

# ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional  
Study Guide*



## *Monday*

**Study:** Romans 16:1-16, Acts 18:1-4

**Reading:** Romans 12:3-8, I Corinthians 12:12-31

**Memory:** Matthew 5:31

### **Romans 16:1-16**

How is Phoebe described (vs 1)?

*\*\*\*The Greek term used to describe her role in the church was the word “diakanon.” This is the feminine version of the word that is also translated deacon. This reveals that women played a great role in serving the early church.*

How else is Phoebe described (vs 2)?

*\*\*\*Paul described her as being a “patron” (ESV) which meant that she was a great help in physically and financially supporting the work of Christ. We are not sure if Paul was sending her to Rome to help at the church or if she had plans to move to Rome.*

How did Paul describe Priscilla and Aquila (vs 3)? How does this reveal the importance Paul places on other believers?

What had this couple been willing to do (vs 4)?

How did the selfless actions of these people affect thousands of others (vs 4)?

What does the statement at the beginning of verse 5 reveal about how some of the church was setup?

*\*\*\*Most likely, the church in Rome was actually made up of several smaller churches that would meet in houses. It is assumed that they would have met together as a large group for special events and that regular meetings would be held in the homes of different individuals. This does not mean that church has to be done this way today, because different cultures*

allow for different formats.

What do verses 7-16 reveal about the way Paul viewed other believers?

*\*\*\*In this list are several names of people who Paul had personally met and spent time with. They had all moved to Rome for one reason or another and Paul described many of them as being very helpful or profitable for the Gospel.*

### **Acts 18:1-4**

Who did Paul meet at Corinth (vs 1-2)? Why were they in Corinth?

*\*\*\*This meeting took place on Paul's second missionary journey. This was before the writing of the book of Romans and Aquila and Priscilla must have moved back to Rome later on.*

What did they do together (vs 3)?

*\*\*\*In order to help provide for his needs, Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla making tents. They most likely worked out of their home and Paul probably lived with them during this time.*

What did Paul do while in Corinth (vs 4)?

Why were Aquila and Priscilla so important to the ministry of Paul?

*\*\*\*We live in a very individualistic society where we often only rely on ourselves rather than others. The passage today reminds us of the vital need for friends and working together for the kingdom of God.*

### **Personal Application**

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

# Tuesday

**Study:** Romans 16:17-24 , I Timothy 4:1-4

**Reading:** Matthew 7:15-20, Jude 1-25

**Memory:** Matthew 5:31

### **Romans 16:17-24**

What was Paul warning the believers about (vs 17)?

How do you think people would “create obstacles” (ESV) that are contrary to what had been taught (vs 17)?

*\*\*\*Most likely this is a reference to those who wanted to add things to what a person needed to do in order to be saved. Even today, many Christian denominations or groups that once started out focusing on grace and the simplicity of the gospel have become a works oriented religion. Things like baptism, church membership, outward appearance, giving, etc. have replaced the understanding of grace and mercy.*

What did Paul command the believers to do about those who tried to cause division (vs 17b)?

Why do you think you are commanded to avoid them?

Why are false teachers often successful at what they do (vs 18)?

Who do false teachers serve (vs 18)?

*\*\*\*I believe many people who are false teachers like those Paul is warning against in verses 17 and 18 don't know they are false teachers. Though there are some who are purposely out to hurt people, most are sincere in what they teach and believe, they just don't fully teach and believe the Bible. They want to help people, but ultimately they are hurting them because they are teaching from an earthly perspective and not a biblical one. They believe they are right and want other people to do things their way. Sadly, their personalities often attract many people which cause great harm and direct many people away from the true Gospel.*

What had the Roman church been characterized by (vs 19)?

What was Paul's desire for them (vs 19b)?

*\*\*\*Sometimes the most obedient people are the most susceptible people to false teaching. They are ready to obey what they hear and are very submissive, but this often opens the door for false teachers to convince them of things that aren't the truth. This is why it is very important to study the Word of God for yourself and not to just place your trust and reliance on one Bible teacher.*

What does Paul declare about God (vs 20)?

