

Romans...

The Revelation of

the Righteousness

of God

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2000¹

¹ Much of the extra material in this study (charts, handouts, etc.) is taken from Harold Hoehner's Romans class at Dallas Seminary. The other materials are marked as to their author.

Romans 1:1-17

Introduction

- ∞ The Book of Romans was probably written from Ephesus by Paul to a group of house churches in Rome. These churches were probably made up mostly of Gentiles, although there were some Jews present as well. Take a few minutes to skim through the introduction from the enclosed material.
- ∞ Spend several hours throughout the week in observation, interpretation, and application of the text...consider the following questions.
- 1. The word used in verse 1 for “bond-servant” is the Greek word δοῦλος (doulos). Read the article below in order to gain a sense of what the word meant in Paul’s day. Do you see the force of the word? Could you honestly say about yourself what Paul said about himself? Why or why not?

Traditionally, “servant.” Though δοῦλος (doulos) is normally translated “servant,” the word does not bear the connotation of a free man serving another. BAGD notes that “‘servant’ for ‘slave’ is largely confined to Biblical transl. and early American times...in normal usage at the present time the two words are carefully distinguished” (BAGD 205 s.v. δοῦλος). The most accurate translation is “bondservant” (sometimes found in the ASV for δοῦλος), in that it often indicates one who sells himself into slavery to another. But as this is archaic, few today understand its force.²

- 2. Verses 2-4 set up some very important themes regarding (1) the purpose of the Old Testament and (2) the nature of Jesus Christ. Can you track down any Old Testament texts that point to the coming of the Gospel and Jesus Christ?

Why does Paul mention that Jesus was born “of a descendent of David” and that He was “declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection?” Is this important? What are some other texts that mention the humanity of Jesus? His Deity?

² Translator’s note from the NET Bible (www.bible.org).

3. Verse 5 states, “through [Jesus Christ] we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name’s sake...”³ The phrase “obedience of faith” has been variously interpreted. Using a commentary, what are some options and which do you prefer? Be ready to defend why you think as you do!

4. Verse 7 mentions the recipients of the letter. Who are they and where are they located? Can we tell anything else about them from this verse?

5. For what does Paul thank God in verse 8? Do people praise God because of the faith they see in you?

6. In verses 10-13 Paul mentions that he desires to come to see the Romans. Why does he desire to do this?

NB: Paul uses the phrase “by the will of God” as he mentions his desire to visit them. Consider James 4:13-17. Is this your attitude? Why or why not?

7. In verse 14, Paul states that he is, in a sense, the “executor” of God’s will when he mentions that he is “under obligation” to preach. Notice that Paul is eager to accomplish the will of God. Are you?

³*The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.

8. Take a minute and recap where we have been. Can you summarize in one sentence (25 words or less) the point of verses 1-7?

How about 8-15?

9. Verses 16-17 are crucial to understanding the point of Romans. Having read through the book at least once already, once you understand these two verses, you should be able to at least make a guess at the theme of the entire book. So....give it a shot! In 1-2 sentences, what do you think the Book of Romans is about?

10. That was a hard one...good job. Spend some time thinking and meditating on verses 16-17, maybe even memorizing them. Think specifically about the words that Paul chooses to use in writing the verse. What does it mean to you? Does it encourage you?

11. What do you think the phrase “from faith to faith” means in context?

12. So what!?! List some personal action or application points that you are taking from this text.

Romans 1:18-32

The Unrighteous

1. How is this verse related to the previous 2 verses (1:16-17)?
2. Why does Paul use the present tense in verse 18, “The wrath of God *is* revealed...?” What does this indicate?

What are men in effect doing when they suppress the truth about God’s wrath?

3. The Greek in the latter part of verse 18 states “who suppress the truth by means of unrighteousness.” Coupled with the next 2 verses, what does it say regarding the culpability of mankind? In other words, is every man guilty before God? why or why not?

This begs the question that has puzzled Christians for generations. What about those who have never heard the gospel? Are they culpable?

4. What is it about God’s character that is revealed in His creation?
5. What did man’s rejection lead to in verses 21-23?

