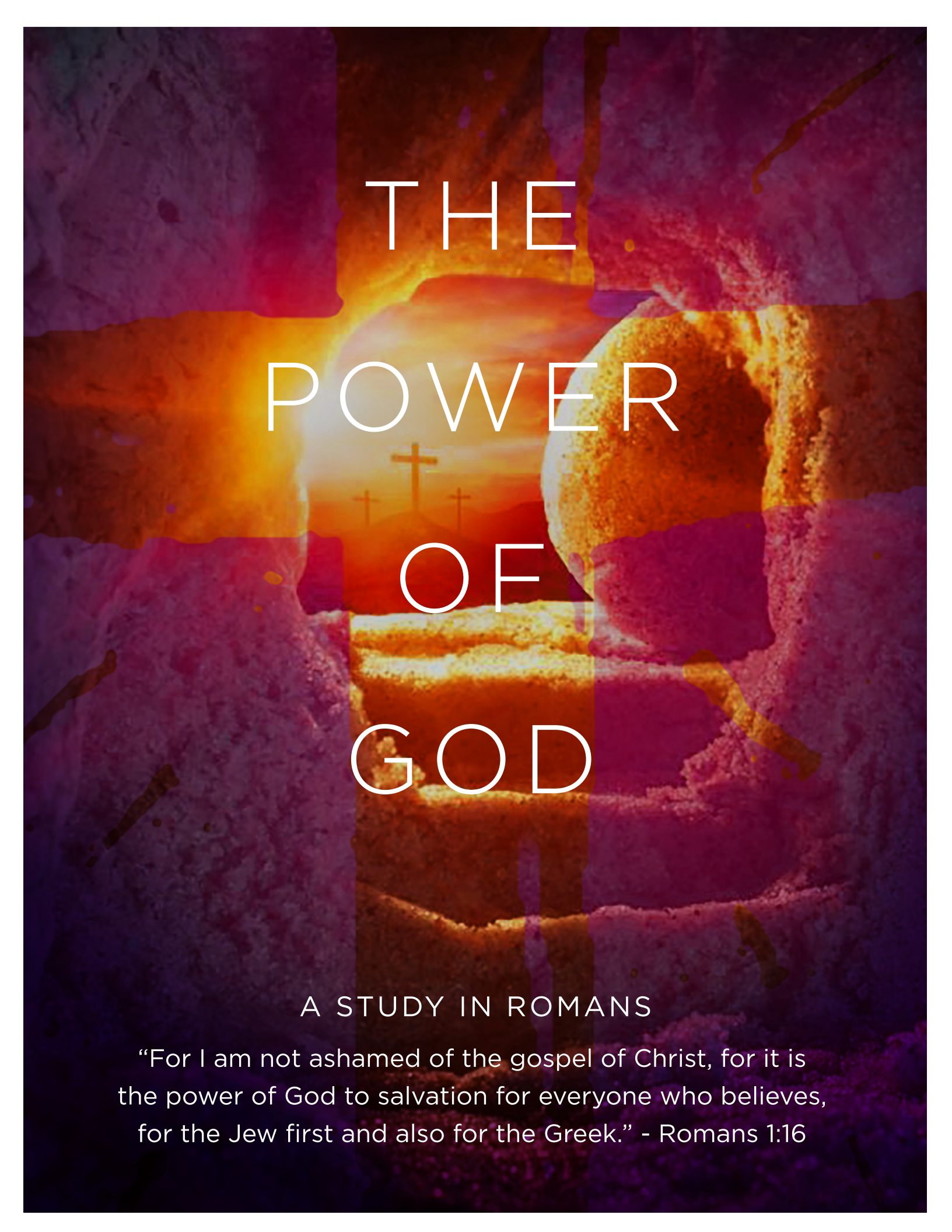




THE POWER OF GOD

A STUDY IN ROMANS

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” - Romans 1:16

Table of Contents

Sections	Page
How to Use this Study Guide.....	5
<i>Romans The Power of God</i>	
Romans Introduction Study Notes	6
Romans 1:1-17 The Power of the Gospel.....	8
Romans 1:18-32..... The Consequences of Unbelief	12
Romans 2:1-16 God's Impartiality	16
Romans 2:17-29..... The Jews and The Law	20
Romans 3:1-20 God is Faithful and Just	24
Romans 3:21-31..... Justified by Faith	28
Romans 4 By Faith Alone	32
Romans 5:1-11 Peace with God	36
Romans 5:12-21..... God's Free Gift	40
Romans 6 Dead to Sin, Alive to God.....	44
Romans 7:1-13 The Law and Sin.....	48
Romans 7:14-25..... The Struggles of a Saved Soul	52
Romans 8:1-25 Life in the Spirit.....	56
Romans 8:26-39..... God is For Us	60
Romans 9 God's Sovereign Mercy.....	64
Romans 10..... Israel's Need for Faith.....	68
Romans 11..... Root and Branches	72
Romans 12:1-8 A Living Sacrifice	76
Romans 12:9-21..... Sincere Love	80
Romans 13..... Submit to Governing Authorities.....	84
Romans 14..... Love and Liberty.....	88
Romans 15:1-13..... Unity and Hope	92
Romans 15:14-16:27..... Plans and Greetings.....	96
Friends, Prayer Requests	100

How to Use This Study Guide

Each time you sit down to study, begin with prayer. Before reading the lesson and answering the questions, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal His truth to you. You may find it helpful to have a few study aids such as a dictionary, concordance, and more than one translation of the Bible. You may also find the following online resources helpful:

BibleGateway.com BlueLetterBible.org WebstersDictionary1828.com

Note: The New American Standard Bible (NASB) was used for this Study Guide with consideration of the New King James Version (NKJV) and the Amplified Bible (Amp).

*"Call to Me and I will answer you,
and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know."
- Jeremiah 33:3*

Study notes for Romans Introduction

Romans 1:1-17... *The Power of the Gospel*

The book of Romans is the first of the New Testament epistles. This letter was sent to a vibrant, growing church in Rome and is considered one of the greatest documents ever written. The main theme is righteousness – a right standing with God. There is also an emphasis on reconciliation and unity between Jews and Gentiles. Establishing a right relationship with God and others is just as relevant to us today. May we hear and respond to God's call to us in Romans!

