

# ROMANS

*A Daily Devotional  
Study Guide*



LAKESHORE  
FELLOWSHIP

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**WEEK 5**

## Day 1

**Study:** Romans 3:3-8

**Reading:** Romans 3

**Memory:** Matthew 5:11

It seems like every time the Olympics takes place there is someone or a group of people who are stripped of their medals because they test positive for a banned substance. This type of action seems to have become normal in professional and Olympic sports even though the athletes take the chance of getting caught. Why? People want to win and want results so badly that they will do whatever it takes to gain an advantage. They think they can get away with breaking the rules and obtain the results they desire at the same time. Though they think this, when they are caught they become a disgrace to their respective sports.

Today, we are going to read how it is easy for us as humans to think that we can bend or break the rules in order to achieve the results that we desire.

### What Does the Bible Say?

Paul takes some time in chapter three to give some of the arguments that his opponents would use, and then he contradicts those arguments with honest reasoning and Scripture. The thought that God had not promised eternal life to every one of Abraham's descendants didn't settle well with the Jews. In their minds, all who claimed to be Jews and were circumcised would reign with the Messiah. They thought that Paul's teaching would make God a liar. Paul contradicted this thought in verse four when he wrote, "Let God be true, but every man a liar." He then quoted Psalms 51:4 to prove that God was a true and righteous judge. Paul continued his argument by stating that the more we do wrong, the more the righteousness of God can be seen. When His righteousness is compared to our sinfulness, we can conclude that God has every right to judge sin. Paul then included a little side note to make it clear that he knew that God would judge, but he was contradicting the human reasoning his opponents would use. God has every right to judge the Jews and Gentiles for their sin because of His holiness. If God couldn't judge the Jews for their sin, He couldn't judge

the Gentiles either (vs 3-6).

The New Century Version translates verse seven like this, “A person might say, ‘When I lie, it really gives him glory, because my lie shows God’s truth. So why am I judged a sinner?’” The argument that some might use is that sin is a benefit to God because it reveals His righteousness. Since sin benefits God, how can a person be judged for his sin (vs 7)? The end result of this type of thinking would be that people can do evil in order that good will happen. This is a clear contradiction of Scripture as it is absolutely clear that sin brings no glory to God, but brings judgement upon those who commit it (vs 8).

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

Do you sometimes think that not following the Word of God will bring better results for Him? Though this may sound contradictory and you may think that would be obviously wrong, you have to be careful that you avoid that type of thinking. It is very easy to develop a pragmatic (the end justifies the means) type of philosophy because it is easy to become results oriented. Many churches will enter into questionable practices because those type of practices are what draw people. As they see the numbers come into the church, it appears that the church is growing. This often inspires a church to continue their questionable practices. It is easy to take the focus off the holiness and judgement of God, and overemphasize His love and kindness. Today’s reading made it absolutely clear that God is more concerned about righteousness and holiness than He is about numbers. Examine your idea of church growth and make sure that it is aligned with Scripture.

## **Suggestions for Prayer**

- \* Praise God because He is a righteous judge.
- \* Ask God to help you avoid pragmatism.
- \* Thank God for laying down His expectations in His Word.

## **Thought for the day**

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# Day 2

**Study:** Romans 3:1-2, Deuteronomy 4:1-14

**Reading:** Numbers 25:1-9

**Memory:** Matthew 5:11

## **Romans 3:1-2**

Why did Paul ask the questions he did in verses 1-2?

*\*\*\*This followed the context of chapter 2 where Paul declared that Jews weren’t better than the Greeks and that the real Jews (followers of God) were the ones who followed Him from their hearts.*

What was the first advantage Paul listed that the Jews had been given over the Gentiles (vs 2)?

*\*\*\*The ESV says that Jews were given the “oracles of God.” This is a reference to the special revelation that God sent to men. The message of God’s desire for mankind was first revealed and first given to the Jewish people. This did not mean that the Jews were better than others, only that they had been given the great privilege of having God’s direct revelation and the great responsibility to share that revelation.*

## **Deuteronomy 4:1-14**

What were the Israelites instructed to do (vs 1)?

What would the Israelites be able to do if they followed the instructions (vs 1)?

What were the Israelites not supposed to do (vs 2)?

What are ways that people are tempted to add to or take away from the Word of God today?

What example was used here to remind the Israelites of what God could do to those who failed keep His Word (vs 3)?

*\*\*\*This was an event recorded in Numbers 25:1-9. The Israelites went after the gods of Baal and their worship included sexual acts. God brought about a plague which killed many of those who had chosen to reject His Word and had given themselves over to sexual idolatry.*

Who had been spared from the punishment that God had given out (vs 4)?

