



ROMANS

BIBLE STUDY

A Four-Week Study Guide for Individuals and Groups

AGES:
16+

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INTRODUCTION



All About Romans

WELCOME to this one-month study on the Book of Romans for group study or individual learning. Herein are all the important facts about this most beloved book—its background, purpose, and most famous scripture verses—and a daily study to help you navigate the book with ease and enjoyment.

Why Romans is so popular

The Book of Romans was written by Apostle Paul while he was staying in Corinth. For once, he was not addressing a problem or putting out a fire of sorts. He was writing to the Romans simply to greet them as brethren and to let them know he would likely come visit them while on his way to Spain.

The Book of Romans is often recommended to new Christians after the Book of John, so the two books are sometimes known cooperatively as the “two first-reads.” The reason for this place of honor on the readers’ choice list is that Romans explains the basics of our faith instead of focusing on a particular challenge. It is a book for everyone, and even very seasoned Christians enjoy coming back to it for study.

How this study of Romans works

Each of the 16 chapters in Romans will encompass a day or two of study. You will have six days of study each week, with one of those days dedicated to the Week in Review section, for a total of 24 days of study. You can arrange these days to best fit your personal schedule; the Week in Review can be split up by doing the part corresponding to each day on that particular day. This way, you can fit each week’s study into 5 days instead of 6.

Despite all its comprehensive materials, the study is neither difficult nor terribly time-consuming. A day’s work can be done in half an hour, but it can take up to an hour, depending on how much time you’d like to give to the Application Questions for that day’s reading. The study is designed to be highly individualized, good for small groups and cell groups, but also fine for an individual just looking to improve their knowledge base.

What’s to be done each day?

Our Table of Contents, beginning on the next page, shows the comprehensive list of chapters

that will be covered in the course. Each day of the month-long study is clearly marked so that you'll always know where to pick up.

Each day you will complete the following segments:

- **DEFINITIONS:** Because Romans is so defining and conceptual, it contains a foundation of Christian terminology. These are all terms we hear regularly, but each might stump us if we had to give a true definition. It will help you fully understand Romans if you can clearly define words like “righteousness,” “justify,” and “wrath.” You will be asked to find a favorite online dictionary to help you write out your definitions. We provide definitions; otherwise, Google or Merriam-Webster are great sources.
- **DAILY READING:** Students will read either one chapter a session or one half chapter, depending on the importance and difficulty level of the material.
- **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS:** You'll be given six questions that require either filling in the blanks, picking a multiple-choice answer, or answering true/false. This extra gleaning will reinforce the material you read that day. Each verse is provided where the answer can be found, and the answers are also included. Sometimes these questions will come before the Application Questions and sometimes after.
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS:** You'll receive three longer questions each day, requiring thought and written answers. These are often an effort to think of the passage in terms of how it affects us today in postmodern times. These are highly subjective, but you'll find some are covered in the ANSWERS section under APPLICATION HELP. Some questions will not require any help while others will contain prompts, explanations, or further information.
- **FURTHER READING:** Here scriptures are presented as recommended reading on one of the subjects covered in the day's chapter. The readings often include one passage from the Old Testament and one from the New. However some subjects, such as “grace,” are so New Testament-oriented that the subject is best served with two New Testament scriptures.

What are MPVs, and what version of the Bible do you use?

We try to create studies in ways that any version of the Bible can be used. Nevertheless, we gravitate to the two most popular so as to keep with common language to examine difficult constructs, and this study was created using the NIV (New International Version) and the KJV (King James Version). The most popular or searched Bible verse from that chapter are called MPVs (Most Popular Verses), and they are located at the top of each day's lesson. The MPV is featured in the NIV format so as not to create confusion with foundational concepts in Romans. These can be challenging to understand in one's comfortable native language, let alone a hybrid from antiquity.

With just a little time each day this month, you will have a wonderful opportunity to know well the Book of Romans. By the end of the month, you will have a much better understanding of Christianity and how to respond to Jesus in daily living.

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ROMANS

Romans 1-4



WEEK 1

ROMANS AT A GLANCE

Study this material and answer questions in the Week-in-Review, Introductory Day 1 Quiz. What is below will help you understand the background of this book and its context in history, the author's intentions, and its most foundational messages.

CHAPTER FACTS

Order in New Testament:

6

Number of Chapters:

16

Type:

Epistle / Pauline

Where Written:

City of Corinth

When Written:

57-65 AD, if putting all reliable scholarship together. See Question 3 of the FAQ below for further insight.

Author:

Apostle Paul

ROMANS FAQ

- 1. What is the Book of Romans primarily about?** The Book of Romans is often thought of as the Bible book in which the definition of Christianity is spelled out with the most clarity. It is often thought of as the second book new Christians should read, just after the Book of John. John explains who Jesus was; Romans explains how we should respond to Him. The earliness in the book's suggested order of reading does not mean, however, that it is an easy read. More mature Christians are advised to come back and read it again in times when the basics of our faith are being overwhelmed by cares of the world. As the most foundational of all the Epistles, Romans is applicable for everyone.
- 2. Why does the Book of Romans seem at times so difficult to understand?** We all need to practice patience while trying to ingest Romans. We are not only reading a thrice-translated work from a 2,000-year-old culture, but Paul enjoys the ironic presentation that was prevalent among Jewish scholars of his time. In his style, he enjoys taking readers on surprising turns that will support their faith and cause them to pause and reflect. If you are tired, distracted, or not yielded to the Holy Spirit, you can miss important points. There is no easy way through the book, though it is quite intriguing. Be patient with yourself and take the time you need to pause and reflect.

ROMANS FAQ

3. **Should I find a commentary to help myself?** Some people can enjoy Romans without any commentator except the Holy Spirit. One's ability to understand can depend on the Lord's purpose in having a person read Romans. If God is preparing a teacher or scholar, He might allow Paul's more difficult answers to loom so that the reader will have to reach out for good commentaries. Others who are relatively sure all they need is a good background for daily living might find patience and a prayer with the Holy Spirit may suffice. Conversely, since most pastors and scholars don't read the book of Romans without a commentary under one elbow, this might be a good opportunity for Christians to practice working with a commentator who can clear up those "wait, what?" moments in a chapter.
4. **If I want a commentary, how do I find one?** A multitude of commentaries exist these days, with so many sources that it's no wonder Christians get agitated at the mere thought of trying to find a reliable source. There are some ways around that—not to fear. First, do not rely on Google to find you a commentary or commentator. The best way is to visit a trustworthy website that has already gone through the process of eliminating heretics and con artists. Such include both Bible Hub and Bible Gateway. They will link to commentators who are experience and trustworthy.
5. **What was Paul like as a writer?** Paul was a multi-lingual and well-studied scholar. However there is nothing in this or any Epistle that shows him interested in sounding erudite or elitist. His tone is down to earth and for every man, and even translations bear out his eagerness to be understood. It's highly unlikely that he had any vision of his work being seen by millions over two millennia, as he along with the other disciples had no idea Jesus would be much longer than His own generation in returning. But the fact that the book is difficult is not a reflection of Paul's style. It's just that we are fallen creatures, trying with Divine intervention to understand the Divine facts of the universe and heavenlies. We should not expect it to come easy. Paul is trying to be straightforward without missing a concept that is likely to be a bit over people's heads.