Read Romans Chapter 1

Re-read verses 1-7

1. How did Paul describe himself in verse 1?

Describe being "set apart for the gospel of God".

2. Who was Jesus Christ a descendent of? (verse 3)
3. According to verses 2 and 4, who was Jesus the Son of?

How was it proved that Jesus was the Son of God?

4. Consider the following verses. Is Jesus Christ a man or God?

Galatians 4:4

Philippians 2:6

Colossians 1:15-19

5. Using a dictionary or an online resource, such as WebstersDictionary1828.com or BibleGateway.com, define "grace".

Read verses 8-15

6. What were some of the ways Paul expressed his affection for the believers in Rome?

7. What was Paul hoping to give and receive? (verses 11-13)

8. Who was Paul obligated to preach the gospel to?

Who do you feel obligated to preach the gospel to?

*"Outside of the cross of Jesus Christ, there is no hope in this world.
The cross and resurrection at the core of the Gospel
is the only hope for humanity."*

~ Ravi Zacharias

Read verses 16-17

9. This passage uses important words like *gospel*, *salvation*, *righteousness*, and *faith*. How are these terms related to one another?

10. What are some practical ways to “live by faith”?

Growing Stronger...

Aside from Scripture, there is a no more powerful way to share the gospel than to tell someone how you came to a saving faith and what God has done for you. All testimonies are different; all are important. Write a brief description of when you responded to the gospel of Jesus Christ and how it changed your life. Pray about sharing this with someone who needs Jesus.

Final Thoughts...

In verse 8 Paul said, “...I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all.” Who are some people you thank God for and why?

Study notes for Romans 1:1-17

Romans 1:18-32... *The Consequences of Unbelief*

The wrath of God is not like the irrational anger of mankind, but is the just response of a righteous God to the unrighteousness of mankind. Simply put, He “gave them over to the lusts of their hearts.”

Read Romans Chapter 1

Re-read verses 18-20

1. How is the divine nature of God revealed in creation?

What does this reveal to you about God?

2. Why is God’s wrath justified?

3. If the truth of God is being revealed to everyone, why is it still necessary to “go to all the world and preach the gospel”? (Mark 16:15, Romans 10:17)

4. Explain the difference between truth and an idea or opinion.

"Unbelief is the originator of all other sins."

~ Thor Ramsey

Read verses 21-32

5. What are the first steps down the path of unrighteousness? (verse 21)

6. What did God give them over to? (verses 24,26,28)

Why? (verses 23,25,27,28)

7. In verses 26-32, there is a list of unrighteous acts. Choose a few and describe the righteous opposite.

Unrighteous Acts	Righteous Opposite

8. What is the consequence of unrighteous living? (Isaiah 59:2, Romans 6:23)

9. "God is love." (1 John 4:8) Read the following verses. What do they express about God's heart toward unrighteous mankind?

John 3:16

Romans 5:8

1 Corinthians 6:9-11

Ephesians 2:1-10

Growing Stronger...

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness..." (Romans 1:18) Yet we also find over and over in Scripture that "God is slow to anger." From the following verses, what else do you learn about God's character?

Numbers 14:18

Nehemiah 9:17

Psalms 86:15

Joel 2:13

Final Thoughts...

God has "planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God]..." (Ecclesiastes 3:11 AMP)

Not only has God revealed the truth of His existence in His creation, He also planted a longing to know Him in your heart. He then sent His Son to make a way for you to know Him. Express your desire to know God better; He loves you so much.

Study notes for Romans 1:18-32

Romans 2:1-16... *God's Impartiality*

When you studied Romans 1:18-32, were you tempted to point your finger at the world around you? Paul did not want anyone to imagine that “the judgment of God” was only for some especially bad sinners. No one is exempt from the need for salvation. Paul made it clear that the same rules apply to everyone regardless of their culture, nationality, or religious background. God does not show partiality! Neither keeping the Law, nor doing good deeds produces salvation. Salvation comes *only* by faith in Jesus Christ.

Read Romans Chapter 2

Re-read verses 1-4

1. Describe the difference between human judgment and God’s judgment.
2. In what way do you judge yourself when you judge others?

*"Were we to think more of our own mistakes and offences,
we should be less apt to judge other people."*

~ Matthew Henry

3. Do you ever take the kindness and patience of God for granted? Explain your answer.

Read verses 5-11

4. What is the result of “stubbornness” and an “unrepentant heart”?

5. Use the following verses to further your understanding of Romans 2:6. Comment on what you discover.

Job 4:8

Jeremiah 17:10

Galatians 6:7-8

6. In what way is God’s impartiality shown in Romans 2:7-10?

Read verses 12-16

7. According to these verses, what is the relationship between God’s Law and His judgment?

8. Verse 15 mentions "conscience". Using a dictionary, define "conscience".

Why is a conscience important?

9. What can you do to cultivate a healthy conscience?

Growing Stronger...

When you are tempted to be critical or judgmental, what should you do?

What exhortations do you find in the following Scriptures?

Matthew 7:1-3

Galatians 6:1-5

Colossians 3:13

Hebrews 3:12-13

Final Thoughts...

Have you judged anyone recently? If so, why? Memorize Matthew 7:1-2 and ask God to change your attitude.

Study notes for Romans 2:1-16

Romans 2:17-29... *The Jews and the Law*

In this section of Scripture, Paul spoke of things which the Jews felt made them superior to the Gentiles. Circumcision, a sign of being part of God's covenant with Abraham, was regarded as essential. It was unthinkable that a circumcised Jew would not be saved. But Paul pointed out that circumcision is of no value if the heart is not in a right relationship with God.

Read Romans Chapter 2

Re-read verses 17-24

1. How did Paul describe the self-righteous "Jew"?
2. What charges did Paul bring against the self-righteous?
3. How does this kind of behavior "blaspheme the name of God"?
4. In light of Romans 2:17-24, how should you live? (Matthew 5:14-16)

*"Beware of self-righteousness in every possible shape and form.
Some people get as much harm from their "virtues" as others do from their sins."*

~ J. C. Ryle

Read verses 25-29

5. According to Genesis 17:9-11, what was God's purpose for circumcision?

6. In your own words, explain what verses 25-27 mean.

7. How did Paul describe a true Jew?

8. Using the following verses, explain circumcision of the heart.

Matthew 22:37-39

Galatians 5:6

Galatians 6:15

Philippians 3:3

Growing Stronger...

