



STUDY QUESTIONS

Some background information

In Paul's day, Rome was the largest city in the world, boasting a population of over one million. Paul likely wrote his letter to the church in Rome from the city of Corinth at the conclusion of his third missionary journey sometime in the winter of AD 55. He had never before been to Rome, and he had been longing to go there for some time. Indeed, he would go to Rome just a few years later, not as a free missionary but rather as a prisoner. God would fulfill the promise He made to Paul recorded in Acts 23:11: "Take courage, for as you have testified to the facts about me in Jerusalem, so you must testify also in Rome." As Paul approached Rome, the church there came out 30-40 miles to meet him (Acts 28:15). Paul remained in Rome for a number of years under house arrest, and tradition holds that he was martyred there during the reign of the Roman Emperor Nero.

Paul's letter to the Romans, written a few years prior to his arrival in the city, is the longest of his letters and constitutes the clearest and fullest exposition of the gospel in the entire New Testament. The letter demonstrates the centrality of the doctrine of justification by God's grace for the sake of Christ in Paul's thinking and in the churches he helped to found. Fully one-fourth of the sentences in the Greek text are questions, and Paul cites the Old Testament about 60 times in Romans, considerably more than in any of his other letters. All of this results in Romans serving as a catechism of sorts, meant to lay out the whole Christian faith in a simple and yet robust way.

Outline

- I. Introduction and Greetings (1:1-15)
- II. Paul's Thesis Statement (1:16-17)
- III. The Problem of Sin and God's Wrath Against It (1:18-3:20)
- IV. The Righteousness of God through Faith (3:21-4:25)
- V. The Peaceful Life of the Righteous (5:1-8:39)
- VI. God's Faithfulness to Unfaithful Israel (9:1-11:36)
- VII. The Christian Life (12:1-15:13)
- VIII. Conclusion and Salutations (15:14-16:27)

Martin Luther on Romans

"This epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and is truly the purest gospel. It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. We can never read it or ponder over it too much; for the more we deal with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes..."

Day 1- Monday, June 15

Read Romans 1:1-15.

- ✘ How does Paul describe himself? How does he describe Jesus? How does he describe the Roman Christians to whom he is writing?

- ✘ Paul had never before met the Romans, and yet he seems to have strong feelings toward them. Why do you think Paul feel the way he does?

Day 2- Tuesday, June 16

Spend some time reading some of the introductions to Paul's other letters. (1 Corinthians 1:1-3; Galatians 1:1-5; Ephesians 1:1-2; Philippians 1:1-2; Colossians 1:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 1 Timothy 1:1; Titus 1:1-4. Philemon 1:1-3)

- ✘ What are some common ways in which Paul speaks about himself in most or all of his letters and why is this significant? How does the way he introduces himself in Romans stand out from the others?

- ✘ Yesterday we considered the affection Paul had toward the Romans whom he had never before met. What sense do you get of Paul's relationships with these other churches he wrote to from the introductions of his letters?

Day 3- Wednesday, June 17

Read Romans 1:16-32.

- ✘ How would you describe the gospel? How does Paul describe it in v. 16? How does Paul feel about it? How do you feel about it?

- ✘ What does the word "righteousness" mean? How would you define "the righteousness of God?" How has it been revealed?

- ✘ What can we know about God from His creation? (vv. 19-20) What can we only know through His Word?

- ✘ The foolishness brought about by human sin led to idolatry and immorality. What are some of the ways these two things are manifested in the world? (vv. 23-31) Which of the sins named in vv. 29-31 is most convicting for you personally?

Day 4- Thursday, June 18

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-24.

- ✘ In Romans 1:16, Paul says he is not ashamed of the gospel. Why might we at times be tempted to be ashamed of it? How does God's view of the gospel's import and power differ from the world's perspective?

Read Habakkuk 2:2-4.

- ✘ How does the phrase "*the righteous shall live by faith*" have even more meaning when understood in the context of Habakkuk's prophecy from which Paul is quoting? What does it look like in your life to "live by faith?"

Read Psalm 19:1-6.

- ✘ In Romans 1, Paul argues that all people must know there is a God because creation testifies to His existence and power. How does Psalm 19 bolster this view?

Read Isaiah 44:9-20.

- ✘ Yesterday Paul told us that God handed humanity over to our own devices and idols. How does this portion of Isaiah's prophecy speak to what such idolatry does to those who practice it?

Day 5- Friday, June 19

Read Romans 2:1-11.

- ✘ How does Paul point out our hypocrisy in this passage? How do you see hypocrisy in your own life? How can you address it?
- ✘ The title of this section in the ESV translation is "God's Righteous Judgment." What is righteous about God's judgment?
- ✘ Does anything Paul says here regarding God's judgment surprise you? If taken on their own, what would these verses seem to be saying about the basis for our standing before God?

Day 6- Saturday, June 20

Read 2 Peter 3:9-15.

- ✘ How do Peter's words here support Paul's argument in Romans 2 that "*God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*"

Read Matthew 16:27.

- ✘ In this verse Jesus states the same thing Paul does in Romans 2, that God will repay each person according to their works. How does this make you feel? How should we understand this in light of salvation by grace through faith alone?

Read Acts 10:34-35.

- ✘ How does the lesson Peter learned during his experience with Cornelius apply to humanity's sin and salvation? Is it a good thing or a bad thing for us that God shows no partiality?