6. What has God given man over to in verses 24-25?

Verses 26-27?

Verses 28-32?

7. Can you interpret this section? What is Paul saying and why?

8. So what!?! List some personal action or application points that you are taking from this text.

Romans 2:1-16

The Moralist

1. What does it mean to pass judgement in this context?

How does this relate to Matthew 7:1-5?

Are we to judge as Christians?

2. In light of the context, do you forget that God calls you to be holy too?

Do you take advantage of his kindness to the end that you judge rather than repent?

3. See the handout on Romans 2-3. Does verse 7 teach salvation by works?

How would you answer those who would say it does?

4. Why would you say verse 11 is significant given the historical context of the 1st century and the context of the chapter? See also Ephesians 2:11-22.

5. What is the place of conscience in the life of an unbeliever?

6. So what?!? List some personal applications you can make from this text.

Romans 2:17-3:9

The Jew

- ∞ There is an intended “if...then” statement in the first part of this section. The “if” portion (protasis) is contained in verses 17-20 (“if you say this...”) while the “then” portion (apodasis) is contained in verses 21-24 (“then why do you do this...”).
1. In verse 17, what does Paul mean when he makes the statement, “rely upon the Law...”? Rely upon the Law of what and for what?

What does he mean by “Boast in God”?

“Know his will”?

“Approve...essential”

2. What do verses 21-24 speak against?

How do you personally live out what you say?

3. What’s the big deal about circumcision? Chase down some references as to its importance in the Old Testament and some thoughts on its importance in the New Testament.

Why is it such a big deal that Paul makes this statement given the context and who he is addressing?

4. What does Paul mean in verse 25? Particularly, what does it mean to “practice the Law?”

Can this be done? Why or why not?

Is physical circumcision of value?

5. Paul has been speaking for a while as if works save. Why is he speaking this way?

How does this help interpret verse 26?

6. Explain vv. 28-29 in the context (cf. Col. 2:11 and Eph. 2:11).

How does this effect the Jews?

What does Paul mean by circumcision of the heart?

7. Why the question in 3:1?

Why does he answer in the affirmative in verse 2?

8. What does it mean to be “entrusted with the oracles of God” (v. 2)?

9. If circumcision is worthless, has God abandoned Israel?

10. Is God unrighteous in bringing out wrath?

In verses 5-8, how does justice relate to unrighteousness?

11. So what? How will you apply this text to your life?

Romans 3:9-20

The World

∞ Having read this section of text, what do you think is meant by the phrase “total depravity?”

∞ AFTER YOU HAVE ANSWERED THE ABOVE QUESTION...Read the attached article on total depravity. How does the article agree or disagree with what you said in the above question?

1. Explain this section’s relationship to the previous 3.

What is Paul’s intent here?

2. Verse 9 says that Jews & Greeks are all under sin. Who does this include and what does it mean?

3. What does this section of Old Testament quotations say about man’s relationship to God before salvation?

Is there such a thing as a “seeker”? If so, what does it really mean?

What does this section say about man's standing before God?

What has to happen in order for this kind of man to be saved?

If mankind *could* choose to be saved on his own, *would* he according to this text?

4. In verses 19-20, what does it say about one of the purposes of the Law?

5. How would you defend the impossibility of salvation by works?

6. So what? How will you apply this text to your life?

Romans 3:21-31

The Explanation

- ∞ Think through this section carefully as, in my opinion, it is one of the most important sections in your Bible.
1. Restate the problem presented in verse 20.
 2. What does Paul mean when he says, “for there is no distinction?”
 3. Why is there no distinction?
 4. Spend some time in meditation on verses 23-24. Note the present tense of the phrase “fall short.” Also, consider that the participle “being justified” is present and should be translated “*while* being justified.” Try to understand the depth of what Paul is saying here. We use this verse strictly for unbelievers. Does Paul use it solely for this purpose, or is there a sense in which we are still being justified? What are your thoughts?
 5. Interpret verse 24 in light of the context. Define the following...

