

Student Study Guide for THE MESSAGE OF ROMANS



A study guide adapted from
The Message of Romans by David K. Bernard

The Message of Romans

David K. Bernard
Word Aflame Press

CHAPTER 1

Introduction

(1:1-17)

Personal introduction

What I have learned

A. Salutation (Rom. 1:1-17)

Paul opens his letter with a greeting and by identifying who he is to the Romans as a servant of Jesus Christ, one called by God, and one who is separated to the gospel of God. After telling of the power of Christ, he explains how we receive grace and apostleship through obedience, and how we are called by Jesus Christ.

B. Paul's Personal Interest (1:8-15)

Paul begins by giving thanks and prayers for the Romans and desires to come to them. He is ready to preach to them and give them a spiritual gift, as well as be encouraged by their mutual faith.

C. Theme of the Epistle (1:16-17)

Paul concludes the first chapter by declaring he is not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, and describing its power to everyone who believes.

What have you learned?

1. The gospel is literally the _____ about salvation.
 - a. Description
 - b. Good news
 - c. Information
 - d. Good idea

2. According to the New Testament, all believers are to be what?

3. Paul's Christian greeting is "Grace and Peace", which is a combination of both _____ and _____ forms of greeting.

- a. Old, new
- b. Professional, casual
- c. Greek, Hebrew
- d. Christian, non- Christian

4. Did Paul ever meet the Roman believers?

- a. Yes
- b. No

5. According to Luke 11:2, all prayer should be subject to what?

6. All plans should be subject to

- a. If I want
- b. If it makes sense
- c. If I feel peace
- d. If the Lord wills

7. Paul was humble in service towards God, but also to those whom _____.

8. To the Greeks, all non-Greeks were known as _____.

- a. Barbarians
- b. Heathens
- c. Citizens
- d. Friends

9. Specifically, the gospel is the _____.

10. List the two significances of God's righteousness:

CHAPTER 2

Universal Guilt

(1:18-3:20)

The universal need of God's righteousness

What I have learned

A. Guilt of the gentiles (1:18-32)

The five steps of mankind falling away from God:

1. Indifference to God.
2. Idolatry.
3. Sexual impurity.
4. Homosexuality.
5. Debased mind.

B. Guilt of the Jews (2:1-3:8)

1. Principles of divine judgment.

- a. God's judgment is according to truth
- b. God's judgement will be according to deeds.
- c. God's judgement will be impartial.
- d. God's judgment will be according to available light.
- e. God's judgement will uncover the secrets of men

2. Application to the Jews (2:17-29)

3. Answers to objections (3:1-8)

this passage contains four objections:

- a. What advantage does the Jew have?
- b. Does Jewish unbelief nullify God's faithfulness?
- c. If man's sins bring out God's righteousness more clearly, how can God justly punish man for sin?
- d. Why not do evil that good may come?

C. Conclusion: The whole world is guilty (Romans 3:9-20)

What have you learned?

1. What does unrighteousness refer to?
 2. Because of idolatry, men exchanged the glory of God for what 4 things?
 - a. Images of mortal men
 - b. Birds
 - c. Animals
 - d. Reptiles
 3. List 6 examples of sin characteristics of a debased society.
 4. According to Acts 17:30, who is commanded to repent?
 5. Prevenient grace is...
 6. With the Doctrine of Justification by faith in Chapter 3, we must recognize that _____ and _____ are inseparable.
 7. Romans 2:1-6 proclaims what four things about judgement?
 8. Water baptism is of no avail unless accompanied by what three things?
 9. Who is more sinful in the sight of God?
 - a. Jews
 - b. Gentiles
 - c. All are equal
 10. How does the law impart the knowledge of sin?
-

CHAPTER 3

Justification by Faith

(3:21-5:21)

The means or receiving God's righteousness

What I have learned

A. The Doctrine Explained (3:21-31)

1. The doctrine stated (3:21-26)

- a. God's righteousness can bring salvation to a sinful man.
- b. God's righteousness comes to all who believe.
- c. After the new birth occurs it is the beginning of the process of sanctification, which is becoming righteous.
- d. God is holy in nature, which means that man's sin will separate him from God. Eternal separation from God is the ultimate spiritual death.
- e. Christ's death shows that God was righteous in dealing with sin before the cross and is righteous in dealing with sin after the cross. Christ's death is also a redemption that provides a way of salvation for man.