Read Psalm 15. How does God describe a righteous man?

How is this description different from the way Paul described the "Jew" in Romans 2:17-20?

Final Thoughts...

In Matthew 23:27-28, Jesus described the Pharisees as white-washed tombs "full of dead men's bones"... only appearing righteous on the outside. But lest we judge them too harshly, we must remember that it is very easy to allow 'religious habits' to become ways in which we consider ourselves more righteous than others. Ask God to show you if there is anything in your life that began as a way to honor Him but has now become a way in which you honor yourself.

Study notes for Romans 2:17-29

Romans 3:1-20... *God is Faithful and Just*

Paul again emphasized, "all are under sin." All perfection is in God alone, and every one of us by contrast must be regarded as falling short. But unbelief and sin will not "nullify the faithfulness of God".

Read Romans Chapter 3

Re-read verses 1-2

1. According to Paul, what advantage did the Jews have?
2. Using Psalm 19:7-11, list what you learn about "the oracles of God."

What are some ways you benefit from knowing them?

3. What responsibilities accompany being entrusted with God's Word?

Matthew 28:19-20

John 14:21

James 1:22

Read verses 3-8

4. Explain what Paul wrote in Romans 3:3-4. (Numbers 23:19)

5. Do you think God's wrath is unjust? Why or why not?

Read verses 9-20

6. Why are Jews and Gentiles essentially equal? (verse 9)

7. Fill in the blanks in the following verses:
"There is _____ righteous, _____; there is _____ who understands,
there is _____ who seeks for God; _____ have turned aside, together they have
become useless; there is _____ who does good, there is _____." (NASB)

What was Paul's point in these verses?

8. List the various parts of the body mentioned in verses 13-18.

What does this reveal to you about the way you sin?

9. Verse 18 says, "there is no fear of God before their eyes." Describe the "fear of God" that honors Him.

10. What are some purposes of God's Law? (verses 19-20)

Growing Stronger...

God's mercy and grace are abundant; we all sin and we all need to be forgiven. We have grace, but we do not have license to do as we please. What do the following verses say about this?

Romans 6:1-2

Romans 6:14-16

Hebrews 10:26-27

"Dare we make light of that which brings down the wrath of God?"

~ Matthew Henry

Final Thoughts...

"...through the Law comes the knowledge of sin." (Romans 3:20)

Thoughtfully read the Ten Commandments in Exodus 20:1-17. Ask God to make you aware of your sin "through the Law". Confess your sin. Ask for forgiveness and the grace to change. Then praise Him for His mercy.

Study notes for Romans 3:1-20

Romans 3:21-31... *Justified by Faith*

Paul has shown that everyone, both Jew and Gentile, is unrighteous. Now he tells us the good news, that God Himself has provided righteousness for all, both Jew and Gentile.

Read Romans Chapter 3

Re-read verses 21-26

1. Since no one is righteous (verse 10), and no one can be justified by the works of the Law (verse 20), how can you obtain righteousness?

How was it provided? (verse 25)

2. Why is this righteousness necessary?

3. Using a dictionary or online resource, such as blueletterbible.com, define "faith".

Define justification.

4. How was the justice of God satisfied?

How did God remain just in justifying you?

*"We are justified, not by giving anything to God,
but by receiving from God what Christ has done for us."*
~ William Gurnall

Read verses 27-31

5. Why is boasting excluded? (Ephesians 2:8-9)

6. What is the "law of faith"? (John 6:28-29)

7. Why is the Law not nullified through faith? (Matthew 5:17)

Growing Stronger...

There are 66 books in the Bible... history, prophecy, songs, letters, etc. The gospel message can be found at the heart of it all. In your own words, write the gospel message using just what you find in Romans 3:21-31.

Final Thoughts...

Jesus' death was public; displayed for all to see. Does the fact that He endured such humiliation and suffering (showing us the just penalty for sin) influence how you live for Him? When someone wrongs you, are you willing to use it as an opportunity to show mercy?

Study notes for Romans 3:21-31

[illegible]

Romans 4... *By Faith Alone*

It was critical for Paul to show that the way of salvation by faith was not a new concept. Abraham, the father of the Jewish nation, was saved by faith. Neither Jew nor Gentile can rely on works of the Law for salvation, but solely on God's grace through faith.

Read Romans Chapter 4

Re-read verses 1-12

1. Abraham could not boast before God. Why not?
2. Define "righteousness".
3. Why is it important that God declared Abraham righteous "before" he was circumcised?
4. What was Abraham's circumcision a sign of?
5. Who can call Abraham "father"? (verses 11-12)

Read verses 13-25

6. What did God promise Abraham? (Genesis 26:4)

How did this promise come about? (Romans 4:13)

7. What three things about God did Abraham believe that assured him that God could keep His promise? (verses 17, 21)

8. Abraham's righteousness came from faith in God and His promise. Where does your righteousness come from?

"Though the Bible was written over 16 centuries by at least 40 authors, it has one central theme – salvation through faith in Christ."

~ Max Lucado

9. Why did Jesus die?

Why was He raised?

Growing Stronger...

Abraham “received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith...” (Romans 4:11) Circumcision was an outward sign and seal of Abraham’s righteousness by faith. Read the following verses. What are some of the signs and seals of a Christian’s righteousness by faith?

John 13:35

1 Corinthians 2:14-15

2 Corinthians 1:22

2 Corinthians 2:15

Ephesians 4:30

Colossians 2:12

Final Thoughts...

Jesus, our Lord, “who was betrayed and crucified because of our sins, and was raised [from the dead] because of our justification [our acquittal—absolving us of all sin before God]. (Romans 4:25 AMP)

Meditate on Romans 4:25 and its impact on your life. Are you resting in the completed work of Christ or are you striving to be *good enough*?

Study notes for Romans 4

Romans 5:1-11... *Peace with God*

In the previous four chapters, Paul has shown that we are all sinners who cannot save ourselves. Jesus Christ provides our salvation; only His blood saves us from the wrath of God. We are justified through our faith in Him. Paul now says "Therefore..."

