

ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional
Study Guide*

Day 1

Study: Romans 1:1-7

Reading: II Peter 1:1-12, Matthew 28:16-20

Memory: Matthew 5:7

I enjoy watching the Olympics on TV. As part of the Olympic broadcasts, the networks will do research on the background of different athletes. They will show how Olympic athletes sacrificed great amounts of time and effort in an attempt to be the best in the world in their sport. They will describe how athletes arranged their whole lives around the Olympic games.

Today, we are going to see how believers are called to live for one purpose. Our whole lives should be arranged to help us fulfill God's plan for us to share the Gospel.

What Does the Bible Say?

The book of Romans was written to a group of people whom the apostle Paul had never met. It is not exactly clear how the church in Rome was started or who started it. From Acts, we can see that when Paul made it to Rome as a prisoner that there were many believers in the church who welcomed him with open arms.

Paul began the book by calling himself a "servant of Jesus Christ." This term was often a negative term in that culture as it referred to a slave who was owned by a master. When Paul used it, he used it in a positive way because he willingly and joyfully made himself a slave to his Master and Lord. Paul chose to be a servant of God because he realized that God had called him to be an apostle. The word "apostle" in the broad sense means "one who is sent out." In a narrower sense, Paul described an apostle as one who was directly commissioned by the Lord to be a servant for Him. One of the requirements was that an apostle had to have seen the resurrected Christ (I Corinthians 9). Paul realized that he had a great responsibility because he had been called by the King of Kings to live a life that was set apart from the world for a specific purpose. That purpose was to share the Gospel (vs 1).

The Gospel (the good news about Jesus) wasn't some new doctrine that evolved after the resurrection of Jesus, but had been talked about and



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prophesied about for thousands of years before. Through the Old Testament prophets God had predicted that Jesus Christ would be a descendant of King David. Jesus wasn't just an ordinary man, and His resurrection from the dead proved that He was far greater than a man. Jesus Christ was the King of Kings, the only Son of God filled with holiness and power (vs 2-4).

Jesus Christ displayed great grace (undeserved favor) to us by dying on the cross for our salvation. He has called each person who places their faith and trust in Him to be apostles. Though there were 12 official apostles, we are called to continue their mission. Not only were Paul and the other New Testament apostles set apart for the purpose of sharing the Gospel, but God has called every believer to have sharing the Gospel message as one of their purposes as well (vs 5-7).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How are you fulfilling your role as an apostle? Do you live to share the truth of the Word of God, or do you live for yourself? When is the last time that you attempted to share Jesus Christ with another person? If it has been a long time, why? Are you fulfilling the purpose God has called you to live for? Paul realized that he owed Jesus Christ a great debt because of his salvation. Though he could never fully pay that debt, he could offer his life as an offering of praise and thanksgiving to God. When you start to realize all that you were saved from and the great debt that you owe God, you will also begin to realize that nothing on this earth is worth living for. You will realize that your primary purpose in life isn't to be a good Christian, have a good job, provide for your family, or to go to church. You have been called by God to be set apart from the world for one main purpose – to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with those who don't know Him. How are you fulfilling that purpose? What do you need to change in your life so you can fulfill it?

Suggestions for Prayer

* *Thank Jesus Christ for His willingness to die for your sins.*

* *Ask God to show you how you can fulfill His purpose for your life.*

Thought for the day

How does Paul describe himself (vs 1)? Why?

What does it mean to be “set apart for the Gospel” (vs 1)?

What does verse 2 reveal about God's plan for the Gospel?

Why do you think Paul recorded that Jesus descended from David (vs 3)?

How can you see that this is a fulfillment of the blessing that Jacob had given to his son Judah (Genesis 49:8-12)?

Why did Paul mention that he was a descendant of David “in the flesh” (vs 3) and was also the Son of God in Spirit (vs 4)?

What does Paul present as evidence that revealed that Jesus was more than just a man (vs 4)?

How did the resurrection reveal that Jesus Christ was “our Lord” (vs 4)?

What two things did the resurrection of Jesus bring about in the lives of those who have made Him their Lord (vs 5)?

- 1.
- 2.

What does it mean to have received the grace of God (vs 5)?

What did Paul mean when he said he was given “apostleship” (vs 5)?

Why did Paul say he was given these things (vs 5)?

Why is it important to realize that you have been given things by God so that you can use them for God?

What are we called to do (vs 6)? What do you think that means?

Who was Paul writing to in this epistle (vs 7)?

Why do you think that the terms “grace” and “peace” were used in the beginning and the end of many of the New Testament epistles (vs 7)?

