

Lesson One – Overview

“O Lord God Almighty, not the God of the philosophers and the wise but the God of the prophets and apostles; and better than all, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, may I express Thee unblamed? They that know Thee not may call upon Thee as other than Thou art, and so worship not Thee but a creature of their own fancy; therefore enlighten our minds that we may know Thee as Thou art, so that we may perfectly love Thee and worthily praise Thee. Amen.” A.W. Tozer

DAY ONE & TWO:

Remember Y2K? Wow! It’s been almost a year since TEOTWAWKI ~ *“The end of the world, as we know it”!* What if the doomsdayers had been right? If you put your faith in them and stocked up for months of no food, water, power then you probably haven’t been to the grocery store so far this year! But, what about people who don’t ever prepare for anything and put their faith in the government to take care of them if a catastrophe did occur? Are they any wiser?

The Y2K issue, when all was said and done, really **was** more of a faith issue than anything else. Those who rested in Jesus and saw to the needs of their households were not afraid of Y2K because their faith was properly placed. And that doesn’t apply to just Y2K, but to anything that comes our way from government collapse to “natural” disasters. Do we have our faith in the right place? And do we live it out practically?

When Paul wrote to the Romans he spoke of this very issue! *“For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, **“The just shall live by faith.” Romans 1:17.***

Warren Wiersbe says, *“The Epistle to the Romans was not written for wool gatherers or religious sight seers. You will have to **‘think’** as you study this letter, but the rewards will be worth the effort! If you understand Romans you will have the key to understanding the rest of the Bible. Better still, you will have the secret of successful Christian living!*

BACKGROUND STUDY OF ROMANS

Paul wrote Romans around AD 55, but Rome had been an empire about 300 years already. Roman legend says that Rome was founded by the gods Romulus and Remus who were sons of Mars, around 800 BC. The Etruscan people ruled Rome until a republic in 500 BC replaced them. This republic grew in its influence for the next 500 years sometimes having a divine king (Caesar) and sometimes having republican rule. By the time of Christ, Rome was the world power and was ascribing divinity to their rulers.

Rome gave us a number of our everyday traditions and institutions. The Romans made good use of the concept of public libraries and literacy was high. They designed amphitheatres with acoustics that we still envy. We get many of our marriage ceremony traditions from Rome such as having a wedding ring, the finger we wear it on, and the ring being made of metal.

Roman culture was patriarchal with the man of the family having complete control over all aspects of his household. Women had some rights but were not permitted citizenship. Roman citizenship was very prized. There were only a few ways of becoming a Roman citizen: 1) Serve as a lifetime Legionnaire (soldier), 2) be born of Roman citizens, 3) be born in a certain locale (as in the case of Saul of Tarsus) or 4) be adopted by a Roman citizen. There were activities in the society that only citizens could participate in such as voting on issues and owning property. Being a citizen also granted you the right to be heard in certain courts or before Caesar himself if you were accused of a crime. Rome had a strong slave base to the society. Most slaves were the conquered from other lands. Some were very well educated and were the tutors and doctors of the society. Some were

treated cruelly while others were treated with kindness and even paid so that they would have resources with which to buy their freedom. Rome ruled all of the lands it conquered dictatorially but not unreasonably as long as they were willing to worship (pay tribute both with resources and attitude to) the Caesar's.

Rome is located on the Western side of the country of Italy, which is a peninsula extending out into the Mediterranean Sea. Rome is hilly, as it is between two mountain ranges. It is said to be a "city built on seven hills." The Romans built many cities. They were very famous for their roads, which were designed to link the entire empire. By the time of Paul, the Roman Empire stretched as far as modern England.

In the time of Paul, Rome was a very large city. Throughout the empire, large cities were very crowded and dirty. The "well to do" lived in spacious homes, but the general public lived in cramped apartment type dwellings built of stone or wood and sometimes as tall as five stories. Often, these buildings would collapse. These structures had no plumbing, and waste would be tipped down communal drains. The city of Rome did have a water delivery system and a sewer system. Large cities like Rome had government offices, courts, libraries, temples, shops, workshops, and public bathhouses and bathrooms. They also had theaters and amphitheaters for entertainment. Roman "entertainment" is famous throughout history as being brutal, fights to the death between men, contests between men and wild animals, and, of course, public executions sometimes carried out by watching a wild animal tear apart and devour the "criminal." The Romans were a people of leisure and pleasure, and this became the ultimate downfall of the society.

Challenge: Read **Romans chapters 1 - 5.**

1. Answer the following questions to help give you a better background of Rome:

a. Where is Rome? (Look it up on a map)

b. Who did Paul write to at Rome? (**Romans 1:7**)

c. When did Paul write to them? (**Romans 15:18-28**)

d. Who were Paul's companions or helpers at the time he wrote Romans? (**Romans 16:1-4 and 16:21-23**)

1) Read more in **Acts 18:2-3.**

e. Where was Paul when he wrote the book of Romans? (**Acts 19:21 & 20:1-3**)

f. What was Rome like at the time Paul wrote Romans? (Use Dictionaries & Encyclopedias if you can)

1. **Politically:**

2. **Religiously** there were two Jewish sects that were perverting the Gospel. Understanding what they were declaring will help in our understanding of what Paul is dealing with in the book of Romans.

- a) Those that were “anti-law.” They were called *Antinomians*. They taught that man could live any way he wanted since he was saved by God’s grace and there was nothing he could do to earn it. His thinking was that the more sin, the more grace would have opportunity to show itself!
- b) *Judaizers* were the “legalists” of the day. They added to the grace of God the “keeping of the Law,” including circumcision.

3. **Economically:**

4. **Historically:**

5. **Culturally:**

- g. What was Paul’s purpose in writing to the saints at Rome? (**Romans 1:1-17 and 15:14-16:27**)
- h. Any other insights from your study this far?

