

FROM GUILT TO GLORY

Introduction to Romans Romans 1:1–17

“...the gospel...regarding his Son...” (Romans 1:2–3)

Day 1: Read Romans 1:1–17.

1. Of all the things he might have said, how does Paul describe himself in the opening five words? Honestly reflect on your own view of yourself. If pressed to summarize it in a phrase, what would you say?
2. The word “servant” translates the Greek “doulos” and connotes “slave.” Why does Paul call himself Jesus’ slave? (1 Cor.6:19b–20) What are the benefits of being a “slave” of Jesus? (Consider Rom. 6:22.)
3. According to verse 1, what is Paul set apart for? If this is the case for you too, how does this affect the way you live every day?
4. Count how many times the word “gospel” (good news) is mentioned just in the first 17 verses of this long letter to the Romans. What do you suspect will be the theme of the whole letter?

Day 2: Read Romans 1:2–4.

5. Is this gospel something sprung out of the blue in New Testament times? (vs. 2) In what way would you say the gospel was “promised beforehand through the prophets”? What examples of this can you think of?
6. Find three words in verse 3 that sum up the content of the whole gospel. Is the gospel fundamentally an “it” or a “who”?
7. What is Paul at pains to establish about Jesus in verses 3 and 4? Why is it crucial to prove at the outset these two natures of Christ?
8. How does our salvation depend on his being true man? True God?

Day 3: Read Romans 1:4–7.

9. How is Christ’s divine nature certified? (vs. 4)

10. *Through whom* does Paul receive any grace he has? (vs. 5) *For whose sake* does Paul receive any grace he has? (vs. 5) *For what purpose* does Paul receive any grace he has? (vs. 5) Is this true for you too, though you are not an “apostle” in the same technical sense as Paul?
11. What is the wonderful mystery, the new development in salvation history, that is fully revealed in New Testament times, particularly through Paul’s ministry? (vs. 5; Eph.3:2–6)
12. What is the relationship of obedience to faith for a Christian? (Think over the last phrase of verse 5)
13. Meditate on the truth that you “belong to Jesus” (vs. 6) How is this a great comfort and joy to you?

Day 4: Read Romans 1:8–15.

14. What kind of thing makes Paul happy and moves him to pray? (vs. 8)
15. In what attitude and to what extent does Paul serve God? (vs. 9)
16. Describe Paul’s prayer life in a phrase from verse 10. Describe yours.
17. According to verses 11 and 12, what is the benefit we derive from getting together with other believers like ourselves? Share some examples of how this has been true for you.

Day 5: Read Romans 1:16–17.

18. Why are we sometimes “ashamed” or embarrassed to share the gospel with people? Why is Paul not ashamed of the gospel? (vs. 16) What does he know about its power? How have you seen that power?
19. What is the big revelation in the gospel that is so surprising to people who are used to a legalistic mentality? (vs. 17)
20. If you became a Christian and follower of Jesus by an act of faith in him, how do you suppose you are to live from here on in? Is there a different method now? (vs. 17)

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Romans 1:18–32 The Wrath of God Revealed**

“They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.” Romans 1:25

Day One: Read Romans 1:18–20.

1. According to verse 18, what is man doing that warrants God’s wrath?
2. By what means has God revealed himself according to this passage? Is this type of revelation sufficient to bring people to salvation? Why or why not? (Consider Rom. 10:13–14)
3. What invisible qualities of God has He revealed through what is visible? (See also Ps. 19:1–4; Ps. 97:6; Is. 6:3.)
4. How might you use these verses to respond to someone who says that it isn’t fair for God to judge people who have never been told about Him?

Day Two: Read Romans 1:21–23.

5. What charge is made against man in verse 21a?
6. What are the consequences of being guilty of this charge? What does Eph. 4:18 say is the cause of these problems?
7. How does God define a fool? (See Ps. 14:1; Prov. 18:2; Prov. 28:26; Matt. 7:24–27.)
8. American Christians today would probably say that we don’t exchange the glory of God with the kinds of images listed in verse 23. However, we would likely admit that we replace it with other images. What examples can you think of?