Day 2

Study: Romans 1:8-17

Reading: Psalm 71:14-24, II Timothy 1:6-14

Memory: Matthew 5:7

Martin Luther, one of the main leaders of the “Protestant Reformation” entered a Roman Catholic monastery, after promising St. Anne he would become a monk for being spared during a violent thunderstorm. However, during a trip to Rome, Luther became disillusioned with the Roman Catholic church as he saw its corruption. He returned to Wittenberg where he received the doctor of theology degree and subsequently taught the Bible. Through the study of the Bible, and particularly Romans 1:17, Luther came to a knowledge of justification by faith alone. This formed the foundation of his theology and opposition to the Catholic church. On October 31, 1517, Luther nailed his Ninety-Five Theses on the door of the church at Wittenberg. These statements outlined his disagreements with the Catholic church. Luther stressed *sola scriptura*—the Scriptures alone are the authority for people—not the church and its councils. (From The Moody Handbook of Theology)

What Does the Bible Say?

The church in Rome was making a strong and powerful impact upon the world. Though Paul had never been to Rome, he had heard about the difference the church was making. He wanted the believers to know how thankful he was to God for the difference they were making and told them how he prayed for them on a constant basis. Paul strongly desired to make it out to Rome so that he could establish a personal relationship with the believers there. He also wanted to be able to personally teach them and help them grow in their relationship with God (vs 8-12).

Paul didn’t want the Romans to think that he was neglecting them. He had desired to be with them for quite some time, but God hadn’t allowed him to reach Rome. He wanted to have a part in the fruit of the ministry as he knew God had called him to spread the Gospel to the Gentiles throughout the entire world. Paul’s heartbeat for the Gospel caused him to have a great desire to partake in the ministry of the Roman church. His

reason for living was to help reach out to a lost world (vs 13-15).

Throughout his life, the sharing of the Gospel had caused many conflicts, but the more Paul shared, the more confident he became. He wasn’t ashamed to share the Gospel, but desired to share it. He knew that the Gospel was what would make the true difference in the hearts and lives of people. Believers are not to be lawyers who try to convince people to trust in Christ, but are to be proclaimers of the truth. We are to proclaim that God is holy and righteous and that our sin has separated us from Himself. As we proclaim, God will work in hearts and lives to convict men of their sin. As God reveals this to individuals, they will see their need to repent and will choose to live by faith (vs 16-17).

How Does this Apply to Me?

What is your desire in life? What is your reason and purpose for living? What impact are you and your church making upon the world for the cause of Christ? The Roman church wasn’t impacting the world because the leaders of the church were effective leaders, but they made a difference because the church as a whole was actively involved in ministering to others. God wants you and every believer to do their part in the ministry. The greatest thing that you can remember as you serve God is that the power is not in yourself. The power of the Word of God is in the message of the Gospel. It is the understanding of the righteousness of God and the sinfulness of man that will help change hearts and lives. Your job is to share this truth and to live your life according to the principles laid down in the Word of God. You are not to be ashamed of the Gospel but are to boldly share it with others.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * Thank God for the power of the Gospel.
- * Ask God to help you not to be ashamed of His Word.

Thought for the day

Day 3

Study: Romans 1:8-9, John 4:19-26

Reading: John 4:1-42

Memory: Matthew 5:7

Why did Paul give thanks for the Roman believers (vs 8)?

****This doesn't just mean that they proclaimed their faith, but also meant that others talked about their faith since they were such strong believers. Their faith caused them to stand out.*

What happened to the Romans because of their strong faith (Acts 18:1-2)?

If someone were to describe your life, would they talk about your faith in Christ Jesus? Why or why not?

What did it mean that Paul served God with "his spirit" (vs 9)?

****This is a significant statement that Paul was making, especially with the argumentation he was about to make. Many people in that day, just as today, seek to worship God with their outward actions, rather than from their hearts.*

To understand this more, look what Jesus says in John 4:19-26 and answer the following questions:

What did the Samaritan woman recognize about Jesus (John 4:19)?

What caused a conflict in this woman's mind between the ways the Samaritan's worshiped and the way the Jews worshiped (John 4:20)?

****When this woman thought about following God, in her mind it was all about where a person worshiped and what they did on the outside when they worshiped. Though those are significant concerns and have some*

validity, Jesus didn't argue about the outward differences in the Jewish and Samaritan religions.

What did Jesus declare about the places of worship (John 4:21)?

What word did Jesus use with the word "worship" twice in this verse (John 4:22)? What point was he trying to make about true worship?

****True worship is not about an outward place or act, but begins with a knowledge of God. The deeper one's knowledge of God is, the greater their worship will be.*

How will true worshipers worship God (John 4:23-24)?

