

Introduction

Paul's primary purpose in writing Romans was to teach the great truths of the gospel of grace to believers who had never received apostolic instruction. The overarching theme of Romans is the righteousness that comes from God: the glorious truth that God justifies guilty, condemned sinners by grace alone through faith alone. Chapters 1–11 present the theological truths of that doctrine, while chapters 12–16 detail its practical outworking in the lives of individual believers and the life of the whole church. The entire thrust of the book of Romans is distilled in the first seven verses.

John MacArthur

Romans, MacArthur Bible Studies, p. 3 and 6

This year we are memorizing Ephesians 2. This week's verse is Ephesians 2:14:
"For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the

Day One

Read Romans 1:1–3:20; The Good News and the Bad News

1. Read Paul's greeting in Romans 1:1–7. What did he teach about the promise of the good news in verse 2 and the Person of the good news in verses 3–4?
 - a. How does this passage point the reader to the big picture of Scripture?
2. According to 1:8–12, why did Paul write this letter to the church in Rome?
3. From 1:16–17, why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel?
 - a. Are there areas in your life where *you* are ashamed of the gospel? Share with your group a time when you could have shared the gospel but didn't, and what change you'd like to make to be more bold like Paul.
4. From Paul's use of Habakkuk 2:4 in Romans 1:17, what do you think it means to live by faith? If you are a believer, what does that look like in your own life?
5. In 1:18–23, what reasons did Paul give for the wrath of God against men?
 - a. According to verses 21–23, what are the results of man's refusal to acknowledge God?
 - b. How does this help you understand God's holiness and man's sinfulness? According to Romans 2:4, what should result from that understanding?
6. How is the idea that "man is basically good" refuted in these passages?

Day Two

*Read Romans 3:21–4:25; **By Faith Alone***

1. Using a dictionary, define the words “justified,” “righteous,” and “propitiation” found in Romans 3:21–26.
 - a. According to these verses, how are believers made righteous? What does that reveal about God’s character?
 - b. Does that mean that believers are able to boast in their justification? Explain your answer.
2. In 4:1–12, by what means did Paul say that Abraham was justified?
 - a. Why would this have been an important argument to make to Paul’s Roman audience?
3. According to 4:13–15, how are faith and the law contrasted? Why is faith critical for salvation?
4. Where does your faith in God’s Word and His promises need to be strengthened? Write down specific steps you can take to do that.

Day Three

*Read Romans 5; **Justification through Faith***

1. From Romans 5:1–5, what good news did Paul give the Romans after explaining in chapter 4 that justification does not come through works, ritual, or the law?
 - a. In verses 2–5, in what can believers rejoice, and why?
2. How do verses 6–11 refute the wrong belief that salvation is received through faith but continues based on good works?
3. According to 5:12–21, what were the results for mankind of the actions of Adam and then Christ?
 - a. From this passage, what key elements point to the security of a believer’s salvation?
 - b. How can this passage prepare you for or strengthen you in the midst of trials or suffering?

Day Four

Read Romans 6–7; **Sanctification**

1. From Romans 6:3–11 what is the believer to know?
2. In your own words, what is the truth in verse 11? What might that look like in your home or job or church?
3. In verse 12, Paul uses the word “therefore” to indicate a response to the truth in verse 11. From verses 12–13, list the four responses Paul cites, two positive and two negative.
4. From verses 15–23, what term did Paul use to describe a life under sin or under righteousness?
5. In verses 19–23, how did Paul contrast the Romans’ former lives with their present lives? What was the result of both?
6. In Romans 7:1–6, how does Christ’s death free a believer spiritually, as the death of a husband makes one free in regard to marriage?

Day Five

Read Romans 8; **The Work of the Holy Spirit in Sanctification**

1. Read Romans 8 and note how many times Paul mentioned the Holy Spirit. From this chapter, what are some of the works of the Spirit in the life of a believer? Cite specific verses to support your answer.
2. From 8:9–11, what is true about every person who belongs to Jesus Christ?
 - a. According to Colossians 3:12–17, what does walking in the Spirit look like?
3. In Romans 8:14–17, how are those living by the Spirit described, and what does that mean?
4. In Romans 8:18–30, what hope and comfort in suffering is given to the believer?
5. How is God’s character revealed in Romans 8:28?
 - a. How can understanding this verse help you face difficulties in your life today?

6. According to Romans 8:31–39, what encouragement and security is there for believers, and for you, specifically?

LaGeorge Adapted from Every Woman's Grace at Grace Community Church of Sun Valley, CA February 15, 2017