Justification –

Redemption –

Propitiation (cf. Ex. 25:17-22; Heb. 9:1-22; 1 Jn. 2:2; 4:10) -

6. In verse 5, what do you think Paul means when he says God “passed over sins previously committed?” The word παρεσιν (*paresin*) means “suspension of punishment” (cf. Acts 17:30).

7. In verse 26, what does Paul mean when he says that to the one who has faith in Christ, God has become both just and the justifier?

Why did Jesus have to be both fully God & fully man (cf. Heb. 2:9-18)?

How would you explain this to someone?

8. Does a text like this change your view of yourself?

Are you ever guilty of “boasting?”

In light of this text and previous material, do you really have that luxury?

9. What does Paul mean in verse 31 when he says that we “establish the Law?”

10. So what?!? How are you going to apply this text to your life?

11. Consider the following table...

	God	Man	Object
Garden	→	←	
Fall	←	→	
Redemption	←	→	Sin
Propitiation	→	→	God
Reconciliation	→	←	Man

Romans 4

The Illustration

- ∞ Throughout this chapter, keep in mind that Abraham lived more than 500 years before the Law was given.
- 1. Why is it important that Abraham was not saved based on what he did, but, rather, because of his faith? FYI – The Mishnah is a Jewish commentary on the Law, and in it, they felt that Abraham was justified by his works.
- 2. According to verses 4-5, does God owe us salvation? Why or why not?
- 3. Why the quotation by David in verses 7-8?

Given what you know about Abraham and David in scripture, what does this quotation suggest or illustrate?

- 4. What is Paul arguing in verses 9-12?

Why is this important to the discussion of the context?

- 5. According to verse 15, why does the Law bring about wrath?

What does the next half of the verse say about the purpose of the Law?

6. Interpret verse 18 in light of the context. Chase down the following meanings from Genesis 17:5.

Abram –

Abraham -

7. How do verses 18-21 challenge you in your current situation in life?
8. What does verse 25 mean in context?

If our sins were paid for and dealt with at the cross, how can hell be legitimate. What was it Christ's resurrection accomplished and why was it important? In other words, if Christ's death cancelled out our sins, what did His resurrection do? Hint... what is the definition of justification from previous material?

9. So what!?! List some personal action or application points that you are taking from this text.

Romans 5:1-11

The Expectation

∞ The expectation of justification brings hope (desire and expectation) of final salvation. In this section Paul answers the question, “Will justification carry me through to the end?” Our peace and exultation are based on our justification.

1. What is the “therefore” there for in verse 1?

To what does it refer?

2. Contrast our relationship to God before we were saved and our relationship with God after we were saved.

3. Do you “exult in your tribulations?” Why or why not?

4. Hope consists of expectation and desire. In verse 5 – Paul says that “hope does not disappoint (prove vain), because God’s love has been poured out through the Holy Spirit.” What does this mean?

5. How do we know that God really did love us enough to save us?

6. What do you think verse 7 means?

7. Meditate on verse 8 in context. What are the implications of such a verse for you personally?

Define “reconciliation” in context.

8. This is one of the great texts on eternal security in Scripture. What is it saying in a nutshell?

9. So what? How will you apply this text to your life?

Romans 5:12-21

The Amplification

∞ This section deals with one of the great questions of our time, “How is Adam’s sin applied to us?” Take a few moments and look at the handouts after you have gone through the section in the text. What are your initial thoughts?

∞ Define the following terms...

Sin –

Sins –

∞ Which is a more accurate description of our sinfulness?

___ I sin because I am a sinner.

___ I am a sinner because I sin.

1. What is the connection between verse 11 and verse 12?

Why the “therefore?”

2. Paul interjects a thought between verses 13 and 17, a parenthetical statement if you will. Explain the flow of his argument.

3. How does verse 12 change, confirm, or broaden your knowledge as to how sin spread throughout humanity (the imputation of sin and the depravity of man)?

4. To what does “death” refer to in verse 12, physical or spiritual death or both? Why?

How does this relate (or does it) to the Fall in Genesis 2-3 and the statement by God in 2:17 that the man would “surely die” (lit. “die, die”) if he ate of the tree?