****The idea of worshiping in the spirit is used here in direct contrast with the woman's statement regarding the place that people worship. It is a worship that happens inside a person based on the truth that they know about God.*

What did Jesus mean when He declared that "God is a spirit" (John 4:24)?

****God is invisible and is not, nor can not be contained in one place. He is not limited by human limitations as man is and needs to be worshiped as such.*

Who was the woman looking for because she was expecting him to straighten everything out (John 4:25)?

What did Jesus reveal to her (John 4:26)? Why is this so significant?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply that lesson to my everyday life?

Day 4

Study: Romans 1:9-12, Colossians 1:9-14

Reading: Philippians 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:15-23

Memory: Matthew 5:7

Romans 1

What do you think Paul meant when he said he prayed “without ceasing” (vs 9-10)?

Why is it easy to stop praying for someone or something?

What was Paul’s desire (vs 10)?

What does this reveal about Paul’s love for people?

Why hadn’t Paul been able to get to Rome up to this point (vs 10)?

****Though it was Paul’s desire to minister to the Romans, God had not allowed him to do so. This reveals how there are many people to minister to in life, but it is not always God’s plan that you minister to them.*

Why did Paul have such a great desire to see the Romans (vs 11)?

What do you think Paul meant by desiring to give the Romans a “spiritual gift” (vs 12)?

****It is unclear exactly what Paul meant by this. There are different thoughts, but most likely he wanted to give them spiritual encouragement and not just give them all a certain gift. As the context reveals, he wanted to be with them to help them and encourage them.*

Colossians 1:9-14

****In many of Paul’s epistles he tells the people similar things that he told the Romans. This passage in Colossians reveals some of the spiritual understanding that he wanted to impart to other believers.*

What was Paul’s desire for those who had chosen to become followers of Jesus (vs 9)?

Why is knowing God’s will so important (vs 9)?

How can you know God’s will (vs 9)?

****Spiritual wisdom must be revealed by the Spirit, but the Bible makes it clear that the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to understand the truth that we read in the Word of God. In order to know the will of God and be spiritually wise, you must continually immerse yourself in the Word of God.*

How did Paul desire believers to live (vs 10)?

****To “walk” is a reference to the way that we live.*

What two things in your life will cause your life to be pleasing to God (vs 10)? What do you think these things look like?

1.

2.

****Note that pleasing God is not something you do on the outside, but it begins with your choice to seek after Him from your heart.*

What can you have the ability to do through the power of God (vs 11)?

What should your life be filled with (vs 12-14)? Why?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply this lesson to my everyday life?

Day 5

Study: Romans 1:13, Acts 16:6-10, II Samuel 5:17-25

Reading: Isaiah 55:1-13

Memory: Matthew 5:7

Why had Paul not been able to get to Rome to minister to the Romans (vs 13)?

What do you think Paul was referring to by his desire to “reap a harvest” among them and other Gentiles (vs 13)?

****A Gentile was anyone that was not a Jew. Paul made it clear in this book as well as many of his other writings that he had been specifically called by God to be a missionary to the Gentiles.*

How do you think God prevented Paul from going to Rome (vs 13)?

Acts 16:6-10

****This passage gives us a deeper understanding of God’s leading as well as God’s hindrance in some areas to direct Paul to the exact place that He wanted him to go.*

Where had Paul and his companions been traveling (vs 6-7)?

****They had been traveling in the western portion of Asia Minor which is in modern day Turkey. Up to this point, the Gospel had not been taken to the area of Eastern Europe. The cities that Paul desired to go to were in Asia minor and he was considering going up north from Turkey, but when they attempted it, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit. We do not know exactly how the Spirit forbade them, but there must have been a consensus among all the believers traveling with Paul that the Holy Spirit was saying no.*

Where was Troas (vs 8)?

****Troas was on the far western part of Turkey and was situated on the Aegean Sea. They started traveling south after God stopped them from*

going north.

What did Paul see in the night (vs 9)?

****Macedonia was in eastern Europe.*

What did Paul understand about this vision (vs 10)? What did he do as a response?

****This is not teaching that you should wait for a dream to tell you what to do, but it does reveal that they were continually seeking for the Spirit’s direction and waiting on God to direct them to what they should do.*

II Samuel 5:17-25

What did David do when the Philistines had come to do battle against Israel (vs 17-19)?

How did God respond (vs 19)?

What was the result of following God’s leading (vs 20-21)?

What did the Philistines do a second time (vs 22)?

What did David do next (vs 23)?

What did God tell David this time (vs 23-24)?

What was the result?

****It is significant that the same situation happened twice, and both times, David sought God for wisdom. When God answered, he told David to do something different the second time.*

Personal Application

What can you learn about God from these passages?

How can you apply this lesson to your every day life?