The book was written in a highly intuitive style. Paul's flow of topics and even sentences shows that it is unlikely that he worked with a strong and purposeful outline, but rather, he worked off of intuition and Spirit. Commentators may notice little patterns in how the book is laid out and feel they are taking good guesses at Paul's intentions; however, they are actually speaking about the results and not the process.
6. **What made Paul write to the Romans?** Paul had never been to Rome, though he eagerly wanted to visit the empire's capital and meet the great variety of Christians there. Paul was staying in Corinth when he wrote to Rome. This letter differed from many epistles, however, in that it was not written to correct wrong doctrine or wrong behavior, or to straighten out any other issue. Many scholars believe Paul was planning to visit Spain and he wrote to the Roman church for support. He doesn't mention this mission until quite late in the letter, so it is likely he started with what seemed most important to him—explaining the gospel to a wide and diverse cast of believers in Rome. Paul presents in the letter three of the places he plans to visit next. The first is Jerusalem, where he is about to deliver financial aid to the believers, then Rome, before making his way to Spain, which was the edge of the empire (15:25-29).
7. **What was Rome like at the time?** Rome was the center of the known world as well as the Roman empire at the time of Paul's writing. With upwards of a million people in an area less than 10 square miles, it is estimated that between 40,000 and 50,000 Jews lived in the city. The Jewish population dates back to the second century BC as part of the Diaspora. In 64 AD there was a large fire in Rome that led Nero to expel many Jews. This also resulted in the first major persecution of the Church, but the worst transpired after this letter. Rome was in a time of peace when Paul reached out.
8. **How did Rome's church begin if Paul didn't start it?** "All roads lead to Rome" was the popular saying due to Rome's cultural centeredness in the known world. It is not thought that Peter or John Mark or any of the other traveling Apostles had been to Rome yet. It is likely that some Romans heard the gospel given by the apostles (and especially Peter) on the Day of Pentecost, and they took the news home with them. It's not surprising that there was already an established church before Paul's arrival, nor that it would be extremely diverse. Tough sailors, well-traveled tradesmen, wealthy former idolaters, and slaves were all part of the new church in Rome.

ROMANS FAQ

- 9. What are the most popular verses in Romans?** The most popular or most Googled verse currently is Romans 3:23: "All have sinned. All fall short of the glory of God." Second is Romans 10:9: "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." The third most searched verse is Romans 6:23: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." If all of these sound very familiar, it is because they are among the first scriptures that scholars recommend for foundational learning of our faith.
- 10. What can I expect to learn from this study?** Romans is the sixth New Testament book to be written by Paul. Paul was likely warmed up and confident after Galatians, First and Second Thessalonians, and First and Second Corinthians. Thus its attempt to lay the foundations of what Christians believe is quite evident. You will have a great understanding of what salvation means and what our relationship with Christ should be founded upon. Of course, feel free to come back to this study every few years. Most Christians growing to maturity find this helpful.



ROMANS 1

I am not
ashamed of the
gospel, because
it is the power
of God that
brings salvation
to everyone
who believes:
first to the Jew,
then to the
Gentile.

Romans 1:16

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

WRATH (V. 18):

RIGHTEOUSNESS (V. 17):

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 True/False: Jesus was appointed the Son of God in power by His ascension into heaven (v. 4).
- 02 According to verse 8, where is the faith of the Roman church being reported?

- 03 In verse 10, what does Paul long to do concerning the Romans? _____
- 04 Reread verses 11 through 13. Paul believes God may have prevented him from visiting Rome sooner because He wanted Paul to have this upon his arrival: _____
- 05 Paul names as a goal (v. 12) that he and the Romans would be mutually encouraged by each other's _____.
- 06 According to verse 21, the problem of foolish hearts becoming darkened begins with forgetting to do two things: _____ and _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

To better understand this chapter, let's divide it into three portions based on subject.

- 01 Romans 1 can be broken down into three parts. Write your own summary of the contents of each part, using any subtitles your translation provides to help guide you.
 - Romans 1:1-7 _____
 - Romans 1:8-17 _____
 - Romans 1:18-32 _____
- 02 Count how many times you see the word "call" or "called" in verses 1 through 8. Think of a few times God "called" you to either do something or believe something. How easy or complicated was it to fulfill that calling? What might you have in common with the Romans

- 03 In verses 18 through 21, Paul says that skeptics in his day could see God quite clearly but were pretending they couldn't. How do the skeptics of today lie about God's visibility and lovingkindness? What motives do you see fueling their deception?



ROMANS 2

You, therefore,
have no excuse,
you who pass
judgment on
someone else,
for at whatever
point you judge
another, you are
condemning
yourself, because
you who pass
judgment do the
same things.

Romans 2:1

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

EMBODIMENT (V. 20):

BEARING WITNESS (V. 15):

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 According to verse 1, those who pass judgment do this: _____.
- 02 God's patience, or long-suffering, is intended for this purpose according to verse 4:
_____.
- 03 Verse 7 tells us that those of us who seek glory, honor and immortality, God will give
_____.
- 04 God does not show _____, according to verse 11.
- 05 Verse 15 tells us the famous statement that the requirements of the law are written on everyone's _____.
- 06 Verses 25-27 tell us that this particular custom is only valuable as a symbol of what is in your heart: _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01 Some Christians say that whenever they click their tongues at someone for committing a certain sin, the Holy Spirit will bring to mind a similar situation, remembering a time they committed a similar sin. Reflect on an experience like this, when you felt like passing judgment and God reminded you to be forgiving.

- 02 Verse 8 tells us that wrath and anger will come to those who are self-seeking. What are some attributes of a person who is not self-seeking? What are some specific things you can do to develop those same attributes?

- 03 Verses 21-24 provide great examples of a hypocrisy; a behavior God hates. What is one hypocritical behavior you see today? What can you do to combat hypocrisy in your own life?



ROMANS 3

For all
have
sinned
and fall
short of
the glory
of God.

Romans 3:23

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

NULLIFY (V. 3):

ATONEMENT (V. 25):

JUSTIFY (V. 28):

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 Verse 2 tells us that the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of _____.
- 02 Let God be true and every man a _____ (v. 4).
- 03 Some people were falsely claiming that Paul had said this (v. 8): "Let us _____
_____."
- 04 There is no one righteous; not even one. There is no one who _____ (v. 11).
- 05 No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become _____. (v. 20)
- 06 Verse 28 says that a person is justified by _____ apart from the works of the law.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01 Reread verses 5 through 8. Passages like this can make the Book of Romans challenging and even frustrating. When we do something wrong (sin), it often causes people to think of what would have been the right thing to do (God). Paul was correcting what someone had misinterpreted, that people should do evil because it causes the glory of God to show up as God works to repair the situation. Why is this opinion wrong and why is it not okay to run around sinning?

- 02 Reread verses 10-18. Here, Paul is actually making multiple references to Old Testament texts. Look some of them up: Psalm 5:9 (v. 13), Psalm 140:3 (v. 13), and Isaiah 59:7-8 (v. 17). Why do you think he is combining the new with the old instead of just stating his opinion?