Day 7- Monday, June 22

Read Romans 2:12-29.

- ✘ According to these verses, who will be justified? Is this good news or bad news?
- ✘ What does it mean that the law is "*written on (the Gentiles') hearts?*"
- ✘ How does Paul level the playing field between Jews and Gentiles in this section?

Day 8- Tuesday, June 23

Read James 1:22-25.

- ✘ In what ways do the words of James here support Paul's contention that only the doers of the law are justified? Are we who have been saved by grace still expected to "do" the Word of God? What does that look like in a practical way?

Read Jeremiah 31:31-34.

- ✘ Jeremiah 31 is one of many Old Testament verses which speak of the law of God being written on our hearts. What exactly does this mean? What role does our conscience play in our relationship with the Lord? What should we do with the heart-written law of God?

Read Deuteronomy 30:5-6.

- ✘ Paul's concept of a circumcision of the heart (as expressed in our reading yesterday from Romans 2 and in other places, such as Colossians 2) comes from Old Testament passages like this. When did you experience such a "circumcision," and what does it mean for your relationship with God and His people?

Day 9- Wednesday, June 24

Read Romans 3:1-20.

- ✘ What is the condition of all people according to v. 9? Paul cites several psalms (14:1-3, 53:1-3, 5:9, 140:3, 10:7, 36:1) and other Old Testament passages (Proverbs 1:16, 3:15-17, Isaiah 59:7-8) to drive home the point of the utter depravity of all humankind. Which of these verses hits you the hardest?

- ✘ Why do you think we try so hard to justify ourselves? What are some ways you find yourself doing this?

- ✘ If Paul's letter to the Romans ended here, what hope would it offer us? If 3:20 were the final word, how would we be left to understand God and our relationship with Him? What would be God's verdict concerning us?

Day 10- Thursday, June 25

Read Psalm 147:19-20.

- ✘ What does the end of this "Hallelujah Psalm" teach us about God's special relationship with the people of Israel, echoed in Romans 3:1-2? Does this have any significance for us today?

Read Psalm 14:1-3.

- ✘ Paul's direct quote of this Psalm demonstrates its significance (along with its near-identical twin, Psalm 53). Why do we need to take this hard reality seriously and apply it to ourselves?

Read Galatians 2:15-16.

- ✘ What does Paul mean by "*works of the law*" here and in Romans 3? Why is it impossible to be justified by them?

Day 11- Friday, June 26

Read Romans 3:21-31.

- ✘ How has the righteousness of God been manifested? What does this mean?

- ✘ What does it mean to be "justified?"

- ✘ Sinfulness is a universal characteristic of all humanity. Is justification through Christ Jesus also universal? How is the gift of justification received? When did this happen for you?

Day 12- Saturday, June 27

Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

- ✘ In these beautiful verses, especially loved by Lutherans, what does Paul proclaim about humanity's road to salvation, echoing yesterday's Romans reading? What does this mean for our boasting?

Read 1 John 2:1-2.

- ✘ What does the word "propitiation" mean? (Use a dictionary if you need to!) If Jesus is the propitiation for our sins, what does He mean for our salvation?

Read Acts 17:30-31.

- ✘ What does it mean that God overlooked "*the times of ignorance*?" How should we apply Paul's preaching to the Athenians to ourselves today? How urgent is it to turn to Jesus with our whole hearts, repenting of our sins and finding salvation in Him?

Day 13- Monday, June 29

Read Romans 4:1-12.

- ✘ How was Abraham justified—by works or by faith? What does this mean?
- ✘ Why does it matter when Abraham was circumcised? (see vv. 10-12) What is the significance of Abraham's circumcision for Paul?
- ✘ What does Abraham's justification by faith mean for both Jews and Gentiles? How does one come to a right relationship with God no matter who they are?

Day 14- Tuesday, June 30

Read Genesis 15:1-6.

- ✘ Why is it so significant that God counted/credited Abraham's faith as righteousness? What does this mean, anyway? How else might we be tempted to believe Abraham was deemed righteous by God?

Read Genesis 17:9-14.

- ✘ If Abraham was not justified or considered righteous because of circumcision, what was the point of this covenant? How has this covenant been superseded or transformed for Abraham's children today?

Read Psalm 32:1-2.

- ✘ How do the words of Psalm 32 support Paul's argument of justification by faith? How do God's blessings of forgiveness and righteousness come to us?

Day 15- Wednesday, July 1

Read Romans 4:13-25.

- ✘ Did the promise of God come to Abraham through the law (something required of us) or through the gospel (something freely given by God)? How did the promise of God come to you?
- ✘ Does the promise of God depend on works or faith?
- ✘ Paul says that Abraham's faith did not waver, even though his body was as good as dead. Where in your life have you seen faith like that?

Day 16- Thursday, July 2

Read Genesis 18:9-11 and 21:1-7.

- ✘ Consider the absurdity of God's promise to Abraham and Sarah. How would you have reacted under the same circumstances with the same unbelievable promise being made to you? When has God fulfilled a promise in your life in an unbelievable way?

Read Galatians 3:15-29.

- ✘ Whom does Paul say is the true and final fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham and his offspring? What does this mean for our law-and-gospel relationship with God?

Read Hebrews 11:17-19.