Read Romans Chapter 5

Re-read verses 1-5

1. What do you gain through your justification in Jesus Christ?
2. In John 14:27, what does Jesus say about His peace?
3. How is it possible for you to rejoice **in**, not **for**, tribulations?

In what way can tribulation produce perseverance in you?

*"If God be our God, He will give us peace in trouble.
When there is a storm without, He will make peace within.
The world can create trouble in peace, but God can create peace in trouble.
~ Thomas Watson (1620-1686)*

4. How would you describe a proven character?

How does having a proven character strengthen your hope in God and His promises?

5. God pours His love into your heart by His Holy Spirit. Read the following verses and record some other things the Holy Spirit does for you.

John 14:26

Acts 1:8

Romans 8:26

1 Corinthians 6:19

Read verses 6-11

6. How did God demonstrate His love for you?
7. What have you received through the death of Jesus? (verse 9)

8. In verses 6, 8, and 10, what words describe your condition before your faith in Jesus?

Choose a few words or phrases to describe your condition now.

Growing Stronger...

In the Jewish temple, a veil separated the Holy of Holies – the earthly dwelling place of God's presence – from the rest of the temple. Only the high priest was permitted to pass beyond this veil, entering once each year, into God's presence to make atonement for the sins of Israel. When Jesus died, this veil "was torn in two from top to bottom." (Matthew 27:51) Why is this significant to you?

How do the following verses describe the believer's access to God?

Ephesians 3:12

Hebrews 4:16

Final Thoughts...

James said you should "Count it all joy WHEN you fall into various trials..." (James 1:2-4)

Trials are going to happen; we shouldn't be surprised. God has a purpose for the trials in your life. Think of a trial you have experienced. What did God teach you?

How different did the trial seem on the 'finished' side?

Study notes for Romans 5:1-11

4. In what way is Jesus' impact "much more" than Adam's? (verse 17)

Read verses 18-21

5. Using a dictionary or online resource, define "condemnation".
6. Consider Romans 5:19 and Philippians 2:8. How did Jesus make you righteous before God?

What influence should this have on your life?

*"Believing the right things about Jesus isn't enough.
You're not adopted as God's child until you confess and turn away from
your wrongdoing and receive the freely offered gift of forgiveness and eternal life
that Jesus purchased with His death on the cross."*

~ Lee Strobel

7. What happened when the Law was given?

How were the consequences of the Law counteracted?

8. What does the word “reign” in verse 21 indicate to you personally?

Growing Stronger...

“...so that, as sin reigned in death, even so grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 5:21)

Through Adam came sin and death; righteousness and eternal life came through Jesus Christ. In the following verses, explore how you are personally blessed by the “free gift” of eternal life.

John 4:14

John 5:24

John 6:27

John 10:10

John 11:25

John 20:30-31

Final Thoughts...

How do you respond when you receive a gift? Do you express gratitude? What if the gift is especially lavish? Consider the extravagant gift of eternal life through the death of Jesus and spend some time in worship and thanksgiving.

Study notes for Romans 5:12-21

Romans 6... *Dead to Sin, Alive to God*

This chapter describes two lives which are totally opposed to each other. By birth, we are in Adam, slaves to sin; by faith and grace we are in Christ, enslaved to God. Our life will show which master we serve.

Re-read Romans 5:20-21

Read Romans Chapter 6

Re-read verses 1-7

1. What questions did Paul open with?

Record his answer.

2. Express the point Paul made with his question in verse 2.

3. Define baptism.

How does baptism relate to Christ's death and resurrection? (verses 3-5)

4. According to the following verses, what has happened to your "old self" and how should you respond?

Romans 6:6,7

Ephesians 4:22-24

1 Peter 2:24

Read verses 8-14

5. List the steps can you take to walk in victory over sin? (verses 11-13)

*"We must desire to be separated unto the Lord from the world and its evil system.
We must reckon ourselves dead to sin and alive to God.
This is true positionally, but it can be made true in our spiritual life
only as we yield to the Holy Spirit's control."
~ Theodore Epp*

6. Read Romans 12:1. How are you to use your body as an instrument of righteousness?
7. Read Titus 2:11-12. Describe the kind of life the grace of God motivates you to live.

Read verses 15-23

8. What does it mean to be "slaves of sin"?

What is the result?

9. What does it mean to be a “slave to righteousness”?

What is the result?

Growing Stronger...

As a believer, you are no longer a slave of sin; yet you are not free from the possibility of sinning. Though you wrestle with the influence of this fallen world, you are now free from the power of sin in your life. God’s grace will help you resist sin by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10. What do you learn about the grace of God?

What promise do you find in 2 Corinthians 5:17?

Read Galatians 2:20 and list the truths you can stand on.

Final Thoughts...

We have been justified through the blood of Jesus Christ. There is absolutely nothing we can do to earn our righteousness, yet we need to change our ways. Jesus came to free us from our sin, not to make us comfortable in it. What differences are there in your life since placing your faith in Jesus Christ? Is there still a sin you willingly commit because you are counting on God’s grace to forgive you? Ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to be “obedient from the heart.”

Study notes for Romans 6

Romans 7:1-13... *The Law and Sin*

The place of God's Law was a constant battleground in Paul's debates with his Jewish opponents. The Jews saw it as central to their religion, but Paul knew that the Law was not the way of salvation. The Law only made sin come alive. It is a good gift of God and, rightly used, the Law is of great importance.

Read Romans Chapter 7

Re-read verses 1-6

1. The Law has authority only over living people. How then are you free from the Law?
(verse 4 and Romans 6:4)

2. What are you now free to do?

Verse 4

Verse 6

3. What prevented you from doing these things? (verse 5)

Read verses 7-13

4. What did Paul say about the Law in verses 7 and 12?

5. List the things Paul experienced in verses 7-11 when he received the command, "You shall not covet."

Were these effects the fault of the Law? Why or why not?

"Once God draws a boundary for us, we are immediately enticed to cross that boundary, which is no fault of God or His boundary, but the fault of our sinful hearts."

~ Max Lucado

6. Describe the kind of death Paul referred to in verse 9?

How did this death come about?

7. How does sin use the Law against you? (verse 8)

8. Re-read verses 7-13. Why is God's Holy Law unable to make you righteous before God?

Growing Stronger...

