

ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional
Study Guide*



LAKESHORE

FELLOWSHIP

WEEK 2

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Day 1

Study: Romans 1:18-23

Reading: Ezekiel 16:1-29

Memory: Matthew 5:8

Sir Isaac Newton had a replica of our solar system made in miniature. In the center was the sun with the planets revolving around it. A scientist entered Newton's study one day, and exclaimed, "My! What an exquisite thing this is! Who made it?" "Nobody!" replied Newton to the questioner who was an unbeliever. "You must think I am a fool," the man said, "Of course somebody made it, and he is a genius." Laying his book aside, Newton arose and laid a hand on his friend's shoulder and said: "This thing is but a puny imitation of a much grander system whose laws you and I know, and I am not able to convince you that this mere toy is without a designer and maker; yet you profess to believe that the great original from which the design is taken has come into being without either designer or maker. Now tell me, by what sort of reasoning do you reach such incongruous conclusions?" Today, we are going to read how nature reveals that there is a Master Designer.

What Does the Bible Say?

Those who trust in the Gospel of Christ are given the power of God to live transformed lives. The fact that they have been justified will be evident by the way they live. They will no longer live like the world, but will live lives that are set apart unto Christ. On the other hand, those who reject God and trust in themselves will continue to live in the sin that they were born with.

While those who live by faith will receive mercy and grace, those who choose to live in their sin will one day face the wrath of God. The truth of the existence of God can be seen everywhere, and those who fail to see it, choose not to see it. God created all men with some type of knowledge about the existence of a Creator (vs 18-19). This is why in almost every tribe and people group there is some type of worship that recognizes a higher being. Throughout time, people have failed to see the true God and have chosen to worship their higher beings in their own way.

Besides the natural understanding given to every man, the evidence from earthly surroundings overwhelmingly points to the fact that someone is in charge of this complex earth. Even the remote tribes in third world countries who have never seen a Bible are responsible for their sin because the evidence of God can be clearly seen all around them. God will make a way for those who truly desire to know Him (vs 20).

The problem occurs when people reject God and choose to trust in themselves. Instead of seeking to worship Him the way He desires, they develop their own form of worship in a way that pleases them. They create earthly images that depict who they want God to be because they think they know what is best. This problem is common to all men because of our selfish nature and the fact that we were born sinners (vs 21-23).

How Does this Apply to Me?

How does your life show that you have been justified? Do others around you see you are different because of the way that you live by faith? When you were born, you were just like the rest of the world and you were a sinner. You rejected God just as those in the world choose to reject Him. The difference between believers and unbelievers is not church attendance, but true saving faith that has been placed in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. When you were converted, your life was changed. You were a new creature who no longer desired to serve self, but desired to serve God. This change should not only have been evident when you were saved, but the evidence of your salvation should continue to grow the longer you are a believer. Examine your life today to see where you are at in your spiritual life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for saving you from your sin.*
- * *Ask God to show you areas where you are not worshiping Him.*

Thought for the day

Day 2

Study: Romans 1:24-32

Reading: Matthew 7:21-29, I Corinthians 2:6-16

Memory: Matthew 5:8

I am not always a clean person, especially when it comes to my vehicles. I have found that once my vehicle starts to get dirty, it is easy for me to care less and less about keeping it clean. If I don't take time to clean it, it often gets to the point where I don't care anymore and I just leave trash and stuff in the vehicle. I find myself not doing anything to clean up after myself. Most of the time, I am fine with this, but if I ever have to give someone a ride when I have let my vehicle get all dirty inside, I find myself cringing and wishing I would have kept my vehicle clean.

Today, we are going to read how the more we as people give into our selfish sin and desires, the more God gives us over to face the consequences for our actions. Things just get worse and worse as people move further and further away from the morality God intends for mankind.

What Does the Bible Say?

Because men chose to reject God and worship their man-made idols, God allowed men to reap the consequences of their sin. The phrase "gave them over" was a legal phrase that was used to describe a prisoner being given his prison sentence. Part of the earthly punishment for rejecting God was a total misuse of the human bodies that God had designed. When men have no need for God, there is only one thing to live for—themselves. The body and what pleases the body becomes the sole purpose for life, and God is completely neglected in worship (vs 24-25).

The rejection of God leads to great sexual perversion. Once again Paul used the term "gave them up" to describe how the earthly punishment for their rejection of God was and is seen in the homosexual lifestyle. People abandon the idea that sex is only to be for marriage between a husband and a wife as they seek to fulfill their lustful desires in anyway they can. Many will find that their sexual excursions don't satisfy and they will turn to more perverse ways in order to find sexual fulfillment but will never be satisfied (vs 26-27).