- ✘ How did Abraham respond to God's promise when it looked as if it was being annulled? How can we trust in the eternal promises of God with the same faith when tested?

Day 17- Friday, July 3

Read Romans 5:1-5.

- ✘ How would you describe true peace? When have you experienced peace with God most clearly or powerfully in your own life?

- ✘ How is it possible to rejoice in our sufferings? How does this seemingly nonsensical way of thinking actually make sense in light of the gospel?

- ✘ What is the end result of the suffering of a Christian? When is a time in your life when God used suffering to produce endurance, character, and hope within you?

Day 18- Saturday, July 4

Read Ephesians 2:13-18.

- ✘ What does it mean that Jesus Himself is our peace? How is Jesus your peace in your everyday life? How is Jesus your peace for eternal life?

Read Matthew 5:10-12.

- ✘ In this short excerpt from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, how does He tell us to respond when we face persecution? When have you failed in doing this? When have you succeeded?

Read James 1:2-4.

- ✘ James shows us that Paul is not alone in his crazy thinking about finding joy in suffering. How do both of them get this idea directly from Jesus and the way He faced suffering? How will you rejoice in your suffering today?

Day 19- Monday, July 6

Read Romans 5:6-11.

- ✘ Think of an example—in literature, film, or real life—of someone sacrificing himself or herself for another. In what ways is that sacrifice similar to that of Jesus? In what ways is it different?

- ✘ How does it make you feel that Jesus died for you while you were still a sinner?

- ✘ Think of someone you would consider your worst enemy. What would it take for you to die for them? How does the fact that Jesus *did* die for them help you to love your enemy?

Day 20- Tuesday, July 7

Read John 15:13.

- ✘ With yesterday's reading in mind, how does Jesus go beyond even His own definition of the greatest possible love?

Read Ephesians 2:4-7.

- ✘ A man dying for his enemies is just as unthinkable as making someone who was dead alive again, but Paul says in Romans 5 and Ephesians 2 that God has done both of those things for us through Christ. How will you put this blood-bought new life and friendship with God to use?

Read Colossians 1:21-23.

- ✘ What additional insights does Paul offer here about the transfer of our status before God in light of the cross of Jesus? What are the practical implications of the reconciliation Jesus has brought about for us?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.

- ✘ How would you define reconciliation? How will you live as God's ambassador of reconciliation?

Day 21- Wednesday, July 8

Read Romans 5:12-21.

- ✘ What was the consequence of Adam's sin for the whole world and all humanity? Is this fair?
- ✘ What was the result of Jesus' death and resurrection for the whole world and all humanity? Is *this* fair?
- ✘ What does the free gift of God's grace have in common with Adam's sin? How is the free gift *not* like the trespass?

Day 22- Thursday, July 9

Read Genesis 3:6-11.

- ✘ How does the tragedy of humanity's fall into sin take on even greater weight in light of yesterday's reading about the cosmic and universal consequences of Adam's disobedience?

Read Psalm 51:5.

- ✘ How does this sentiment in King David's prayer of confession highlight the consequences of Adam's sin for Adam's descendants? What does it teach us about the state in which we find ourselves even at conception?

Read Isaiah 53:11-12.

- ✘ How do these closing words of Isaiah's last and most beautiful servant song prophecy of the universal impact of the Suffering Servant's death? Whose actions have proven more powerful in determining your identity—Adam's or Jesus'?

Day 23- Friday, July 10

Read Romans 6:1-14.

- ✘ Are we to continue in sin so that grace may abound? (see also Romans 3:8) Do our actions ever contradict Paul's and our answer to this question?
- ✘ What does it mean that we are baptized into Christ's death? How is baptism like death?
- ✘ When Paul speaks of a resurrection like Jesus', is he speaking literally or figuratively (or both)? What does this new life look like for now? For eternity?

Day 24- Saturday, July 11

Read Colossians 2:11-12.

- ✘ What does Paul add to his teaching about baptism here in Colossians? How does the resurrection of Jesus play a monumental role in our baptism and its effects?

Read Philippians 3:7-11.

- ✘ What is the end goal Paul has in mind in his quest to share in the sufferings and death of Jesus? What helps us to understand that the resurrection Paul speaks of here, in our reading yesterday, and many other places is very literal and real indeed?

Read Psalm 19:12-14.

- ✘ If we are saved by faith and not by works, why is it still important that we pray that God would help us to restrain ourselves from sin? What does it look like when sin reigns in the heart of a Christian? What does it look like when it does not?

Day 25- Monday, July 13

Read Romans 6:15-23.

- ✘ Define slavery. How does it make you feel to be called a slave? Does the fact that Paul called himself a slave of Christ Jesus in Romans 1:1 (translated “servant” in the ESV) change your mind at all?
- ✘ What does it look like to be a slave to righteousness? How is this a freeing kind of slavery?
- ✘ What are wages? What are the wages of sin? Is our salvation described as wages? Why or why not?

Day 26- Tuesday, July 14

Read John 8:31-36.

- ✘ How does Jesus reaffirm Paul’s argument that everyone is a slave to something? What does the freedom given to us by the Son look like? Is it fair for Paul to speak of it as slavery to righteousness?

Read Isaiah 5:1-7.

- ✘ What kind of fruit did God seek from His people in Isaiah’s time? What fruit did they end up producing? How will you be about the work of God so that the master of the vineyard is pleased with the results of your life lived in Christ?