Day Three: Read Romans 1:21–25.

9. What is the “therefore” at the beginning of vs. 24 there for; i.e., what reason is given for God’s turning them over to the sinful desires of their hearts? What is the connection between giving vent to sinful desires and vs. 25?

10. What indictment is brought against man in verse 25?

11. What lies have you been believing about God? Describe a time when you made God into an image of your own liking in order to fit your own purposes.

Day Four: Read Romans 1:26–32.

12. What practices deserving of God’s anger (see Lev. 20:13) are described in verses 26–27? What adjectives does Paul use to describe these practices?

13. Put each of the offenses listed in verses 29–31 in one of the categories given below. Are there any items on the list that surprise you? If so, which ones and why? How does their inclusion on the list change the way you think about them?

Actions

Attitudes

General Terms

14. In vs. 32 Paul indicates that wickedness is not limited to doing evil yourself. Rather, it extends to approving of the evil practices of others. Give examples where you see this occurring in our culture today.

Day Five: Review Romans 1:18–32.

15. Skim this entire passage and jot down the words or phrases Paul uses to indicate that man (a) has knowledge of God and (b) makes choices. What are the consequences of these choices?

16. Some people mistakenly believe that God’s wrath will come only at the end of time, but vs. 18 states that God’s wrath is being revealed, i.e., in the present. What hint is given in verses 24, 26, and 28 as to what form His wrath may take?

17. This passage demonstrates how we have sinned against God on every level—in our thoughts (exchanging the truth for lies), in our motives (worshiping and serving created things rather than the Creator), and in our behavior (practicing every kind of wickedness). Take a few moments to confess your guilt in these areas, and then spend some time praising God and thanking Him because “*God did not appoint us to suffer wrath, but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ*” (1Thess. 5:9).

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Circumcision of the Heart****Romans 2:1–29**

“Circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code.” Rom. 2:29b

Day 1: Read Romans 2:1.

1. Chapter 2 signals a change in pronouns—from “them” to “you.” Review Romans 1:9–17. Who is the “you” in chapter 2?
2. Chapter 2 starts with the conjunction “therefore.” With this word, what thought in chapter 1 is our attention drawn to?
3. What is the “good” person’s reaction to Romans 1:29–31?
4. Ask God to show you how you condemn yourself by judging others...and then repent and ask him to humble you.

Day 2: Read Romans 2:2–15.

5. What does God base his judgment on? (See, in particular, verses 2, 5, 6–10, 11, 12–15.)
6. Explain how someone might show “contempt for the riches of [God’s] kindness, tolerance and patience”. (vs. 4) Ask God to reveal how you are guilty of this.
7. What does verse 4 teach about the purpose of God’s patience? (See also 2 Pet. 3:9.)
8. Reread verses 6–10. Is Paul contradicting his assertion in 1:17? Why or why not?

Day 3: Read Romans 2:12–16.

9. What difference does having/knowing the law make in your standing with God?

10. What light does today's passage shed on the ultimate fate of those who never hear the Gospel?

11. Verse 16 starts with the phrase "this will take place." To what does the word "this" refer? (see vss. 12 and 13.)

Day 4: Read Romans 2:17–24.

12. List some of the advantages and privileges of the Roman Jews. (vss. 17–20)

13. In spite of their advantages and privileges what is wrong with how Paul's readers are living?

14. What advantages and privileges are you proud of?

15. Ask God to reveal how you might be bringing dishonor to Christ.

Day 5: Read Romans 2:25–29.

16. In ancient Israel what was the purpose of circumcision? (Gen. 17:10–11; Deut. 30:6)

17. What had it come to mean to the Jewish people of Paul's day?

18. In verses 28 and 29 we read that true circumcision is not "merely outward and physical," but that true circumcision is "circumcision of the heart." Put this concept into your own words. How can a heart be circumcised? What is the true sign of belonging to God?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Romans 3 Righteousness from God**

“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” Romans 3:22a

Day 1: Read Romans 3:1–8.