- 03 Read verses 27 to 31 again. One of Paul's bigger points in this passage is that faith is required for salvation and not just works (see verse 27). What is the relationship between faith and works? And how are our works an expression of faith?



ROMANS 4

However, to
anyone who
does not work
but trusts God
who justifies
the ungodly,
their faith is
credited as
righteousness.

Romans 4:5

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

SIN (V. 7-9):

GRACE (V. 16):

JUSTIFICATION (V. 25):

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as _____ (v. 3).
- 02** Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, who sins are _____ v. 7).
- 03** Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never _____ (v. 8).
- 04** Abraham received circumcision as (v. 11):
- a. an actual form of justification
 - b. a sign of justification
- 05** What was circumcision a sign of if the recipient had no faith? (v. 13-15)
- a. nothing; it was done in vain
 - b. salvation; a person can use circumcision in place of faith if one has no faith.
- 06** Verses 23 and 24 tell us the good news that what was accredited to Abraham will be credited to us who believe in _____.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Re-read verses 9 through 12. Sometimes it helps to understand that Paul was correcting the misthinking of those to whom he is speaking. Most Jews of that era would be of the impression that Abraham became righteous during the ceremony of circumcision (and thus, that ceremony is what justifies everyone who participates). What does Paul say instead justified Abraham? Did this justification happen before or after the ceremony?
- _____
- _____
- _____
- 02** Read the story of the call of Abraham in Genesis 12. Like all of early Genesis, this writing is a record more than a story format, and we have to enjoy imagining the details. What were some of the situations Abraham might have had to overcome to take this journey and thereby exercise his faith?
- _____
- _____
- 03** Read Romans 4:18-25 again. What miracle did Abraham have to believe would happen, and did he waver while waiting?
- _____
- _____



Introductory Day 1 Quiz:

This quiz reinforces the factual material given on Day 1

1. True/False: Romans is a Pauline Epistle.
2. True/False: Romans is often considered the second book new Christians should read.
3. The Book of John explains who Jesus was; Romans explains _____.
4. The idea that Paul believed his letters would be read for 2,000 years is:
 - (a) likely (b) unlikely
5. The style of Paul's writing is highly:
 - (a) academic (b) erudite (c) intuitive
6. Romans differs from most epistles in that it is:
 - (a) not trying to correct wrong doctrine (b) not signed by Paul (c) not as gripping in suspense
7. The first major persecution of the church, which had not happened at the time Romans was written, happened under the leadership of this emperor: _____
8. "All have sinned and _____." -Romans 3:23



Part 2: Application Questions

Use these Week-In-Review questions for personal growth, group discussion, or both. There are no right or wrong answers, just opportunities to further flesh out the passages of this week and share those insights if possible.

FROM DAY 2

Some scholars insist that Romans 1 is as relevant or more relevant today than it was when Paul wrote it. How is it relevant today?

FROM DAY 3

A famous saying is this: "You can't point the finger at someone without three fingers pointing back at yourself." What are some alternative behaviors to blame and judgment that Christians could use when they are angry or frustrated?

FROM DAY 4

Getting back to the concept, "we are not saved by our opinions;" describe one opinion that you might like to bolster into a belief, using faith.

FROM DAY 5

Look at Application Question 1 again. Describe as best you can how Abraham was justified. How can we be imitators of him?



Part 3: Answers and Help

FROM DAY 1

1. True
2. False
3. How we should respond to Jesus
4. Unlikely
5. Intuitive
6. A. not trying to correct wrong doctrine
7. Nero
8. Fall short of the glory of God (NIV); Come short of the glory of God (KJV)

FROM DAY 2

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Wrath:** An action sparking from extreme anger.
- **Righteousness:** Thoughts and/or behavior reflecting a freedom from sins, developing through the use of faith.

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. False (it started at the Resurrection, not the Ascension)
2. Around the world
3. Visit them
4. A harvest
5. Faith
6. Glorify God as God; give thanks to Him

APPLICATION HELP

To answer question #1, these categories work for many:

- Verses 1 through 8 are general greetings
- Verses 9 through 17 concern Paul's wishes to visit this church
- Verses 18 through 32 take up man's depravity and where it can lead those who don't resist

Depending on your translation, you should have seen either three or four uses of the word "call." In the NIV, you see it in verses 1, 5, 6 and 7.

FROM DAY 3

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Embodiment:** someone or something that represents a quality or an idea exactly.
- **Bear witness:** To witness is just to see or observe. To bear witness is to publicly state what you have seen or observed.

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. The same things
2. Lead you to repentance
3. Eternal life
4. Favoritism or respect of persons
5. Hearts
6. Circumcision

FROM DAY 4

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Nullify:** To make something legally null and void; to invalidate; to cancel out
- **Atonement:** A repairing of something gone wrong. And the repairing of this wrong comes by making amends or bringing satisfaction to the injured party.
- **Justify:** To judge, regard, or treat something as reasonable or right

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. God
2. Liar
3. Do evil that good may result
4. Understands
5. Conscious of sin
6. Faith

APPLICATION HELP

1. Paul is mostly speaking to Jews here, and they are familiar with their Bible as the words of God. When Paul alludes to something God says, it makes his opinion more credible.
3. We are not saved by our works, but we are saved by faith. What's the difference? Faith drives action.

FROM DAY 5

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Sin:** This word has different connotations in the Catholic and Protestant traditions. In the Catholic tradition a sin is a negative action or wrongdoing that hurts others and God. In the Protestant tradition, “sin” also has to do with actions, but it is more often akin to a “state of being,” which we live in constantly until Jesus breaks us free. We have to put our trust in Him to alleviate our sin.
- **Grace:** Divine help we do not deserve, and it generally changes us for the better
- **Justify:** To judge, regard, or treat something as reasonable or right

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. Righteousness
2. Covered
3. Count against them or impute
4. B: A sign of justification
5. A: Nothing will replace faith as the justifying element of salvation
6. The God who raised Jesus

APPLICATION HELP

1. Faith justified Abraham, and his faith inspired him to go through circumcision.
2. One example would be that he also had to move hundreds of servants, some of whom likely thought he was crazy.
3. Abraham had to believe, decades after he knew he and Sarah were beyond the age of children, that God would bless him with a child. Verse 19 says his faith did not weaken.



ROMANS

ROMANS 5-8



WEEK 2

ROMANS 5

But God
demonstrates
his own love
for us in
this: While
we were still
sinners, Christ
died for us.

Romans 5:8

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

RECONCILE/RECONCILIATION (V. 10-11):

CONDEMNATION (V. 16, 18):

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** True/False: You can have peace with God once you have been justified through faith.
- 02** Write out Romans 5:3-4. Then underline the nouns that describe our journey of spiritual growth that have to do with suffering.
-
-
- 03** What has been given to us, according to verse 5, so that we can feel our hope? _____
- 04** While we were yet sinners, Christ _____ (v. 8).
- 05** But where sin increased, grace _____ (v. 20).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Pulpit Commentary explains verses 9 & 10 like this: Christ's death was for atonement, and in it, our former state of alienation from God because of sin, dies too. His resurrection was the beginning of a new life to God, in which with Him we live. Explain verses 9 & 10 in your own words or how they apply to your life.
-
-
- 02** Especially as you grow as a Christian, you may find it challenging to remember your former sinful self that Paul alludes to throughout this chapter. What are some things you've left behind as you've started a new life in Christ? What are the blessings you've experienced by doing so?
-
-
- 03** Reread verses 15-17. The purpose of these scriptures is to show that just like our negative actions can affect many of those around us, the positive action of Jesus (one man) affects many, but in a way exponentially bigger. God's grace and healing has to be bigger and stronger than man's trespass. What are some ways you've experienced and accepted God's grace and healing in your life?
-
-



ROMANS 6

For we know
that our old self
was crucified
with him so that
the body ruled
by sin might be
done away with,
that we should
no longer be
slaves to sin.