Read Galatians 5:22-24.

- ✘ The well-known fruits of the Spirit come after Paul speaks to the Galatians on the true nature of freedom. How does our freedom in Christ lead us to produce such fruit? Which of these different “fruits” is most lacking in your life? Which do you live out most often?

Day 27- Wednesday, July 15

Read Romans 7:1-6.

- ✘ To whom do you belong? What does faithfulness to this One look like?

- ✘ How have you “*died to the law?*” (see also Romans 6:2) What does this mean for your relationship to God’s law?

Day 28- Thursday, July 16

Read 1 Corinthians 7:39-40.

- ✘ How does Paul’s teaching on marriage here further support his teaching about our freedom from the law in yesterday’s reading?

Read Ephesians 5:31-32.

- ✘ How does Paul’s teaching on marriage here shed light on our relationship with God through Christ? If we are the Bride of Christ, how should that effect the way in which we think and speak and live?

Read Galatians 2:19-21.

- ✘ What does it mean to die to the law? If we are dead to the law, how should we live?

Day 29- Friday, July 17

Read Romans 7:7-12.

- ✘ Is the law of God good or bad, righteousness or sin? (see vv. 7, 12)
- ✘ How does the law of God make us aware of sin? (see vv. 7-10 and also Romans 3:20) What does sin use the law to do to us?

Day 30- Saturday, July 18

Read Exodus 20:1-17.

- ✘ Are the Ten Commandments good or bad? Are the ways in which the Ten Commandments are used (by Paul, by Jesus, by sin, by your conscience) good or bad?

Read Psalm 119:137-138.

- ✘ What should the ultra-long love song about the law of God known as Psalm 119 teach us about how we ought to view God’s law and hold it up?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:56-57.

- ✘ Where does sin find its power? How has sin been rendered powerless?

Day 31- Monday, July 20

Read Romans 7:13-25.

- ✘ Whom do you think Paul is talking about in this section? Himself or someone else? If himself, his pre-Christian self or his Christian self? What are the implications of the answer to this question?
- ✘ Does the fact that “*it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me*” (v. 17) excuse us from our sin? Why or why not?
- ✘ When is a time when you have personally experienced this type of inner battle Paul is describing here in this chapter?

Day 32- Tuesday, July 21

Read Matthew 26:40-41.

- ✘ When was a time your spirit was willing, but your flesh was weak? How did the situation turn out? What are some strategies for allowing your willing spirit to overcome your flesh’s weakness?

Read Genesis 4:6-7.

- ✘ What does Cain’s struggle with sin teach us? How can we become more mindful every day of the sin that is crouching at our door? How can we, by the power of Jesus alone, rule over sin in our lives?

Read Psalm 1:1-2.

- ✘ When are some times you have walked, stood, or sat with the wicked, sinners, and scoffers? When are some times you have delighted in the law of the Lord? How will you resist the first and embrace the second?

Day 33- Wednesday, July 22

Read Romans 8:1-11.

- ✘ There is no longer any condemnation for those in Christ. Why not? What did God do to our sin in the person of Jesus?

- ✘ Paul talks about the difference between walking according to the flesh vs. walking according to the Spirit. What does Paul mean by “flesh” here? What is the practical difference between living according to the flesh and living according to the Spirit, and how have you seen both of these in your own life?

- ✘ What is God’s promise to you based on the resurrection of Jesus? (see v. 11 and also Romans 6:5) Is this promise metaphorical or literal?

Day 34- Thursday, July 23

Read 2 Corinthians 3:4-6, 5:21.

- ✘ From whom does our sufficiency come? What did God do to your sin when Jesus became its embodiment? How can you meditate on these realities so they sink down deep into your being?

Read Colossians 3:1-3.

- ✘ What are some ways throughout the day that you set your mind on things above and not on earthly things? How does this aid you in living according to the Spirit instead of the flesh?

Read Philippians 3:20-21.

- ✘ In his letters, Paul drops in little phrases like these all over the place to remind us that our ultimate hope is not in a disembodied, spiritual existence in heaven but a true, bodily resurrection for all eternity. How does this hope transform the way we view our bodies now and how we live in them?

Day 35- Friday, July 24

Read Romans 8:12-17.

- ✘ What does it look like to “*put to death the deeds of the body?*” How does this go along with being led by the Spirit of God?

- ✘ We are not slaves but sons, and we have received not a spirit of fear but the Spirit of adoption. What are the implications of this beautiful reality?

- ✘ If we are children of God—and we are!—then what else are we? As fellow heirs with Christ, what do we inherit?

Day 36- Saturday, July 25

Read Hosea 1:10, John 1:12, and 1 John 3:1-2.

- ✘ What do these passages tell us about ourselves and our identity? How have we been made children of God—by our own doing or by the calling and the power of God in Christ Jesus?

Read Galatians 4:4-7.

- ✘ What does our adoption as children of God mean for us in a very real, practical sense?

Read 2 Timothy 1:7.

- ✘ What replaces fear in the hearts of those who trust in Jesus as their Savior? How will you exercise that power, love, and self-control in your life this coming week?

Day 37- Monday, July 27

Read Romans 8:18-27.