1. In this passage, Paul is engaged in a debate. What are the arguments raised, and what is Paul’s response to each of them?
 - a. vss. 1–2

 - b. vss. 3–4 (compare Deut. 31:19; 32:4–5; 2 Tim. 2:11–13)

 - c. vss. 5–8

2. Have you ever been tempted to “do evil that good may result” (vs. 8)? What does this passage say about the rationalization that the end justifies the means?

Day 2: Read Romans 3:9–20.

3. What is the underlying sin, with which Paul opens (vss. 10–12a) and closes (vs. 18) his list? (Compare Mk. 12:28–30)

4. List the phrases in vss. 10–18 that tell *who* has sinned.
 - a. What do these phrases emphasize about human sin?

 - b. How do the charges in vss. 10–18 fit you? How do you respond?

 - c. In what ways does our culture reflect the truth of these charges? How should we respond?

5. What is the law unable to do? What does the law do? (vs. 20)

Day 3: Read Romans 3:21–26.

6. Look at the following passages from “the Law and the Prophets” (that is, the Old Testament). What does each one prophesy about the new righteousness from God?
 - a. Gen. 15:6

 - b. Is. 53:4–6, 9–11

7. Paul takes great care in explaining this new righteousness.
 - a. Who is the source of this new righteousness? (vss. 21, 22, 25a)
 - b. How was it accomplished? (vss. 24–25)
 - c. How is it received? (vs. 22)

8. In your own words, what does “righteousness” mean here, and what does it mean to be “justified”? (They're related concepts. This sequence of verses may be helpful: Deut. 6:25; James 2:10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:18–19; 8:1, 33; Gal. 3:10–14.)

Day 4: Read Romans 3:21–26.

9. Proverbs 17:15 states, “Acquitting the guilty and condemning the innocent the Lord detests them both.” In Romans, Paul has just demonstrated at length that all people are sinful and deserving of judgment (1:18—3:20). Explain how God is able to be both “just and the one who justifies” (vs. 26).

10. What does it mean that Christ was presented as a “sacrifice of atonement” (vs. 25)? (Lev. 16:11, 15, 16; 17:11; Heb. 10:1, 3–7, 10)

11. To explain what God has done for us in Christ, Paul uses language from three different spheres of Jewish experience. From what areas of life does he take the following concepts?
 - a. “justified,” “justice,” “just”:

 - b. “redemption” (literally “buying back”) (Lev. 25:47–48; Jn. 8:34–36; 1 Pet. 1:18–19):

 - c. “atonement”:

Day 5: Read Romans 3:27–31.

12. What are you tempted to boast about, either aloud or in your heart? Why are we left with nothing to boast about?

13. Using truths from this chapter, how might you answer someone who thinks she’s been pretty good compared to lots of other people, and so God should let her into heaven?

14. How might you use truths in this chapter to answer someone who thinks she’s a horrible person who’s totally messed up her life and the lives of others, and so God would never let her anywhere near heaven?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Abraham Justified by Faith Romans 4**

“Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Romans 4:3

Day 1: Read Romans 4:1–5.

1. Having shaken up old notions of law righteousness in chapters 1—3 and put forth the shocking revelation of a righteousness from God apart from law, Paul proceeds to clarify how Abraham himself was saved. What may have been a prevalent misconception among the Jews about how Abraham was saved?
2. What two words describe what Abraham did that was credited to him as righteousness? (vs. 3) Think about yourself: what have you done that was credited to you as righteousness?
3. Paraphrase Paul’s discussion in verses 2–5 regarding the difference between being justified by works and being justified by faith.
4. Find the two words in verses 3 and 5 that Paul uses interchangeably.
5. What kind of people does God justify? (vs. 5)

Day 2: Read Romans 4:6–13.

