

ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional
Study Guide*



Monday

Study: Romans 15:11-2, Galatians 6:1-5

Reading: I Corinthians 10:1-18

Memory: James 2:24

Romans 15:14-16

What do strong believers have an obligation to do (vs 1a)?

What are strong believers not supposed to do (vs 1b)?

How would you define a strong believer and a weak believer?

****You have been reading about this for the past few weeks in chapter 14. There is no definitive answer given for this, though if most people were honest, they would say they are the stronger believer. Paul is writing to the person who believes they are the stronger believer telling them to avoid judging the weak, but rather to take time to love the weak.*

What should each believer strive to do (vs 2)?

How can you seek to build up others around you?

How does passing judgment do the opposite of what you are called to do?

Galatians 6:1-5

What should the spiritual brother do for those who have sinned (vs 1)?

****This passage is not necessarily dealing with the spiritually mature and the spiritually weak in the same way that Romans 14-15 describes it. This passage is dealing with a person who has committed sin rather than just a person who can easily stumble because they are weak in the faith. At the same time, the same general principles apply to the stronger believer.*

What type of attitude should you have towards a brother who has stumbled (vs 1)?

Why are you warned about this type of attitude (vs 1b)?

What do you think happens when you don't approach a younger or fallen believer with a spirit of gentleness?

What do you think verse 2 mean?

How is humility required when helping to bear the burdens of another (vs 3)?

How can a person who thinks they are stronger actually become the one who is weaker?

Why is it important to focus on yourself and let God change you rather than focusing on the sins and shortcomings of others (vs 4)?

****It is very easy to get caught up in the comparison game in every area of your life. This applies to your spiritual maturity as well. When you compare yourself with others, you may think you are better than you really are.*

What are you responsible for (vs 5)?

Why is this so important to understand when it comes to peace and unity in the body of Christ?

How can you practice being a help to others without viewing yourself as better than others?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

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

Tuesday

Study: Romans 15:3-6, Ephesians 4:1-10

Reading: II Peter 1:16-21, I Corinthians 10:1-22

Memory: James 2:24

Romans 15:3-6

What did Christ not do (vs 3)?

What did Jesus have to bear by choosing to be a servant (vs 3b)?

****Then end of verse three is a quote from Psalm 69:6. It was a prediction of how Christ would have to suffer, though He was God. He loved and cared for others perfectly, yet was not loved by all.*

What did Paul say was one of the reasons that Scripture was written (vs 4)?

What are two things the example of Old Testament characters and the example of Jesus teach you to do today (vs 4b)?

****There are many more things that the Bible teaches than these two things, but these are the two lessons that Paul is focusing on.*

What will be the result of learning these two things (vs 4c)?

Why do you think loving others and bearing with the weaker believer take endurance and encouragement?

****Anytime that you have to live selflessly, the choice will not be an easy one. Your flesh will get frustrated and bothered because you are not able to do things your way, but when you choose to endure and find your encouragement in Scripture, the end result will be hope.*

Why do you need the power of Jesus Christ to truly live in harmony with each other (vs 5)?

****Many people think that unity is the lack of fighting, but that is not true. Many married couples don't fight and argue, yet their relationship is not defined by oneness and harmony. The only way to reach the unity that God has for you is by enduring through the weaknesses of others as they do the same for you. You work through your problems and issues together. Sometimes choosing to overlook them, and sometimes, determining to work through them.*

What was Paul's desire for the believers (vs 6)?

Why is unity so important in the body of Christ?

Ephesians 4:1-10

How did Paul urge the Ephesian believers to live (vs 1-2)?

What should you be eager to do (vs 3)?

Why do you think true unity often takes work?

What do you think Paul is emphasizing in verses 4-6?

****The emphasis is on being one. There are going to be differences of opinions and personalities in the body of Christ, but what unifies us are the things that we have in common.*

What has God given to each person differently by His grace (vs 7)?

What does verses 8-10 mean?

***A simple explanation of these verses is that Christ has the authority to give different gifts to different people. He is the one who gained victory over death and is the one who has earned the right to be our Lord.*

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

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

Wednesday

Study: Romans 15:7-9, John 13:1-17

Reading: Matthew 20:20-28, Philippians 2:1-10

Memory: James 2:24

Romans 15:7-9

How are we to welcome other believers (vs 7)?

Why is choosing to love like Christ loved so essential to the Christian life?

****In your own human power and effort, you can't love others, but through the power of the Holy Spirit, you have the ability to love all men. When you don't want to love, you have to remind yourself of how Christ chose to love and welcome you. This is not just something He did once in the past, but He chooses to love and welcome you continually.*

How did Jesus choose to become (vs 8)?

Why is this so important to understand?

How did God reveal His truthfulness (vs 8)?