Romans 6:6

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

HOLINESS (V. 22):

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 Shall we go on sinning that grace may (v. 1) _____?
- 02 Just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a _____ (v.4).
- 03 Likewise, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to _____ (v. 11).
- 04 You are not under the law but under _____ (v. 14).
- 05 Offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to _____ (v.19).
- 06 The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is _____ (v. 23).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01 Reread Paul's ironic question at the top of verse 1. Today, obviously, most healthy Christians would immediately answer no, we should not sin to cause grace to abound. How is it then that grace can abound when people sin?

- 02 Look again at the question raised in verse 15. It is fairly common today to hear one unspoken believe about this: "I'm saved by grace; therefore I don't have to feed the poor or visit the lonely or serve the sick and needy." What's wrong with that statement?

- 03 Christians have been set free from sin as stated in verse 22. And yet, we rarely see a Christian who isn't struggling with a tough sin: perhaps greed, or envy, or ego, or overeating, or watching too much television, etc. How can both principles be true?



ROMANS 7

I do not
understand
what I do. For
what I want
to do I do not
do, but what I
hate I do.

Romans 7:15

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

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THE LAW (V. 4, 5, 6):

THE FLESH (V. 5):

THE SPIRIT (V. 6):

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Think of a sinful behavior you are trying to overcome. How is overcoming this sin a journey instead of an event? How are we subject to sin in our flesh until death?

- 02** Sometimes God heals sinful behaviors miraculously. Other times God expects His children to develop the depth of character that it takes to change a behavior over time. Why do you think God allows us to journey sometimes without any miracles or “angels on your shoulders?” What might we learn from these situations?

- 03** The flesh isn’t just associated with sinful behaviors, but also illnesses and death. What lessons can people take away from those illnesses that are unexpected and long-term?

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** True/False: The law has authority over someone forever (v. 1)
- 02** What are we supposed to do after salvation? (v. 4) _____
- 03** We’ve been released from the law so that we can _____ in the way of the Spirit (v. 6)
- 04** The Commandments give us the opportunity to (v. 7-9):
 a. become aware of sin b. pay for sin c. judge others righteously
- 05** The creation of the Old Testament Law gave us the knowledge of sin but not (v. 19):
 a. the knowledge of how it affects each individual culture
 b. the strength to overcome it
 c. the ability to gaze upon it
- 06** Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is _____ (v. 20).



ROMANS 8, PART 1

Read Romans 8:1-17

Therefore,
there is now no
condemnation
for those who
are in Christ
Jesus, because
through Christ
Jesus the law
of the Spirit
who gives life
has set you free
from the law of
sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

HEIR (V. 17):

ADOPTION (V. 15):

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 Verse 3 tells us this: What the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of _____.
- 02 According to verse 5, those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on _____.
- 03 The mind governed by the spirit, according to verse 6, is _____ and _____.
- 04 Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot _____ (v. 8).
- 05 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of _____ (v. 11).
- 06 Now if we are children, then we are _____ (v. 17)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01 This first part of chapter 8 gives us great hope about being children of God regardless of our imperfections. So, then, why do the persistent sins in our lives seem to bother us so much more after salvation than they did before?

- 02 Sometimes we don't feel like we have the spirit of Christ, as discussed in verse 9. Look at the statement, "Facts first, faith second, and feelings third," and discuss how it applies to the feeling of having no spirit.

- 03 Picturing God's future gifts can strengthen faith. You have a pending adoption and a sonship, according to verse 15. What might this mean for you in the future, and how does it help you now?



ROMANS 8, PART 2

Read Romans 8:19-39

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Romans 8:26

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

GLORY (V. 18):

BONDAGE (V. 20):

CONFORMED (V. 29):

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** Our present sufferings are not worth comparing with _____ (v. 18).
- 02** Creation waits in eager expectation, according to verse 19, for _____.
- 03** According to verse 22, since the fall of man, the whole creation has been doing this:

- 04** When we don't know how to pray, what does the Spirit do, according to verse 26?

- 05** In all things, God works for the good of those who _____ (v. 28).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** For 20 centuries Christians have been waiting for certain things in great hope and togetherness. Read again verses 22-25, then state what those things are in your own words.

- 02** Have you ever felt frustrated in not knowing what to pray, when you suddenly felt the Holy Spirit take over? What were the circumstances, and how was the prayer answered?

- 03** Write out verses 38-39 to help ground the passage's fantastic news in your heart. What has threatened to separate you from the love of Christ, which you now know can't happen?



Application Questions

Use these Week-In-Review questions for personal growth, group discussion, or both. There are no right or wrong answers, just opportunities to further flesh out the passages of this week and share those insights if possible.

FROM DAY 1

A great concept today is called “the attitude of gratitude.” Paul has found some things to be grateful for, which others might not even think of. What are the overarching things about salvation that we can be thankful for, according to this chapter?

FROM DAY 2

One famous Christian has said that every person has had a “devil that rides me.” It means a sin that is especially hard to break for that particular Christian. Name one you have or have had and reflect on what this chapter says about God’s willingness to heal you.

FROM DAY 3

Think of a few negative scenarios in which you could find yourself, such as job loss or an illness. List a number of virtues you could grow in because of those scenarios.

FROM DAY 4

We don’t want to forget our feelings or become divorced from them. However, we don’t want to be deceived by them either. Reflect on a time when your feelings almost deceived you or actually did deceive you. What did you learn from the experience?

FROM DAY 5

Aside from intercession, the Holy Spirit is an enormous help to us. What are some of the other ways the Holy Spirit helps us?



Answers and Help

FROM DAY 1

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Reconcile/Reconciliation (v. 10-11):** To restore friendly relations between opposing parties
- **Condemnation (v. 16, 18):** the expression of very strong disapproval; the act of condemning someone to punishment.

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. True
2. New International Version users: suffering, perseverance, character, hope. King James Version users: tribulation, patience, experience, hope
3. Holy Spirit
4. Died for the ungodly
5. Increased all the more

APPLICATION HELP

3: Most of us have a sin or series of sins that drew us to God because He allowed us to feel some uncomfortable feelings about our behavior. A good way to answer this is to feel what made you uncomfortable shortly before you experienced Christ in your life.