6. How does the quote of David in verses 7 and 8 buttress Paul’s argument that salvation has always been by faith and not works?
7. Verse 7 talks about people whose sins are “covered.” What are they covered with? (Find the common word in Rom.3:25; Eph.2:13; Col.1:20; 1 Pet.1:18–19; and Rev.7:14)
8. What is the chronological question Paul is sorting out in verses 9 to 11? Why is it crucial to prove that Abraham’s faith was credited as righteousness *before* he was circumcised?
9. Was Jewish circumcision meant to be a righteousness-*maker* or a righteousness-*sealer* (vs. 11)? What’s the difference?
10. Following Paul’s reasoning, then, how is it that Abraham can be father of the uncircumcised (Gentiles) as well as the circumcised (Jews)?

11. Think about Paul's phrase "walk in the footsteps of the faith." How is that graphic wording a helpful description of true faith and a guard against empty, self-deceived notions of faith? (vs. 12)

Day 3: Read Romans 4:13–15.

12. According to verse 13, did Abraham and sons receive the promise as a "tit-for-tat" for good deeds they did? How then?

13. What phrase from Romans 3:22 does Paul repeat almost verbatim in 4:13? Why is he so repetitive?

14. Rather than being a stairway to heaven, what do our attempts to gain salvation through law-obedience bring? (vs. 15)

Day 4: Read Romans 4:16–17.

15. What is behind even the faith that you exercise, making it a gift? (vs. 16; Eph.2:8)

16. According to Paul's logic in vss.16 and 17, how does the principle of salvation by grace through faith (not Mosaic law) broaden Abraham's progeny to include Gentiles as well as his biological descendants?

17. What kinds of impossible things is God able to do, according to the last half of verse 17? How have you yourself seen God do that?

Day 5: Read Romans 4:18–25.

18. What does it mean in verse 18 that Abraham believed God "against all hope"? Humanly speaking, why was the promise of offspring a "hopeless" situation for him? (vs. 19b)

19. What was Abraham's way of facing a big problem? (Multiple choice):

- a) told himself it wasn't really a big problem
- b) tried not to think about facts; just whipped himself up into a faith mood
- c) faced the facts squarely, remembered God's past faithfulness, became fully persuaded of God's power and goodness, and chose to believe him

.....What's *your* way?

20. For whom was the Old Testament written—and in particular this tale of Abraham's faith? (vs. 23)

21. At the close of this chapter, Paul cannot resist spelling out the gospel again . What is the gospel?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**HOW MUCH MORE!****Romans 5:1–11**

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
Romans 5:8

Day One: Read Romans 5:1–5.

1. According to Paul, we are justified by:
 - (a) doing good works
 - (b) closing our eyes, clicking our heels together three times and chanting “there’s no place like heaven...there’s no place like heaven...there’s no place like heaven...”
 - (c) dumb luck
 - (d) faith alone

2. How did Jesus gain us access to “this grace in which we now stand”? (See Matt. 27:50–51.) What happened at that moment that illustrates that the barrier between God and man has been removed?

3. When we read statements like “we have peace with God” (vs. 1) and “hope does not disappoint” (vs. 5), we tend to associate them with how we might *feel*. But Paul is stating fact, not describing feelings. What phrases follow these statements that show the basis on which Paul can speak with such certainty?

Day Two: Read Romans 5:3–4.

4. Describe the difference between rejoicing *because of* suffering and rejoicing *in* suffering. Which does Paul say that believers do?

5. What benefits does Paul say are the result of suffering?

6. What benefits does James say are the result of suffering? (See James 1:2–4, 12.)

7. What benefits does Peter say are the result of suffering? (See I Peter 1:6–7.)

8. How will these passages help you to respond to your suffering?

Day Three: Read Romans 5:5–10.

9. In verses 6–10 Paul uses four different words that describe us before we are reconciled to God. What are they? In what ways do they reveal our need of him?

10. Paul indicates that there is both subjective proof and objective proof of God’s love for us. How does God evidence his love for us inwardly? (vs. 5) How has he evidenced his love for us outwardly? (vs. 8)

11. What part does each member of the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) play in making God’s love real to us?

Day Four: Read Romans 5:6–11.

12. According to verse 10, are we God’s enemy or is he our enemy? Is there any significance to the way Paul puts this statement? Why or why not?

