

# Study Questions

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## *For New Testament Books of the Bible*

### **Romans**

#### Chapter 1

1. Who wrote Romans? When was this letter written? To whom was this letter written?
2. Why does Paul call himself Jesus Christ's slave (v.1)?
3. What is the "Good News" Paul refers to in verse 1?
4. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Which Old Testament scriptures support Paul's statement in verse 2 that, "This Good News was promised long ago by God through his prophets in the Holy Scripture."
5. **REFLECTION:** Paul was called to be an apostle. What are all Christ followers called to do?
6. **COMMENTARY SEARCH:** If Paul nor any of the other 12 apostles had never been to Rome, who started the Christian church in Rome?
7. How was the Romans' faith becoming known throughout the world as Paul stated in verse 8?
8. Paul prayed to be able to visit the Christians in Rome (v. 10). Do you know if he ever made it to Rome? If so, how?
9. What is accomplished from "start to finish by faith" as Paul says in verse 17?
10. Paul says that God abandoned idol worshippers to their shameful desires (v.24-26). Why did God abandon them? Why doesn't God stop us from making bad choices?
11. **REFLECTION:** In Paul's day, people worshipped idol Gods. What idols do people worship today? Is there anything in your life that you worship more than you worship God?
12. **SELAH/REFLECT:** What in creation or nature shows you that there is a God?

## Romans Chapter 2

1. Why are some people so quick to criticize or point out others sins (v.1)?
2. Is it wrong to pass judgment on others (v.1-3)? Why or why not?
3. Verse 4 says that God is kind, tolerant and patient. At what point does God “abandon” us to our sins (v.5-8)?
4. What will happen to the unrepentant on the day of God’s righteous judgment? How will those who belong to God be judged on His righteous judgment (v.7-10)?
5. Paul said earlier that we are saved by faith (*see Romans 1:16:17, 4:1, and 10 for example*). Now he is saying that **eternal life** is given to those who persist in doing “good” (v.7). Is Paul contradicting himself?
6. **REFLECTION:** Paul says, there will be trouble and calamity ... “for the Jew first and then the Gentile” (v.9) but there will be glory, honor and peace, “for the Jew first and then the Gentile (v.10).” Why does Paul emphasize the Jew first?
7. Why would God punish the Gentiles who sinned but never had God’s law (v.12)?
8. **REFLECTION:** In verses 17-24 Paul in essence says, Christ followers must not only talk the talk, to be saved we must walk the walk. What does this mean to you?
9. What does it mean when Paul tells the Jews , “ The world blasphemes the name of God because of you.” (v.24)
10. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** What was the significance of circumcision to the Jews (v.25)?
11. Who does Paul say is a “true Jew?” And what does he say is “true circumcision?”

## Romans Chapter 3

1. What does Paul claim is the advantage of circumcision and being a Jew (v. 1)?
2. What scriptures is Paul referring to in verses 10-18 and who wrote those scriptures?
3. Why does Paul say that no one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what his law commands (v.20)?
4. **REFLECTION:** Refer to verse 20 again and answer the following questions. If man is incapable of keeping God's law, didn't God know this? Why did He give us the law in the first place?
5. Read verse 22 and in your own words write down what you think the "Good News" (or the Gospel) is?
6. Why can we not cite verses 21 – 26 to convince Jews that without faith in Jesus Christ they are not saved?
7. **REFLECTION:** In what way is God's judgment similar to certain judgments in today's courts?
8. **REFLECTION:** Whose sin will God judge more harshly, the pedophile that got away with his sin for years or the prejudice you've been harboring against your new neighbor for the past two weeks?
9. Verse 25 says that "..... God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us." Why is God angry with sinners?
10. What happens to those people who died never having heard of Jesus Christ or the Gospel?

## Romans Chapter 4

1. What does Paul mean when he says that Abraham was counted as “righteous” because of his faith (v.3)?
2. Why does Paul emphasize faith in this chapter?
3. How is Abraham the spiritual father of both the circumcised and the uncircumcised?
4. **REFLECTION:** Why should we confess our sins?
5. What was God’s promise, “to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants,” based on (v.13)?
6. Why does Paul say (in verse 16) that the only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break?
7. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** In what Old Testament scripture does God tell Abraham, “You will be the father of many nations?”
8. **REFLECTION:** Why, like Abraham, should you not be discouraged when faced with obstacles, problems or your own shortcomings?
9. When God declared Abraham righteous, was God’s declaration just for Abraham’s benefit (v.23)?