2. Inferences drawn from the doctrine (3:27-31)

- a. Justification by faith does not include boasting
- b. Justification by faith is for all of humanity
- c. Justification by faith establishes the law

Note: Definition of saving faith

- a. The Book of Romans is written to the church.
- b. Faith includes trust, reliance, commitment, and obedience.
- c. Saving faith is a continuous relationship, not just a point in time.
- d. Through faith we repent of sin, obey the commandment to be baptized, receive remission of sins at baptism, receive the Holy Spirit, and live a holy life.

B. Proof from Scripture (4:1-25)

1. Abraham and David (4:1-8)

- a. God considered Abraham's faith and trust as righteousness.
- b. David received righteousness apart from works.

2. Justification by faith is for all (4:9-12)
 - a. God's plan is to extend salvation to all of mankind on the principle of faith.
3. God's promise comes by faith not law (4:13-17)
 - a. God promised to multiply Abraham's descendants, give them victory over their enemies, and bless all nations through Abraham's seed. This promise did not come by the law, but by faith.
4. Abraham's faith examined and applied (4:17-25)
 - a. Faith in the omnipotent, omniscient God.
 - b. Faith against all odds.
 - c. Faith in the Word of God.
 - d. Faith in spite of special adverse circumstances.
 - e. Faith that did not waver.
 - f. Faith that did not waver.
 - g. Faith that was fully convinced.

Note: A complete look at justification

- a. The source of justification is God's grace.
- b. The ground of justification is the blood of Christ.
- c. The means of justification is faith.
- d. The time of justification in this age is at the time of the new birth.
- e. The evidence or fruit of justification is words and works.

C. Permanent Blessings of Justification (5:1-11)

- a. Justification by faith brings peace, joy, and hope.
- b. God's love is the foundation of the blessings of justification.

D. Universal Application (5:12-21)

a. As sin reigned in death, grace can reign in righteousness to bring eternal life. If we accept God's grace and live in His righteousness, we will receive eternal life through Jesus Christ.

What have you learned?

1. What is the central doctrine of the epistle?
 - a. Holiness
 - b. Oneness
 - c. Justification by faith
 - d. The Holy Ghost
2. God's righteousness comes to all who _____.
 - a. Know
 - b. Understand
 - c. Confess
 - d. Believe
3. Can any man boast of his salvation? Explain why or why not.
4. Obedience to the _____ is absolutely necessary to salvation.
 - a. Word of God
 - b. Pastor
 - c. World
 - d. Saints of God
5. Justification by faith does not eliminate the _____, but explains how we receive it.
 - a. Cross
 - b. New birth
 - c. Forgiveness of sins
 - d. Future
6. Abraham was justified by _____ long before he was circumcised.
 - a. Love
 - b. God
 - c. Faith
 - d. Hope
7. Who must be the object of faith?

8. List three things in which we can boast in, according to Romans chapter 5:
9. Salvation is not just a one-time past experience; it is also _____ and _____.
- a. Present, future
 - b. Yesterday, today
 - c. Yes, no
 - d. Once, forever
10. Through Adam's _____ the many (all mankind) were constituted as sinners.
- a. Lack of faith
 - b. Sadness
 - c. Love
 - d. Disobedience
-

CHAPTER 4

The Believer's Life

(6:1-8:39)

The life of holiness that results from receiving God's righteousness

What I have learned

A. Dead to Sin, Alive to God (6:1-14)

To be dead to sin means we have turned away from sin at conversion (being born again of water and spirit) and set free from sin's dominion. We are then dedicated to God and are in the process of becoming progressively more holy.

B. Free from Sin, Slave to Righteousness (6:15-23)

God's grace gives us freedom to choose between two masters - sin or God. If we are truly free from sin, then we are living in total submission to righteousness.

C. Free from the Law (7:1-13)

Christians should not sin, but this cannot be done by depending on the law or the flesh. We must depend on God.

D. Inability of the Flesh (7:14-25)

The flesh and the law cannot give us power over the sinful nature, therefore the only way to live a holy life is to walk after the Spirit.

E. Life in the Spirit (8:1-39)

1. Power in the Spirit (8:1-4)

God Himself becomes the power dwelling in us that overcomes sin.

2. Flesh versus Spirit (8:5-11)

There are two options for living; two roads to follow - the flesh or the Spirit.

3. Responsibilities and privileges (8:12-17a)

We owe the flesh nothing, but we owe everything to the Spirit. To live a life dedicated to holiness is not just an option for us, it is also our responsibility and our privilege.

4. Suffering and glory (8:17b-30)

True fellowship with Christ includes taking part in His suffering and His glory.