*\*\*\*This appears to be a reference to the fact that Satan uses false teachers to draw men away from the truth. God would one day get the final victory, but until then, the people had to be on guard against the way Satan would use men to deceive people.*

What do you think verse 22 means?

*\*\*\*This letter to the Romans was clearly written by Paul, but verse 22 declares that Tertius wrote it. It appears that Tertius was acting as a secretary for Paul and wrote what Paul dictated to him.*

### **I Timothy 4:1-4**

What did Paul tell Timothy would happen (vs 1)?

*\*\*\*It is easy to think that false teachers will look evil, but if they did, they would be easy to avoid. Paul is presenting how evil they are in their hearts, though the way they talk and the things that they say are appealing.*

What do false teachers do (vs 3-5)?

### **Personal Application**

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your everyday life?

# *Wednesday*

**Study:** Romans 16:25-27, James 2:14-26

**Reading:** Ephesians 1:1-27

**Memory:** Matthew 5:31

### **Romans 16:25-27**

What is God able to do for you (vs 25)?

*\*\*\*You do not have the ability and strength to live for God in your flesh, but through His power you can do all things.*

How can you get the strength you need to live as God desires (vs 25)?

What is the "mystery" (ESV) that Paul was referring to (vs 25b)?

*\*\*\*When Paul used the term "mystery" here and in other places, he was not referring to something that could not be solved. He was referring to the salvation that had been hidden before Jesus came, but had been revealed through the finished work of Jesus on the cross.*

How was God's plan made public for all men to understand (vs 26)?

What was God's desire (vs 26b)?

What do you think the term "obedience of faith" (ESV) means (vs 26b)?

*\*\*\*Faith is more than just a mental belief. James 2:19 says that the demons believe in God and are fearful of Him, but the demons are not Christians. True faith and obedience to God work hand in hand.*

How is God described in verse 27? Why is this important?

### **James 2:14-26**

What scenario does James present in this passage (vs 14)?

What example did James use to reveal that true faith will show itself in

works (vs 15-17)?

How did James say he would show His faith (vs 18)?

*\*\*\*Note that James is not at all teaching that salvation comes by works, but the works will be the evidence of a true salvation.*

What did James declare about faith without works (vs 20)? What do you think He is saying by this?

What illustration did James use in verses 21-23?

*\*\*\*Abraham declared that He believed God, but it was his actions that showed that his belief was real. It is very easy to mentally agree with things, but it is much more difficult when that mental agreement calls for action. How you choose to live and act reveals what you truly believe.*

Why do you think verse 24 is a controversial verse?

*\*\*\*Taken out of context, this verse can be used to teach that salvation does come by works, but in the context of what James is saying it is very clear. Salvation can not come by what you do, but what you do will be evidence of your salvation. If there is no change in a person's life after a "salvation experience" then true salvation never took place.*

What other example did James use (vs 25)?

What does the closing statement in verse 26 declare?

Describe how your actions reveal your faith.

### **Personal Application**

What can you learn about God from this passage?

How can you apply what you have learned to your every day life?

# *Thursday*

**Study:** Romans 16:1-16

**Reading:** John 13:1-17

**Memory:** Matthew 5:31

Once I had children and started watching them interact with other children, I began to realize why adults have a hard time getting along. The same struggles that adults face are things that children face, except adults think they have better excuses. I noticed my children had a very hard time sharing their toys with others. Often, when they knew another child wanted to play with their toys, they would tend to hold on to that toy longer than they would have if the other child didn't want it. Rather than being willing to give it up and share, they wanted it all to themselves.

Today, we are going to see how important it is to be a servant to others. From observing children, we can understand our selfish human nature and how important it is to allow God to humble us so that we choose to serve others.

## **What Does the Bible Say?**

As Paul closed his letter, he displayed how much he loved others. He first asked them to welcome Phoebe with open arms into the church at Rome. She had served in the church at Cenchrea and had been a faithful minister to Paul and was now going to be moving to Rome. Paul described her as a "servant" which is derived from the same Greek word that is translated "deacon." There is a possible connection between the "women" referred to in I Timothy 3:11 (the word could be translated as "women" or "wives") and the role of a female servant of the church such as Phoebe. This has led to the idea that the church should not only have deacons, but also deaconesses. The biblical deacons weren't decision makers, but were servants to serve in the church and it seems natural that there would be both men and women servants of the church (vs 1-2).

