

Romans

Schedule of Classes

Lesson	Date	Romans Text
1	8/2/2020	1:1-17
2	8/5/2020	1:1-2:29
3	8/9/2020	3:1-31
4	8/12/2020	4:1-5:11
5	8/16/2020	5:12-6:23
6	8/19/2020	7:1-25
7	8/23/2020	8:1-32
8	8/26/2020	9:1-33
9	8/30/2020	10:1-11:36
10	9/6/2020	12:1-21
11	9/9/2020	13:1-14
12	9/13/2020	14:1-23
13	9/16/2020	15:1-16:27

Questions adapted from Larry Brown's study of Romans, part 1 & 2. Full copy of his material is available here: http://embryhills.us/adult_class_material/romans/romans_part_1_and_2_larry_brown.pdf

Lesson 1: Background and Introduction

WHO WROTE THE EPISTLE?

Paul identifies himself in the first verse. The authenticity of the epistle is unquestioned (at least to any degree). Even those skeptics who question the authorship of other books say of this one “there is no other letter with any greater claim to authenticity (F.W. Beare). Every ancient list of Christian scriptures includes Romans, and all attribute it to Paul.

It is strange how little we know about Paul, except what we read in Acts and in his own epistles. We know that he was born in Tarsus, a Gentile city which was “no mean city”. His parents were Jews from the tribe of Benjamin, and he was a Pharisee (Phil 3:5). Paul says that he was “born free” (Acts 22:28). We do not know how except that Tarsus was under Greek control when Paul was born and it was made a free Roman City by Augustus Caesar. Paul probably learned the tent trade here because tent making was one of Tarsus’s chief exports.

Smith’s Bible Dictionary places Paul’s birth at approximately 0-5 AD. Moses Lard sets his birth as late as 14 AD. All we really know is at the death of Stephen, Paul was a young man maybe in his thirties.

He was brought up in Jerusalem at the feet of Gamaliel and reasoned in the school of Tyrannus for two years (Acts 19:10).

WHEN WAS IT WRITTEN?

Paul probably wrote this letter from Corinth near the end of this third missionary journey around 57-58 AD.

- At the writing, Paul was taking a contribution from the churches of Macedonia to saints at Jerusalem (Rom 15:25- 26). So it was written after the Corinthian letters.
- Paul’s plans were to go to Rome after his visit to Jerusalem (Rom 15:24). These were his plans when he was in Macedonia, Achaia (of which Corinth was a part), and Greece (Acts 19:21; 20:1-2)
- Paul’s letters to the Corinthians were written at the time of this contribution (1 Cor 16:1-2, 2 Cor 8&9)
- Names of certain people of the city of Corinth are associated with Paul. Gaius – baptized by Paul in Corinth (1 Cor 1:14), Erastus – treasurer of Corinth (Rom 16:23; Acts 19:22; 2 Tim 4:20)

TO WHOM WAS IT WRITTEN:

1. “The called of Jesus Christ” (Vs 6)
2. “The beloved of God” (Vs 7)
3. “Saints” (Vs 7)
4. “Grace and Peace” (Vs 7)
5. The church(es) in Rome were probably made up of both Gentile and Jewish backgrounds
6. How was the church established? Three theories;
 - A. Peter founded it and served as bishop for 25 years. Roman Catholic tradition holds that Peter traveled to Rome in the second year of Claudius (AD 42) and he established the church then and stayed for 25 years. However, there are some historical facts that mess up this theory;
 - o Peter was in prison in Jerusalem during this time (Acts 12 around AD40)
 - o Peter was in Jerusalem during the Jerusalem conference (Acts 15 – AD 52)
 - o Paul salutes 27 people in the 16th chapter of Romans – he does not mention Peter.
 - o Paul wrote four epistles while in prison in Rome – he never mentioned Peter.
 - o In his last letter to Timothy, while in a Roman prison, Paul said that all had forsaken him except Luke. Did Peter forsake him while he was the bishop in Rome?

- B. The “strangers from Rome” mentioned in Acts 2 as present at Pentecost, after hearing the message of the Apostles returned to Rome and started the church.
- C. Founded by various Christians who had taken up residence in Rome.

7. May have been more than one church in Rome at the time.

OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS

I. PAUL’S WORK IN THE GOSPEL (1:1-17)

- A. Introduction (the writer, the audience, the message) (1:1-7)
- B. Paul’s Thanksgiving (1:8-15)
- C. Theme of Romans (1:16-17) – the gospel is God’s power to save.