- ✘ Does Paul's statement in v. 18 downplay or deny the reality of suffering in this life? What is Paul trying to say here? (compare to Romans 5:3-5)
- ✘ What does Paul mean when he speaks of "*the glory that is to be revealed to us*?" The Greek here for "revealed *to us*" could also be translated as "revealed *in us*." How does this enhance your understanding of the fullness of God's promise?
- ✘ How is the coming glory a worldwide, cosmic event? Who/what is waiting eagerly for its coming, and how is the coming glory described? What is this "*redemption of our bodies*" that we look forward to?

Day 38- Tuesday, July 28

Read 2 Corinthians 4:16-18, 5:1-5.

- ✘ How does Paul encourage us not to lose heart when we face "*light, momentary affliction*" that seem to be anything but light and momentary? Describe the glorious reality that we are looking forward to as we groan in these tents known as our mortal bodies.

Read Genesis 3:17-19.

- ✘ What impact did the sin of Adam have on all of creation? How does this help us to better understand what Paul means when he says that all creation has been groaning? What does it teach us about what the restoration of all things might look like?

Read Revelation 21:1-5.

- ✘ As John describes the new heavens and new earth, he is seeing the fulfillment of something God has always promised (see Isaiah 65:17, 66:22; 2 Peter 3:13). How could this restoration as God makes all things new be described as “The Garden of Eden 2.0?”

Day 39- Wednesday, July 29

Read Romans 8:28-39.

- ✘ V. 28 is often used to comfort those who are suffering. How might this passage not be helpful to those suffering when taken out of context? In its context, what is it trying to communicate to us?
- ✘ What does it mean that God foreknew you? Predestined you? Called you? Justified you? Glorified you?
- ✘ *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* Paul’s question here is rhetorical, but what are some answers we are at times tempted to give to this question? What about these other rhetorical questions in this section? *“Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect?... Who is to condemn?... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?”* What else might you add to Paul’s list of things in v. 35 that could potentially separate us from the love of Christ?
- ✘ How sure are you that nothing can separate you from the love of God? What can you do when your level of certainty threatens to drop due to difficult circumstances in your life?

Day 40- Thursday, July 30

Read Ephesians 1:3-10.

- ✘ How does this section help shed some light on the sometimes confusing topic of predestination?

Read Psalm 44:22-26.

- ✘ How does Psalm 44 teach us to lament and to ask God why? How does Romans 8 teach us that in Jesus God has given a more than satisfactory answer to all of Psalm 44’s questions?

Read John 16:33.

- ✘ What two promises does Jesus speak to us here? What are some ways we can hold onto the second promise when the first promise is all too obviously true?

Day 41- Friday, July 31

Read Romans 9:1-5.

- ✘ How does Paul feel about his fellow Jews? How does it affect him to know that so many of them have rejected faith in Christ? Do you feel the same anguish for those you know who have rejected the gospel?

- ✘ What is the significance of the fact that “*the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises*” belong to the Jews? How can we hold a biblical, New Testament view of Jews today in a way that upholds their status as God’s people but also upholds the church as the new Israel of God?

Day 42- Saturday, August 1

Read Exodus 19:5-6.

- ✘ What does God say about His people of Israel here? Why must it be so hard for Paul to understand and reckon with the unbelief of his fellow Israelites?

Read Exodus 32:30-34.

- ✘ How is Moses’ prayer to be blotted out of God’s book similar to Paul’s wish to be accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of his brothers? How inspiring is Paul’s love for his fellow Israelites when it was they who so often persecuted him and sought to kill him? Who alone is able to suffer God’s wrath for the sake of sinners?

Read Psalm 106:19-23.

- ✘ How does the willingness of both Moses and Paul to stand in the breach for the sake of Israel point us to the sacrifice of Jesus for the sake of us sinners? How might we offer up ourselves to help lead others to faith in their Savior?

Day 43- Monday, August 3

Read Romans 9:6-13.

- ✘ When considering the unbelief of the Jews, why might we be tempted to think that the Word of God had failed? Why does Paul say that it has not? What evidence does he give?

- ✘ Who are the true offspring of Abraham? Are you?

- ✘ How does it make you feel to know that God had predetermined the roles Jacob and Esau would play? Is it comforting or disturbing to you?

Day 44- Tuesday, August 4

Read Galatians 4:21-28.

- ✘ What do the stories of Sarah and Hagar teach us about our relationship with God? To which woman does Paul compare us, and what does he mean? What does it mean to you that you are a child of the promise?

Read Genesis 25:21-26.

- ✘ What did the Lord say to Rebekah about Jacob and Esau? How did their birth begin to show God's promises being fulfilled? How did God's plans for Jacob and Esau cut against the culture of the time?

Read Malachi 1:2-3.

- ✘ What do you remember about Jacob and Esau's relationship when they got older? Was it fair what Jacob did to Esau? Is it fair that God "loved" Jacob but "hated" Esau? What can this teach us?

Day 45- Wednesday, August 5

Read Romans 9:14-29.

- ✘ When God says, "*I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion,*" (quoted here by Paul from Exodus 33:19), is He being capricious? How does the rest of Scripture help us to interpret the difficult passages in this section of Romans?
- ✘ Throughout the history of God's people, we see God hardening the hearts of some and softening the hearts of others, choosing some for noble purposes and others for dishonorable use. How have you seen Him do the same in your own life? How can we confidently trust in God to use all of these things for His glory and for our good?