DAY THREE:

- 1. Before you get started today, **pray!** Ask the Lord to reveal all that He has for you in this study, for it is the Spirit that teaches us all things, and Spiritual things are Spiritually discerned! We need the Holy Spirit to grow in the Grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Challenge: Read **Romans chapters 6-8.**

2. Read Chapter One of Romans pulling out key words and phrases (Words or ideas that are repeated or key to the context).

Vs	Romans 1:1-7	Vs	Romans 1:8-17	Vs	Romans 1:18-32
Segment Title:		Segment Title:		Segment Title:	
Chapter Title:					

Hint: Some of the key words are, *called, Gospel, wrath, righteousness, unrighteousness.*

3. Following are a few key people in the Book of Romans. Read through Chapter one again and write down all the things you see pertaining to each person or group of people below:

a. **Paul:**

b. **Jesus & God:**

c. **Saints:**

d. **Ungodly Men:**

1) Summarize what you have gleaned from this list:

4. What does it mean that the **just** shall live by faith?

"This Good News tells us that God makes us ready for heaven-- makes us right in God's sight-- when we put our faith and trust in Christ to save us. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scripture says it, "The man who finds life will find it through trusting God."

(TLB) Romans 1:17

Challenge:

1. Define the word **just** using your study tools.
2. Look up other Scriptures that speak of **the just**.

"Jesus paid it all. All to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain. He washed it white as snow."

5. Using the chart below, before looking up the words write your own definition and then the definition from your study tools in the appropriate column.

Define In Your Own Words:	Dictionary's Definition:
1. Hope:	1. Hope:
2. Faith:	2. Faith:
Note Any Similarities or Differences Between Hope & Faith:	

FOURTH DAY:

1. ***Stop right now and pray that the Holy Spirit teaches you what He would have you to know!*** We are all very busy here in Southern California. We run from place to place, living a very fast paced life ~ quiet times are a rarity! Don't allow yourself to do your homework in rote fashion, trying to take in "fast food"! The Word of God is living, active and powerful! Pray and allow the Spirit to bring the Word of God alive to your heart today. Sit at His feet and ask Him to minister to you through your study.

Challenge: Read **Romans chapters 9-11**.

2. Paul identified himself as a bondservant of Jesus Christ. Define the word **Bondservant**. (Use your study tools).

a. Look up **Galatians 1:10** and **Titus 1:1**. What enabled Paul to be a bondservant?

3. For an Old Testament picture of a slave, who in love, binds himself to his master look up **Exodus 21:2-6** and write it here:

Challenge: Do an Old Testament word study from **Joshua 1:2** on the word “servant” (Use your study tools) and record the definition here:

a. Read the following verses and record what qualities these men have that God would call them His servants?

1) **Joshua 24:29:**

2) **Amos 3:7:**

3) **Jeremiah 7:25:**

4. The body piercing taking place today is a self-expression, bringing attention to self and various parts of the body. How does this differ from the piercing we see in **Exodus 21**?

5. Are you serving Christ **willingly**? Look up and write out **Philippians 2:12-16**. Choose one verse that speaks to your heart from this passage and share it with your group.

a. Note that it is *God who works in you to both will and to do according to His good pleasure*. Stop and thank Him for the work He is doing in and through you by His Spirit.

6. What characteristic does God wish to see in the lives of His children? Look up **1 Peter 3:3- 4** and comment on this verse.

7. Aren't you glad we no longer need an **outward** showing of our allegiance to our Master? Look up **1 Samuel 16:7b** and write it here:

"Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry." 1 Samuel 15:22-23b

9. Look up **Romans 1:5**. What provision does God give to us for obedience?

"Through Him we have received _____ and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name."

FIFTH DAY:

Challenge: Read **Romans chapters 12-16**.

1. List 5 basic reasons why Paul wrote the Book of Romans listed in **Romans 1:11-15**.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.

2. In **Romans 1:12** Paul says that one of the reasons he wrote was that they would *be encouraged together in the mutual faith*. How does coming together at this study with others that share a mutual faith encourage you? Share your answer with your group.
 - a. What are some benefits of *the saints assembling together* listed in **Hebrews 10:24-25**?

3. Paul knew the importance of knowing the difference between law and grace. Using your study tools **and** Scripture, look up the definitions of *law* and *grace* and record your findings in the chart below. Then mark the contrasts between the two. **Add any Scriptures you can find.**

Definition of Law	Definition of Grace
Galatians 3:24	Titus 2:11-13
Contrast of Law verses Grace	

4. List the specific promises to Israel from **Jeremiah 32:38-40**.
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
5. Looking at **Jeremiah 32:38-40**, how long is this *New Covenant of Grace* in effect?
6. Look up **Hebrews 8:13**. Stop and thank God that you are no longer under law but now have a *New Covenant of grace*.

Selah!

ROMANS AT A GLANCE...

God's Righteousness by or for...	Chapter	Subject...
Sinners	One	Gentiles
	Two	Jews
	Three	All have Sinned
Saved	Three	Through Redemption
	Four	Through Imputation
	Five	Through Reconciliation
Sanctified	Six	Dead to Sin
	Seven	Dead to Law
	Eight	Live by the Spirit
By God's Sovereignty	Nine	God's Choice
	Ten	Man Believes
	Eleven	Grafted In
For God's Service	Twelve	Worship's Spiritual Service
	Thirteen	Rendering what is Due
	Fourteen	Not Judging Others Convictions
	Fifteen	Accepting/Loving One Another
	Sixteen	Rejection of the False and Obedience to the Truth

*"I Am Amazed
 By Your great and endless mercy
 We have all been born anew
 And by Your death and resurrection
 You did what I could never do".*

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