## Romans Chapter 5

1. What does Paul's statement in verse 1 that says, "...we have peace with God..." mean?
2. Why does Paul think endurance, problems and trials or perseverance is good for us?
3. **REFLECTION:** Can you think of a time in your life when suffering produced perseverance and character? Describe it.
4. How does this chapter indicate that all three members of the Trinity are involved in our salvation?
5. **REFLECTION:** What does the fact that God sent Christ to die for us while we were still sinners imply?
6. What was the purpose of the law God gave Moses (v.20)?
7. The law wasn't given to the people until God gave the law to Moses. So, are all the people who lived between Adams and Moses condemned to eternal damnation?
8. How are Adam and Christ counterparts (v.12-19)?
9. Why is obeying the law like climbing a ladder without end?
10. **SELAH - SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** Read 1 Samuel 13:5-14. Of what importance is "obedience" to God? Why is it better to obey than to sacrifice (do good works)?

## Romans Chapter 6

1. Why would anyone think, as Paul asks in verse 1, that we should keep on sinning so God can show us more and more kindness and forgiveness?
2. What does being baptized symbolize (v.3)?
3. What does Paul mean (in verse 5) when he says, “Since we’ve been united with Him in death, we will also be raised as He was?”
4. How do we keep all parts of our body (e.g., eyes, ears, mouths, hearts,) from becoming a tool of wickedness as Paul commands/suggests (v.13)?
5. Why does Paul say (in v.14) the law, “enslaves you to sin”?
6. **REFLECTION:** Paul says whatever you choose to obey becomes your master (v.16). Reflect and answer the question, who is your master, sin or God?
7. In verse 22, how does Paul describe Christians, or those people that belong to God.
8. In your own words, completely explain verse 23.

## Romans Chapter 7

1. Why did Paul cite the example of the married woman in verses 1-4.
2. What example did Paul use to show that the law is not sinful but it did show him his sin?
3. What was the result of Paul's discovery of the law?
4. Why is there no sin if there is no law to forbid it?
5. Why did God give Moses the law (the Ten Commandments) in the first place?
6. In verse 17, Paul says, "But I can't help myself, because it is sin inside me that makes me do these evil things." Why is there sin in Paul?
7. If as Paul says, "When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway (v.19)," implying there is no escape from sin, what's the answer?
8. **REFLECTION:** Why do you think God has allowed Christians to continue to have a sinful nature once they become saved, when God has the power to remove that sin from within us.

## Romans Chapter 8

1. What does Paul mean when he says, “The Law of Moses could not save us, because of our sinful nature (v.3).
2. In verse 9, how does Paul tell us we can know if we are Christians?
3. Why is everything on Earth decaying and wasting away? And what assurance do you have that there is life after death?
4. What does Paul mean in verse 19, when he says, “God will reveal who His children really are?”
5. What is the “foretaste” Paul refers to in verse 23?
6. **REFLECTION:** After we are resurrected , besides being given glorified bodies, what do you suppose our full rights as God’s children will be (v.23)?
7. Verse 28 says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose.” What does this verse mean to you?
8. **REFLECTION:** If God chose us to be like Christ, practically, how can you go about becoming more like Christ?
9. Paul poses the question, “Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love?” How does he (Paul) answer his own question?
10. **REFLECTION:** If God gave us Christ as an example and makes so many tools for spiritual growth available to us, (e.g., the Bible, the Holy Spirit, etc.) why do we still struggle with sin.

## Romans Chapter 9

1. In what way was Paul trying to emulate Christ in the opening verses of this chapter?
2. What does Paul mean when he says, “...not everyone born into a Jewish family is a Jew (v.6)?
3. **REFLECTION:** Why do you think God told Rebekah that He would choose Jacob to receive the promise (His covenant) and reject Esau before they (Rebekah’s twins) were even born (v.13)?
4. Why did God choose Jacob the younger over Esau the elder to receive His promise when it’s usually the first born to receive the inheritance (v.11-13)?
5. Paul asks if God was unfair to choose Jacob rather than Esau the firstborn to receive His promise. What do you think and why (v.15)?
6. God sometimes hardens people’s hearts against himself. Paul asks if it’s fair, can God be criticized for condemning someone whose heart He hardened in the first place (v.19)?
7. What does the prophecy of Hosea say about the Gentiles (v.25-26)?
8. What does the prophecy of Isaiah say about the Israelites (v.27-28)?
9. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Where in the Old Testament can we find Hosea’s prophecy Paul cites in verses 25-26? Where in the Old Testament can we find Isaiah’s prophecy Paul cites in verses 27-28?
10. In verse 32, why does Paul say the Jews are unacceptable to God?