5. Verse 14 says that Adam was a “type” of Christ. How does this contribute to the explanation given in question 2?
6. Verse 8 is the restatement & conclusion of verse 12 following Paul’s parenthetical input. Does this verse help clear up verses 13-17? In what way?
7. What are the implications of the statement Paul makes in verse 19, “through one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners...?”

Who are “the many?”

Is it fair that we stand guilty as sinners because of Adam?

8. What are the implications of the second half of verse 19, “through the obedience of the one, the many will be made righteous?”

Is it fair that we stand righteous because of Christ?

9. What do verses 20-21 mean in context?

10. Many in history have used verse 20 as a license to sin. Is this what Paul is advocating?

11. Why do you stand guilty and condemned before God as a sinner?

12. If Adam acted as our representative head (Federal headship) or if the sin “gene” is passed down from generation to generation, what about infants? Are they guilty?

If so, do they end up in Heaven?

Can you find any Scripture as support for your position?

13. So what? How will you apply this text to your life?

Romans 6

The Believer & Sin

1. What question is Paul asking in verse 1? How is it connected with the end of Chapter 5?
2. In what sense have we “died to sin” (verse 2)? What does that mean?
3. In verse 3, what do you think Paul means when he speaks of our baptism with Christ?
4. Explain the importance of verses 6-7 to your own life as a believer. What do these verses mean to you personally?
5. What phrase does your translation use to describe the “old self” (NASB) in verse 6? What exactly is that?
6. Could you use this text to argue for eternal security? Why or why not?
7. Why does Paul open verse 13 with “therefore?” What is the therefore there for?

8. In the context, explain verse 14.

9. Sum up Paul's point in verses 1-11 and verses 12-14. Why should believers not sin?

10. What is the question Paul asks in verse 15? How does it relate to the question asked in verse 1?

11. Having read the text, why does Paul answer "by no means?"

12. What is the point of verse 16? Do you personally realize that you present yourself to sin to be re-enslaved each time you disobey?

13. Verses 17-18 tie this section back to the 1st section (6:1-14) – What is the connection?

14. To whom are you enslaved right now – God or Sin?

15. What is Paul's point in verses 21-23?

16. So what?!? How will this text change your life?

Romans 7

The Believer & Law

1. There is much discussion within evangelical circles as to whether Paul is writing this from a believer's perspective or looking back to his days as a nonbeliever. Can you see any tension in the text regarding this?

2. What is Paul's question in verse 1?

What is the "Law" to which he is referring?

Are we as believers under the Law of Moses (OT)?

3. What is the point of the illustration in verses 2-3?
4. What is the conclusion drawn in verse 4?
5. What are the shortcomings of the Law and why is it good that we have been released from it according to verses 5-6?

6. What is one of the purposes of the Law in verses 7-13?

7. As a believer, can you relate to the struggle Paul is having in verses 14-15 (that is, if you hold to a post-conversion perspective)?

8. Would a non-believer – given our understanding of depravity – make a statement like Paul makes in verses 18-20? Why or why not? Before answering consider Paul’s discussion of his former way of life in Galatians 1:13-14 and Philippians 3:4-6.

9. How about verses 21-25? If this is a post-conversion perspective (which I think it is - not that that matters), what is his point?

What is Paul trying to communicate in this chapter?

10. Can you relate to his struggle? Have you ever expressed verse 24 in your own life?

How does Paul respond to this plea in verse 25?

11. What is the believer’s relationship to the Law?

Is there victory over sin in simple adherence to commands?

12. So what?!? How does this text challenge you to change?

Romans 8

The Believer & The Spirit

- ∞ Note Well: The power of sin did not die in Christ. It is still a very powerful instrument at work against us. Its control over my life is what died at Calvary. Man, in and of himself, cannot please God. We need something better than Law.
- 1. We need something outside of ourselves for sanctification because the Law does not curb sin. The word for “Law” is used 21 times in Chapter 8 and only 8 times in Chapters 9-16. The word “Spirit” is used 19 times in Chapter 8. Without reading ahead, what do you think this chapter is concerned with?

- 2. Why are verses 1-4 significant?

How do they encourage you given the context?