What had Moses done for the people? What were they expected to do in return (vs 5)?

What would other nations say about Israel when they chose to follow the Law (vs 6)?

How would the obedience of the Jews be a great blessing to the nations around them (vs 6)?

What would their obedience do for the name of God (vs 7)?

Why was the Law a positive thing and not a negative thing (vs 8)?

What were the Israelites challenged to do in verse 9?

What was emphasized in verse 10?

*\*\*\*Horeb was a reference to Mt, Sinai where Moses and the Israelites had initially been given the Law.*

Why do you think Moses reminded the people of how God had shown Himself to them (vs 11-12)?

What had God commanded Moses to do (vs 13-14)?

What had God commanded the people to do (vs 13-14)?

### **Personal Application**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

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

# Day 3

**Study:** Romans 3:3-4, Titus 1:1-3, Hebrews 6:13-20

**Reading:** Psalm 51

**Memory:** Matthew 5:11

### **Romans 3:3-4**

What interesting questions does Paul ask in verse 3?

1.

2.

*\*\*\*Paul knew that the Jews would object to some of his teaching and knew the arguments they would use. He is making the point that Jews do not automatically receive a free pass to eternal life because they were born as one of Abraham's children. God had made a covenant with Abraham and with his descendants, but a covenant needs to be kept on both ends. God was always going to be faithful to keep His end of the covenant, but in order for Him to keep His part of the covenant, the Jews needed to keep theirs. The covenant that God made with Abraham required faith on Abraham's part (as we will read about in chapter 4).*

How did Paul answer his own question about God being unfaithful (vs 4)?

What did Paul declare about God (vs 4)?

*\*\*\*Paul quoted Psalm 51:4 in which David declared that he had sinned against God. David knew that God was the One who was true and faithful and he was the one who was guilty. The judgment of God was completely fair and right. Each individual is held accountable for their faith and their actions regardless of what family or position they were born into.*

### **Titus 1:1-3**

What made people elect of God (vs 1)?

How did they reach this point (vs 1)?

*\*\*\*They knew the truth and their understanding of the truth produced faith. The result was that they had become the elect of God. The election of God was not apart from their faith in God, but worked together with their faith.*

How can the “hope” of eternal life be something that is more than just a wish (vs 2)?

How have the promises of God been revealed to us (vs 3)?

### **Hebrews 6:13-20**

What do you think that verse 13 means?

What did God promise to Abraham (vs 14)?

What did Abraham receive (vs 15)?

What does it mean that people swore by something greater than themselves (vs 16)?

*\*\*\*When people made covenants, they would often swear by something in order to help reveal how true their word was. For instance, in today’s society, when a person swears on the Bible, they feel that their oath takes on a much greater meaning.*

How did God show His great character (vs 17)?

What are two things that do not change (vs 17-18)?

*\*\*\*Neither God’s promise nor His oath can ever be broken.*

What does the confidence in God’s Word give us as his followers (vs 18)?

Why is it so important to realize that God can be trusted (vs 19-20)?

### **Personal Application**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

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

# Day 4

**Study:** Romans 3:5-6, Genesis 18:22-33, Psalm 50:1-15

**Reading:** Micah 6:1-16

**Memory:** Matthew 5:11

### **Romans 3:5**

What other argument was Paul combating in verse 5?

*\*\*\*Some people wanted to argue that it was okay to sin because their sin served to show how right and holy God was. They argued that it would not be just for God to pour His wrath out on them because their sin ultimately brought glory to God. Paul declared that this was clearly human thinking that was far from the truth.*

How did Paul respond to this faulty argument (vs 6)?

If the argument was true, why would God not be able to judge the world (vs 6)?

### **Genesis 18:22-33**

*\*\*\*Abraham was visited by messengers from God who told him that he was going to have a son. They also told him that they were headed to Sodom and Gomorrah to bring destruction to the city. Abraham’s nephew Lot was living in the city of Sodom at that time.*

What was Abraham’s question to God’s messengers (vs 23)?

What did Abraham use as leverage when pleading with the messengers to spare the city (vs 24-25)?

What does their response show about the character of God (vs 26)?

What was the end result of Abraham’s conversation with the messengers of God (vs 32)?

What does this reveal about the judgement of God and the mercy of God?

### **Psalm 50:1-15**

How is God described at the beginning of this Psalm (vs 1-2)?

What does verse 3 reveal about God's judgment?