## Romans Chapter 10

1. Paul said he longed and prayed that the Jewish people might be saved (v.1). Are today's Jews who believe in God, but not in Christ, saved?
2. Paul said, "Christ has accomplished the whole purpose of the law"(v.4) What was the purpose of the law? How did Christ fulfill the whole purpose of the law?
3. How does Paul tell us we can be saved in this letter to the Romans (v.9)?"
4. Why is Paul's statement in verse 9 true?
5. What does Paul mean when he quotes the old scriptures, which say, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news?"
6. **REFLECTION:** Have you shared the "Good News" with anyone recently? If so, write about or recount the incident. If not, think of someone who needs to hear the gospel and share how you plan to bring it to him or her.
7. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Where in the Old Testament can we find the Scripture cited by Paul in verse 15?
8. In verse 18, Paul says the Jews have actually heard the Gospel. On what is Paul basing this assumption?
9. In verse 19, Paul claims the Israelites understood the Gospel, which Old Testament scripture does he use to substantiate his assertion?
10. **REFLECTION:** In the last verse of this chapter Paul quotes God as saying, "All day long I opened my arms to them, but they kept disobeying me and arguing with me (Isaiah 65:2)." Why do you think many Jews rejected Christ then? And, why do you think many Jews continue, to this day, to reject the Gospel and Christ Jesus as their Lord and Savior?

## Romans Chapter 11

1. **SELAH – BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** In verse 2, Paul mentions Elijah the prophet. Who was Elijah the prophet? Answer the following questions about him:

- (a) Where was he from?
- (b) When and where did he live? What time period? Who were his contemporaries?
- (c) Name three miracles Elijah performed.
- (d) How did Elijah die?

2. Paul said, “.....not all the Jews have turned away from God. A few are being saved as a result of God’s kindness in choosing them (v.5).” Why did God save some of the Jews and not others?

3. Verses 8, 9 and 10 declare that God has taken away the ability of many Jews to see, hear or understand the Gospel. Why did God do that?

4. Where in the Old Testament can we find the scripture cited in verses 8, 9 and 10.

5. Why does Paul say God appointed him as “the apostle of the Gentiles (v.13).”

6. **REFLECTION:** In verse 16 Paul says, “And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their children will also be holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.” Is this a true statement? Why or why not?

7. How does Paul draw an analogy likening Jews and Gentiles to branches of a tree?

8. What does Paul say the unbelieving Jews have to do to be grafted back into God’s “own good tree” (v.22-24)?

9. What does Paul tell us is the ultimate fate of the Jewish people (v.25-31).

10. **REFLECTION:** Have you ever tried to counsel God or advise Him on what you needed?

## Romans Chapter 12

1. What does it mean to be, "a living and holy," sacrifice to God (v.1)?
2. What is Paul trying to accomplish in this chapter?
3. In verse 2 of Romans 12, according to the New Living Translation (NLT) we are told to let God transform us into a new person by changing the way we think. The King James (KJ) version says for us to "be transformed by the renewing of your mind...." How does this happen? How is our mind changed and renewed?
4. How does Paul compare the body of Christ with the human body (v.4-5)?
5. Explain a time when you helped someone in need just as Paul commanded (v.13).
6. **REFLECTION:** We often hear about, the parent, grandparent, child or brother/sister who went to the prison, spoke to and forgave their relative's killer. What do you think about the person who does this? Could you truly in your heart forgive the killer of someone in your **immediate** family?
7. Name at least ten guidelines that Paul gives in this chapter to help us lead a Christian life pleasing to God.
8. **BIBLE SEARCH:** In verse 19 and 20, Paul cites two Old Testament passages. Where can we find each of these passages?
9. In verse 19, Paul says, "*....never avenge yourselves. Leave that to God.*" Have you ever extracted justice from someone who wronged you, i.e., did you "pay them back" for what they did to you? Explain. Would you do the same thing again today?
10. **REFLECTION:** Some have cited Genesis 9:6 and Romans 13:1-4 to establish our civil government's God ordained right to inflict the death penalty on wrongdoers (see also Leviticus 20). Others have cited Romans 12:19 and Deuteronomy 32:35. Which side do you come down on? Should the State continue to put people to death or should we leave the ultimate death penalty to God?

