

ROMANS 1:1-17

Lesson Two

“Lord, teach me to listen. The times are noisy and my ears are weary with the thousand raucous sounds, which continuously assault them. Give me the spirit of the boy Samuel when he said to Thee, ‘Speak, for Thy servant heareth.’ Let me hear Thee speaking in my heart. Let me get used to the sound of Thy Voice, that its tones may be familiar when the sounds of earth die away and the only sound will be the music of Thy speaking Voice. Amen!” ~ A.W. Tozer

Background of Paul the Apostle

A Jew born in Tarsus of Cilicia, Saul lived as a Pharisee and studied under Gamaliel. However, he was a citizen of Rome. He called himself a zealous Jew, and according to his own words:

“For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers”. Galatians 1:13-14

Saul’s passion for the Lord and Judaism, led him to gain the authority necessary to seize Christians and imprison them as well as put some of them to death. In fact, he attended and consented to the stoning of the first martyr, Stephen. Stephen’s coat was even placed at the feet of Saul. (Acts 7:5b and Acts 8). He was on his way to Damascus to seize the Christians there to put them in prison when:

“Suddenly a great light from heaven shone around me. And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ So I answered, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom you are persecuting.’” Acts 22:6b-8

You can find another account of his conversion in Acts 9. After his conversion, instead of being taught about the Gospel by men, he went to Arabia for three years and was given the Gospel from Jesus by direct revelation. Then he returned to Damascus. After three years, he went to Jerusalem and stayed with Peter for 15 days. He saw no other apostles except the brother of Jesus, James. He considered himself an apostle to the Gentiles (Romans 11:13). Afterward, he went to Syria and Cilicia where he preached the Gospel. After 14 years, he went up to Jerusalem with Barnabas and Titus (Galatians 1 and 2). Paul preached the Gospel in Damascus, then Jerusalem and Judea and then to the Gentiles according to Acts 26:20. From Acts 13:1-21:17, Paul indicates that he made three missionary journeys. Some believe that Paul made a fourth missionary journey to Spain (Romans 15:24, 28). Clement of Rome indicates that Paul took the Gospel to Spain.

He had a *“thorn in the flesh”* for which he prayed three times that God would remove. Some believe that his eyes were afflicted due to the nature of his conversion (Galatians 6:11). In spite of the fact that God used him to heal others, he was not healed.

“And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure”.
2 Corinthians 12:7

During his ministry and testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, Paul experienced many trials:

“... in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness”. (2 Corinthians 11:23b-27)

He was imprisoned in Rome two times. His final imprisonment was in Rome in A.D. 67 and was beheaded in 67 or 68, during the reign of Nero.

Even through all of his trials, he rejoiced! For he focused upon our great God and Savior Jesus Christ!

“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him? For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen”.
Romans 11:33-36.

Some of Paul’s Writings

Decade	Book	Place Written	Dates
50-59 AD	1 & 2 Thessalonians	Corinth	50-54 AD, during Paul’s 2nd Missionary Journey.
	1 Corinthians	Ephesus	56 AD, during Paul’s 3rd Missionary Journey.
	2 Corinthians	Macedonia	56 AD, during Paul’s 3rd Missionary Journey.
	Romans	Corinth	57 AD, during Paul’s 3rd Missionary Journey.
60-69 AD	Ephesians	Rome	60 AD, during Paul’s 4th Missionary Journey.
	Philippians	Rome	60-61 AD
	Colossians	Rome	60-62 AD
	Philemon	Rome	60-62 AD

DAY ONE:

1. Answer these questions **in your heart**...(not for discussion)
 - a. How long have I been a born again Christian?
 - b. Have I enjoyed a closer fellowship with God at any time in my walk more than I do now?
 - c. Am I spending more time alone with God than ever before?
 - d. Do I recognize His guidance in my life more than I ever have before?

- 1) If your answers are not pleasing to you, spend some time in prayer and seek God's grace right now! If you were able to respond in a positive manner, thank God for His sanctifying work in your life!