Though Paul had never been to the church in Rome, he knew many people who were involved in the church. This is evidenced from the long list of people that he wanted to greet given in verses 3-15. There are at

least 24 people mentioned here and many others that he referred to because he greeted their whole “household.” Apparently, many people moved to Rome from the various places where Paul had ministered.

There are two important lessons that can be learned from these closing greetings. The first was that Paul knew the importance of having people to work with. Paul didn’t try to accomplish the work of God on his own because he knew that he couldn’t do everything. He understood that God had given different people many different gifts, talents and abilities to reach far more people for Christ than he ever could by himself. He understood the importance of doing what God called him to do, and also understood the importance of allowing others to do what God has called them to do.

The second thing that can be learned is the importance of a life. Take some time to carefully read through the comments Paul made about each individual. Ask yourself how your pastor or spiritual leader would be able to address you and how he would describe your spiritual contribution.

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

If someone you knew closely were to compliment you, what would they compliment you for? Would they have a hard time coming up with positive ways your life has impacted theirs or others, or would they have many things to say about you? You are not to live in order to impress others, but the impression you do make on others can help you know if you are making the eternal impact that God has planned for your life.

How would you describe your service for God? Take some time right now to describe yourself and what your leaders would write about your service for the Lord. Don’t write what you would want them to say, write what you think they would say.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Thank God for allowing you to be His servant.*
- \* *Ask God to show you areas where you can be a better servant.*
- \* *Praise God because He gives you the power to live for Him.*

## **Thought for the day**

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# *Friday*

**Study:** Romans 16:17-23

**Reading:** I Timothy 3:10-17, James 3:13-18

**Memory:** Matthew 5:31

I have heard an illustration many times that is very applicable to this passage. I have heard it described how when someone is being trained to determine between counterfeit and real dollar bills, they spend a great deal of time touching, looking at and observing the real thing and relatively little time handling counterfeit bills. The idea is that by having a deep knowledge and understanding of the real thing, it is much easier to recognize when something is fake.

Though I am not sure if this illustration is the full truth or just made up, the point that it teaches is very accurate when it comes to the truth of God’s Word. In the passage today, we will read how Paul tells us to be innocent towards evil and knowledgeable about what is good. The best way to avoid evil is to pour yourself into knowing what is good. When you know what is good and right, you will be much more able to spot the evil around you.

## **What Does the Bible Say?**

As Paul closed his letter to the Romans, he desired to leave them with some valuable advice. He warned them to be on the look out for those who would attempt to cause division in the church. This was often done by people who would add certain requirements to salvation and the Christian life that could easily steal the joy from people’s lives. They were to avoid those types of people and do their best to remove them from the church. People like that weren’t involved in the church for God, but for what they could get out of it themselves. They preyed on those who were young believers and who didn’t fully understand the truth of the Word of God. They tore people away from God with flattery and things that were appealing to the flesh. The end result was often a lack of joy because they have a wrong understanding of God (vs 17-18).

If you read too fast, you might have missed it, but Paul gave one of the most important statements regarding the Christian life in verse 19. Paul said, “I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple

concerning evil.” That meant that a Christian should do all they can to strive to know the good that God wants in their life, and should do all they can to avoid evil. To follow that statement up Paul said, “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” (ESV) This was a powerful reminder to them that would help them understand the importance of doing what was right (vs 19-20).

In verses 21-23, Paul sent greetings to them from some of his fellow workers. Through these greetings, you can see the close bond of fellowship that had been established among the believers. Another interesting point from these verses is that Paul didn’t handwrite the letter himself, but used what was called an amanuensis. This would be similar to a boss dictating a note for his secretary to write and send out to others (vs 21-23).