"Likewise, my brethren, you have undergone death as to the Law through the [crucified] body of Christ, so that now you may belong to Another, to Him Who was raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God." (Romans 7:4 AMP)

Your death and resurrection in Christ is not an end in and of itself. You are to live a fruitful life for God. Read the following verses and list some of the fruit that is produced in the life of a believer. *Suggestion: Try reading the following verses in a few different versions using www.biblegateway.com.*

Galatians 5:22-23

Ephesians 5:9

Hebrews 13:15

James 3:18

Final Thoughts...

"For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome." (1 John 5:3)

Thank God for giving you His commandments. Thank Him for sending His Holy Spirit to help you "serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter." Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to help you in your battles against sin.

Study notes for Romans 7:1-13

Romans 7:14-25... *The Struggles of a Saved Soul*

There is an ongoing conflict within us. The Holy Spirit in us pulls us in the direction of obedience, while our flesh pulls us in the direction of sin. The Law cannot rescue us from this struggle; only the power of Jesus Christ can save us.

Read Romans Chapter 7

Re-read verses 14-20

1. What is the difference between you and the Law?
2. What dwells in your flesh?

As a believer, who is also indwelling you according to John 14:16-17?

3. What are you agreeing to when you know that what you are doing is wrong? (Romans 7:16)
4. Why do you do the very thing that you do not want to do? (verse 17)

Does this give you an excuse to sin? Why or why not?

*"Where we might think of sin as slipups or missteps,
God views sin as a godless attitude that leads to godless actions."*
~ Max Lucado

Read verses 21-25

5. Using verses 21-23, explain why Paul called himself a “wretched man”?

6. What examples of this kind of struggle have you experienced in your life?

7. Using the following verses, describe how you can have victory in this struggle.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Ephesians 6:13

2 Timothy 2:22

James 4:7

8. Describe the hope of deliverance you have in Christ. (Romans 7:24-25)

Growing Stronger...

An eagle's wings are designed to soar in the air continually. As a Christian, you were designed to speak God's truth in your heart continually. What truths do you find in the following Scriptures that can help you accomplish this?

Isaiah 40:31

Psalm 1:1-2

Romans 12:2

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Final Thoughts...

As a believer, you cannot produce sanctification in your life without dependence upon the Holy Spirit. Just to say you want to live for Christ is not enough. You must submit yourself to Him, recognizing that you have a new nature and are indwelt by the living Christ. Spend some time thanking the Lord for delivering you "from this body of death".

Study notes for Romans 7:14-25

Romans 8:1-25... *Life in the Spirit*

If we live in the Spirit, we can put the flesh to death and live for God. The Holy Spirit leads and guides us in how we are to live, bearing witness that we are children and heirs of God. This hope sustains us in our suffering.

Read Romans Chapter 8

Re-read verses 1-11

1. Why is there "no condemnation" if you are in Christ Jesus?

How did God accomplish this?

2. Using verses 5-11, record the differences you find between someone who is walking according to the flesh and someone who is walking according to the Spirit.

Walking according to the flesh	Walking according to the Spirit

3. What does it mean to "set your mind" on something?

4. How are you able to walk according the Spirit and not according to the flesh? (verses 9, 11)

Read verses 12-18

5. Describe what it means to put "to death the deeds of the body".

6. What are the blessings of being led by "the Spirit of God"?

7. Do you approach God as your "Abba, Father"? Explain your answer.

8. Thoughtfully read 1 Peter 1:4. How is your inheritance described?

9. Give some examples of Christ's sufferings that you share in.

*"You may have no family, no food, no clothes, no future, no spouse,
no health, or no children, yet be rich beyond your wildest dreams because you have
the Holy Spirit in your life." ~ Jill Briscoe*

Read verses 19-25

10. What is creation eagerly waiting for? (Genesis 3:17-19)

What are you eagerly waiting for?

11. In what way did hope encourage you to persevere?

Growing Stronger...

While living in this fallen world and dealing with all that comes your way, it can be hard to remember that this is not your real home. Your life in this world is only temporary; you are merely visiting. However, this is not a vacation. It is more like a long-term mission trip. Your loving Abba, Father has placed you here for a reason. While you are here, consider what awaits you when it is time to go home.

What did Paul say in 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 about your current afflictions?

Read Philippians 3:20-21. What things can you eagerly await?

Final Thoughts...

"The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you." (Romans 8:11)

This is the same God who laid the foundation of the earth, whose hand stretched out the heavens, who formed your heart, and who considers everything you do. It is His Spirit who dwells in you. Are you aware of His presence? Do you think about Him being within you? What bearing does this fact have on how you live... what you think, what you say, where you go, what you do?

Study notes for Romans 8:1-25

Romans 8:26-39... *God is For Us*

Paul rested in the sure confidence of God's love and did not fear the trials of life. Filled with the Holy Spirit, he lived a life of peace that is available to all who have freedom in Christ. As believers, we know we will never be separated from God's love, no matter what trials or circumstances may come.

Read Romans Chapter 8

Re-read verses 26-28

1. Why do you need the Holy Spirit's help when you pray?

How is He especially suited to help?

2. In what way can this intercession give you hope and enable you to persevere?

3. According to verse 28, what do you "know"?

4. How do the following verses describe God's care for you?

Psalm 3:3-4

Ephesians 1:3

Ephesians 1:7

Philippians 4:19

1 John 3:1,16

5. How do these truths deepen your faith?

Read verses 29-30

6. What actions does God take toward His people?

7. If you love God, what are you “predestined” to?

In what ways do you see God accomplishing this in you?

Read verses 31-39

8. What are some ways God affirms His love for you? (verses 31-34)

9. In the midst of suffering, you might wonder about God's love. How do verses 35-39 calm these doubts?

*"Being filled and led by the Spirit may take you places you never planned;
but the will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you."*

~ Neil Anderson

Growing Stronger...

The doctrine of the Trinity (the union of three Persons in one Godhead: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) is an absolute mystery. Finite minds cannot understand the complex nature of our infinite God; but in experiencing His grace through faith, He makes Himself known to us. In this section of Romans, what are some things you learned about the character and works of...

The Father

Jesus Christ, The Son

The Holy Spirit

Final Thoughts...