FROM DAY 2

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Holiness:** Dedicated to God and/or dedication to a religious purpose

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. Abound or increase
2. New life
3. God in Jesus Christ
4. Grace
5. Holiness
6. Eternal life through Jesus our Lord

APPLICATION HELP

1. If nobody ever sinned, we wouldn't see God cleaning up messes or we wouldn't feel the relief of His hands upon us in healing, cleansing and forgiveness. This can seem like another observation hardly worth bringing up, but Paul's style leans to stating the obvious, lest somebody miss something.
2. In short, good works are unnecessary for salvation, but our Heavenly Father expects us to "do spiritual chores" the same way a loving and responsible parent expects work to be done around the house. Christians who never give their words a thought may be saved, but they can be really bad witnesses to the unsaved.
3. First, salvation is instantaneous, but our becoming Christlike is a journey. While we should not feel condemnation when we do sin, we will likely always feel a bit uncomfortable, a bit like we're under tension, until our unity with Christ is complete.

FROM DAY 3

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Law:** Instruction from the Bible and standard extrabiblical texts on how to live while minimizing the odds of hurting God, other people, or oneself.
- **Flesh:** The parts of the human that are susceptible to sin, through are not sinful in and of themselves; the parts of the human that would try to fight against the Spirit, or fight against ultimate good.
- **Spirit:** Can refer to the Holy Spirit, but also to the spirit within mankind that becomes dynamic after salvation; it is sometimes used dualistically with the term “flesh” (i.e. flesh versus spirit), though our faith denotes that flesh in and of itself is not evil.

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. False
2. Bear fruit for God
3. Serve
4. A. become aware of sin
5. B. the means to overcome it
6. The sin living within me that does

APPLICATION HELP

2. We’ve all experienced those times where we are praying for an answer, and pastors describe the response as “the heavens turned to brass.” There are a lot of reasons for this common feeling that “God isn’t listening.” He hears all, of course. When your request involves others, be sure to give God the respect and patience; “be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

FROM DAY 4

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Heir:** A person legally entitled to the property or rank of a parent or superior
- **Adoption:** The action or fact of legally taking another’s child and bringing it up as one’s own

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. Sinful flesh to be a sin offering (NIV), or sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh
2. What the flesh desires
3. Life and peace
4. Please God
5. His spirit who lives or dwelleth in you

APPLICATION HELP

1. Persistent sins will bother us much more after salvation. We may not have the uncertainty about where we are going and who we belong to, but we will have a great sense of conviction as the Spirit moves us into greater maturity.
2. Some Christians know this statement in this way: faith first, facts second, and feelings third (switching the placement of faith and facts). Their placement doesn’t matter as much as them both preceding feelings on trustworthy and reliable messages from God. Feelings are great at deceiving Christians about what is fact and what can be taken by faith.
3. Picturing what you believe really helps. The imagery can deepen faith and provide patience and hope.

FROM DAY 5**DEFINITIONS:**

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Glory:** high renown or honor won for noteworthy achievements
- **Flesh:** the state of being a slave or a prisoner
- **Conformed:** to be in harmony or accord

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. The glory that will be revealed in us
2. The children of God or sons of God to be revealed
3. Groaning
4. Intercedes or makes intercession
5. The good of those that love him

APPLICATION HELP

1. An example of things we hope for might individually include the return of Christ and the end of all wars and violence. This is a good place to note that many skeptics say these things will never happen (their argument being because they haven't happened yet, which is nonsensical). While 2,000 years does seem an incredibly long time, it behooves us to think of it as God's generosity in creating a kingdom filled with people like the sands on the beach, instead of just a smattering of that, which would have been the case if He had returned by 100 AD.



ROMANS

ROMANS 9-12



WEEK 3

ROMANS 9

Yet, before
the twins
were born
or had done
anything
good or bad
- in order
that God's
purpose
in election
might stand.

Romans 9:11

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

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ELECT (V. 10):

Note: if you include the term "Christian definition" in your search, it will prevent you from getting a host of definitions having to do with voting elections.

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 True/False: Paul was upset with the people of Israel (v. 3-5)
- 02 True/False: To be considered part of Israel, you must be descended from Abraham (v. 6-8)
- 03 Just as it is written: Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have _____ (v. 13).
- 04 While most of us are created to walk with God in traditional ways, some people are created for _____ (v. 21).
- 05 In the very place where it was said to them, "You are not my people," there they will be called _____ (v. 26).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01 Romans 9 is considered one of the most challenging chapters in entire the Bible. First, the chapter has sparked serious debate over the concepts of predestination and election (v. 16-21). Except for Calvinists, most Christians believe in man's free will and free choice. How does the statement, "God predestined free choice" help you understand this passage more easily?

- 02 Second, the chapter contains the challenging words of God, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I hated." We are taught a loving God. "God so loved the world..." What does the word "hate" mean here?

- 03 Finally in the throes of the predestination explanation by Paul, he brings up how God will "harden whom he wants to harden" (v. 18), which has been thought by some to mean that God plays with a rigged deck and a hard attitude. A loving God has nothing in common with this. How do we rectify verses 16-18 with the idea of a loving God?



ROMANS 10

If you declare
with your
mouth, 'Jesus
is Lord,' and
believe in your
heart that God
raised him from
the dead, you
will be saved.

Romans 10:9

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

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CULMINATION (V. 4):

JUSTIFIED (V. 10):

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 Paul states that the Israelites did not recognize the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, and they did not submit to _____ (v. 2).
- 02 For it is with your _____ that you believe and are justified, and it is with your _____ that you profess your faith and are saved (v. 10).
- 03 Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be _____ (v. 13).
- 04 Consequently, faith comes from _____ the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ (v. 17).
- 05 All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and _____ people (v. 21).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01 Why in verse 2 does it say that Israel is not succeeding in its salvation? How would you explain this in your own words? Can you think of some examples today of groups of zealots who are trying to create their own way to righteousness?

- 02 Write in your own words how a person's faith grows. Use verse 17 as a reference.

- 03 Verse 14 encourages us to share the gospel with others. The Apostles went about telling people to "turn from your sins and believe in Jesus as Messiah." God loves personality and creativity. How can we use these gifts to share the gospel with our contemporaries of today?



ROMANS 11

But if their
transgression
means riches for
the world, and
their loss means
riches for the
Gentiles, how
much greater
riches will their
fullness bring!

Romans 11:12

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

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GRAFTED (V. 17):

MERCY (V. 30-32):

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 I have reserved for myself _____ who have not bowed the knee to Baal (v. 4).
- 02 God gave [the people of Israel] a spirit of stupor, eyes that could not _____ and ears that they should not _____ (v. 8).
- 03 If the root is holy, so are the _____ (v. 16).
- 04 And this is my covenant with them (Israel) when I take away all their _____ (v. 27).
- 05 God's gift and his call are _____ (v. 29).
- 06 Oh, the depth of the riches of the _____ and _____ of God! (v. 33)

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01 Paul describes what happened to the people of Israel as they rejected Jesus as the Messiah. He said God gave them a spirit of a stupor. Christians often claim to have seen this in anyone who is presented with the gospel then rejects it. How does the truth of the gospel illuminate your path so you can see things in your life more clearly?

- 02 Verse 16 calls the followers of Christ holy. What does it mean to be holy? And how might outsiders and nonbelievers see Christians as being holy?

- 03 The doxology in verses 33-36 is well-known and considered quite cathartic. Which verse speaks to you the most? Describe any way it plays into your life.



ROMANS 12, PART 1

Read Romans 12:1-8

Therefore, I urge
you, brothers
and sisters, in
view of God's
mercy, to offer
your bodies as
a living sacrifice,
holy and
pleasing to God
- this is true
worship.