13. These verses refer in a variety of ways to the death of Jesus and the good that comes as a result. According to Paul, what benefits do come from his death?

14. Paul’s argument in verses 9–11 impresses upon us how unreserved and unbounded is God’s love for those who believe. Restate these three verses in your own words.

Day Five: Review Romans 5:1–11.

15. Three times in this passage Paul tells his readers to rejoice. What does he say we are to rejoice in?

16. Read this passage out loud making all the pronouns first person singular (i.e., substitute “I” for “we,” “my” for “our,” etc.), then list the phrases that describe your relationship to God.

If your list reflects the wonders of being his child, take a few moments to thank and praise him. If it reveals that you do not yet belong to him, then by faith acknowledge your need of him, ask him to wash your sin away and invite him to be your Savior and Lord.

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Life through Christ Romans 5:12–21**

“Just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men.” Rom. 5:18

Day 1: Read Romans 5:12–14.

1. In what spiritual condition has sin left the human race?
2. What was God’s warning to Adam and Eve? (Gen. 2:16–17)
3. Because of their sin Adam and Eve eventually died, but what kind of death did they experience immediately upon sinning? (Gen. 3:8, 23)
4. What relationship do unsaved people have to God?

Day 2: Read Romans 5:12–14.

5. In verse 13, Paul writes, “Before the law was given, sin was in the world.” What evidence does he present in verse 14 to prove this statement?
6. What Paul is describing in verses 12–14 is called the doctrine of original sin—when Adam sinned against God, so did all who would come after him. How does death remind us of our natural condition before God—of our original sin?
7. How does it make you feel to have been condemned to death because of someone else’s sin?
8. In today’s world, how popular is the idea of original sin? Give examples to support your answer.
9. In verse 14 we read that “Adam...was a pattern of the one to come [Christ].” Explain what Paul is getting at. (1 Cor. 15:22, 45–49)

Day 3: Read Romans 5:15–17.

10. List the contrast(s) in verses 15–17:

a. vs. 15

b. vs. 16

c. vs. 17

11. Look at the contrasts that you listed and summarize Paul's main point.

Day 4: Read Romans 5:18–21.

12. List the contrast(s) in verses 18–21:

a. vs. 18

b. vs. 19

c. vs. 20

d. vs. 21

13. Look at the contrasts that you listed and summarize Paul's main point.

Day 5: Read Romans 5:15–21.

14. What do we have to do to become righteous? (vs. 19)

15. In 5:11 we are encouraged to rejoice in God. Now that you have studied verses 12–21 list some reasons for this rejoicing.

16. What gifts are ours through Christ? What difference do these gifts make in your daily life and relationships?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Death with Christ, Life in Christ Romans 6:1–14**

“...count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Romans 6:11

Day One: Read Romans 6:1–14.

1. Most of us probably do not deliberately sin more just “so that grace may increase” (vs. 1). But how do we sometimes abuse God’s grace in our attitudes toward sin?

2. What was our relationship to sin before Christ saved us? (6:17) What is our relationship to sin now? (vss. 2, 6, 11–14)

3. Paul is demonstrating that through union with Christ, believers have been taken from one realm (with Adam as its representative head) to a new realm (with Christ as its representative head). What words and phrases describe the way you were in Adam? What words and phrases describe the way you are in Christ?

Day Two: Read Romans 6:3–6.

4. What does it mean to be baptized into Christ’s death?

5. The “old self” (vs. 6) is who we were before our union with Christ. What do we know about this old self? (Col. 3:5–10) Does it still exist? (vs. 6; compare 2 Cor. 5:17)

Day Three: Read Romans 6:6–10.

6. The word translated “freed” in the NIV (vs. 7) is better translated “justified” or “acquitted.”
 - a. If a person has committed a crime and justly been sentenced for it, what is the only way for him or her to be justified and set free?

 - b. Once the penalty has been paid, does this person have anything more to fear from the law or its representatives?