The Holy Spirit always intercedes for us according to God's will. We are sometimes at a loss as to what God's will is because we have our own ideas about how our lives should play out. Our ideas usually do not contain any tribulations, suffering, the need for patience or perseverance. God's ways are not our ways; nothing can separate us from His love. Write a prayer asking God to help you see His will and purpose in your life, and for the courage and strength to follow His way, even when it is not trouble-free.

Study notes for Romans 8:26-39

Romans 9 ... *God's Sovereign Mercy*

Paul used the next three chapters to clarify the Jews' status. The Jews viewed the Law as the means of righteousness before God. Paul affirmed that God's elective mercy includes the Gentiles; God's sovereignty does not obligate Him to anyone. All who trust in God's free gift of righteousness through Jesus Christ, not through the Law (whether Jew or Gentile), will not be disappointed.

Read Romans Chapter 9

Re-read verses 1-5

1. Do you feel about anyone the way Paul felt about the Jews?

If so, what can you do?

2. List the privileges God blessed the Jews with.

Which one do you think is the greatest blessing and why?

Read verses 6-13

3. What assurances do the following verses give that caused Paul to be confident God's Word had not failed?

Numbers 23:19

1 Samuel 15:29

Isaiah 40:8

4. Does being a descendant of Abraham guarantee a place in God's family? Why or why not?

5. Why is it significant that God chose Jacob before he or Esau had “done anything good or bad”?

Read verses 14-29

6. Using a dictionary or other resource, define “mercy”.
7. On what basis does God choose people to inherit His promises?

What does not influence His choice? (verses 11,16)

*“He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done,
but because of His mercy...” ~ Titus 3:5 NLT*

8. How do the examples of Pharaoh and a potter help answer Paul’s questions in verse 14?

Pharaoh

a potter

9. Who do you think are the “vessels of wrath” and the “vessels of mercy”?

Which one are you and why?

10. Why has God been enduring the “vessels of wrath” with patience? (verse 23)

What does this tell you about God’s character?

11. Explain how the Jewish people could understand that belonging to God's family was not simply a matter of heritage. (verses 24-26 and Isaiah 49:6, 65:1)

Read verses 30-33

12. What was the difference between the way the Gentiles sought God and the way the Jews sought Him?

Which one failed and why?

Growing Stronger...

"They stumbled over the stumbling stone, just as it is written, 'Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.'" (Romans 9:32-33)

Jesus Christ is the sure foundation on which those who have faith can build, but He is also a stumbling block to those who refuse to believe. Describe Jesus using the following verses.

Isaiah 8:13-14

Isaiah 28:16

Psalms 118:22

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

Final Thoughts...

"...I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." (Romans 9:15)

Are you ever tempted to regard God as unfair or arbitrary in His dealings with people? Meditate on His sovereignty and mercy in Ephesians 1:1-14. Spend some time thanking God for His grace, mercy, and sovereignty in your life.

Study notes for Romans 9

Romans 10... *Israel's Need for Faith*

Israel's spiritual condition in Paul's day, and in ours, is unbelief. They had zeal without knowledge and law without righteousness. Israel heard, yet rejected, the Good News of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. The gospel must be believed to be received and received by faith. Paul used the Law and the Prophets to show them they were without excuse.

Read Romans Chapter 10

Re-read verses 1-4

1. Describe Paul's attitude toward unsaved Israel.

How can you pray for your country?

2. Is having a zeal for God enough? Explain your answer.
3. What do you think Paul meant in saying, "Christ is the end of the law"?

Read verses 5-13

4. How accessible is the good news of righteousness through faith?
5. What is necessary for salvation? (verses 9,10)

Why is it essential to believe that God raised Jesus from the dead? (1 Corinthians 15:16-17)

6. When you confess Jesus Christ as Lord, what are you confessing? (Philippians 2:9-11)

Have you confessed Jesus as Lord? What did or would happen in your life as a result of confessing and believing?

Read verses 14-17

7. What steps are necessary for someone to call on the Name of the Lord and be saved? (verses 14-15)

8. Read the following verses. What do they say about sharing the gospel with others?

Mark 16:15

Acts 1:8

Ephesians 6:15

9. The Greek word translated “preacher” simply means “one who makes a public declaration, a herald”. Are you qualified to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ? Explain your answer.

"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

~ Isaiah 6:8

Read verses 18-21

10. How is Israel described?

In light of this, how would you describe your country today?

Growing Stronger...

At the end of their forty-year journey in the wilderness, Moses gave the Israelites some final instructions. He told them to keep the commandments of the Lord to govern how they lived. He also gave them other instructions which should have governed their hearts.

Read Deuteronomy 30:10,16,20.

List some of the instructions Moses gave to the people.

How could following these instructions help them obey the spirit of the law and not just the letter of the law?

How can you apply these instructions to your own life?

Final Thoughts...

As believers we have hope; we live with a purpose. We know what lies on the other side of the grave - the hope of heaven. We have help, God's Holy Spirit at work in and through us, changing us from the inside out. Hope and help is good news indeed! Are you aware of someone who is living without hope? How can you share this hope with them? Remember you have the Holy Spirit to help you.

Study notes for Romans 10

Romans 11... *Root and Branches*

Paul has been emphasizing that there is no distinction between Jews and Gentiles, either in sin or in salvation. Now he writes that just as they have been together in the prison of their disobedience, they will also be together in the freedom of God's mercy.

Read Romans Chapter 11

Re-read verses 1-6

1. In the following verses, what evidence do you find that God has not rejected all of Israel, but only those who do not believe?

11:1

11:2a (Romans 8:29-31)

11:2b-5

2. How is it that there is a remnant of believing Jews today? (verses 5-6)

Why is this important?

3. How might the example of Elijah be a comfort to you?

Read verses 7-10

4. Using Matthew 13:13-17, explain what Paul meant in Romans 11:8.

5. What is the “table” that is “a snare and a trap” referring to? (Romans 3:2 and 9:4)

Why is it “a snare and a trap”? (Matthew 23:23)

Read verses 11-24

6. Part of Paul’s motivation for preaching to the Gentiles was to cause jealousy in the Jews. How can jealousy lead a person to faith in Jesus Christ?

Is this an approach you would attempt? Why or why not?