****Jesus was a fulfillment of many different promises that were given to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their descendants.*

How did Jesus show mercy on the Gentiles (vs 9)?

Why did Paul bring up the Jews and Gentiles here?

***Much of the book of Romans dealt with the conflict that was occurring between the Jews and the Gentiles. For thousands of years, the Jews looked down on the Gentiles, thinking that they were better because of the way God cared for them. They did not realize it was only by God's grace that He loved them. Once Christ came and broke down the barrier between Jews and Gentiles, they were now to live in harmony together because they both had the same Lord.*

John 13:1-17

How is the love of Jesus described (vs 1)?

What did Jesus know (vs 2-3)?

****This was the last meal He was going to have with His disciples since He knew He was going to die on the cross the next day.*

What did Jesus do for the disciples (vs 4-5)?

Why do you think that Peter had a hard time with Jesus washing his feet (vs 6-9)?

In those days, it was the job of the servant or the person who was lowest in the society to wash the feet of others. Much of the Jewish religion was based on societal prominence and washing the feet of others was below the religious leaders of the day.

What lesson was Jesus teaching the disciples (vs 12-15)?

Why is it easy to rank yourself among others?

How is following the example that Jesus set often difficult to live out?

What did Jesus emphasize about all men (vs 16)?

What did Jesus say would be the result of those who chose to serve others (vs 17)?

Why do you think this lesson was so vitally important for the disciples and is still so vitally important for disciples today?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

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

Thursday

Study: Romans 15:10-13, John 15:1-11, Philippians 4:4-7

Reading: John 17:1-26

Memory: James 2:24

Romans 15:10-13

Why did Paul quote different Old Testament passages about Gentiles (vs 10-13)?

****Paul was attempting to get an understanding across to both the Jews and the Gentiles. He wanted the Jews to see that God had predicted that the Gentiles would become believers and they would praise Him just like the Jews were commanded to. He wanted the Jews to accept the Gentiles as equals. God also wanted the Gentiles to know they were not inferior to the Jews, but had received the same grace and mercy that God had given to the Jews.*

Who is the “root of Jesse” (vs 12)?

****This is a reference to Christ.*

What three things did Paul desire the Roman believers to have? Briefly define these three things.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

****Joy, peace and hope are the core desires of all men. Since the beginning of time, men have sought for these three things in many ways. People have sought for these through riches, power, sensuality, etc., but the only source of true joy, peace and hope is Christ. When you submit to the Word of God and live out the instructions that are given, you will find what all men are looking for and what most men miss.*

John 15:1-11

How did Jesus describe Himself and God the Father (vs 1)?

How is God constantly working in your life (vs 2)?

What does God use to “prune” your life (vs 3)?

What must you do in order to bear fruit (vs 4)?

What did Jesus emphasize in verse 5? Why is this so important to understand?

What promise are you given in verse 7?

How can you glorify God with your life (vs 8)?

****You can't bear fruit on your own, but when you allow the Holy Spirit to work through you, God will bear the fruit.*

What is emphasized in verses 9-10?

What will be the result of living out what is written in verses 1-10 (vs 11)?

Philippians 4:4-7

What are you commanded to do (vs 4)? Why are you commanded to do it?

What are you to do with your anxieties and cares (vs 5-6)?

What will be the result of obeying verses 4-6 (vs 7)?

Why do you think this often does not take place?

Personal Application

What can I learn about God from this passage?

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

Friday

Study: Romans 15:1-7

Reading: I Corinthians 9:19-27, PhilipPians 2:1-11

Memory: James 2:23

When my children were learning how to tie their shoes and we wanted to go somewhere, I knew it would be several minutes until we would be able to leave. Sometimes I would get frustrated and want to take the shoes and tie them myself because it was taking too long. It was at times like this when I had to remember to be patient and realize that I needed to help by encouraging them. I knew that in time, they would figure it out. I just needed to be loving and patient.

Today, we are going to see how stronger believers often treat weaker brothers like I wanted to treat my children. We want them to hurry and do things at our pace, but we often aren't willing to take the time to help them to get to the place where we think they should be.

What Does the Bible Say?

It is easy for believers who have grown in their faith to become critical of other believers who haven't reached the same level of understanding that they have. When a critical spirit is allowed to exist, it hurts the cause of Christ. According to Paul, the opposite should take place. When a stronger believer sees a weaker believer struggling, they shouldn't criticize, but they should come along side that believer and help build them up. In fact, Paul said that helping those who are weak is an obligation of the stronger believer. The stronger believer is to help carry the burden of those who are weak. The idea of carrying another person's burden would have been a very real word picture to the Roman readers. It referred to the practice of picking up someone else's backpack, pitcher of water or even a person. Choosing to carry the burden of another involved self sacrifice and displayed that a person's concern for others was greater than his concern for self (vs 1).