II. SIN – All Are Under sin / Condemnation Justified / Righteousness Demanded (1:18 – 3:20)

- A. The Gentiles are Guilty (1:18 – 32)
- B. Those who know the law sinned (2:1-16)
- C. The Jews are Guilty (2:17 – 3:8)
- D. The Whole World is Guilty (3:9 – 3:20)

III. SALVATION - By Grace, Through Faith / Righteousness Declared (3:21-5:21)

- A. Justification Stated as Not by works but Faith in Jesus (3:21 – 31)
- B. Justification Illustrated in Abraham, and example of justification by faith (4:1 – 25)
- C. Justification Explained: The Greatness of God’s Plan (Adam Vs Christ) (5:1 – 21)

IV. SANCTIFICATION: The New Life is Free from Sin (6:1 – 8:39)

- A. No longer serve sin, since freed from it (6:1 – 23)
- B. Sin still an influence through the body (7:1 – 25)
- C. Overcoming sin through the mind of the Spirit (8:1 – 39)

V. SOVEREIGNTY – The Problem of Israel (9:1 – 11:36)

- A. God’s right to make choices (9:1 – 33)
- B. Access to the gospel is for all (10:1-21)
- C. God’s Purpose served through the fall of the Jews (11:1 – 36)

VI. SERVICE – The Christian Life of Service and good Conduct (12:1 – 13:14)

- A. In the church (12)
- B. In Society (13)
- C. Toward the Weaker Brethren (14:1 – 15:13)

VII. PAUL’S PLANS AND PERSONAL GREETING (15:14 – 16:27)

Romans 1:1-17

This is an introductory section. Paul wishes to make himself known and to make known his right to speak. In the course of this he confirms his love toward them, tells them how genuinely appreciated they are and shares with them his deep desire to be with them. He will then set forth the central theme of the book in verses 16-17. William Barclay describes Romans 1 up to verse 16 as similar to a musical concert which begins with a crashing chord to get attention and then states the theme which will be developed and elaborated.

QUESTIONS:

1. Who is central to Paul's preaching and teaching?
2. Why is the gospel to the Jew "first"?
3. What is meant by "faith to faith"?
4. What is God's power unto salvation?
5. What does this mean?
6. What is the "resurrection of the dead" referring to?
7. Why is Paul a debtor?
8. By what three expressions were all the Christians at Rome described?
9. What is the righteousness of God? And How do we get it?
10. What did Paul do without ceasing and what does it mean?
11. What does the gospel reveal?
12. Why was Paul not ashamed of the gospel?
13. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

Lesson 2: The Need for the Gospel

The Gentiles Need the Gospel

Romans 1:18-32

1:18-3:20 Paul establishes that mankind as a whole is under condemnation because of sin. 1:18-32 was a scathing indictment of the Gentile world in general. But not everyone in the Gentile world was openly and flagrantly ungodly. There were those who lamented the overflowing wickedness of the world. There were many philosophers throughout Greek, Roman, and Persian history who spoke against the unbridled lust around them. And then there was the Jew. Paul couldn't have painted the colors of the Gentile world dark enough for them. We can hear them grunt their "amen" frequently and with passion as Paul spoke. They spoke their judgment against the darkness of paganism and praised morality.

In chapter two, Paul will make it clear that having moral insight doesn't exempt one from condemnation. If you do the same kind of things the people you are judging are doing, you pronounce your own condemnation. The judge who takes his seat to try a man for forgery, and is himself a forger, by opening the trial condemns himself: for he admits that forgery is a crime and therefore indicts himself as a criminal. And it doesn't matter that a man isn't as deeply involved in forgery than another – if forgery is to be condemned, then it is to be condemned in principle! Forgery, a little or a lot, is criminal. In chapter 2:1-16 Paul will show that possessing law doesn't exempt one from condemnation and with mankind, both Jew and Gentile, there is breaking of law, and therefore condemnation.

QUESTIONS:

1. Against what is the wrath of God revealed?
2. What two things did man fail to do when they knew God?
3. When men worshipped idols, what did they exchange?
4. How do men hold or hinder the truth?
5. What is a "reprobate mind"?
6. Who does Paul say the creation bears witness to?
7. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

The Jews Need the Gospel

Romans 2:1-29

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is one who passes judgment without excuse?
2. How does God try to lead man to repentance?
3. What is the reward to those who do good?
4. What is the reward to those who do evil?
5. How will God judge those who do not have the “written” law?
6. How could the Gentiles know the difference between right and wrong?
7. Why were the Jews in need of salvation?
8. Is judging wrong?
9. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