Romans 12:1

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

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SACRIFICE (V. 1):

CONFORM (V. 2):

TRANSFORM (V. 3):

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Reflect on some ways to start your day off right, or ways to help you present yourself as a living sacrifice to God for the day.

- 02** Look at verse 3 again. There are many places in the Bible where we are warned to have humility. Why is this particular virtue so important?

- 03** Verses 6 through 8 tend to imply that every Christian will have a gift. A gift is a talent that either serves the body of Christ or serves the community on its behalf. What are your gifts, and how you can share them with others around you?

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** Do not _____ to the pattern of this world, but be _____ by the renewing of your mind (v. 2).

- 02** Do not think of yourself more _____ than you ought (v. 3).

- 03** For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same _____ (v. 4).

- 04** Each member of the body of Christ belongs to _____ (v. 5).

- 05** The seven gifts mentioned in verses 6-8 include _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.



ROMANS 12, PART 2

Read Romans 9-21

Do not take
revenge, my
dear friends, but
leave room for
God's wrath, for
it is written: 'It is
mine to avenge;
I will replay,'
says the Lord."

Romans 12:19

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

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HONOR (V. 10):

ZEAL (V. 10):

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Romans 12 is one of the most quoted chapters in the Bible with four of its verses being famous enough for most people to have heard of: verse 1, verse 18, verse 19, and verse 21. Which speaks loudest to you personally and in what ways?

- 02** This chapter is also highly instructional. Of all the instructions given, which ones stood out for you? How can you put them into use?

- 03** Verse 21 is very general. Think of at least one specific way in your life that the verse could be applied.

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** Hate or abhor what is evil; cling to what is _____ (v. 9).
- 02** Honor one another above _____ (v. 10).
- 03** Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction (or tribulation), faithful in _____ (v. 12).
- 04** Verse 13 tells us to share our belongings and practice this: _____
- 05** As far as it is possible, be at _____ with all men (v. 18).
- 06** It is mine to _____, says the Lord (v. 19).



Application Questions

Use these Week-In-Review questions for personal growth, group discussion, or both. There are no right or wrong answers, just opportunities to further flesh out the passages of this week and share those insights if possible.

FROM DAY 1

God may harden, but we often see Him allowing really bad people to do really bad things. He does not noticeably step in to prevent war crimes, violence, murder, or other terrorizing. He will right all wrongs at the end of time—that is His deal with us. Write this out as if explaining it to one of those parties who is always down on the Christian God “because he allows so much evil.”

FROM DAY 2

If you have not yet done so, write out the main points of your testimony. Writing it will help you tell it with more enthusiasm and zeal.

FROM DAY 3

We ourselves can go into a kind of stupor when trying to witness for entirely different reasons. One is that the person we are speaking to makes us nervous—such as a judgmental parent. Think of someone’s biggest argument against your faith and write a response. It will help you not to blank out when under stress.

FROM DAY 4

Write out a prayer to God asking Him to solidify and provide direction as to how you can use your gifts and talents.

FROM DAY 4

Write out a prayer to God asking Him to keep uplifting your zeal and your energy for Him and His work. Use your own words.



Answers and Help

FROM DAY 1

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Elect:** Those who will be saved, those whom God chose as His own.

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. True
2. False
3. Hated
4. Special purposes
5. Children of the Living God

APPLICATION HELP

1. Outside of the doctrine of Calvinism (which proports that salvation is all to do with God and nothing to do with choice) most Christians believe in free choice. In this free-choice doctrine, we could not have believed without God first having touched us. But we did believe; we contributed to this beautiful restoration of man to His Creator. Freedom to choose is a predestined part of God's plan.
2. If you are struggling with this definition, look at how Jesus uses the word 'hate' in Luke 14:26. We are told to love our neighbors, honor our parents and respect our children. Here, love and hate are being used in ways that we generally don't use the terms in English. Hate here means to choose as secondary while putting Christ first. You love everyone, but you love Christ a whole lot more.
3. This is neither the first nor the last example in the Bible of God in some way jerking leaders into an action. It seems unfair until one looks more closely. In the passage where it states that some pottery is made for special purposes and some for common use—world leaders are a type of special-uses people, and God will compel them to a certain action on occasion. But He only does so for the greater good and to perpetuate good winning over evil.

FROM DAY 2

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Culmination:** the highest or climactic point of something, especially as attained after a long time
- **Justified:** the act by which God moves a willing person from the state of sin (injustice) to the state of grace (justice)

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. God's righteousness
2. Heart, mouth
3. Saved
4. Hearing
5. Obstinate or gainsaying

APPLICATION HELP

1. This would apply to almost any religious group that places too much emphasis on works or what man is able to earn from doing things.
2. Many Christians believe that the best way to share Christ is through personal testimony. People can relate to you and what you have been through, though they may not connect to doctrinal words. Especially if sharing the gospel seems dreadful to you (you aren't alone if you feel that way), put together a testimony of the things that happened to you, and you will find others will relate.

FROM DAY 3

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Grafted:** Transplanting living tissue, or in the case of trees, mixing living wood with wood that has been cut away such that it grows into the new tree and takes nutrients from the trunk and roots.
- **Mercy:** compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to harm.

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. 7,000
2. See; hear
3. Branches
4. Sins
5. Irrevocable or without repentance
6. Wisdom and knowledge

FROM DAY 4

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Sacrifice:** the offering of animal, plant, or human life or of some material possession to a deity, as in propitiation or homage
- **Conformed:** Having complied to rules, standards or laws
- **Transformed:** Having made a dramatic and thorough change in form, appearance, procedure or character

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. Conform; transform
2. Highly
3. Function or office
4. All the others
5. Prophecy, service, teaching, encouraging, giving, leading, and showing mercy

APPLICATION HELP

1. Many Christians like to be in the habit of either morning prayer, Bible reading, or devotion reading. These habits are used by the Holy Spirit to set the tone for the day, and it becomes easier to remember yourself when it comes time to serve in some way.
2. Humility is particularly important as it will stop ego wars and dim any selfish feelings that can cause arguments. It is particularly important that those on the outside, to whom we are witnesses, see Christians supporting each other, not hurting one another.
3. Some people have gifts that are easy to see, such as teaching, music, or art. For others it may be harder to see the gift even though it is equally important to God. That gift could be friendliness, listening well, gratitude.... Think of things you enjoy doing, and that can help give direction when needed.

FROM DAY 5**DEFINITIONS:**

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Honor:** To regard someone with the utmost respect and treat them accordingly
- **Zeal:** great energy or enthusiasm about a cause or objective

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. Good
2. Yourself
3. Prayer
4. Hospitality
5. Peace
6. Repay or avenge

APPLICATION HELP

2. Remember when reading lists of ways to behave that they are not designed to put a yoke around your neck (they are not Commandments). If you look with a relaxed mind you can see a portrait forming of what a good Christian looks like when in action. If you keep close to you Jesus' commands (Love the Lord your God and love your neighbor as yourself), you will find yourself following Paul's suggestions when appropriate.



ROMANS

ROMANS 13-16



WEEK 4

ROMANS 13

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God.