Christ set the supreme example of carrying another's burdens when He took our sin on Himself as He hung on the cross. His concern had nothing to do with what He wanted, but for the good of all men. Our lives should

be lived with the same focus. We need to understand that life isn't about what is best for us, but we should be concerned with how we can help build up others (vs 2-3).

Building others up isn't something that comes from man's wisdom or earthly practicality, but comes from the Scripture that was written in order that we may have hope. It is the Word of God that will help you build others up to the place where God desires them to be. Following the Word of God and placing an emphasis on the Word will give us the strength to be patient with those who are weaker and will help us live in harmony with those who are different than we are. When we are centered around the Word, we can have harmony and our differences can blend together for the cause of Christ. This is why we should welcome other believers, specifically weaker believers, rather than be critical of them (vs 4-7).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you patiently coming along side of other believers to help build them up, or do you find yourself becoming critical of them because they haven't reached a higher level of spirituality? I have personally found that it is a lot easier to criticize others and become frustrated with them than it is to sacrifice my time and energy to come along side of them and patiently help them grow. Sometimes I begin to think that people "just don't get it," and perhaps they don't. This is when it is vitally important for me and you not to write them off, but to come along side of them and help build them up. They need love and not criticism. They need a friend and not a boss. They need you to meet them at their level to push and pull them along so that they can be what God desires them to be.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for not giving up on you.*
- * *Ask God to help you sacrifice yourself for the good of others.*
- * *Praise God because His Word and ways are perfect.*

Thought for the day

Saturday

Study: Romans 15:8-16

Reading: Philipians 2:1-11, Psalms 117:1-2

Memory: James 2:23

Different people learn in different ways, but almost all people learn by constant exposure to something. For instance, when I was growing up, my dad ran the sound system at church. He didn't sit me down by the controls one day and say, "Have at it." Instead, I watched him for years and paid close attention to what He was doing. Little by little I gained knowledge and one day I reached the point where I was able to run the sound system on my own. The things my Dad said to me were important, but the example that He showed me taught me far more than his words alone.

Today, we are going to see how Jesus Christ set the supreme example for us to follow. As we daily see His example by studying the Word we will be constantly reminded of how God desires us to live.

What Does the Bible Say?

In verses 1-7, Paul encouraged the stronger believers not to look down on the weaker believers, but to encourage them to become stronger. Choosing to do this involves humility and there was no greater example of humility than Jesus Christ. That is who Paul directed his readers to in verse 8. Jesus chose to become a servant to all men (specifically the Gentiles in this passage) so that He might bring them into a relationship with God. Jesus also did this to prove how truthful God was to His promises. The promises that Paul was talking about were the promises that were given throughout the Old Testament which declared that God wanted both Jews and Gentiles to glorify Him because of His mercy (vs 8-9). Paul then quoted some of those passages to prove what the Scripture said. He quoted II Samuel 22:50, Deuteronomy 32:43, Psalm 117:1, Isaiah 11:1,10. God's mercy wasn't just given to the few, but was extended to all men so that those who trusted in Him could be filled with the hope, joy and peace that only comes through the power of the Holy Spirit (vs 10-13).

Paul's letter wasn't written to the Romans because they were ungodly

pagans who had no desire to serve God, but was written to remind them of some of the principles that they had been taught. All believers need constant reminding of how God desires us to live because His way is often contrary to the way we as people do things. Because we live in the world, it is so easy to get caught up in the world's way of thinking rather than doing things the way that God wants them done (vs 14-15).

Paul knew that he was no better than others, but he also knew that God had given him the grace and ability to minister to the Gentiles. He knew that God called him to help all Gentiles understand God's salvation and to comprehend how God desired them to live. His desire wasn't for himself or for his way to be exalted, but He wanted God's will accomplished in and through them. This is why He was willing to boldly remind them of the truth that some of them had forgotten (vs 16).

How Does this Apply to Me?

Are you willing to humble yourself and help weaker believers, or do you just get critical and frustrated? What would have happened if Jesus did that for you? What would have happened if Jesus gave up on you when you didn't get it or when you rejected Him? Jesus has set the example for you to follow and that example requires submission to His plan. This is why it is so important to be controlled by the Spirit and to set aside your agenda and your desires. As you seek God's will and God's plan, He will put you in constant remembrance of the things that you have learned and will help correct your life so that it will be lived the way He wants it to be lived. Your responsibility is to humbly submit and listen to His plan for your life.

Suggestions for Prayer

- * *Thank God for giving you His Word to constantly remind you of what He desires in your life.*
- * *Ask God to help you submit yourself to His plan for you.*

Thought for the day

Sunday

Reading: Romans 15:1-16

(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 5:15 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.