

WOMEN WALKING WISELY A STUDY OF ROMANS (PART 1) THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD

LESSON 1—ROMANS 1

WOMEN WALKING WISELY MEETING: SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

This is the basic format for how this Bible study is designed. Following these steps will give us a close up look at the book of Romans. The Bible study steps can be organized as...

1. Read the assigned passage of Romans: Jotting initial thoughts at the end
2. Observe the section: Giving your own heading to the specific section(s) assigned to you
3. Evaluate the chapter: Identify the natural flow in the story as it moves along the chapter
4. Define the characters: Note the main actors in the story and give a description of each
5. Write out your questions: Look for anything you do not know and find the answer if you can
6. Answer the study questions: I will give you questions for each week that we will interact with
7. Interpret the text: Explain what the text said about and to the original audience and why
8. Apply the text: Look for the universal application that is true to the text and yet timeless

Romans Introduction

If you haven't already, take time to read through the book of Romans. When you are finished reading, jot down any initial thoughts, observations, and questions.

NOTE: You will often be asked in our study of the text to define words by looking at the Strong's Concordance to help understand the original meaning of a word in Greek (or Hebrew). You can simply do a Google search and type in Strong's #xxxx & press the enter button. This will take you to sites like biblehub.com or blueletterbible.org for a better understanding of what the specific word means.

Day 1: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.1 – 7)

Right away, as we begin the letter, we find out the author of the book of Romans...greetings from whom? Write down anything that you already know about this man. What is the general tone of the book of Romans?

In Romans 1:1, what are some of the descriptive phrases used to describe the author?

Try to define the following terms:

- Servant [#1401]
- Called [#2822]
- Apostle [#652]
- Gospel [2098]

Day 2: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.1 – 7)

Whose gospel is this? Is this a new gospel (meaning would this be only known to NT believers? (see v.2) What do we find out about this gospel? The gospel points to whom (v.3)? What do we find out about the Son of God...who is He according to v.3-4?

Why is the resurrection so important in the life of believers?

Again, who is the Son of God? He is the _____

Look up the following terms: #2424 #5547 #2962

What pronoun is used in the phrase above? What relationship does this word choice show?

Day 3: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.1 – 7)

What did the readers of the book of Romans and Paul (and even those of us who believe) receive from Jesus Christ? Are you an apostle? Try to find a definition of the word *apostle* & write it down.

True saving faith always produces what in the life of the believer? What is the importance of living an obedient and submissive life? Who will this kind of life impact?

Day 4: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.1 – 7)

Who are the receivers of this letter? (see v.7) What do you know about Rome? And how does Paul describe the Roman believers in this verse?

Paul finishes out his greeting with his standard words. What are his “go-to” words of encouragement? Who do these blessings flow from? (Notice again the pronoun choice by Paul to these Roman believers.)

Day 5: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.8 – 15)

In his writings, Paul often uses words of thankfulness in connection with his thoughts of the recipients of his letters. We see this here in chapter 1. However, Paul is not thanking them, but he is certain to recognize the One worthy of thanks. Who does he prescribe thanks to? For whom? And why? What was one of Paul’s prayer requests in relation to this group of people? How often does Paul pray for them? Paul knew that for him to get to Rome would solely be the work of whom?

What do we learn from Paul’s prayers? See the following passages:

Ephesians 3:14-19

Colossians 1:9-11

Ephesians 6:18

Romans 15:30-32

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Philippians 1:9-11

2 Thessalonians 1:11,12

Day 6: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.8 – 15)

Why did Paul long to see this group of believers? What do you think Paul is meaning by “imparting some spiritual gift” to them? What does it mean that he wants them to be established or strengthened?

How does Paul view their potential meeting? (v.12)

Do you have that kind of relationship with fellow believers? Is there someone who comes to your mind that encourages you in your faith? Is there someone in your life that you are encouraging in the faith or are you often the taker? I pray that you have relationships that mutually encourage each other’s faith. And if you don’t have these types of relationships, pray that the Lord will give you these encouragements.

Day 7: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.8 – 15)

Starting in verse 13, there is one more thing that Paul personally wants the believers in Rome to know.

What is this? Why had he not visited up to this point?

Why did he desire this visit? The ESV reads, “...in order that I may reap some harvest among you...” The NASB reads, “...in order that I may obtain so fruit among you...” In the NT fruit can have slightly differing meanings (see John 15:16). Take note of the of these different references to fruit:

Galatians 5:22-23

Romans 6:22

Romans 16:5 (look up the term convert: #536)

Which fruit do you think that Paul is referring to in v.13?

Day 8: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.8 – 15)

What is the cultural make-up of the early church in Rome that Paul is writing to? What is the obligation Paul is under (v.14)? Who is Paul’s obligation to? In those days who were considered the Greeks? Who were considered the barbarians?