7. What does the tree with the grafted branches express about the relationships between God, the Jews, and the Gentiles?

8. Why should you not boast about being a grafted-in branch? (John 4:22)

Read verses 25-36

9. How do you know that God is not done with Israel? (verses 28-29; Psalm 33:11)

10. In what ways are both Jews and Gentiles recipients of God’s mercy?

*"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God,
to those who believe in His name." ~ John 1:12*

11. How did Paul describe God in verses 33-36? Note as many observations as you find.

Growing Stronger...

"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:36)

Paul appropriately closed this section with a doxology – an expression of praise to God. What do you discover in the following verses about this?

From Him – 1 Corinthians 1:30

Through Him – John 1:17

To Him – Jude 1:24-25

Final Thoughts...

"...remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you." (Romans 11:18)

The New Testament church is rooted in the fact that God called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Out of the nation of Israel, He brought forth Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Do you regularly pray for the peace of Jerusalem? Is there a Jewish friend or acquaintance that you can share the hope of the gospel with? What does being "grafted in" really mean to you? Prayerfully consider how you should respond.

Study notes for Romans 11

[illegible]

Romans 12:1-8 . . . *A Living Sacrifice*

In the first eleven chapters of Romans, Paul laid out the foundation on which the practical Christianity of chapters 12-16 is based. Knowing and understanding God's word is key to victorious and effective Christian living. We need to act on the truth we have received, letting that truth be the foundation of our Christian lives. In light of what God has done, here is how we should live.

Read Romans Chapter 12

Re-read verses 1-2

1. How are you to respond to the love and mercy God has bestowed on you?

Describe how you accomplish this in your daily life.

2. What does "conformed to this world" mean?

How can you avoid this?

3. Why is it important that this transformation start in your mind?

List some practical steps you can take to renew your mind.

Read verses 3-8

4. Explain the view you should have of yourself that reflects sound judgment. (verse 3)

5. List the gifts described in verses 6-8 and how they are to be used.

6. What is the purpose of these gifts? (1 Peter 4:7-11)

7. Which gifts has God given to you?

How are you using your gifts?

8. Why is surrendering to God's will necessary to operate in the spiritual gifts He gives you?

"Spiritual gifts are bestowed upon believers according to the purposes of God and distributed by the sovereign wisdom of God. Our spiritual gifts never belong to us; they are an expression of the Holy Spirit doing the Father's will."

~ Henry and Mel Blackaby

9. Describe how using God's gifts requires...

Faith –

Being in God's Word –

Prayer –

Fellowship with other believers –

Growing Stronger...

As a living sacrifice, you must be unwilling to conform to the world. It can be difficult swimming against the current, but you are not alone. Read the following verses and record the warnings, promises, and hope that can help you.

John 16:33

Ephesians 6:10-13

1 John 2:15-17

1 John 4:4

Final Thoughts...

When you surrender your life to God and become a living sacrifice, you begin to serve in the spiritual gifts He gives you. As you see Him bless your service, you are not to think more highly of yourself than you ought. It is important to remember that everything you have has come from God, whether it is physical, material, or spiritual. God's gifts are freely given, not earned through your own merit. One antidote for pride is a thankful heart. Thank God for all He has entrusted to you; give Him all the glory for what He enables you to do for Him by the power of His Holy Spirit.

Study notes for Romans 12:1-8

Romans 12:9-21 ... *Sincere Love*

The foundation of Christian faith is love – the love of God for His people and the love of His people for each other. It should be no surprise that Paul based this practical section of his letter on how to express love. He did not emphasize feelings of love, but actions.

Read Romans Chapter 12

Re-read verse 9

1. Paul said to love “without hypocrisy”. Does that mean you should not do loving acts unless you feel affection for someone? Why or why not?

2. Why is it important to “abhor what is evil”?

How can you hate evil and not hate the evildoer?

3. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22. What can help you “abhor what is evil; cling to what is good”?

Read verses 10-21

4. Who is the source of our love for others? (Romans 5:5)

5. Read the following verses. In what ways is Christian love more than just an emotion?

Romans 5:6-8

Romans 13:8-10

1 John 3:17-18

"Genuine love is honor put into action regardless of the cost."

~ Gary Smalley

6. List the expressions of love you discover in Romans 12:10-20.

Choose one of these expressions of love that you have received. Describe the impact it had on you.

7. Which expression of love do you find most challenging to do and why?

8. These verses include what **not** to do. What do you learn from each negative?

9. How does living out these expressions of love fulfill Romans 12:1?

Growing Stronger...

"If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." (Romans 12:18 AMP)

Harmony with others may not always be achievable, but believers should not be the cause for discord. Read the following verses and record the benefits of being a peacemaker.

Psalms 37:37

Proverbs 12:20

Matthew 5:9

James 3:18

Final Thoughts...

"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honor..." (Romans 12:10)

Think of someone you find difficult to honor above yourself. Why is this hard for you? Ask the Lord to help you sincerely love and respect them. Look for a way to honor that person this week.

Study notes for Romans 12:9-21

Romans 13... *Submit to Governing Authorities*

Sin is a reality in this fallen world. God has provided laws and governing authorities to combat the utter chaos that sin can cause. These authorities are human, sinners just like the rest of us. Remember, Nero was the emperor when Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome and yet Paul called believers to obedience.

Read Romans Chapter 13

Re-read verses 1-7

1. Who gives rulers their authority?

Are believers to respond differently to good authorities as opposed to bad ones? Explain your answer.

2. What is your responsibility to governing authorities?

3. How should governing authorities treat those who do evil?

How should they treat those who do good?

"It is impossible to rightly govern a nation without God and the Bible."

~ George Washington

4. What is your responsibility regarding taxes? (Luke 20:22-25)

Read verses 8-10

5. In what way does love fulfill the law? (Matthew 22:36-40)

Who is your neighbor?

6. Read 1 John 4:7-12 and record what you find about love.

Read verses 11-14

7. What "time" was Paul referring to? (Hebrews 9:27-28)

8. "Knowing the time" is drawing near, what are you encouraged to be doing?

9. How do you "put on the Lord Jesus Christ"? (Colossians 3:12-15)

Growing Stronger...

Other New Testament writings also teach about our responsibilities concerning governing authorities. Read the following verses and record what you find.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Titus 3:1-2

1 Peter 2:13-17

Final Thoughts...