5. Assurance of salvation (8:31-39)

God's provision for salvation will stand regardless of any circumstance or situation. There is no opposition that can separate us from God's love toward us.

What have you learned?

1. What does sanctification mean?
Sanctification means separation, particularly separation from sin. (pg 143)
2. Instead of merely continuing to pray for victory over sin, we should walk in _____.
 - a. Love
 - b. Obedience
 - c. Freedom
 - d. Joy
3. To be free from sin means to be the _____ of God.
 - a. Son
 - b. Child
 - c. Employee
 - d. Slave
4. We will truly desire holiness only when we recognize the utter _____ of sin.
 - a. Sinfulness
 - b. Lie
 - c. Damage
 - d. Job
5. List the four spiritual laws discussed in chapters 7-8.
6. We overcome sin not by our struggles, but by relying on _____.
 - a. People
 - b. His Spirit
 - c. The Church
 - d. Money

7. To be carnally minded means to have the mind of the _____.
a. Spirit
b. World
c. Flesh
d. Government
8. The KJV word _____ means to kill or put to death.
a. Mortify
b. Deceive
c. Blaspheme
d. Carnal
9. Since we are living by hope in the unseen, we must have _____.
a. Love
b. The Word
c. Patience
d. Kindness
10. List the six categories of obstacles that cannot separate us from God's love.
-

Chapter 5

The condition of Israel
(9:1-11:36)

Israel's rejection of God's righteousness in relation to past, present, and future

What I have learned

A. God's promises are not to all of Natural Israel (9:1-13)

B. The Sovereignty of God (9:14-29)

This section shows the connections between the Old Testament and the New Testament, specifically the predictions of the gentiles being saved.

C. God's rejection of Israel is due to Israel's unbelief (9:30-10:21)

Several points show that belief and confession are not different from, or exclusive of, the Acts 2:38 message.

1. Paul was writing to born again persons; he was not explaining to unbelievers how to be born again.
2. In the context, Romans explains that God's rejection of Israel was due to Israel's unbelief.
3. Romans does not discount the necessity of obedience to God's words.
4. Properly understood, belief and confession include obedience to the Acts 2:38 message.
5. The emphasis in verses 6-10 is on the availability of the message Paul preached.

D. Present remnant and future restoration of Israel (11:1-36)

1. Israel's rejection is only partial (11:1-10)
 2. Israel's rejection is only temporary (11:11-32)
 3. Doxology (11:33-36)
-

What have you learned?

1. Paul lists the special blessings, privileges or advantages that the Jew were given by God. Out of the 8 list 4.

2. Who are the true people of God?

3. To have the name of _____ is to have all the power of _____.

4. The Jews' own scriptures indicate that God would call the gentiles and would reject all but a remnant of Jews.

- a. True
- b. False

5. Even the Old testament recognizes that all men are, what three things?

6. List the 5 steps needed for one to believe on Christ and call on Him:

7. One can only receive grace through...

- a. Love
- b. Faith
- c. Mercy
- d. Repentance

8. He seeks to unite both _____ and _____ into His church.

9. Why are the Jews now "enemies" of God and the church?

10. All things have their _____ in Him, are _____ in Him, and _____ His purpose.

Chapter 6

Practical Exhortations for Christian Living (12:1-15:13)

God's righteousness in practical life

What I have learned

A. Conduct as Members of the Church (12:1-21)

1. Consecration to God (12:1-2)

Consecration to God wholly with our lives totally dedicated and committed to Him.

2. Humility in the exercise of gifts (12:3-8)

God is the source of everything we receive, so we must be humble and realize we are not better than anyone else.

3. Principles of love (12:9-21)

Love will affect every area of our religious and social life, so we need to view it as more than just a collection of rules.

B. Conduct as Citizens of the State (13:1-10)

1. Duty to civil government (13:1-7)

Christians have a duty to submit to civil government as well as to God and fellow Christians. Just as they owe a debt of love to fellow believers, they also should love their neighbors, fellow citizens, and all of mankind.

2. Duty to fellow citizens (13:8-10)

We owe the debt of love to everyone, not just fellow believers.

C. Our Great Incentive and Hope (13:11-14)

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ is the greatest hope we have. In the meantime, while we wait, we should be actively living and pursuing a life of holiness.

D. Questions of Conscience (14:1-15:13)

While some things are clearly right or wrong, there are some issues with questions of conscience. This portion of Romans deals with how to handle such questions.