Day 6

Study: Romans 1:13-14, I Corinthians 3:1-9

Reading: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Memory: Matthew 5:7

What do you think Paul meant when he talked about reaping a harvest among the Roman believers?

What do you think Paul meant when he referred to reaping a harvest among the rest of the Gentiles?

****Paul was speaking about reaping a harvest among two categories of people. It could be that the first was the Jewish Roman believers and the second was the Gentile Roman believers. We will see later in this letter how Paul had a great deal to say about Jews and Gentiles. I believe it is more likely that the first harvest was the spiritual growth among believers and the second harvest he was looking for was one of spiritual conversation of those who had not come to know Christ as their Savior.*

I Corinthians 3:1-9

Why was Paul not able to address the Corinthian believers as mature believers (vs 1-3)?

What problem were they having (vs 4)?

****There were divisions in the church because of personal opinions. Some in the church liked certain church leaders better and they formed groups in the church based on these likes and dislikes. They claimed to be followers of Peter, Paul, Apollos or Christ, but they were missing unity and true spiritual growth.*

What did Paul reveal about himself and the other leaders (vs 5)?

How did each one have a part in the conversion and spiritual growth of others (vs 6)?

Who was responsible for the conversion and growth of others (vs 7)?

What does verse 7 reveal about your role as an individual believer in the spiritual harvest?

Will you be rewarded for the results or for your labor (vs 8)?

What significant truth is found in verse 9?

****In Romans, we see Paul's love for people and his great desire to be a part of the spiritual growth in their lives. It wasn't that he was the one who had to bring it about. He had never met many of them at this point in his life, but wanted to be a part of what was taking place.*

Romans 1:14

Who were the Greeks (vs 14)?

Who were the Barbarians (vs 14)?

****Around 336 B.C. Alexander the Great began to rule over the Greek empire. He took it from being a small kingdom on the western border of the Medo-Persian empire and made it into a world power by defeating the Medo-Persians. One of the ways for the Greeks maintained control of foreign nations was to infiltrate all existing cultures in the kingdom with their Greek culture. They would colonize conquered lands with Greek citizens and build Greek structures. Before too long, Greek became the language that was spoken over all the civilized world. When the Romans expanded their kingdom in the 100's B.C. they continued to use the Greek language. Those who lived in the modern culture of Paul's day and were part of the Roman Empire were considered "Greeks." Those who were from regions outside the empire were considered barbarian. Not necessarily because of their action, but because of the language they spoke.*

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can I learn about God from these passages?

How can I apply what I have learned to my everyday life?

Day 7

Study: Romans 1:14, I Corinthians 15:1-11, Mark 1:1

Reading: I Corinthians 1:18-31

Memory: Matthew 5:7

What do you think Paul meant when he said he was under obligation to the Greeks and barbarians (vs 14)?

****We have seen already in Romans that Paul knew He had been called by God to share the Gospel with the Gentiles (non-Jews).*

What two categories of people did Paul say he needed to share the Gospel with (vs 14)?

****This is probably a reference to those who had been formally educated and those who hadn't.*

What was Paul eager to do (vs 14)?

What does this reveal about the heart of Paul?

Does this describe your life? Explain.

What is the Gospel?

Gospel in its verb and noun forms some 60 times in Romans. The Greek word for this phrase means "good news" (see Mark 1:1). Rome incorporated it into its emperor worship. The town herald used this word to begin important favorable announcements about the emperor—such as the birth of a son. But Paul's good news is not from the emperor but "of God"; it originated with Him. Its message that God will forgive sins, deliver from sin's power, and give eternal hope (1:16; cf. 1 Cor. 15:1-4) comes not only as a gracious offer, but also as a command to be obeyed (10:16). Paul was consumed with this message (1

Cor. 9:23). - MacArthur Study Bible

I Corinthians 15:1-11

What did Paul want to remind the Corinthians of (vs 1)?

What was the Gospel doing in their lives (vs 1-2)?

What was at the core of the Gospel according to Paul (vs 3-4)?

Why did Paul place a great emphasis on the resurrection when speaking about the Gospel (vs 5-8)?

How did Paul describe himself (vs 9)?

How did Paul experience the grace of God (vs 10)?

Why is grace such an important part of the Gospel?

How did an understanding of God's grace on his life inspire Paul to work hard to share the Gospel with others (vs 10)?

Mark 1:1

How did Mark describe the book that he was writing about the life of Jesus (vs 1)?

****Everything about Christ revealed good news to broken and sinful men.*

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

How can I apply this lesson to my everyday life?

Memory Verse:

Matthew 5:1 Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 3 “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 4 “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. 5 “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. 6 “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. 7 “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.