3. What admonition and caution is given to be positively sure that we are living biblically (Romans 14:5-6)?
4. Why is it unacceptable just to live the way we want to live (Romans 14:7-9)?
5. What inevitable judgment must we all face (Romans 14:10-11)?
6. What will be required of each person on the Day of Judgment (Romans 14:12)?
7. Why is it wrong to pass judgment on other Christians (Romans 14:1-13)?

## Lesson 22: To Eat or Not to Eat

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 14:13-23

### Introduction:

Our goal to be a part of the Kingdom of God is the believer's concern, not pleasure. The Kingdom is not eating and drinking: that is, it is not concerned with external matters but with the heart. It is not a sin to abstain from food and drink and questionable practices, therefore, the believer must readily stay away from anything that will grieve or cause others to stumble. The Kingdom of God is righteousness, being and doing what is right, establishing and maintaining the highest possible good with God and man. We need to be at peace, in the right relationship with both God and man and maintaining that relationship working for the highest possible good between God and man. We need to experience the fulfillment and right relationship with God and with himself, not with the right to eat and drink and socialize.

Paul is talking in these verses about the limits of one's freedom. Love is the external limit of Christian freedom, that is, the limit of what the Christian can do in relation to others in the exercise of Christian freedom. The love of fellow human beings places external limits on Christian action, and the love of God places the internal limits on that action.

Even though we believe very strongly about some practice within the Church, we must limit our reaction to others who do not believe the same way. Love of our brethren is much more important than adhering to a secondary doctrine that has no effect upon our salvation.

### Lesson Questions:

1. What does Paul say that we are to judge (Romans 14:13)?
2. When we are around those whose faith is weak, what principles should guide our actions and why (Romans 14:13-21)?
3. To whom is any particular food unclean (Romans 14:14)?
4. What external limit is placed upon our freedom in Christ (Romans 14:15)?
5. Is the Kingdom of God a matter of whether we get what we like to eat and drink, or not (Romans 14:16-17)?
6. What other important thing may be destroyed by permitting our liberty in Christ to go unchecked (Romans 14:20)?
7. What things may we do, though it causes our brother to stumble (Romans 14:21)?
8. Discuss Paul's argument that liberty or restraint be exercised wisely, according to each man's own convictions (Romans 14:22-23)?
9. Someone somewhere is bound to be offended by almost anything we do. How can we practically apply these principles stated by Paul?



## Lesson 23: Unity, Hope and Praise

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 15:1 -13

### Introduction:

You deserve the best. Look out for number one. Pamper yourself. These are the watchwords of our age. But in this chapter, Paul urges us to stop gazing at our own reflection. For the first time in Romans, he holds up the example of Christ, the one who embodies all the qualities God desires in us.

The way that Christ acted, the Christ who although He was strong yet for our sakes became weak, is the way that the strong must also act toward those whose own faith is weak. This chapter is devoted to the strong in faith and how they should exercise their freedom that they have in their faith. It is to be exercised for the good of others, in this case, for the good of the weak.

Christ is the model of the way we are to act. Christ acted not for His own good or His own pleasure, but for the good of others. He bore what we rightly ought to have suffered and in that way acted for our good.

A person who has not been touched by the Lord Jesus Christ does not move naturally away from selfish motives and interests. But a follower of Christ will turn away from self and move out toward others. All unselfishness is by the power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Apart from Him, there is no true love.

John the Baptist said, "*He who has two coats, let him share with him who has none; and he who has food, let him do likewise*" (Luke 3:11). Let us share our hope with those who have less, let us praise the Lord for what we have, and let us unite in our desire to serve the Lord and serve our fellow man, whenever the need arises.

### Lesson Questions:

1. When is self-concern appropriate and when does it turn into selfishness?
2. In light of Romans 14, who are the strong and the weak Paul mentions in Romans 15:1?
3. What personal attitudes might hinder or help us to bear with the failings of the weak (Romans 15:1-2)? Explain why.
4. How is Christ (Romans 15:3) the supreme example of what Paul commands in Romans 15:1-2?
5. If we follow Christ's example in this and other areas of our lives, why will we need endurance, encouragement, and hope (Romans 15:4-5)? Why are Bible study and prayer essential if we are to maintain these attitudes?
6. In contrast to the discord and possible verbal abuse hinted at in Romans 14, what does God desire of us (Romans 15:5-6)?
7. How can the fact that Christ has accepted us promote both unity and praise (Romans 15:7)?
8. In Romans 15:9-12 Paul quotes from four different Old Testament passages. What words and phrases express the dominant mood of these verses?
9. Paul concludes this passage with a vivid prayer (Romans 15:13). Visualize and describe what is taking place. Keeping in mind the context of Romans 15:1-12, how can we become those whose lives overflow with joy, peace, and power?

## Lesson 24: Paul's Ministry

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 15:14-33

### Introduction:

Even though Paul worked with many individuals, his primary focus was to weld them into one body, the church, a new society on earth. His goal was to establish local churches that worked in harmony with its members as well as other local churches. They were all to have a unified goal of following Christ and serving each other.

As mentioned before, the local church was compared to a body with many individual parts, with each part essential to the overall performance of the body. No part was more important than any other, and all the body suffered when any individual part was not functioning properly. Paul wanted each member to look after the needs of the other members, instead of concentrating on himself and his own importance.