1. We must not judge others (14:1-12)

In any area that is personal - as opposed to scriptural - convictions, we have freedom to act as we will and should not create arguments.

2. We must not tempt others (14:13-23)

Even though we have Christian liberty, we must still apply the principle of love in matters of opinion.

3. We must follow the example of Christ (15:1-13)

Following the example of Christ emphasizes a need to love others and to form a united body of believers.

Note: Legalism and Christian liberty

1. Legalism means strict or excessive conformity to a legal code or set of rules
 2. Christian liberty includes:
 - a. Freedom from sin
 - b. Freedom from the law
 - c. Freedom in nonmoral matters
-

What have you learned?

1. Our service to God must produce an actual transformation of our _____.
 - a. Hearts
 - b. Physical behavior
 - c. Mind
 - d. Steps
2. List the seven offices of spiritual gifts:
3. Christian living means to conquer evil with _____.
 - a. Love
 - b. Bible
 - c. Hate
 - d. Good
4. Those who resist human government are actually resisting _____.
 - a. God
 - b. The church
 - c. People
 - d. Officers

5. When we love we fulfill the _____.
a. Command
b. Option
c. Law
d. Past
6. Literally, we are to clothe ourselves with or in _____.
a. Hope
b. Love
c. Christ
d. Sin
7. We are to avoid controversies over _____.
a. Personal opinions
b. People's feelings
c. Politics
d. Religion
8. True or False: Christians should not force their personal convictions on others.
a. True
b. False
9. Jesus received everyone and served everyone without _____.
a. Expectations
b. Ceasing
c. Sin
d. Discrimination
10. Christian liberty allows us to have fellowship with other believers without having to agree totally on every personal _____.
a. Opinion
b. Conviction
c. Testimony
d. Experience
-

Chapter 7

Epilogue (15:14-16:27)

Personal Conclusion

What I have learned

A. Paul's Reason for Writing (15:14-21)

God had given Paul a special ministry to fulfill and he felt it necessary to remind the Romans of the valuable truths they had already encountered.

B. Paul's Personal Plans (15:22-33)

Paul intended to visit the Romans and explained why he first had to go to Jerusalem.

C. Recommendation of Phoebe (16:1-2)

Paul asked that the Roman church would receive Phoebe in a way worthy of saints and assist her in any way possible.

D. Greetings to the Roman Saints (16:3-16)

Paul sent greetings to many individuals, which shows the Christian love of the Apostle Paul as well as demonstrates the close fellowship and devotion present in the early church.

E. Final Admonition (16:17-20)

This final admonition is a warning against troublemakers.

F. Greetings from Paul's Companions (16:21-24)

Those who were with Paul at the time the letter was written also sent their greetings, which demonstrates the brotherhood, affection, and love of the early church.

G. Doxology (16:25-27)

Roman's closes with a passage of praise to God.

What have you learned?

1. The audience must feel that the preacher is not speaking from human ego, desires, or motives, but rather with divine commissioning and _____.
 - a. Love
 - b. Anointing
 - c. Power
 - d. Strength
2. Paul desired to enjoy the company of the Roman saints as much as possible, but he also planned to ask for support from them for his missionary trip to _____.
 - a. Jerusalem
 - b. Spain
 - c. Canada
 - d. Rome
3. Paul noted Phoebe's great assistance to many people, including _____.
 - a. Jesus
 - b. Mary
 - c. John
 - d. Himself
4. Romans commands Christians to greet one another warmly as fellow members of the _____.
 - a. Family of God
 - b. Same community
 - c. Same household
 - d. Neighborhood
5. Since the church is Christ's body, the church will participate in the crushing of _____.
 - a. The world
 - b. Food
 - c. Satan
 - d. Sin

6. Gaius was one of the few converts in Corinth whom Paul had personally _____.
- a. Saved
 - b. Communicated with
 - c. Delivered
 - d. Baptized
7. In Paul's writings a mystery is something once secret but now _____.
- a. Open
 - b. Revealed
 - c. Spoken
 - d. Found
8. The primary meaning of "prophetic" is "_____."
- a. Something hidden now revealed
 - b. Secret words
 - c. Inspired of God
 - d. Predictive of the future
9. The purpose for the revelation of the mystery to all nations is to produce "_____."
- a. Obedience to the faith
 - b. Understanding of the word
 - c. Sermons
 - d. Bible studies
10. As Jesus Christ, God will receive praise, worship, and glory from His church throughout _____.
- a. The weekend
 - b. History
 - c. Next week
 - d. Eternity