

## Bible Study in the Book of Romans

### Introduction

*“But as it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:9-10*

Studying God’s Word is one of the most exciting things we, as Christians, can do! Oh the simplicity, yet the depth of His treasure! The reason we come together to study His Word is that we want to *know* Him more intimately. In order to know Him, we must know His Word. Not so we can be puffed up with head knowledge, but that we can understand God’s truth in our lives, thus bringing forth daily application that will glorify His Name!

The most intriguing thing about studying God’s Word is *that it is the Holy Spirit that teaches us all things and brings all things to our remembrance*. It is God that speaks to our hearts teaching us. It’s not our intellect or our own ability to understand. 1 Corinthians 2:14 says: *“But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”*

There is no richer reward than the abiding presence of God in our life. Take a moment to thank Him for what He will teach you today!

### *Steps to Studying the Bible*

#### A. PRAYER

Ask God, Himself, to be your teacher and your guide as you seek to understand what He has to say.

*“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.” 1 Corinthians 2:12.* He is interested in your growth in faith and your understanding of Him. Pray with expectancy and you can be confident that He will reveal Himself through His Word. My prayer is, as Richard Bennett says, *“that we will not only judge the Word of God but that we would allow the Word of God to judge our hearts.”*

#### B. DESIRE

Our life in Christ is more precious than gold. We must be nourished to be healthy and to grow. God’s Word is our spiritual food. 1 Peter 2:2 tells us, *“as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby.”* Many Christians are weak and starving because they are not reading and personally seeking God. Jesus said, *Thou shalt not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.”* Matthew 4:4.

As with any loving Father, God has so much that He wants to teach us. He wants to assure, guide, warn, enlighten and encourage. **STOP** and pray that you will have a desire and hunger to feast on His Word.

#### C. COMMITMENT

King David said, *“I will not give to the Lord that which costs me nothing.”* There is absolutely no doubt that there is a price to pay when we commit ourselves to spend the time in the study of God’s Word. There will be days or weeks when many other things will distract us and vie for our time. Our commitment must be from our heart and given unto God. We must remember that there is a spiritual battle raging around us because the enemy does not want us to continue in our walk with God. *Choose this day whom you will serve.”* Joshua 24:15.

## *Inductive Bible Study*

As you study God Word there are some simple guidelines that will help you glean more of what God has for you. The following are a few tools of the Inductive Bible Study Method. As you continue through the Bible study, you may want to refer back to these steps periodically. Here are the three basic steps:

1. **OBSERVATION:**

***Reading with a purpose. What does the text say?*** Discovering the basic facts is the first step; asking who, what, where, when, why and how. As you read through the text, observe and record the fact that are key to understanding what is really happening or being taught. *What is the historical setting? What is the political setting? What is the social setting?* These types of questions will help you to accurately determine what the portion of Scripture says or what the Author is trying to get across. At this stage, you will not try to determine an interpretation or application. You will simply be reporting the facts as you see them.

You will be asked to pull out words and phrases that are key to the context of the passage you are studying. The key is repetition: read and re-read! These key words and phrases are vital in titling the chapter and determining what the writer is trying to get across. For further instructions on this subject, see the following page titled "How to Complete a Chart".

2. **INTERPRETATION:**

***What does the text mean?*** The second step is to read through the facts to understand the meaning. *What did that event or teaching mean to the people of that time? What is it teaching? What can we learn?* Many of the questions in the homework portion of the lesson will be used to help you discover answers and insights.

3. **APPLICATION:** ***How does the text apply to my life today?*** This final step is rich and rewarding. After you learn what God's Word says first and then what it means by what it says, you will truly be able to apply it effectively and powerfully to your life! This is when we allow God's Word to judge our own hearts! This is where the transforming effect of the Word of God is applied, resulting in renewed thinking and actions. Questions in the homework that ask you how you can grow or change from what you have learned are directed toward application.

*Remember to **always** begin your study time with a time alone in prayer. Ask that God show you all He has for you in your life! Pray that your eyes, ears and heart will be ready to receive. May God richly bless you as you persevere through the "Drawing from the Well" study of the book of Romans this Bible study season!*

## HOW TO COMPLETE A CHART

Throughout the study of Romans we will periodically have charts included in the lessons. Charts are tools to help you pull facts from the text and observe things you might not otherwise see while causally reading the text. These charts are very helpful. Your group leader may go over the chart each week in your group discussion depending upon the length of the lesson or the context.

Charts may be designed to pull facts about people, key words, instructions, exhortations, key events, doctrines or phrases. Before completing a chart you will want to read the designated text looking for the heading of the first column. For example, if the heading of the first column is *Jesus Christ*, you will read the given text looking only for this phrase or its synonyms. Synonyms for Jesus Christ will be... He, Him, Christ, Lord, Jesus, Son and sometimes it can be "God." Mark them in ways that will help them stand out, such as with a red pen or a circle around the word, etc. List everything you learned from marking the references to any of the titles on the chart. If the text tells you that Jesus did something, write out fully all that was done, accomplished, or is associated with Him.

### TEXT FOR SAMPLE CHART

#### **Romans 5:1-8**

1. *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*
2. *through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*
3. *And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance;*
4. *and perseverance, character; and character, hope.*
5. *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*
6. *For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*
7. *For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die.*
8. *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

### SAMPLE CHART...

Vs	<i><b>Jesus</b></i>	Vs	<i><b>God</b></i>	Vs	<i><b>Holy Spirit</b></i>
1	<i>Peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ</i>				