Paul also concentrated on completing his work before moving on, even though he had several churches that needed him. He did not run away from the several problems that he encountered and did not use the excuse that he was badly needed elsewhere (which was often the case). Even though he suffered several personal attacks and violent oppositions, he remained until the jobs were done. Too many ministers today flee instead of facing the problems and meeting the needs of God's people.

On the other hand, Paul kept his world-wide vision even in the face of his pressing needs of the local believers. He intended to evangelize Rome and Spain, and he would not let the desperate plight of the present needs—desperate as they were—deter his worldwide vision. Paul's primary mission in life was for Christ to be praised, worshipped and served, by all men.

### Lesson Questions:

1. What three commendable qualities of the Roman congregation does Paul mention (Romans 15:14)?
2. What was Paul's primary ministry toward men and God (Romans 15:16)?
3. Was Paul justifiably proud of the results that Christ achieved through his ministry (Romans 15:17)?
4. How important was it that Paul's preaching was accompanied by divine miracles and the Holy Spirit's power (Romans 15:19)?
5. What does Paul write that indicates he had completed his ministry in that particular local region (Romans 15:22-23)?
6. What are Paul's immediate and future plans (Romans 15:23-33)? What do these Romans 15:23-33 teach us about relationships, and why?
7. In what condition did Paul purpose to come to the Romans (Romans 15:28-29)?
8. What specific prayer requests did Paul share with the Romans (Romans 15:31-32)?
9. What short but forceful request does Paul make for the Roman congregation (Romans 15:33)?

## Lesson 25: Brothers and Sisters in Christ

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 16:1-27

### Introduction:

Paul spends most of this chapter greeting friends that he had met somewhere other than Rome (he hadn't been there yet), whom he had followed through discussions with others and knew that they were now residing in Rome. Based upon these greetings, he must have considered them good friends and strong Christians. They all must have worked with Paul in the past and are now being remembered for their efforts

As we grow older, one of the first things that we seem to struggle with remembering, are names of people we have known. The primary reason is because we no longer refer to them in discussions, in prayer, in everyday activity. Apparently, Paul remembered these 25 Romans because he asked about them, had concerns about them, and prayed about them. He apparently had close and affectionate relationships with these people, as we should have with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In Romans 16:17-20 he warns about false teachers that would try to draw away the new converts. These false teachers, according to Paul, would cause divisions by laying alongside the whole of Christian truth something that was not the real thing but which had some resemblance to it. It would include a departure from moral conduct and in the field of love. Failure to love every born-again believer is a symptom of the disease Paul is warning against.

### Lesson Questions:

1. Why does Paul commend Phebe (Romans 16:1-2)?
2. What was special about the following greetings made by Paul:
  - a. Priscilla and Aquila (Romans 16:2)
  - b. Epaenetus (Romans 16:5)
  - c. Mary (Romans 16:6)
  - d. Andronicus and Junia (Romans 16:7)
  - e. Amplias (Romans 16:8)
  - f. Urbane and Stachys (Romans 16:9)
  - g. Persis (Romans 16:12)
3. Whose household does Paul greet (Romans 16:10)?
4. How can we tell that Rufus and his mother must have been very special to Paul (Romans 16:13)?
5. What holy expression of Christ-like affection was used by the early church to greet one another (Romans 16:16)?
6. Why were some people to be marked by the Roman believers (Romans 16:17-18)? What is the standard for our unity? How are these marked ones to be treated? Whom do these contrary ones really serve?
7. What spiritual reputation did the Roman church have (Romans 16:19)? Discuss the concern Paul had that the Roman believers might drop their guard against worldliness?
8. What or whom does Paul credit as the originator of the gospel (Romans 16:25)?
9. What glorious declaration of praise is given as the closing benediction (Romans 16:27)?

## Lesson 26: Summary – Chapters 9-16

**Scripture Reading:** Romans 9-16

### **Introduction:**

Now that we have completed the remaining chapters of Romans, it is good to recall what we have discussed and see how it applies to our everyday lives. Paul has taken us from the Jews unbelief and misguided zeal to the future of Israel and its restoration. He then talks primarily to the Gentiles and shows them that they too can have a relationship with God and a home in the Kingdom of God. He talks about the pitfalls and the rewards and our attitude toward both the strong and the weak in Christ. Let us review in part what we already studied as the conclusion of this wonderful gospel.

### **Lesson Questions:**

1. Many Christians believe that every unfulfilled promise God made to Israel will be fulfilled to Israel. Others claim that all the promises to Israel are fulfilled in the church. What light does Romans 9-11 shed on this question?
2. In Romans 12-16 Paul discusses several major areas in which our lives are to be living sacrifices to God. What are some of these areas?
3. If we are to be effective servants of God, why is it important that we not think too much or too little of the gifts God has given us?
4. Who are some of the people or institutions that have authority over you? What practical difference should it make that they have been appointed by God?
5. Imagine that you are in a group of Christians who believe some morally neutral practice (say, drinking milk) is a sign of true spirituality. If you drink milk, you will be accepted. If you don't, you risk being ostracized. What should be your response and why?
6. What types of people in your church or fellowship group tend to be neglected by others? In what ways might you reach out to such people?
7. In what ways does your church or fellowship group exhibit the qualities of a close-knit family?
8. What can you do to strengthen your relationships with the members of your spiritual family?
9. What is the most important thing you have learned from studying Romans 9-16? How will you be able to apply it to your lives?