

STUDY for the BOOK of ROMANS

Week #1—Romans Chapter 1

*Important note: the bullet points below the questions are not “right answers” but possible directions the discussion might move.

Read aloud: Romans 1:1-32

Verses 1-15 may be considered the introduction to the book of Romans. How would you describe the tone of the introduction?

- Formal
- Narrative
- Uplifting
- Other...

The gospel (which is essentially the story of salvation) presents a savior, who was promised through the prophets of the Old Testament and scriptures for thousands of years. In verses 3-4 Paul points to Jesus’ humanity and heritage—that he is a Jew from the line of King David—and his spiritual standing as the Son of God. Why do you think Paul does this?

- To illustrate that Jesus possesses the necessary elements to be a savior, both in the flesh and according to the Spirit.
- To point out the contrasts in Jesus’ background
- To show that although it was the Jewish people who awaited a savior and salvation, these things are not just for the Jews (since the Spirit makes it for everyone).

In verse 7, Paul addresses the recipients, “to all who are in Rome *called to be saints*.” How would you define the term “saint?”

- Very good person
- An individual canonized by the Catholic Church
- One who is called by God into faith

In this verse, Paul implies that Gentiles (anyone not of Jewish descent) as well as Jews are part of the mystery and blessing of life in Christ. By Paul’s definition, we as Christian Believers are all “saints.” How do you feel about that?

The “anthem verse” of Romans is verse 16 of this chapter:

“I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.”

How do you feel about the gospel—how free do you feel in sharing it?

What might make you ashamed of the gospel—or less ashamed? Reflect and/or share with your group.

Has this changed during your time as a Christian? If so, how?

Do you believe there are circumstances which are more appropriate or perhaps inappropriate for sharing the gospel? What are some examples?

Verse 17 reads:

“For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is from faith to faith, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’ ”

What do you think is meant by “faith to faith?”

- Over the centuries, people of faith have continued to believe in the promise of a savior.

Verses 24, 26, and 28 describe a progression—each of these verses states that God “gave them over....” How can this “giving over” apply to our own lives, even as Christians?

- We can sear our consciences by choosing lifestyles of sin
- We are not immune to losing sight of right and wrong.

Consider the natural state of humanity. Would you describe it as:

- A Inherently good
- (B) Mixture of good and bad
- (C) Inherently bad

Why do you think this is?

How do you see people in our culture today accepting or even celebrating sin?

- Celebrities’ sexual escapades
- Cultural materialism/standards of success

Reflect upon your own values: are there any areas in which you might be doing this?