How is the requirement of the Law fulfilled in us according to verse 4?

Where is true victory found?

- 3. What does it mean to walk according to flesh vs. walking according to the Spirit?
- 4. Are you confident of the life you have in Christ according to verses 10-11? Why or why not?

5. Verse 13 paints a picture of the sanctification process. Who is the power source?

Who is responsible for allocation of the power?

What does Paul mean here?

6. Explain verses 15-17 in context.

7. What is the point of 18-25?

8. Why should we endure present sufferings?

9. What are the examples he gives? (verse 19-22, 23-25)

10. What does verse 28 mean in context?

What does it not mean?

What does it mean to “love God and be called according to His purpose?”

11. God’s purpose is found in verse 29. What is it?

How does the idea that God’s will for my life is to be like Christ fit into the theme of this section of the chapter?

Are you surrendered to the plan of God as laid forth in this section? Even if it means pain?

12. Explain verses 33-34 (cf. Zechariah 3:1-5; Heb. 7:25).

13. Could you argue for eternal security from verses 37-39? Why or why not?

14. So what?!? How does this text affect your life?

Romans 9:1-29

Israel's Rejection Considered

1. Paul's final questions in chapter 8 had to do with our being separated from the love of God in Christ. He said that nothing could separate us. This leads into the discussion found in chapters 9-11 concerning Israel. Did God abandon them? If He did, how can we be sure that He won't abandon us? Read verses 1-5. Do you sense the hurt that Paul feels for his people, the Jews? Has he given up on them? Sum up the paragraph in a few sentences.
2. Verse 6 is key to this discussion. What is Paul saying in this verse?

What are the implications of verse 7?

3. In context, distinguish between children of flesh and children of promise in verse 8. cf. Galatians 4:21-31.
4. Many people believe that verses 10-12 refer to national election as opposed to individual election. What do you think? Why?
5. Verse 14 asks an interesting question in response to what has just been said. What is it? How is it answered? (NB. verse 16)

6. Chase down some verses on Pharaoh from the Book of Exodus. Try to locate all of the verses that speak of his heart being hardened. Did God harden Pharaoh's heart or did he?

If God did, does that mean that God "caused" him to sin?

7. What is the question being asked in verse 19?

What is the answer given in verses 20-21?

Is there a difference between being "just" and being "fair?" If so, what is the difference?

Is God just or fair or both? Why?

8. The phrase "prepared for destruction" at the end of verse 22 is very important. It is passive in voice. In other words, the subject of the sentence is not directly performing the action of the sentence. When people say that God chose some to be saved and some for hell, is that entirely accurate based on this verse?

How could we say it better in light of verse 23?

9. Is God fair in choosing some over others for salvation?

How would you respond to the following...

- a. "I just don't believe a good God would send anyone to hell."
- b. "I just can't believe that a good God would choose me over someone who was a lot better than I am?"

10. Explain verses 25-29 in context and sum up Paul's thought in the chapter.

11. Why do you think the doctrine of election is such a touchy subject today?

Where do you stand on the subject?

How would you explain your position to someone else in two sentences?

12. Consider the following verses on sovereign election versus free choice. This is by no means an exhaustive list, so feel free to add more if you find them. The two in italics seem to support a more inclusive position. I do feel, however, that 2 Peter 3:9 is speaking in the context of the elect. 1 Timothy 2:4 I have a tougher time with.

Matt. 24:22; **Luke** 8:9; 18:17; **John** 6:37, 44-45, 64-65; 10:26-30; 15:16; 17:6; **Acts** 13:48; 16:14; **Rom.** 1:6; 8:29; 9; 11:5, 7, 8; **Gal.** 1:15-16; **Eph.** 1:3-14; 2:10; **Col.** 3:12; **1 Thess.** 1:4; **2 Thess.** 2:13; *1 Tim.* 2:4; **2 Tim.** 1:9; **Titus** 1:1, 2; **Jas.** 1:18; **2 Peter** 1:10; 3:9; **Rev.** 13:8

13. So what?!? How does this section affect your life?

Romans 9:30-10

Israel Culpable

1. What does it mean that Israel “stumbled over the stumbling stone?” Hint: chase down the cross-references.
2. In verse 3 Paul says that the Jews didn’t know about God’s righteousness. Is that correct given the fact that they had the Law, etc.?