Lesson 3: The World's Unrighteous Condition and the Solution

The Whole World is Guilty

Romans 3:1-20

QUESTIONS:

1. What advantage was there in being the Jew?

2. What comes through law?

3. What does "Let God be true and every man a liar" mean?

4. Would God be unrighteous to take vengeance?

5. Does verse 9 teach that all men are born in sin, totally depraved? Why?

7. How are these described and what do they mean?
 - a. Throat

 - b. Tongues

 - c. Lips

8. The mouth of the wicked is full of what?

9. What is their attitude toward God?

10. How was Paul slandered?

Justification Available through Redemption in Christ

Romans 3:21-31

QUESTIONS:

1. What comes “apart from law”?
2. Who has sinned?
3. What is the gift of God’s grace?
4. How is God appeased for our sins?
5. How does man received justification from God?
6. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

Lesson 4: Examples of Justification

Romans 4:1-5:11

Paul has just explained the good news of God – His justice and His mercy all came together at the cross. The conclusion is that man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law (perfect law keeping). This justification is available to both the Jew and the Gentile. Paul will now illustrate justification by faith by using the life of Abraham. Abraham is the father of the Arab through Ishmael, the Jew through Isaac, and the Christian through Jesus. Paul wants to show that even Abraham was not justified by the flesh, the law or by works. If Abraham needed grace, then certainly others would too. Paul will also use David to show that righteousness is imputed through forgiveness rather than works (4:1-8).

In verses 9-16, Paul will further drive the point that Abraham was not justified by works. That he received no spiritual blessing through the flesh. Paul will raise the question and answer it so that this conclusion is not missed: Abraham was not justified on the basis of circumcision since this is a work of the flesh. Abraham was not counted righteous because of circumcision because he had not yet been circumcised when he was counted as righteous. Again and again it is stressed that he was spiritually blessed because of his faith in God's grace. (4:9-16). The point that Paul is making is that we too must be justified by faith and not by works. Justification by law and meritorious works is out because man has not kept God's law. He has sinned; all have sinned.

Paul will now turn from the matter of circumcision, to the promise of a child. In verses 1-12 we see that Abraham's justification was by faith. In verses 13-14 – the promise of inheritance was by faith. Now in verses 17-21 we are told that the birth of Isaac was also by faith. What has Abraham found according to the flesh (Vs 1)? Nothing! It is all by faith.

QUESTIONS:

1. How did Abraham attain righteousness?
2. How does David describe the righteousness which is imputed to man?
3. How is Abraham the father of the uncircumcised who possessed faith?
4. Based upon what, was the promise made to Abraham?
5. How did Abraham demonstrate his faith?
6. Why are we given the example of Abraham's faith?
7. What are some benefits we enjoy as a result of justification?
8. Why can Christians rejoice even in the middle of trials?
9. How did God demonstrate His love for us?
10. In addition to Jesus' death, what else is involved in our ultimate salvation?
11. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

Lesson 5: Dead to Sin, Alive to God

Romans 5:12-6:23

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the consequence of Adam's sin upon all men?
2. What death is being discussed (physical or spiritual)?
3. What comparison is made between Adam and Christ?
4. Which has abounded more: sin or grace?
5. Grace reigns through righteousness unto what?
6. Why are Christians not to continue in sin?
7. What happens when one is baptized into Christ?
8. How should we present the members of our bodies
9. Why does sin no longer have dominion over the Christian?
10. What three steps are describes that eventually lead to eternal life (22)
11. What is the just payment for sin? But what do we get in Christ?
12. What is your favorite verse of this passage and why?

Lesson 6: The Law

Romans 7:1-25

QUESTIONS:

1. What dilemma does one face in trying to keep the law?
2. What is the end result of this dilemma?
3. How can we find freedom from this dilemma?
4. In what might Paul delight?
5. Who is involved in this struggle (13-25)? (An Unregenerate man in sin, A man trying to keep the Law of Moses, or a Christian under the law of Christ)? (explain)
6. Does verse 25 teach that a man can serve God with his spirit while serving sin with his body?
7. Who has brought us deliverance?
8. Why does Paul cry out in despair?
9. What is the purpose of the Law of Moses (in fact all law)?
10. What about the doctrine that man is totally depraved?
11. What is your favorite verse of this passage and why?