Although we have governing authorities over us, our obedience and allegiance ultimately belong to God. When asked to deny God or to disobey His laws and principles, we have an obligation to obey God. Refusing to compromise our faith can result in severe consequences. Believers around the world are faced with prison and death for refusing to deny Jesus Christ or refusing to take part in ungodly acts. Pray for persecuted believers and ask God to give them peace and courage as they stand for Him.

Study notes for Romans 13

Romans 14 ... *Love and Liberty*

The early church struggled with bringing their different backgrounds and cultures together. Should they worship on Saturday or on Sunday? What could they bring to the potluck? We are not to judge, but instead we are to build one another up.

Read Romans Chapter 14

Re-read verses 1-6

1. Using the following verses, give some reasons believers should not argue about matters of opinion.

Romans 12:16

1 Corinthians 1:10

1 Corinthians 9:22

2. What are some advantages of sharing ideas and viewpoints about the Bible with other believers.

3. What instructions are given to believers in verse 3?

4. How can you be “fully convinced” of the things you believe? (Acts 17:11)

Read verses 7-12

5. What stands out to you in these verses?
6. How would keeping these verses in mind affect discussions with other believers about things that are non-essential to the Christian faith?
7. In what way are you accountable to God?

Read verses 13-23

8. Name a "stumbling block" that you should avoid putting in another believer's way.
9. What responsibilities do you have toward other believers? (verses 15-19 and Romans 13:8-10)
10. How can something you do, which you are convinced is not wrong, cause another to sin? (verse 23)

"Personal liberty is not personal license."

~ Billy Sunday

Growing Stronger...

"Therefore let us not judge one another anymore..." (Romans 14:13a)

People from many nations and backgrounds are Christians. A wonderful thing about the church is the rich variety in our brothers and sisters in Christ. But this variety can cause a strain on our unity. Using the following verses, name some specific ways you can personally promote unity in the Body of Christ.

Matthew 7:1-5

Galatians 5:13

Ephesians 5:21

Philippians 2:3

Colossians 3:14-17

Final Thoughts...

We are all weak in some areas of our faith and strong in others. Your faith is strong in an area if you can interact with sinners without falling into their sinful behaviors. It is weak in an area if you must avoid certain activities, people, or places in order to protect your spiritual life. It is important to know your strengths and weaknesses. Whenever in doubt, you should ask yourself, "Can I do that without sinning? Can I influence others for good, rather than being influenced by them?"

Study notes for Romans 14

Romans 15:1-13 ... *Unity and Hope*

In our relationships with other believers, we are to be imitators of Christ and not live to please ourselves. Christian liberty is to be respectful and tempered with love. Unity is accomplished by God's children through the power of His Holy Spirit.

Read Romans Chapter 15

Re-read verses 1-6

1. In what way can you be like Christ?
2. According to verse 4, why were the Scriptures written?
3. What is Paul's desire for believers in verses 5-6?

Considering your answer to #2, how might this desire be realized?

"In essentials unity; in nonessentials liberty; in all things charity."

~ Rupert Meldenius

Read verses 7-13

4. Thoughtfully read Paul's exhortation in verse 7. What does it mean to you?
5. According to the following verses, what was your condition when Jesus Christ accepted you?

Romans 5:6

Romans 5:8

Romans 5:10

6. Jesus became a servant to both the Jews and the Gentiles. What were His purposes?
7. In what ways do the Old Testament verses quoted in Romans 15:9-12 promote unity between Jews and Gentiles?

8. Where does your hope come from?

How is your life different because of the hope you have in Christ?

Growing Stronger...

"For even Christ didn't live to please Himself." (Romans 15:3a NLT)

Love, as exemplified by Jesus, is both sacrificial and rewarding. Read the following verses and comment on how you can apply them to your daily life.

Luke 9:23-24

Acts 20:35

1 Corinthians 10:33

Galatians 6:2

1 Thessalonians 5:14

Final Thoughts...

As Paul neared the end of his letter to the church in Rome, he expressed his desires for the believers in the form of benedictions. Consider the benedictions found in verses 5-6 and 13 of Romans 15 and pray these things for your church and yourself.

Study notes for Romans 15:1-13

Romans 15:14 – 16:27... *Plans and Greetings*

Paul saw the believers in Rome as mature, yet still needing to be reminded of the truth found in the living word of God. Paul's letter to the church in Rome is just as timely and instructive for the church today.

Read Romans Chapter 15

Re-read verses 14-21

1. How did Paul describe the believers in Rome?

How did Paul describe himself?

2. If you are already mature in your faith, why do you need to be reminded of the truth in God's word?
3. List some ways this study of Romans has helped you to grow and mature in your faith?

Read verses 22-29

4. What were Paul's purposes in going to Jerusalem and Rome?

Jerusalem –

Rome –

5. Why were the Gentile churches sending a contribution to Jerusalem?

Read verses 30-33

6. What urgent request did Paul make of the believers in Rome?

Do you ever ask for prayer for specific needs? Why or why or not?

"No man can do me a truer kindness in this world than to pray for me."

~ C.H. Spurgeon

7. Read the following verses about the threat Paul was facing. Record what you find.

Acts 20:22-24

Acts 21:10-14

Acts 23:11 (after Paul had been arrested in Jerusalem)

Read Romans 16

Re-read verses 1-16

8. List some of the ways Paul described those he sent greetings to.

Read verses 17-27

9. What final instructions did Paul give?

10. How can you be “wise about what is good and innocent about what is evil”?

Growing Stronger...

After he was confronted by Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), Paul spent the rest of his life preaching the gospel. He made several missionary journeys and endured many hardships, but he did not do this alone. Priscilla and Aquila were just two of many who came alongside Paul in this work. Read Acts 18 and record what you find about these “fellow workers” of Paul.

Final Thoughts...

“...and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

When Jesus gave the Great Commission to His disciples, it did not end there. Today thousands of Christians are working to take the gospel to a lost and dying world. They are servants like Paul, and they too cannot do it alone. There are many ways to help. You can “strive together” in prayer, which is of upmost importance. Letters or emails of encouragement are immensely appreciated by people far from home and family. Monetary support, even a small amount faithfully given, can be used by God to provide for their needs. Who are the missionaries you know about? Ask God to show you how you can be one of their “fellow workers in Christ Jesus.”

Study notes for Romans 15:14-16:27

~ Friends, Prayer Requests... ~

“...to God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.” (Romans 16:27)