What does Paul mean here?

3. What does Paul mean in verse 4 when he says that Christ is the end of the Law?

Can you find anymore verses that support your answer? That oppose it?

4. Explain the argument presented in verses 5-10
5. What does verse 11 mean in context?
6. Why is verse 12 significant in light of the immediate context?

7. How do verses 14-15 reflect Paul's heart for his people?

Explain the progression found here

8. Is Israel culpable (responsible) before God? This is the question raised in verse 18 following Paul's assertions in verses 16-17. Why or why not?

9. Again the question is asked in verse 19, "surely Israel did not know, did they?" What is the answer that follows?

10. Sum up the point Paul is making in this section.

11. So what?!? How does this section apply to your life?

Romans 11

Israel is Not Cast Away

1. The discussion in the previous 2 chapters begs the question found in verse 1. Briefly explain the flow of Paul's argument that has gotten him to this point.
2. In verses 1b-5, Paul gives 2 answers (or reasons) as to why it cannot be said that God has rejected Israel. Can you spot them?
3. Explain verses 6-9.

Why is grace no loner grace if it is earned? Cf. Jesus' words in Matthew 13:13-15

4. What question is Paul asking in verse 11?

How does he answer it?

Please explain... What is the purpose of the Church (at least the one Paul suggests here)

5. What is “their transgression” in verse 12?

What does “their fulfillment” mean?

6. This is a very important section theologically because it speaks to the relationship of the Church and Israel. There are some who argue that the Church has become spiritual Israel and has replaced them in the plan of God. Considering verses 12-15, does that seem correct to you?

Is God finished with Israel as a nation? Has the Church replaced Israel?

Any Scripture?

7. Identify who Paul is speaking about in verse 16 (dough, lump, root, branches – use the context).

8. Explain verses 17-18.

9. Do verses 20-22 speak against eternal security? Why or why not?

10. Verses 25-32 are very important to this discussion. Summarize this section in 2-3 sentences and consider the following.

- a. Explain verses 25-27.

What does Paul mean that “all Israel will be saved?”

- b. What does Paul mean in verse 28 when he says, “for the sake of the fathers?”

Verse 29?

- c. What does he mean in verse 32?

11. What 3 things were promised to Abraham in the Abrahamic Covenant (Genesis 12, 15)? Is there still a promise left for Israel as a nation?

12. The doxology (verses 33-36) is written as Paul is about to bust. Can you sense the joy with which he writes considering what he has just said (vv. 25-32) and what said previously (9:1-5)?

13. So what?!? How will you apply this section to your life?

Romans 12

Foundation and Function of Conduct

- ∞ This is the major break in Romans. Almost all of Paul's letters contain two major sections. The first of these sections is theological, in which he presents some theological reality for the recipients to consider. The second section is practical, in which he gives them appropriate means of response to whatever theological reality he has illuminated. In light of all that Paul has said theologically in the first 11 chapters, he will now turn to how it affects us practically.
1. What does the "therefore" in verse refer back to? The doxology at the end of chapter 11? The subject of the Jews' salvation in 9-11? The whole book and message of salvation?
 2. What does it mean to you to "present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice...?"
 3. What is the only legitimate form of worship? What does that mean?
 4. Make some structural observations of verse 2. Do you notice anything strange? Any connections that help you to interpret what Paul is saying in this verse?