Lesson 7: The Blessed State and Hope of the Christian

Romans 8:1-32

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the difference between the “Law of Moses” and the “law of the Spirit of life”?
2. Is Paul talking about the Holy Spirit or the inner spirit of man?
3. What is the result of setting your mind on the things of the flesh? On the things of the Spirit?
4. Does this teach that the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian? (If “yes” How? If “no” explain)?
5. Is man able to choose to live after the Spirit?
6. How does the Holy Spirit lead us?
7. For whom is there “no condemnation”?
8. To what are we debtors?
9. How do we know that we are children of God?
10. What is meant by the “righteousness of the law” (4)?
11. What are the blessings of being the children of God?
13. What does Vs 28 mean?
14. What is hope?
15. Can we be separated from the love of God? (explain)
18. How does the Holy Spirit make intercession for us?
19. What is your favorite verse of this passage and why?

Lesson 8: The Rejection of Jews and God's Absolute Power Asserted

The Rejection of the Jews

Romans 9:1-18

QUESTIONS:

1. How much love did Paul have for the nation of Israel?

2. Who are the true children of God?

3. What does God have the right to do?

4. What eight things does Paul say pertain to the Israelites
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
 - h.

5. What does verse 11 mean (“purpose of God according to election”)?

6. Explain verse 17

7. When did God make a choice between Jacob and Esau?

8. Why did God choose Isaac above Abraham's other sons?

9. What bore witness that Paul spoke the truth?

10. Why did God raise up Pharaoh?

11. In light of verses 11, 16, and 18, explain the doctrine of predestination. Can man change his destiny? Is man's obedience of faith necessary for salvation?

12. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

God's Absolute Power Asserted

Romans 9:19-33

The Jews' charge that if God has rejected them as His people and accepted the Gentiles, then He is unfaithful in His promises, has been faced head on by Paul. He has demonstrated that those who are merely the descendants of the patriarchs, without showing forth faithfulness, have never been God's people (6-13). He has shown that God has the power and liberty to do as He wills. Who does man think he is to call God to account for his actions (remember the trouble Job got in to when he questioned God?)

Paul shows that God's purpose was two-fold; (1) to show His wrath and power to those who through disobedience and rebellion show themselves unfit for eternal life and (2) to make known the riches of His glory to those who trust and obey Him. Paul then shows that this is no afterthought in the mind of God. He foretold what was now happening in the prophets (25-29). And finally Paul explains why the Jews were being rejected (30-33)

Paul's conclusion: That God's words of promise were not just to the fleshly descendants of Abraham (as the Jews would have it), but to the faithful remnant of Israel and to the Gentiles who accepted the righteousness which is by faith. The only reason any of the Israelites were rejected by God was because of their rejection of the Messiah, even as Isaiah foretold.

QUESTIONS:

1. What OT prophet foretold that Gentiles would be a part of the people of God? Where?
2. What did Isaiah say would happen to the nation of Israel?
3. Why are the Gentiles among the saved?
4. Why are some Israelites going to be lost?
5. What are "vessels of wrath"?
6. What are "vessels of mercy"?
7. Who is the stumbling block?
8. Why did the Jews not attain righteousness?
9. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

Lesson 9: The Rejection Warranted But Not Final

Romans 10

QUESTIONS:

1. In what way were the Jews ignorant?
2. How is Christ “the end of the law of righteousness”?
3. Does verse 13 teach salvation by “faith only”?
4. Did the Jews have the opportunity to call upon the Lord?
5. How and why did God say He was going to make His people jealous?
6. What does it mean to “call on the name of the Lord”?
7. In the process of salvation, what is done with the heart? And what is done with the mouth?
8. What is Christ to the law?
9. How far has the gospel gone?
10. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

Romans 11

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the difference between “works” and “grace” in verse 6?
3. What example does Paul use to show that God has not totally rejected the people of Israel?
4. Why did God harden the rebellious Jews?
5. 11:6 contrast grace and works. Please explain this. Does works of faith (obedience) nullify grace?
6. What condition is necessary to remain in the “tree of Israel”?
7. What does “God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all” mean?

8. Does verse 26 teach universal salvation for Israel?
9. What are the “gifts and the calling” of God and why are they irrevocable?
10. Why are some branches broken off?
11. Under what conditions can a branch be grafted back in?
12. What should the attitude of the Gentiles be with regard to the natural branches?
13. Why did Paul not want the Gentiles to be ignorant of this mystery?
14. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

Lesson 10: We are a Living and Holy Sacrifice

Romans 12

QUESTIONS:

1. How is a Christian to present himself before God?
2. How is one transformed?
3. What is the purpose of this transformation?
4. What illustration shows our dependence upon each other in the church?
5. How are Christians to respond to evil?
6. Explain “reasonable service”?
7. What is the “measure of faith”?
8. What body is talked about in verse 9?
9. How are we to use our gifts?
10. Explain the following words:
 - a. Prophecy
 - b. Ministry
 - c. Teach
 - d. Exhort
11. How do we show mercy with cheerfulness?
12. How do we “heap coals of fire” on a person’s head and what does it mean?
13. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