Day 46- Thursday, August 6

Read Exodus 9:13-16.

- ✘ What does it mean that God hardened Pharaoh's heart? What purpose did He have in doing so? Does He still do this today? Is it fair?

Read Deuteronomy 32:4.

- ✘ How is this verse helpful to us when we struggle to understand what God is doing or think Him to be unfair? When we feel God to be unjust, is it God's sense of justice or ours that is in need of adjustment?

Read Jeremiah 18:1-6.

- ✘ Have you ever made a pot or something similar out of clay? How do these verses give us insight into our relationship with God? When we feel the Potter is molding us in uncomfortable ways, how can we rest in knowing that He is working all things for our good?

Day 47- Friday, August 7

Read Romans 9:30-10:4.

- ✘ According to Paul, why have the Gentiles attained righteousness and the Jews have not?
- ✘ How can we go about pursuing the righteousness that comes by faith when it is something we can only receive from the Spirit?
- ✘ How can we join Paul in his earnest desire that the Jews who have rejected Christ will be saved? How can we be praying for them? How can we be sharing the true Messiah with them?

Day 48- Saturday, August 8

Read Isaiah 8:11-15 and 28:16.

- ✘ What (or Who!) is the precious cornerstone of a sure foundation that God laid in Zion? What does this have to do with you?

Read Psalm 118:22-24.

- ✘ Of what specific event do these verses prophecy, when the rejected stone became the cornerstone? In light of that world-altering event, how do we see Jesus both as a stumbling block for some and a cornerstone for others?

Read 1 Peter 2:7-10.

- ✘ How does God reconstitute His people not on the basis of nationality but on the basis of one's reaction to and relationship with Jesus? Why do Jews who reject Jesus stumble? What has Jesus—as your Cornerstone—done for you and made you to be?

Day 49- Monday, August 10

Read Romans 10:5-21.

- ✘ Can it really be so simple that everyone who confesses Jesus as Lord and believes in His resurrection will be saved? What are some ways we can confess the lordship of Jesus with our mouths?

- ✘ How can we be involved in the sending of preachers to share the gospel with those who have not heard it with our prayers, our finances, and our encouragement? How can we ourselves be those who preach the good news?

- ✘ How has God chosen to give faith to His people by the power of the Holy Spirit? Since God has chosen to use His Word in this way, do you hold it in proper regard and make diligent use of it each day?

Day 50- Tuesday, August 11

Read Joel 2:28-32.

- ✘ This passage is not only cited by Paul in Romans 10 but also by Peter in his great Pentecost sermon in Acts 2. Why is it so important in both of these contexts? How does one go about calling on the name of the Lord?

Read Luke 12:8-9.

- ✘ How do these words of Jesus offer us a warning? How do they offer us great comfort? In what ways have you or can you acknowledge Jesus before men?

Read Isaiah 52:7-10.

- ✘ What do these verses tell us about the importance and the beauty of sharing the gospel with others? How can you bring good news and publish peace and salvation in your daily life?

Day 51- Wednesday, August 12

Read Romans 11:1-24.

- ✘ What are some biblical examples of times that only a remnant of God's people remained during or after times of persecution, punishment, or idolatry? Have you ever felt like you are a member of a very small number of the faithful? What encouragement does this section of Scripture offer you?

- ✘ Have you ever grafted the branches of one plant into another? How does this picture of what God has done by bringing the Gentiles into His kingdom enhance our understanding of the beauty of God's people?

- ✘ In what ways are you bearing fruit now that you are a part of God's olive tree?

Day 52- Thursday, August 13

Read Psalm 94:12-15.

- ✘ How do these verses apply to Paul's argument in Romans 9-11? What do they say about God's faithfulness to His people? How is that a great encouragement to you?

Read Acts 28:25-28.

- ✘ Throughout Acts, Paul goes to the Jews first and then to the Gentiles when the Jews reject the gospel, including in this instance in Rome. How has God used the rejection of Him by His people for the expanding of His people?

Read John 15:1-8.

- ✘ How does reading Jesus' words here in light of Paul's argument in Romans 11 give you a greater appreciation for your status as a branch connected to Jesus as the vine?

Day 53- Friday, August 14

Read Romans 11:25-36.

- ✘ What is God's larger purpose behind the partial hardening of Israel's hearts? How have you benefited from this? Should this lead to an air of superiority or an attitude of humility that prays for the salvation of Israel?

- ✘ In vv. 33-36, Paul marvels at the profound wisdom of God and its loftiness that far surpasses our understanding. When was the last time you marveled at the greatness of God and His purposes?

Day 54- Saturday, August 15

Read 2 Corinthians 3:12-16.

- ✘ Was there a specific moment (or moments) in your life when God removed the veil and you saw His love and the beauty of the gospel for the first time or in a brand-new way? How does the message of our salvation through Jesus grant us freedom and clear sight?

Read Isaiah 55:6-9.

- ✘ We often quote this passage when we don't understand how God is working in a difficult situation, but what is the original context of God saying, "*my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways?*" How does this connection to God pardoning our sins deepen our appreciation for God's ways?

Read Isaiah 59:20-21.

- ✘ What is the significance of the Redeemer coming to Zion? Has He already done this or is it something He has not yet done? What does this mean for Israel? What does this mean for you?