5. Explain verse 3-6 in the context. What does Paul mean by “as God has allotted to each a measure of faith...?”

6. Here is a list of the things Paul mentions in verses 9-19 regarding our character. Briefly explain each. Which do you struggle with most? Least?
 - a. Love sincerely
 - b. Abhor evil
 - c. Cling to good
 - d. Be devoted in love
 - e. Give preference to one another in honor
 - f. Don't lag in diligence
 - g. Be fervent in spirit
 - h. Serve the Lord
 - i. Rejoice in hope
 - j. Persevere in tribulation
 - k. Be devoted in prayer
 - l. Contribute to the needs of the saints
 - m. Practice hospitality
 - n. Bless those who persecute you and not curse
 - o. Rejoice with those who rejoice
 - p. Weep with those who weep
 - q. Be of the same mind
 - r. Don't be haughty, but associate with the lowly
 - s. Don't be wise in your own estimation
 - t. Don't pay back evil for evil
 - u. Respect what is right in the sight of all men
 - v. Be at peace with all men

w. Never take your own revenge

7. What does Paul mean when he instructs the people to “leave room for the wrath of God?”

How does this change the way you handle certain situations? Why?

8. Have you ever experienced what verse 20 is talking about? What happened?

9. So what?!? How is this text going to change you?

Romans 13

Toward The Government

1. What does it mean to be in subjection to someone or something?

Why are we to be in subjection to the governing authorities according to verse 1b?

Is there ever a time where we should deliberately disobey the authorities (cf. Dan. 3:17-18; Acts 4:17-20; 29-31)?

2. What is the purpose of government in the program of God according to verses 2-4 (NB. that Paul refers to them as “ministers”)?

Would you use this text to support capital punishment? Why or why not?

3. What does “but also for conscience’ sake” mean in verse 5?
4. Have you ever considered governing authorities as ministers of God because they are appointed by Him to punish evil?

How good are you at living out verse 7?

How does this section apply if the specific officials are evil and/or you simply do not like them?

5. Explain verses 8-10 in the context.
6. How do verses 11-14 relate to verses 8-10?
7. Explain verse 14 and apply it to your life.
8. So what?!? How does this section affect your life?

Romans 14:1-15:13

Toward the Weak & Strong

∞ Note Well: Many people have come to Romans 14-15 to defend the idea that we are not to judge another person in any circumstance. In verse 1 of chapter 14, however, Paul makes it crystal clear as to what he is talking about. He says that because there are those whose faith is weaker, we are not to judge their “opinions.” We are talking here about scruples that people have. Things that people choose to do or not do that are neither biblical nor unbiblical. We are not talking about not judging sin. We are always to call sin what it is. Here, we are talking about that which is not sin.

1. How does this section tie into the previous section on government?
2. What does it mean to be “weak in faith” according to verses 2-3 (this is a specific circumstance so make it general).
3. Explain verse 4 in context.
4. How do verses 5-8 relate to James 4:17?

What does it mean to be “fully convinced in his own mind?”

5. Explain verses 10-12. why does Paul insert them?

6. Verse 13 is very important to the argument of this section. What is Paul saying in this verse?

Why does he say it? How does it help his argument?

7. How do verses 14-16 affect your life and the things that you do in your liberty and with a clean conscience? i.e. "Do not destroy with your food him for whom Christ died."

Read through 1 Corinthians 8 and relate it to the discussion from this chapter.

8. Explain verses 17-20 in context.

9. What is Paul saying in verses 21-23?

What does it mean for your brother to stumble? Has your freedom ever caused someone to stumble?

After reading verse 22, is it more clear that we are not talking about sins which the Bible spells out clearly, but rather scruples which are neither right nor wrong? If we were talking about sins, verse 22 would be advocating that every man's morality is dependent upon himself. I, for one, do not think that is what Paul is arguing. Explain this verse and its relationship to the next.

10. Sum up this chapter in one sentence.

11. What does it mean to bear the weaknesses of the weak in 15:1?

12. Explain verses 15:1-6.

13. What does verse 8 mean in the context?

14. How do verses 8-13 relate to you theologically?

15. So what?!? How does this section affect your life in a practical way?

Romans 15:14-16:27

Conclusion

1. What is the meaning of verse 14?

How does it relate to you?

2. Is your attitude similar to that found in verse 18? Why or why not?
3. Do a concordance search on Pheobe (16:1) and Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila (16:3). What does the rest of the New Testament say about their character?
4. How do verses 17-20 encourage you in your walk?
5. How significant to the context of Romans is the doxology given in verses 25-27? Why?
6. Can you sum up the Book of Romans in one sentence of no more than 30 words?