***“How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word.
With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!
Your Word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You!”***

Psalm 119:9-11

2. What was the one thing that stood out in your mind that pertains to the background of Rome from last week's study?
3. What was the one thing that stood out in your mind that pertains to the background of Paul from yesterday's study?
4. How did Paul describing himself as a ***bondservant*** inspire you?
 - a. Are you ***willing*** to call yourself a bondservant of Jesus Christ?
 - b. God did not create us as robots. What has He called you to do that you are not willing to carry out? You don't have to share this with your group but allow God to search your heart and allow His grace *to work in you both to will and do according to His good pleasure!*
5. From last week's lesson, what promise did you find most encouraging from **Jeremiah 32:38-40**? Share this with your group.
6. **Spend some time in prayer before reading Romans Chapter 1.** If you have problems comprehending what you have read, do it again! **Remember to read with a purpose, who, what, where, when, why and how!**

DAY TWO: Read Romans 1:1-7

1. What do you think Paul meant when he said he was *called to be an apostle, separated to the Gospel of God*?
 - a. Using your study tools, define the word ***separated***.
 - b. Why would we want to be sanctified? Look up **1 Thessalonians 4:3-4** to help with your answer.

- c. Look up and write out **Titus 2:11-14**. Meditate on this verse memorizing it if you can! What provision does God give to us so we can be *separated to the Gospel*?
- d. When is it acceptable to partake in worldly activities to gain favor with those whom you desire to share the Gospel with? **2 Corinthians 6:17-18**.
- 1) Share your answer with your group. Add any Scriptures you can find, but make sure to keep them in context!
- e. Look up and read **Galatians 1:15-17**.
- 1) What was God's plan for Paul?
 - 2) What is His plan for you?

*“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD,
thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.
And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”*
Jeremiah 29:11-13

2. Look up **John 1:14**. How does this Scripture describe Jesus?
3. After looking up **Hebrews 9:13-15**, what does it mean to you that Jesus was “...*declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*” in **Romans 1:4**?
 - a. According to **Colossians 3:1-4** where is Jesus right now?
 - 1) Where are we as believers in Jesus Christ?
 - b. Look up **Colossians 1:26-27**. According to this Scripture, what is our hope?
4. According to **Romans 1:5** what provision has God given for our obedience? _____
 - a. Look up this word, using your study tools.
 - b. What must we do to obtain *grace*? (James 4:6 & 1 Peter 5:5b) _____.

- c. Look up this word, using your study tools.

Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 16:18

Challenge: According to Scripture what other things has God given us *grace* for? List as many as you can find.

- 5. Note Paul’s use of the word “*we*” in **Romans 1:5**. Paul now speaks of all believers, not only of himself. We have received God’s glorious grace, which is His favor, His mercy, His love, His salvation! Grace includes *all* that God has done for us and all the wonderful blessings He showers upon us. No Scripture shows us a picture of this definition like **Titus 2:11-14**. Go back and review this Scripture again!
 - a. Look up **2 Corinthians 9:8** and thank God for His provision of Grace! Write it out here:

 - b. Why does He give you this grace?

- 6. “*We*” have also received Apostleship, (God’s mission). The idea is that we have received a special mission or calling, God’s very own special task in the world. What is that mission?

- 7. There is a difference between *forced obedience* and *free obedience*. Forced obedience has no choice. Free obedience has a choice and can choose to obey or not to obey. Ponder on what the difference of results would be.

Result of Forced Obedience:	Result of Free Obedience:
(Example: fear)	(Example: safety)

“But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it”

DAY THREE: Read Romans 1:8-15

1. Paul wanted the Roman believers to know his love for them. This is why he shared why he was writing to them, to the best of his ability. He said he was writing because he could do nothing else; he was compelled to share the gospel with the whole world including the capital of the world, Rome itself. Remember that he was **enslaved** by the gospel. List some of the things that would encourage you if you were the recipient of this letter.

2. Note that Paul prayed for them. Paul was a man of intercessory prayer! The gospel moved him to “**pray without ceasing**” (Romans 1:9). What is intercessory prayer?
 - a. How can we pray without ceasing?