Day 55- Monday, August 17

Read Romans 12:1-8.

- ✘ What is a "*living sacrifice?*" What does Paul call this type of living, and how does it deepen our understanding of what it means to be slaves to righteousness? (see Romans 6:13-19)
- ✘ What are some ways you have been conformed to this world in the past or in the present? What steps can you take not to be conformed but to be transformed?
- ✘ Which of the various gifts of grace mentioned here do you believe God has given you? How are you using that gift for the benefit of His people?

Day 56- Tuesday, August 18

Read John 4:21-24.

- ✘ What do Jesus' words here teach us about what a life of worship ought to look like? What does it mean to worship God "*in spirit and in truth?*" In what ways are you doing this well? In what ways does your life of worship need some improvement?

Read 1 John 2:15-17.

- ✘ What does John mean when he tells us not to love the world or the things in the world? How do you know if you have fallen into this trap, allowing yourself to be conformed to the patterns of this world? What can you do to resist this?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:12-14.

- ✘ How does being a member of a body actually help to elevate your sense of self and personal purpose? What role(s) do you play in the body of Christ? In what ways can you encourage others to embrace the ways in which they can use their gifts?

Day 57- Wednesday, August 19

Read Romans 12:9-13.

- ✘ Which of these “marks of the true Christian” do you feel you exhibit the best? Which one do you struggle with the most?
- ✘ How does this entire section stem from the command to “*let love be genuine?*” How does truly living out love lead us to live out the rest of the Christian life?

Day 58- Thursday, August 20

Read Philippians 2:1-11.

- ✘ Most scholars believe vv. 6-11 to be an ancient Christian hymn. How does the fact that the church has always sought to emulate the example of Christ’s humility inspire you to do so even more? What are some ways you can put the needs of others before your own?

Read Philippians 4:4-7.

- ✘ How often do you find yourself actively, intentionally rejoicing? What are some ways you might do this more often and more on purpose? How does our Christian joy lead us into a place of peace and prayer?

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22.

- ✘ Which of these spiritual practices that Paul enjoins us to practice is most evident in your life? Which is most lacking? What is one intentional way you will seek to grow in each one of them?

Day 59- Friday, August 21

Read Romans 12:14-21.

- ✘ Why is it so difficult to bless those who curse us? Is it fair for God to ask this of us?
- ✘ What example has Jesus given us of blessing those who curse us? In what ways can you follow His example the next time someone does evil to you?

- ✘ When is a time you failed to overcome evil with good but instead responded with evil of your own? When is a time, by God's grace, that you *did* overcome evil with good?

Day 60- Saturday, August 22

Read Proverbs 25:21-22.

- ✘ Is our motivation in feeding our enemy to do him harm? If not, what does Solomon (and Paul when he quotes Solomon in Romans 12) mean when he says you will heap burning coals on his head? When have you seen this truth play out in real life?

Read Matthew 5:43-47.

- ✘ Why are these words of Jesus from His Sermon on the Mount so challenging for us to follow? How did Jesus Himself live out these words? Who is an "enemy" in your life that God is calling you to love right now?

Read 1 Peter 3:8-12.

- ✘ "*Do not repay evil for evil.*" Why not? What blessing awaits those who do not seek revenge against those who have hurt them?

Day 61- Monday, August 24

Read Romans 13:1-14.

- ✘ How is earthly authority a gift from God? What is its purpose?
- ✘ When have you seen earthly authority fulfill its purpose of serving people in the way God intended? When have you seen earthly authority fail to fulfill this purpose or even be abused? What is the Christian to do in such circumstances?
- ✘ What would it look like in your life to "*wake from sleep?*" What are you doing to prepare for the coming of Jesus?

Day 62- Tuesday, August 25

Read Deuteronomy 5:16.

- ✘ What does the Fourth Commandment teach us about earthly authority and the disposition God calls us to have toward it? What promise accompanies this command?

Read 1 Peter 2:13-17.

- ✘ How much more powerful do you consider Peter's words here and Paul's words in Romans 13 to be when you consider that the worldly authority they charge us to honor was precisely the authority that ended up putting them to death? How does this reality help us to see that Peter and Paul also wrestled with the ramifications of obeying authority that didn't always live up to the purposes for which God had established it?

Read Mark 12:13-17, 28-31.

- ✘ How do we determine what is God's and what is Caesar's? In what way is love for our neighbor connected to God's command to obey the authorities He has established?

Day 63- Wednesday, August 26

Read Romans 14:1-12.

- ✘ When is a time your faith has been weak and someone who was stronger welcomed you in and did not put you to shame?
- ✘ Who is someone whose faith you could encourage and strengthen by being patient with them?
- ✘ "*None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself.*" If we belong to one another, and all the more to Christ, what impact should this reality have on the way we live in relationship with one another and handle disagreements over which foods or days are better than others?

Day 64- Thursday, August 27

Read 1 Corinthians 8:1-13.

- ✘ What might be some modern-day parallels to the quandary the Corinthian Christians found themselves in concerning meat sacrificed to idols? What role does your conscience play in such questions? What about the consciences of others?

Read Colossians 2:16-19.

- ✘ How should we go about striking the proper balance between not passing judgment on others while at the same time not letting others pass judgment on us? What biblical examples help us to navigate this?

Read Philippians 1:21-23.