The evil that men are trapped in goes far beyond sexual perversion. They are trapped in a world where all they see is themselves. Men are naturally born sinners and don't understand spiritual things. As they live each moment for themselves, they will find their lives full of "all unrighteousness." Verses 29-31 list sins that every person does or has been involved in at one time or another in their lives. This is because every man is born a sinner and is trapped in their sin. Those who fail to heed the call of God for salvation will continue in their sin throughout their life. This sin causes all men to be worthy of death and eternal separation from Jesus Christ (vs 32).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Do you think you are good enough on your own to get to heaven? Have you ever realized how evil you are and how much you need a Savior to save you from your sin? There will be many religious people that will stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment and be cast into hell for eternity because they never acknowledged that they were sinners in need of a Savior. Though some people take sin to a greater level than others, the fact that one sin separates us from God shows us our need for deliverance from One far greater than ourselves.

Do you sometimes flirt with sin, thinking that it is fun? Do you think that sin will really satisfy? One of the greatest things you can do as a believer is view sin as God views sin. The same sin that appeals to you and I are the sins that God describes as punishments handed down to men. They are not fulfilling or satisfying, but they are enslaving. Choose today to avoid the slippery slope of sin and to stand on the solid ground of the Word of God.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for saving you from your hopeless state.*
- * *Ask God to help you to live righteously.*
- * *Praise God because He has conquered death and sin.*

Thought for the day

Day 3

Study: Romans 1:18-23, Colossians 3:5-6, Isaiah 44:9-20

Reading: II Kings 17:13-16, Acts 8:26-39

Memory: Matthew 5:8

Romans 1:18

What is the "wrath of God" (Rom 1:18)?

****God's wrath is not an emotional response to something that has happened to Him. Rather, it is the response of a righteous God against sin.*

How is the wrath of God "revealed from heaven" (Rom 1:18)?

****The word "revealed" doesn't just point to a past action, but something that is constantly taking place. The ultimate wrath will be revealed in eternal damnation. The point being made here is that sin is what brings about the wrath of God.*

What do unbelievers choose to do to the truth (Rom 1:18)?

Colossians 3:5-6

What are believers encouraged to do (Col 3:5)?

What was coming to those who live those sins (Col 3:6)?

Romans 1:19-23

What is plain to all men, even though they choose to live in ungodliness (Rom 1:19)?

How is this made plain to all men (Rom 1:20)?

Describe some ways that you see God in the world around you?

What don't people have because of natural revelation (Rom 1:20)?

****There are many who want to say that God would not condemn a person who had never heard the Gospel since it is the Gospel which brings salvation, but Scripture, specifically Romans, contradicts that. God reveals Himself through His creation and will make a way for those who seek Him to find Him.*

How do many people suppress the natural revelation that has been given (Rom 1:21-23)?

How can you see this in our society today – specifically with the great lie of evolution (Rom 1:21-23)?

Why do you think many people throughout time have resorted to making idols to worship (Rom 1:23)?

Though idol worship and believing in evolution may not be tempting to you if you are a strong believer, why do you think it is such a draw for an unbelieving world?

Isaiah 44:9-20

How are idols described (Is 44:9)?

What must be remembered about idols (Is 44:11)?

Why is idol worship so foolish (Is 44:12-17)?

What are those who worship idols or follow the false god of evolution unwilling to say (Is 44:20)?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this study?

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

Day 4

Study: Romans 1:24-27, Genesis 19:1-19

Reading: Galatians 5:16-26, Ephesians 5:1-14

Memory: Matthew 5:8

Romans 1:24-27

What do you think it means that “God gave them up” (Rom 1:24)?

****This term is a judicial term used for a judge handing over a prisoner to face their punishment. We see throughout Scripture that God gives men a choice. When they choose to reject Him, He will reject them. He allows men to face the consequences for their choices.*

What did they chose to worship (Rom 1:25)?

What consequences are men facing today because of the worship of man?

What phrase is repeated in verse 26? Why do you think it is repeated?

When a culture chooses to reject God, what starts to become the normal in society (Rom 1:26-27)?

How does homosexuality go against nature (Rom 1:26)? Why do you think people have such a hard time seeing this fact?

What do you think are the penalties for the choices committed by those who reject God (Rom 1:27)?

****As you read through this, hopefully you are encouraged and disturbed at the same time. It should encourage you to know that though this society is wicked and evil, it was just as evil in the time that the book of Romans was written. It is not that the evil should encourage you, but that the Gospel spread greatly in a culture that was wicked like yours. Though the conduct of an immoral culture is disturbing, what God has done and what God wants to do among an evil culture should be encouraging.*

Why is it vitally important that we do not let homosexually become accepted or become tolerated in our churches?

What does the acceptance of homosexuality reveal about a culture (Rom 1:24-27)?

Instead of bemoaning about the wickedness of our culture, what should this understanding inspire you to do? (See Romans 1:15-16)

****Many Christians find themselves complaining or griping about the wickedness of the culture and will isolate themselves from it. The acceptance of homosexuality as the norm reveals how much the thinking about God is corrupted. Battling homosexuality is not the answer. The answer is publicly and boldly proclaiming the Gospel. If the heart is transformed, the outward actions will be transformed as well.*

Genesis 19:1-29

Where was Lot sitting when the angels met him (Gen 19:1)?