## Romans Chapter 13

1. **CONTINUING DISCUSSION** (allow everyone who missed the discussion on the last question in the previous chapter to comment): Many people believe Romans 13:1-4 indicates that God gave modern governments civil authority over us. Do you think God has given today's government the right to impose the death penalty? Explain why or why not.
2. In verses 1-4 Paul says the authorities are sent and established by God. According to Paul, "All governments have been placed in power by God." Do you think this includes today's evil governments, despots and dictators?
3. What about corrupt governments? Are Christians obliged to obey the laws of corrupt governments?
4. Paul said for us to pay all our debts, "except the debt of love for others (v.4)." Why do Christians have a "debt of love" for others?
5. What does it mean to, "Love your neighbor as yourself (v.9)"?
6. What does Paul mean when he says love satisfies all of God's requirements (v.10)?
7. What does Paul mean when he says, "The night is almost gone..... (v.12)"?
8. **REFLECTION:** In the last verse of this chapter (v.14) Paul admonishes us to let the Lord Jesus Christ take control of you. How do you let Christ take control of you?

## Romans Chapter 14

1. All Christians have strong and weak areas in their walk. How would you define a Christian who is strong in faith? How would you define a Christian who is weak in faith?
2. **REFLECTION:** What areas of your faith are you weakest in? What areas of your faith are you strongest in?
3. What is Paul's purpose in asking us, "Who are you to condemn God's servants (v.4)?"
4. What "very purpose" was Paul referring to in verse 9?
5. **REFLECTION:** Why do you think some Christians condemn and look down on other Christians (v.10)? Why do some Christian denominations think they're superior to other denominations?
6. **SCRIPTURE SEARCH:** Find and cite the Old Testament scripture Paul quotes in verse 11.
7. **SELAH:** Paul uses a scripture from Isaiah in verse 11. Who was Isaiah? When and where did he live? Who was his contemporaries? What did God call Isaiah to do?
8. In verse 14, Paul said he was ".....perfectly sure on the authority of the Lord Jesus that no food, in and of itself, is wrong to eat." What do you think he means? What authority of Lord Jesus is Paul referring to?
9. **BIBLE SEARCH:** In the Old Testament, trace the modern day preferences of some Christians to not eat certain kinds of food.
10. What does Paul say the Kingdom of God is for (V.17)?
11. In the last verse of this chapter, how does Paul define sinning?

## Romans Chapter 15

1. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Where in the Old Testament can we find the Scripture Paul cites in v.3.
2. Why does Paul say we need to know Old Testament scriptures (v.4)?
3. Why does Paul say Christ came to the Jews? Why did He come to the Gentiles (v.8,9)?
4. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Name at least three promises God made to the Jews' ancestors.
5. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Paul again quotes Isaiah the prophet in this chapter. Where is the quote in verse 12 found in the book of Isaiah?
6. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** What miracles done through Paul was he referring to (v.19)?
7. In verse 20, what did Paul say his ambition has always been?
8. Paul tells the Roman church, "..... I am sure that when I come, Christ will give me a great blessing for you (v.29)." What do you think that "great blessing" would be?
9. Read in verse 31 where Paul asked the Romans to pray that he would be rescued from those who refused to obey God in Judea, when he visited there. What did he mean by that?
10. Paul mentioned visiting Spain in this chapter a couple of times (see verse 24 and verse 28). Why do you think Paul wanted to visit Spain?

## Romans Chapter 16

1. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** Who was Phoebe that Paul mentioned in verse 1?
2. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** Who was Priscilla and Aquilla Paul mentions in verse 3?
3. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** In verse 4, Paul says that Priscilla and Aquilla risked their lives for him. How did Priscilla and Aquilla risk their lives for Paul?
4. What did Paul mean when he said that his relatives Adronicus and Junia (who were in prison with him and) “.....are respected among the Apostles.....” became Christians before he did (v.7)?
5. **REFLECTION:** Why do you think Paul warned the Roman church against false teachers?
6. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** Paul often mentions Timothy in his letters to the churches. Who was Timothy?
7. **COMMENTARY SEARCH:** Tertius, claims to have written Romans for Paul. Who was Tertius?
8. **REFLECTION:** What can we take from verses 25-27?
9. Some of the people Paul spoke of in his letters or greeted in this chapter were:
  - Ampliatius, Urbanus, Stachys (some of the Romans, v.8,9)
  - Stephenas (a Greek, see 1 Corinthian 16:15)
  - Priscilla and Aquilla (Jews, v.3) (also Apollos, see Acts 18:2,24-26)
  - Titus and Titus Justus (both Gentiles, Acts 18:7)
  - Epenetus, Apelles and Rufus (men, v.5, 10,13)
  - Phoebe, Mary, Julia (women, v.1, 6, 15)
  - Adronicus and Junia (prisoners, v.7)
  - Lydia (a prominent citizen, Acts 16:16-18)

What can we infer about Paul’s 1<sup>st</sup> Century church from this broad cross-section of people?

10. **REFLECTION:** Does your church resemble the 1<sup>st</sup> Century church founded by Paul? Why or Why not?