### **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Are you wise about what is good and innocent towards that which is evil? I have heard Christian parents say that they want their children to experience the world so that they know how much better they have it in the Christian life. Though I understand some of the logic behind this statement, this could be very dangerous thinking. Paul basically told the believers to put all their time, effort and energy into knowing what is right. Believers don’t need to be informed about all the evil there is in the world. Believers will often fall and fail because they think, “I just want experience what this is like.” When a person is so enthralled by God and His joy, their desire for the things of this world will be less and less. You are in the world and can’t always avoid experiencing evil, but there are many ways that you can choose to avoid it. Remember, evil may seem attractive on the outside, but God has crushed Satan and his power. The immediate thrill that people might receive from doing wrong will soon disappear, but the joy you get from God will be far greater.

### **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* *Ask God to help you to be innocent concerning evil.*
- \* *Praise God because He has ultimate power over Satan.*

### **Thought for the day**

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## ***Saturday***

**Study:** Romans 16:25-27

**Reading:** Philipians 1:21-2:11

**Memory:** Matthew 5:31

**S**everal years ago, I held a meeting with church leaders to discuss things we could do to help our church have a more effective ministry. We met, I prayed for less than a minute and we got right down to business making decisions about our church. After the meeting, I realized that I made a huge mistake because I viewed it as “our church” rather than “God’s church.” We talked and discussed things in our minds rather than seeking the mind of God. Since that time, God has continually reminded me that without Him and His power, the church can accomplish nothing for eternity. Today, we are going to see how we need to view God as supreme.

### **What Does the Bible Say?**

One thing Paul understood and tried to help his readers to understand was the amazing power of God. He wanted all those who he came in contact with to be able to glorify God rather than glorify themselves. This is why it is fitting that his final words to the Romans were words of praise about God.

Paul wanted the Romans to understand that God had the power and ability to strengthen them spiritually. The word “strengthen” (ESV) means to make strong in a position, to establish. The only thing that will allow believers to become strong and established in their faith and trust in God is the Word of God. The Word of God explains and proclaims the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Paul’s preaching wasn’t new doctrine, but was all about Jesus Christ. The atoning work of Jesus was the mystery that the Old Testament constantly looked forward to. The “mystery” of Jesus in the Old Testament wasn’t something that could never be understood, but the biblical use of the word describes something that was hidden, but now has been revealed.

All that is written in the Scripture, Old and New Testaments, are written to help bring us to obedience through faith. The Bible reveals the character of God, the need for a Savior, the giving of a Savior, the death and

resurrection of the Savior, the supremacy of the Savior and the need for one to express faith in only the Savior. This plan and this purpose could only be established and put into place by an all-powerful, almighty God to Whom all people owe their lives. God deserves all the glory and credit for anything godly that believers do in their lives because it is God that gives believers the power they need (vs 25-27).

## **How Does this Apply to Me?**

Do you glorify God like you should? Do you realize that without His power and help you could do nothing? Do you sometimes find yourself proud of what you have accomplished? Paul understood that it was God or nothing. This is why he declared “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” (Philippians 1:21) John the Baptist understood this as he declared this about Jesus, “He must increase, but I must decrease.” (John 3:30) The book of Romans has clearly revealed to you how you were lost in your sin, and how Jesus chose to love you and how God chose to display His grace towards you. It revealed to you how important it was for you to understand God’s mercy, and how the understanding of God’s mercy should motivate you to give your life as a living sacrifice. You have seen how God needs to be glorified and can only be glorified as you choose to submit to His will each and every day. Now, the challenge to you is to take the knowledge you have learned from this great book and put it into practice in your daily life. You need to ask God to make His Word real to you.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* Thank God for revealing the mystery of Christ to you.
- \* Ask God to help you understand His plan for you.
- \* Praise God because He is supreme.

## **Thought for the day**

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# ***Sunday***

## **Reading: Romans 16:1-27**

(Take time to read this passage again, letting the truths you have studied this week sink into your mind. You are encouraged to go online and read it through a few times in different versions.)

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com)

## **Bible Memory**

*Matthew 5:15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. 19 Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ 22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. 23 So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. 25 Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. 26 Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny. 27 “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ 28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. 29 If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. 30 And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. 31 “It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’*