7. As sinners, our sentence was death. How has our penalty been paid? (Is. 53:5; 2 Cor. 5:14–15; 1 Pet. 2:24) Do we have anything more to fear? (vss. 6–7; 8:1, 33; Col. 2:13–14)
8. List the facts stated about Christ in vss. 9–10. Do you believe that each of them applies to you?
9. We know that Christ himself was sinless. How then could he die “to sin” (vs.10)? (Is. 53:4–5; 2 Cor. 5:21)

Day Four: Read Romans 6:8–11.

10. How have we as believers already been raised from the dead? (vss. 2–11; 8:10) How will we be raised in the future? (8:11; 1 Cor. 15:42–44, 51–52)
11. Imagine how it will feel to live entirely free from the mastery of death, never to die again. Give thanks to God that this is our expectation as those who have been united to Christ in his death and resurrection.

Day Five: Read Romans 6:11–14.

12. In vs. 11 we are told to count ourselves dead to sin. How do we do this?
13. a. What are the commands given in vss. 12–13?
 - b. If we have “died to sin” (vs. 2) and are “no longer slaves” to it (vs. 6), why are these commands necessary? (Phil. 3:12–14)
14. What does it look like for you not to “let sin reign” or “offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness”? What does it look like for you to “offer yoursel[f] to God . . . and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness”? Pray about one or two areas of your life in which you want to see change.
15. Look back at the mistaken understanding of sin and grace in vs. 1. What does today’s passage show their true relationship to be?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Contrasting Two Slaveries****Romans 6:15–23**

*“For the wages of sin is death,
but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Romans 6:23

Day 1: Read Romans 6:15.

1. What are the only two possible camps of humanity that you can belong to? (vs. 15)

2. What possible perversion of the good news announced in verses 11 and 14 does Paul now anticipate and try to head off in verses 15 and following? (Multiple Choice)
 - a. It doesn't matter if I sin now that I'm a Christian; I'm saved, praise the Lord!
 - b. Since I've been baptized and raised with Christ, and it's a done deal and irreversible, I can relax a little in my struggle against sin.
 - c. Now that I'm in Christ, God *has* to sanctify me, no matter what I do. So I'll “let go and let God.”
 - d. All of the above.

Day 2: Read Romans 6:16–19.

3. Bob Dylan had a song entitled, “You Gotta Serve *Somebody*.” Read verses 16–18 and explain whether you agree.

4. Who and what did you used to serve before you put your faith in Christ? (vs. 17; Ephesians 2:1–3)

Day 3: Read Romans 6:16–23.

5. Unbelievers think of themselves as “free” from the shackles of religion. What is Paul's sobering evaluation of this so-called “freedom”? (vss. 20–21)

6. Describe the progression in common to all slavery—whether it be the self-destructive slavery to sin, or the happy slavery to God. What do you initially do? (vs. 16)

7. What are the consequences of slavery to sin? (vss. 16, 21, 23)

8. By contrast, what are the consequences reaped by those who are slaves to God? (vss. 16, 22)

Day 4: Read Romans 6:16–23.

9. Paul alternately refers to the good kind of slavery as “slavery to righteousness” (vs. 18) and “slavery to obedience” (vs. 16). Why do you think it’s prudent to express this truth both ways? What is the righteous life marked by? (vs. 22)

10. Why is it pleasant and not grievous to have God as our master? (1 Peter 5:7b)

11. Why isn’t slavery to God burdensome? (1 John 5:3b–4, Matt. 11:28–30)

Day 5: Read Romans 6:15–23.

12. What is the quality of life of those who serve sin, who labor under Satan’s domain? (Proverbs 12:21; Isaiah 1:4–6; Jeremiah 5:3; 2 Timothy 3:2–4)

13. What is the quality of life of those who serve God? (vs. 22; Psalm 23; Proverbs 3:17) How have you experienced this in your own life?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Released from the Law****Romans 7:1–6**

“[Y]ou also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God.” Romans 7:4

Day One: Read Romans 7:1–6.