Lesson 11: Governing Authorities and Loving Your Neighbor

Romans 13

QUESTIONS:

1. What word summarizes the Christian's responsibility to the government and what does it mean?
2. From where do governments get their authority?
3. What happens if we resist the governing authorities?
4. What is a major responsibility of governments?
5. What one thing should we owe others?
6. What are we to put on and what does it mean?
7. What are we not to provide opportunities for?
8. When governments are bad (Babylonian, Roman) does God still want us to submit to them?
9. Does this text mean that is wrong to use credit cards?
10. Name six ways we are not to walk
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
11. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

Lesson 12: Differences Among Brethren

Romans 14

We now come to a portion of scripture which was designed to effect peace. We are indeed blessed to have this passage available to us so that we might know how we are to treat one another when things arise that we disagree with (not matters of truth and error, and of right and wrong but matters of opinion, of conscience, and even of deep personal persuasion.). While this passage has brought peace in these circumstances, it has also become a battleground for questions and applications over what should be included. Most would agree that some brethren are too generous in what they would include, and others are too strict and overly zealous based on what they would exclude from this passage.

Let us keep in mind the general context of what Paul is saying. The law of love has been the primary emphasis in chapters 12 and 13. Romans 14 gives us practical applications of this lofty principle. Paul addresses the strong in their duties to their weak brethren. A problem comes up because most brethren consider themselves strong when it come to their own understanding of a disputed issue. Anyone who holds a different view then must be weak – in their estimation. But even when this happens, if those who consider themselves to be strong will do what Paul demands, they will do well. As Christians, we are to be deeply concerned about the welfare (both physically but especially spiritually) of others. Paul has stated over and over that those who are righteous (justified by grace and faith) are obedient to God. Therefore it is imperative to live according to the commandments of God. However, in matters that are authorized and right, but optional and not demanded, there must be allowances given to one another.

The weak are to be received and not ridiculed, laughed at, or despised. Given time, teaching, and love, the weak may one day be conscientiously able to eat meat. The weak are not to condemn those who could conscientiously eat meat or observe certain days. Both weak and strong are the servants of God and God will judge each (1-4). Both strong and weak are to recognize that they are servants of God. We are to live for God, not self, and whatever we do, we must do with a clear conscience (5-9). Neither the strong or the weak should hold the other in contempt. The judging (in verse 10) must be confined to the things in this context because we must judge in other matters (Matt 7:15; John 7:24; 1 Cor 6:5). We must all be aware that we will all give account of ourselves to God, and be careful not to cause someone else to stumble (10-18). Our goal here is to be diligent in making for peace and doing things which edify our brethren.

QUESTIONS:

1. How are the strong and weak brethren to teach each other?
2. What is important according to verse 5?
3. How far should we be willing to go, to avoid causing a brother to stumble?
4. If we violate our conscience, are we guilty of sin?
5. Is our conscience a safe guide?
6. List some things that you would consider to fall into Romans 14. List some things that you would not.
7. How can we cause a brother to stumble?
8. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

Lesson 13: Encouragement for Unity & Paul's Efforts in the Gospel

Romans 15

QUESTIONS:

1. What value is the Old Testament to Christians?
2. Why is it important that we be of one mind?
3. What three characteristics of God are mentioned in verse 5 and verse 13? What do they mean?
4. Where was he headed when he wrote this epistle? Why?
5. What had hindered Paul from achieving his desire to come to Rome?
6. List the blessings Paul hoped to receive from the Romans when he came?
7. How did Paul confirm what he had preached?
8. Why did he speak so boldly to them?
9. What is your favorite verse in this section and why?

ROMANS 16

QUESTIONS:

1. How does Paul describe Phoebe?
2. How does Paul describe Priscilla and Aquila?
3. How does Paul describe those who cause division and offenses?
4. Is the "mystery" referred to in verse 25 still hidden?
5. What is the objective of the gospel according to verse 26?

6. What does Paul mean in verse 17 when he tells them to “note” or “mark” a person?

7. What is the teaching here?

8. What is involved in avoiding a “noted” person?

9. Can women be deacons in the church?

10. What is a “holy kiss”? and is this a command?

11. Does Romans teach that we are saved by “faith only”?

12. What is your favorite verse in the WHOLE BOOK OF ROMANS and why?