****The city gates is where the leaders of the city sat. It appears that Lot had become so engrossed in this wicked city that he was part of the leadership.*

What did Lot know about the wickedness of the city (Gen 19:2-3)?

What did the wicked men of the city want to do (Gen 19:4-11)?

How had Lot's acceptance of sin cause his future son-in-laws to face destruction (Gen 19:12-14)?

What do Lot's actions and those of his wife reveal about their love for the things of the world (Gen 19:15-22)?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this study?

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

Day 5

Study: Romans 1:28-31, James 4:13-19, I Corinthians 6:1-11

Reading: Galatians 5:16-26, Colossians 3:1-17

Memory: Matthew 5:8

Romans 1:28-31

What phrase from the previous verses is repeated in verse 28?

****Once again we see that God allowed those who rejected Him to face the consequences for their choice to do so.*

Why did God chose to take the actions that He did (Rom 1:28)?

What was the result of God allowing them to continue in their wicked actions (Rom 1:29-31)?

****Though the list given here in these verses are sin themselves, they are also the consequences of sin. Sin breeds sin and the more sin that exists in the lives of men, the more consequences they will face. Sin is not just something that affects a person's relationship with God, but it interferes with relationships here on this earth. One of the reasons that God has given instructions to men is to help them get the most out of life. When a person is living in sin, they will not experience the best God has to offer, but they will continually reap the consequences for their actions.*

James 3:13-19

What will wisdom in the life of a person produce (Jam 3:13)?

What is listed as the opposite of wisdom here in James 3:14?

What type of wisdom comes from a person who is focused on themselves (James 3:14-15)?

What is the end result of earthly wisdom (Jam 3:16)?

What will characterize wisdom that is based on God (Jam 3:17)?

How do you think these things help a person be a true success in life?

What will be the result of those who make heavenly wisdom their central focus in life (Jam 3:18)?

If following God seems to make much more sense and the results of obeying Him help a person become the person almost all men desire to be, why do you think many more people don't follow God?

I Corinthians 6:1-11

What are believers told not to do (I Cor 6:1)? Why not (I Cor 6:2)?

What should believers have the ability to do (I Cor 6:3)?

Why does it only make sense to bring disputes before the church rather than before the courts (I Cor 6:1-6)?

What would Paul rather have them do instead of taking their disputes to the unsaved judges (I Cor 6:7-8)?

What did Paul declare about those who have rejected God (I Cor 6:9-10)?

How is this list similar to the ones you have read in Romans and James?

What does the beginning of verse 11 mean? Why is this important to understand?

When you are presented with a list of sins and types of sinning people as you have been today, how is it easy to be self righteous rather than realize that if it wasn't for the grace of God, you would still be included in the list?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

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

Day 6

Study: Romans 1:32, Matthew 15:10-20, Epheisans 2:1

Reading: --

Memory: Matthew 5:8

How do people know God's desire for them to live according to His ways (Rom 1:32)? See Romans 1:19-20

What do people who choose to reject God's authority and make their own thoughts their authority deserve to happen to them (Rom 1:32)?

On top of doing the things that are despicable in the eyes of God, what else do evil men do (Rom 1:32)?

Matthew 15:10-20

What was Jesus trying to get his listeners to understand (Matt 15:10-11)?

****The religious leaders of that day placed a strong emphasis on what you do with your outward actions.*

What did the disciples tell Jesus (Matt 15:12)?

How did Jesus respond (Matt 15:13)? What do you think He meant?

****Though they had the earthly title of being religious leaders, they were not put there by God and were like weeds among the crops. They would be pulled out and face destruction for their wicked deeds.*

What were the Pharisees compared to (Matt 15:14)?

What was going to be the end results (Matt 15:14)?

How does this understanding give greater insight to what is said in Romans 1:32?

What do our actions reveal (Matt 15:16-20)?

Why is it often so much easier to focus on the deeds than it is to focus on the heart?

****It is easy when reading passages in the Bible about sin and wicked people to look down on sinners because they are sinners. This is not the intent of the passages. The purpose is not just to reveal how awful sin is, but to reveal how great the grace of God is towards us.*

Ephesians 2:1-10

What condition were you in before you chose to become a follower of Christ (Eph 2:1)?

How did you live before you experienced the forgiveness of God (Eph 2:2-3)?

What did God do for you even though you were evil (Eph 2:4-5)?

Why is it so important to understand grace when a focus is placed on sin (Eph 2:4-5)?

What privileged position did God give to you, a former enemy of His (Eph 2:6-7)?

What is the difference between a man-centered life and a God-centered life (Eph 2:8-9)?

What is one of the reasons God has made you His child (Eph 2:10)?

How should this lead to an attitude of humility rather than judgment?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can I learn about God from this passage?

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

Day 7

Reading: Romans 1:15-32

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

Bible Memory

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. 8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.