What is Paul’s desire to do in Rome (v.15)? How does he describe this desire? What do you think Paul would share with them (Hint: probably take a look at the next two verses :)

Day 9: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.16 – 17)

Romans 1:16 – 17 could be considered key verses to the book of Romans. They lay out a thesis statement for all that Paul is writing in this letter and highlight the theme of all that he will share.

Write out Romans 1:16 – 17. Challenge: make this your memory work for this month!

What do we learn about Paul in the first phrase of verse 16? How is the gospel described? The power of God leads to what? What do we learn about salvation in this verse? What does the word salvation mean (the word is used 5 times in the book of Romans)?

What does it mean to believe? (Eph.2:8) Note: notice the verb tense of the word “believes”

“Salvation is not merely professing to be a Christian, nor is it baptism, moral reform, going to church, receiving sacraments, or living a life of self-discipline and sacrifice. Salvation is believing in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Salvation comes through giving up on one’s own goodness, works, knowledge, and wisdom and trusting in the finished perfect work of Christ.” (MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Romans 1 – 8*. p. 55)

Why does Paul write that it was to the Jew first and also to the Greek?

What does the gospel reveal (v.17)? When we talk about the righteousness of God, what does that mean? (See Phil. 3:8-9 & Rom. 3:21-24; you can also read <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/the-righteousness-of-god>) So, we can summarize that God is _____!

Can a person make himself righteous? How does one become righteous? What does the righteous person live by? How often does this type of living take place in the life of the believer?

Day 10: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.18 – 32)

It is easy to talk about God as a righteous God in relationship to His salvific work in the human hearts of men. However, in His righteousness or because He is righteous, we learn what about God's character (His nature) in verse 18? God is a righteous God and He is just, and because of that we know that He is also a God of _____.

Who is His wrath against? Is His wrath just? How would you explain this?

“Wrath is the only just response a perfect holy God could make to unholy men. Righteous wrath therefore is every bit an element of God's divine perfection as any of His other attributes...Paul is determined for us to know that before we can understand the grace of God we must first understand His wrath, that before we can understand the meaning of the death of Christ we must first understand why man's sin made the death necessary, that before we can begin to comprehend how loving, merciful, and gracious God is we must first see how rebellious, sinful, and guilty unbelieving man is.” (MacArthur, John. *The MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Romans 1 – 8*. p. 74-75)

There are different types of wrath in which God deals. Can you decipher this particular judgment being taught here in Romans 1? See the following verses to help explain:

Psalm 81:11-12

2 Chronicles 15:2

Proverbs 1:23 – 31

2 Chronicles 24:20

Judges 10:13

Day 11: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.18 – 32)

What do the ungodly and the unrighteous do with the truth (v.18)? What does this mean (keep reading into verses 19-23)?

How has God revealed Himself to man (v.19)? Specifically note how He has shown Himself (v.20). What does the end of verse 20 state clearly? Why is this significant? What theological truth is being highlighted in verses 19 – 20? (See also Psalm 19)

Day 12: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.18 – 32)

The downward spiral begins for men (and women) who suppress the truth. Look at verse 21. What does the phrase “For although they knew God...” mean? (Note: we already know Paul is describing the ungodly/the unrighteous who are not in a right relationship with God)

As verse 21 continues, what actions proceed from the ungodly?

How does man live out verse 22? Give specific examples from the real-world.

What sad exchange is being described in verse 23?

As believers, we know that worship belongs to God alone for He alone is worthy. Write out a song of praise to the glory of God—this can be your own thoughts, a Psalm or another verse of Scripture, or a song that we sing to His praise and adoration!!!

“The most irreligious person on earth worships, because worship is first a human identity before it is a human activity. Everything we do and say is rooted in worship. Every choice and decision flows from worship. Worship is the inescapable occupation of every human being. The question is not *if* we worship, but *what* we give our hearts to worship.” (Tripp, Paul David. *New Morning Mercies*. Nov. 25)

Day 13: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.18 – 32)

And so, it gets worse for the ungodly who reject the righteous God. Because of the futile thinking and the darkening of their hearts, the reality is bleak and hopeless without God. In the next five verses, Paul uses the phrase “God gave them up” 3 times. Read verses 24-29 and take note of the spiral progression of what “God gave them up” to. (Look up the phrase “gave them over” #3860).

In verse 25, they exchanged _____ for _____. What is an example in our world where truth has been exchanged for a lie?

Day 14: Read Romans 1 (Focus v.18 – 32)

In verses 29 – 31, Paul lists out what the ungodly are filled with and who they are. Write out the list of who these people are.

Here's a startling reality (v.32), maybe if they knew the consequences or if someone warned them, it would get their attention. They would want to do better. But what is the truth that we find out about someone with this type of mind and heart? (Also see John 3:19-20 & Romans 2:15) What word could sum up this kind of living?

But thanks be to God...Isaiah 53:6... “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”