Who did God order to be gathered together so that He can judge (vs 4-5)?

*\*\*\*This is a judgment upon His people, the Israelites (Jews).*

What does verse 6 declare about God?

Why was God rebuking the Israelites (vs 7-11)?

*\*\*\*The sacrifice itself was not the thing that God was rejecting. What God was judging them for was the heart attitude in which the sacrifice was offered. God did not need their sacrifices. He already owned all the animals of the field, and their choice to go through the motions to try to appease God meant nothing to Him.*

Why doesn't God need us or what we have to offer to Him (vs 12-13)?

What was it that God desired from His people (vs 14-15)?

How is this similar to what Paul was writing to the Jewish people in the book of Romans?

What does this reveal about the fact that God is completely consistent and does not change?

### **Personal Application**

What can I learn about God from this passage?

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

# Day 5

**Study:** Romans 3:7-8, Jude 3-9

**Reading:** Numbers 13:25-14:4

**Memory:** Matthew 5:11

### **Romans 3:7-8**

What do some people say their lie produces (vs 7)?

What question is asked here in verse 7?

What faulty thinking is revealed through this question?

Why would some people excuse the evil they are doing (vs 8)?

What does an attitude like this deserve (vs 8)?

*\*\*\*Paul wanted nothing to do with an attitude that justified sin. Trying to say that it was okay to sin as long as good came from it was completely faulty thinking and deserved condemnation.*

What are way we can condone sin thinking that it helps reveal the grace of God?

### **Jude 3-9**

Why did Jude say he was writing this letter (vs 3)?

What had Jude observed in some of the churches that he was writing to (vs 4)?

When we allow grace to become an excuse for sin, how are we denying Jesus Christ as our Lord and Master (vs 4)?

How did Jesus save people out of Egypt (vs 5)?

*\*\*\*This is a reference to God's deliverance of the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.*

What did God do to those who He had delivered but chose not to be obedient to His Word (vs 5)?

*\*\*\*There are a handful of instances recorded in the Old Testament (see supplemental reading) where God destroyed many Israelites because they followed their flesh and not God's command.*

What example does Jude use to explain how beings who at one time claimed to be holy could become corrupted (vs 6)?

*\*\*\*There has been great debate over this passage in relation to Genesis 6:1-3 and II Peter 2:4. This debate comes as many believe that angels came down from heaven and had sexual relations with women. The result was a race of half-breeds that were eventually destroyed in the flood. The point being made here is not an argument that this happened, but rather an indication to show that those who had experienced God, but then went on to reject His way, would face judgment.*

What illustration of God's judgment does Jude use in verse 7?

What was the main sin of Sodom and Gomorrah (vs 7)?

What four things were happening in the church (vs 8)?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

What intriguing event is brought up here in verse 9?

*\*\*\*This event is mentioned nowhere else in Scripture so we just have to take what it says at face value. Understand as well that Jude was using this as an illustration to prove a point, so full details are not given.*

### **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 3:1-8, Jude 10-22

**Reading:** Genesis 4:1-15, Numbers 22, Numbers 16:1-35

**Memory:** Matthew 5:11

## **Jude 10-22**

What were the actions of some of the people who claimed to be believers compared to (vs 10)?

Why is it important not to "follow your heart" as a follower of Christ?

*\*\*\*Jeremiah 17:9 says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" The people Jude was rebuking tried to declare that following their own desire is what God wanted. If it felt good and natural then it was okay for them to do.*

Describe the wrong thinking that took place in the three instances that were described in verse 11.

1. Cain - (Gen 4:1-15)

How can you be tempted to think like this?

2. Error of Balaam - (Numbers 22-25)

How can you be tempted to think like this?

3. Rebellion of Korah - (Numbers 16:1-35)

How can you be tempted to think like this?

What were some of the illustrations that Jude used to compare these people to (vs 12-13)?

What was Jude emphasizing in verses 14-15?

What were some of the things these people were guilty of (vs 16)?

How can you be tempted to fall into this same category?

What had the apostles predicted (vs 17-18)?

What will these people do (vs 19)?

How can you see this happening today?

What are some of the responsibilities you are given as a follower of Christ (vs 20-21)?

What are you to have on others (vs 22)? Why is this hard when you see the wickedness that others are involved in?

How can you have mercy and at the same time reveal to others the great judgment that is to come (vs 22)?

Why is having a hatred of sin vital to reaching out to those who are sinners (vs 22)?

### **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 3:1-8**

(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 5:1 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. 9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. 10 “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. 11 “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.*