Romans 13:1

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

SUBMIT (V. 5):

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 True/False: All authorities have been instituted by God (v. 1)
- 02 Whoever rebels against authority rebels against _____ (v. 2).
- 03 Four things are listed in verse 7 to exemplify giving what you owe: _____, _____, _____, and _____.
- 04 The Commandments can all be summed up with this command: _____ (v. 9)
- 05 Love is the fulfilment of _____ (v. 10).
- 06 Let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of _____ (v. 12).

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01 Read Acts 5:27-29. How does this passage work together with Romans 13:1-5 when they seem to contradict each other?

- 02 This question has an advanced level of difficulty, especially given the vast differences between ancient Hebrew culture and our postmodern culture. However, more Christians should be able to answer questions like this: Look at Deuteronomy 22:22. Explain how even a harsh law can be loving commandment.

- 03 From the last few verses, it may seem that Paul lacks understanding about God's plan to keep bringing people into His kingdom for another 2,000 years at least. However, there is a saying, "Everyone will have their own personal apocalypse." How does this saying help you see that Paul is quite accurate in what he is saying?



ROMANS 14

Accept those
whose faith is
weak, without
quarreling
over disputable
matters.

Romans 14:1

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

CONDEMN (V. 22):

STUMBLE (V. 20-21):

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** Today, we often think of people who abstain from a lot of things for religious purposes as people with a lot of faith. In today's reading, people who abstained from many things are called weak in faith. Why would those abstaining be called weak?

- 02** Describe a circumstance where it would be wrong to engage in eating or drinking in the presence of a brother or sister as it could cause them to stumble.

- 03** Paul is basically saying here that personal beliefs do not matter as much as love, faith and unity. In your opinion, how does today's church portray this philosophy?

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another with weak faith will eat only _____ (v. 2).

- 02** Those weak in faith will stand for the Lord God is able to _____ (v. 4).

- 03** One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers _____ (v. 5).

- 04** None of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us _____ (v. 7).

- 05** We shall all stand before God's _____ (v. 10).

- 06** I am convinced and persuaded by the Lord that nothing is _____ of itself (v. 14).



ROMANS 15

For everything
that was written
in the past was
written to teach
us, so that
through the
endurance taught
in the Scriptures
and the
encouragement
they provide we
might have hope.

Romans 15:4

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

SANCTIFIED (V. 16):

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** For the past 500 years (since Martin Luther), Christian churches have lived in great violation of the principle described in verses 5 and 6. Why is it such a bad witness when Christians can't agree on issues?

- 02** List a few things you could do or say personally to present more of a witness of unity.

- 03** Paul states very naturally in verse 13 that he hopes God would fill the Romans with joy and peace as they trusted Him on their spiritual journeys. Many Christians experience joy and peace, but an equal number say life is harder as a Christian than it was before salvation, when they had hearts of stone. Why do you think becoming a Christian sometimes makes the journey seem more challenging?

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** Each of us should please his _____ for their good, to build them up (v. 2).
- 02** For everything that was written in the past was written to _____ (v. 4).
- 03** Christians should glorify God with one _____ and one _____ (v. 6).
- 04** In verses 9-12, it is proved over and over again via Old Testament prophecy that these people would be closely involved with the Messiah: _____
- 05** Paul believes that the Christians in Rome are full of _____ and _____ (v. 14).
- 06** As Paul is writing to the Romans from Corinth, upon his finish he plans to go here: _____ (v. 25)
- 07** Paul is planning to visit the Romans for the first time on his way to this country: _____ (v. 24)



ROMANS 16

I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them.

Romans 16:17

TODAY'S DEFINITIONS

Look up the words below in your favorite online or hard copy dictionary. Then write the definition in your own words, adding any thoughts that may be missing from a secular definition. If you are working with a translation that uses a different expression than the words we are featuring, look them up anyway. It is fairly easy to see where they would fit into the verse, and these definitions will be important to many Christian readings:

BENEFactor OR SUCCOURER (V. 2):

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- 01** The first person Paul mentions in this chapter, Phoebe, has been entrusted to carry Paul's letter from Corinth to Rome and give it to the Church leadership in Rome. Why would this be considered a very important job?

- 02** Paul mentions 29 people in this chapter who have been heroes to the cause of Christ (10 of whom were women). Look at the ways some of them served. How does this inspire you to do something more in Christ's name?

- 03** Look at verses 17 through 19. It appears here that Paul is talking about "foxes in the hen house" or "wolves in sheep's clothing." Have you ever been around such a person? Describe their behavior and what you did about it.

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01** Phoebe served in this capacity in the church in Cenchreae (v. 1) _____.
- 02** These two people risked their lives for Paul and the gospel: _____ (v. 3-4)
- 03** The first convert to Christ in Asia was a man by this name: (v. 5) _____
- 04** These two Jews had been arrested for their faith when Paul was under arrest: (v. 7)
- _____
- 05** Paul urges the Romans to watch out for people who cause these types of problems: (v. 17)
- _____
- 06** Divisive people are not serving Christ, but their own egos or _____ (v. 18).

OTHER FACTS ABOUT APOSTLE PAUL

Congratulations!

You made it all the way through the Book of Romans! Today, you will conclude this study by reading the biography on Apostle Paul. This bio will be followed by six short-answer questions and three application questions. As well, you may have the Week In Review for Week 4 if you didn't break it down into daily sections.

PAUL BEFORE HIS CONVERSION

He was a highly educated Jew and a Roman citizen known as Saul of Tarsus. Paul was an enemy of believers before his conversion and helped put them to death. While walking on the road to Damascus, he was blinded and spoken to by the Lord Jesus, who told him he would be a servant of the gospel henceforth. His blindness lasted three days. This story is covered in detail in Acts 9, at which point the Book of Acts basically becomes a biography of Paul's ministry and three missionary journeys.

BOOK(S) WRITTEN

Paul wrote 13 epistles, most of which were intended to help a church correct a problem or avoid one. Here is his publishing history, though some debate exists on these dates.

YEAR WRITTEN	ORDER IN THE NT	BOOK
49-50 AD	9	Galatians
51 AD	13	1 Thessalonians
51-52 AD	14	2 Thessalonians
55 AD	7	1 Corinthians
55-56 AD	8	2 Corinthians
56 AD	6	Romans
60-62 AD	10	Ephesians
60-62 AD	11	Philippians
60-62 AD	12	Colossians
60-62 AD	18	Philemon
62-64 AD	15	1 Timothy
62-64 AD	17	Titus
66-67 AD	16	2 Timothy

TYPE OF BOOK(S)

Paul wrote the majority of the New Testament Epistles, and hence they developed their own subgrouping: Pauline Epistles. Note that the books in the New Testament are not presented in the order in which they are written!

Other Interesting Facts About Paul:

Entire books have been written on the life of Apostle Paul, and he was not even one of the original 12 disciples. He did not meet Jesus until after the Crucifixion.

When Paul was still called Saul, he had become a very educated Jew who was persecuting believers after the Crucifixion. He met Christ on the road to Damascus when he saw a bright light in the sky that blinded him, and Christ asked him, "Why are you persecuting me?"