Challenge: Look up other references that speak about “**praying without ceasing**” and list them here:

“...As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.”

Isaiah 62:5b

3. As a bride, how often do you think it would be necessary to communicate with your groom to have a healthy relationship?

4. How can we know the will of God for our lives?
 - a. Look up and read **2 Chronicles 7:14**.

 - b. What does it mean to “**seek My face**”?

 - c. What does it mean to pray in the **will of God**?

 - d. Why is it important to pray in the will of God? **Isaiah 55:8-9**.

5. Jesus sought to do the will of the Father in all that He did while here on this earth. If Jesus sought to do the will of the Father, how much more should we? Look up and comment on the following verses.
 - a. **John 6:38**:

b. **Luke 22:42:**

- **Think upon this...** Look up and be blessed as you receive the prayer in **Ephesians 3:14-21**.

Challenge: Create a chart on a separate piece of paper that shows the prayer of Paul from **Ephesians 3:14-21** answering who, what, where, when, and how.

6. In **Romans 1:11** Paul says: **“For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established”**. What do you think the gift was that he wanted to impart?

“Rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving” **Colossians 2:7**

DAY FOUR:

1. Using your study tools, look up the word **encouraged** in **Romans 1:12**.

- a. Share a time you have been **encouraged** by another Christian.

2. What was the **mutual faith** that Paul talked about in **Romans 1:12**?

3. Look up **Ephesians 4:4-6** for a further understanding of this **mutual faith**.

4. How can you apply **Hebrews 10:25** to this study?

5. Pastor Chuck says: **“Gathering together with God’s people has a two-way affect. You cannot minister to others without being ministered to yourself. Sowing the truth in love always reaps the same! That’s the beauty of sharing our spiritual gifts with one another.”** What does **Luke 6:38** say about this?

6. What could hinder us from coming together?

- a. **1 Thessalonians 2:18:**

- b. **Acts 16:7:**

- c. How can you be able to discern the difference?

7. What did Paul mean when he said in **Romans 1:14** *“I am a debtor both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to wise and to unwise”*?

a. Who are the:

Greeks	Barbarians	Wise	Unwise

b. Paul felt an obligation to all men, as we should. What does this tell you about Paul’s heart?

8. In **verse 15** it says that Paul was ready to visit the Church in Rome. Look up the following references and note what they have to say about being ready.

a. **2 Timothy 4:2:**

b. **1 Peter 3:15:**

c. What do you think would motivate a heart to be ready?

DAY FIVE:

1. Are you so full of the gospel that you are aching to share it? _____. What gives a person that desire?

Seek the understanding of the Gospel, God’s gifts and blessings in a way that your heart would overflow and impart it to others!

2. Can you remember a time that you were ashamed (or embarrassed) to share to gospel?

“For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.”

3. Look up **Psalm 25:1-5**. Allow this to be your prayer today.

4. The main theme of the Book of Romans is found in **Romans 1:17**, the *“Righteousness of God.”* Look up the word **Righteousness** and write out the definition here.

5. How do we obtain righteousness? Use the following chart to list the **contrast** between obtaining righteousness in the Old Testament and New Testament. You may want to use your concordance.

Vs	Old Testament	Vs	New Testament
	(example: Deuteronomy 6:25)		(example: Titus 3:5)

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
2 Corinthians 5:21

- a. How is the Righteousness of God revealed?

- b. How do we obtain the Righteousness of God today?

6. Is one believer more righteous than another is?
 - a. Look up **Romans 3:23** to support your answer.

7. How is our faith increased?
 - a. **Romans 10:17:**

 - b. **Galatians 3:11:**

c. **Proverbs 3:5-6:**

8. Re-read **Romans 1:1-17** and ask yourself the following questions:

a. Is there an exhortation or an encouragement for me as a believer in Jesus Christ?

b. Is there an example to follow?

c. Are there any fresh insights I learned this week as I studied the Word?

*“Only to sit and think of God, Oh what a joy it is!
To think the thought, to breathe the Name
Earth has no higher bliss!”*

Frederick W. Faber