- ✘ Yesterday we read, “*For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.*” How does knowing that we belong to the Lord in life and in death help us to live in a way pleasing to Him now?

Day 65- Friday, August 28

Read Romans 14:13-15:7.

- ✘ What are some stumbling blocks or hindrances that God has put it within your power to remove from someone’s way? How might you go about doing that in the coming days?
- ✘ How do Paul’s words here lead us into a life of humility and self-sacrifice rather than flaunting our freedom in the face of others? How does the example of Christ Himself lead us into this?
- ✘ What are some ways in which God has given you encouragement and endurance through His people as you live in harmony with one another and glorify God with one voice?

Day 66- Saturday, August 29

Read Acts 10:9-16.

- ✘ How does Peter’s vision here solidify what Jesus Himself had taught? (See also Mark 7:14-23) How does knowing that all foods are clean impact the way in which we eat and live our lives?

Read Ephesians 5:1-2.

- ✘ Why is love the guiding principle for the way in which we live our lives and view and treat one another? How can our lives point others to Christ as we follow His example?

Read Colossians 3:12-17.

- ✘ What are some ways you put on this beautiful wardrobe Paul speaks of here? How does v. 17 sum up all of Paul’s instructions leading up to it? What does it mean to “*do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus?*”

Day 67- Monday, August 31

Read Romans 15:8-21.

- ✘ In Paul’s ministry, how do we see him fulfilling his role as “apostle to the Gentiles?” (see also Romans 11:13)

- ✘ We often take the universality of the gospel for granted, but in Paul's day it was shocking that the Gentiles could also be part of God's family. How can we make sure not to undervalue the profound wonder that Christ is the hope both of Jews and of Gentiles?
- ✘ How does the hope God gives you strengthen you day by day? What are some strategies you employ to surround yourself with this hope? How does hope bring about joy and peace in your life?

Day 68- Tuesday, September 1

Read Psalm 117:1-2.

- ✘ How does this shortest chapter in the Bible emphasize the universal scope of God's kingdom? What are some ways you can seek to praise and extol the Lord with people from all nations?

Read Isaiah 49:1-7.

- ✘ In this second Servant Song, Isaiah demonstrates that the Suffering Servant comes for all people, and that ransoming Israel alone is not enough. When is a time when your conception of God's mercy or grace has been "too light" and shortsighted in the grand scheme of His story of redemption for the whole world?

Read 1 Peter 1:3-5.

- ✘ We have a living hope because it is a hope in our living Lord. How does the resurrection of Jesus give you hope for our world today and hope for the future? What are some ways you can exhibit and share that hope in your life today?

Day 69- Wednesday, September 2

Read Romans 15:22-33.

- ✘ Paul has desperately wanted to come to Rome for so long. When have you longed to visit someone but have been prevented from doing so? How did God work in that situation to strengthen your bond with them and your faith in Him?
- ✘ Although Paul's planned itinerary did not always match up exactly with God's, God blessed the intentionality with which Paul sought to serve the church. What are some plans you have for blessing other believers? What plans could you begin to make?

Day 70- Thursday, September 3

Read 1 Corinthians 16:1-4.

- ✘ Paul's collection of an offering for Jerusalem is mentioned in Acts, Romans, and some of Paul's other letters. Who might be a modern-day "Jerusalem" that could use your financial support?

Read 1 Corinthians 9:11-12.

- ✘ Is it accurate to say that we as Christians owe it to the church to share our material blessings for the work of the kingdom? Why or why not? What are some ways you can grow in your generosity to the church and its work of ministry for the gospel?

Read Acts 19:21-22, 23:11, 28:11-16.

- ✘ Though Paul would eventually end up in Rome, it was according to God's plans and not his own. What are some long-held plans you have that God may be seeking to accomplish in ways contrary to your thinking?

Day 71- Friday, September 4

Read Romans 16:1-27.

- ✘ Though Paul had not yet visited Rome, he had so many meaningful connections there. What connections has God given you that have been a blessing to your faith? How might you make the most of those connections to experience God's love and share the gospel?
- ✘ Paul closes his letter by giving glory to God and trusting that He will strengthen the Romans. What might your song of praise be after finishing this letter?

Day 72- Saturday, September 5

Read Acts 18:1-3.

- ✘ Among the many people Paul greets at the end of Romans are Prisca (Priscilla) and Aquila, dear friends of his and partners in the gospel. Who are some people you dearly love who have partnered with you in growing in the knowledge and love of the Lord and have helped you share the gospel with the world?

Read Genesis 3:15 and Psalm 143:12.

- ✘ How did Jesus crush Satan under His feet? How has God crushed Satan under our feet? How will He do so on the Last Day?

Read Jude 24-25.

- ✘ What does the closing doxology of Jude have in common with that of Romans? How is it different? Why is it appropriate to close a book of the Bible or our study of such a book with a doxology of praise?

Thank you!

Thank you for joining me in this study of *Justified: The Gospel According to Romans*! As you reflect on the readings, videos, and messages from these past few months, what insights have you gained from our study of Romans? How has your understanding of the gospel and your appreciation for it grown? How has this study helped your faith to grow or the way you go about your life to change? If you would be willing to share your answers to any of these questions, please shoot me an e-mail at caleb.adams@saints.org.

Peace in Jesus,
Pastor Caleb Adams