Three days later he recovered his sight and began traveling to preach the gospel. He completed three missionary journeys that covered most of the known Western world of the time. He was imprisoned several times, including spending two years under house arrest in Rome. While there, he wrote four epistles: Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon. This two-year house arrest is thought to have been 60–62 AD.

There is still debate over how Paul died, as well as when. But it is almost universally accepted that he was martyred in Rome by Nero.

On July 19, 64 AD, a fire began in Rome that spread for almost a week, before reigniting and burning for an additional three days. Nero accused Christians of starting what came to be known as the Great Fire (though some scholars have thought that Nero himself started the fire in order to build his dream architecture while circumventing the Senate). Nero was known for gladiator fighting and throwing Christians to lions. He also would use their burnt corpses as torches at his garden parties. It is thought that he had Paul beheaded after the Great Fire.

It is likely that Paul was ready to meet his fate, whether it was through beheading or something else. He wrote what was close to his last words in Philippians 1:21-24:

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body."

SHORT-ANSWER QUESTIONS

- 01 True or False: Apostle Paul was one of the 12 original disciples.
- 02 True or False: Paul didn't meet Jesus until the Ascension, 40 days after the Resurrection
- 03 Paul was blind for this many days: _____
- 04 A fire in the city may have been caused by this ungodly Roman Emperor: _____
- 05 True or False: This leader also used to throw Christians to the lions.
- 06 "For me to live is _____ and to die is _____." –Apostle Paul in Philippians

APPLICATION QUESTIONS

01 Paul's conversion experience is probably the most dramatic of any Christian in the Bible. Today, some people's conversions are very dramatic, while others happen at a young age or happen gradually. What was yours like? What parts of your conversion testimony do you think the Lord would want you to share with others?

02 We have a fear of death that is strong and often causes us to forget what we believe about the afterlife and being able to see Jesus. How do you relate to Paul's words above from Philippians? What thoughts keep you from fearing death more?

03 Many of us are fortunate to have lived our lives so far without any semblance of Christian persecution, the likes of which made Nero infamous. But unbelievably, nearly 350 million Christians live today in places where they experience a high level of discrimination and persecution. In 2022, the ten countries which are most dangerous for Christians to live include:

- 1) Afghanistan
- 2) North Korea
- 3) Somalia
- 4) Libya
- 5) Yemen
- 6) Eritrea
- 7) Nigeria
- 8) Pakistan
- 9) Iran
- 10) India

Write out prayers for the people of these nations, or if you know someone from these areas personally, write a prayer for that person. Consider the words of 1 Corinthians 12:26: "If one part [of the Body of Christ] suffers, every part suffers with it." persecution. In 202





Application Questions

Use these Week-In-Review questions for personal growth, group discussion, or both. There are no right or wrong answers, just opportunities to further flesh out the passages of this week and share those insights if possible.

FROM DAY 1

How do we treat Christians who want to claim Conscientious Objection to a war? Should we force them to be in the military, to be in innocuous positions such as medics, or not force them at all?

FROM DAY 2

Think of a circumstance where you would be willing (or have been willing) to become silent on a personal belief to show the love of the body of Christ. What happened?

FROM DAY 3

If your life has become harder as a Christian, reflect on what important tool God may be trying to give you. Describe it.

FROM DAY 4

Gratitude is a huge part of our hope, as Paul has figured out. List some names of Christians whom you can be grateful to for sharing the Gospel with you and/or helping you grow.

FROM DAY 4

Which of the facts about the Apostle Paul reminds you most of your own walk? Why?



Answers and Help

FROM DAY 1

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Submit:** Accept or yield to a superior force or to the authority or will of another person.

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. True
2. What God has instituted
3. Taxes, revenue, respect, and honor
4. Love your neighbor as yourself
5. The law
6. Light

APPLICATION HELP

1. Paul tackled some very tough issues in this chapter, this one being the first. Paul is basically sticking to his guns here, asking Christians to live quiet lives and draw attention to themselves only in ways that will glorify God. If leadership asks you to do things that are immoral, unethical or offensive to others, you would have to pray hard for God's solution to your dilemma.
2. Although this law may seem overly harsh, take a moment to focus on the severity of the situation. Infidelity is a sin that affects many people, not just the man and woman caught in the act. It doesn't matter who initiated the sin; both parties are culpable. This law may be God's way of pointing out the seriousness of infidelity and how it affects many: the man and woman cheating, their spouses, and their children. It is not a situation to be taken lightly.
3. God wants us all to be watching for Him regardless of our era because that is a way to be prepared for death. Certainly most in the faith will not see the Apocalypse in person. However, we will all see God at the time of our death, and this is good preparation.

FROM DAY 2

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Condemn:** To pronounce to be utterly wrong; to utter a sentence of disapprobation against; to censure; to blame
- **Stumble:** To fall into sin or waywardness

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. Vegetables or herbs
2. Make them stand
3. Every day alike
4. Dies to ourselves alone, or dieth
5. Judgment seat
6. Unclean

APPLICATION HELP

1. At some point, we've probably all been made to feel condemned or uncomfortable by someone being legalistic. This passage has always interested Christians in that it points out that people who are legalistic are actually the ones with weak faith.
2. A good example would be drinking an alcoholic beverage in front of a brother or sister who quit drinking or is now clean and sober. You could make him want a drink or even agree to have one.

FROM DAY 3

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Sanctify:** to set apart or declare as holy.

-

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. Neighbors
2. Teach us
3. Mind and voice or mouth
4. Gentiles
5. Goodness and knowledge
6. Jerusalem
7. Spain

APPLICATION HELP

1. One problem with Christians disagreeing has always been this: If one of the disagreeing Christians is wrong about a small matter (and if two are presenting opposing views, one could be right, or both could be wrong, but they both can't be right), then they could be wrong about the much bigger issues, such as Jesus being the Messiah. As well, nobody wants to join a church to look for an argument. They repel people.

2. Sometimes one of the best, but hardest ways to show unity in the faith is this: Don't say anything! Silence can feel very counterintuitive, especially when you feel your faith is taking a beating, but it's sometimes best to avoid fueling the fires of certain arguments amongst believers. And, as always, kindness is one of the best shows of unity. Speak kindly and respectfully of others, rather than spreading slander or gossip.

FROM DAY 4

DEFINITIONS:

(Your wording will differ from ours, which is fine. Feel free to use our wording to help your definition become more clear.)

- **Divisions:** Clusters of people formed in disagreements, generally arising through strife
- **Benefactor or succourer:** Someone who gives money or other forms of support to a person or cause

SHORT-ANSWERS

1. Deacon
2. Priscilla and Aquila
3. Epenetus
4. Andronicus and Junia
5. Divisions and obstacles
6. Appetites or belly

APPLICATION HELP

1. Carrying mail may not sound very important to us today, but in those days there were no screenshots or ways to make copies. There was only ink, which could run if it got wet. After Paul took the time to write this most complex epistle, the last thing he would have wanted was for it to get lost, stolen or damaged.

FROM DAY 5**SHORT-ANSWERS**

1. False
2. False; Paul never met Jesus during His earthly ministry or in the period between His Resurrection and the Ascension.
3. Three
4. Nero
5. True
6. Christ; gain

APPLICATION HELP

3. For the many Christians around the globe who are in spiritual distress due to governments and other groupings, how can we help them? Write out a prayer you could say for them.