1. What are some “positive” aspects of the law? (e.g., Ps. 19:7–8, Ps. 119:165)

2. What “negative” effects of the law has Paul mentioned in our study of Romans so far? (See Rom. 3:20, 4:15, 5:20)

3. Pick one aspect of the law you mentioned above and share how the Lord has used it to grow your faith.

Day Two: Read Romans 7:1–6.

4. When does the law no longer have authority over someone? At what point does the law no longer have authority over someone still breathing?

5. In vss. 2–3 the language Paul uses is meant to:
 - a. teach something about marriage/divorce/remarriage/adultery
 - b. illustrate his comments in verse 1
 - c. confuse his readers
 Give support for your answer.

6. What is the point of the example Paul gives in verses 2–3?

Day Three: Read Romans 7:4–6.

7. In Romans 6 Paul speaks about believers being dead to sin and in chapter 7 of being dead to the law. What parallels do you see in these verses?

Romans 6

vs. 2 “died to sin”

vs. 4 “we may live a new life”

vs. 6 “our old self was crucified with him”

vs. 4 “Christ was raised from the dead”

vss. 7, 18 “free(d) from sin”

vs. 22 “the benefit you reap leads to holiness”

Romans 7

vs. 4

vs. 6

vs. 4

vs. 4

vs. 6

vs. 4b

8. Reflect on the lists above. How do these truths affect your view of who you really are and the nature of your life?

Day Four: Read Romans 7:4–6.

9. What is the purpose of being freed from the law and joined to Christ (vs. 4)?

10. Give specific examples of fruit we bear to God in union with Christ (vs. 4). (e.g., Gal. 5:22–23)

11. Give specific examples of fruit borne for death (vs. 5). (e.g., Rom. 1:28–32)

Day Five: Read Romans 7:1–6.

12. In verse vs. 6 Paul speaks of the difference between the “new way of the Spirit” and “the old way of the written code.” How does Paul characterize the difference in 2 Cor. 3:6b?

13. What does Jeremiah 31:31–33 say about the law when the new covenant takes effect?

14. Although in this passage Paul speaks of being free from the law, he is not saying that law has no bearing on the Christian whatsoever.

a. In 1 Cor. 9:21 what law does Paul say applies to him?

b. What light does Paul shed on this law in Gal. 6:2?

15. Describe the difference in the heart attitude between someone who serves “in the way of the Spirit” and someone who serves in “the old way of the written code.” Which describes your heart attitude?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Sin and the Law****Romans 7:7–25**

*“Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God —
through Jesus Christ our Lord” Romans 7:25*

Day One: Read Romans 7:7–8.

1. What had Paul said about the law in verse 5 that prompted him to ask (and emphatically reply to) the question, “Is the law sin?”
2. According to Paul, is the law sinful? Why or why not?
3. Of all the commandments (see Ex. 20:1–17), why do you think Paul used coveting as his example?

Day Two: Read Romans 7:7–12.

4. Notice how busy sin is as described by this passage. Write down what verses 8–11 say sin actively does.
5. How does Paul describe the law and commandment in verse 12?
6. In light of these verses and your answers to questions 4 and 5 above, what should be our attitude toward sin? Toward the law? How might your heart use an “attitude adjustment” in one or both of these areas?

Day Three: Read Romans 7:7–13.

7. Read Josh. 6:15–19 and Josh. 7:10–11, 15, and 20–25. Explain how Achan’s experience illustrates what Paul is talking about in Rom. 7:7–13.

8. Describe an experience from your own life that illustrates what Paul is talking about in these verses.

Day Four: Read Romans 7:14–20.

9. Notice the parallel thoughts in verses 14–17 and 18–20.
 - a. How do verses 14 and 18 describe Paul’s spiritual condition?
 - b. What do verses 15 and 19 indicate that Paul wants to do? What do they say he does instead?
 - c. What do verses 17 and 20 say about what’s causing Paul’s problem?
10. Express Paul’s struggle in your own words and give a recent example from you own life. What encouragement does it give you that even Paul, an apostle, would struggle like this?

Day Five: Read Romans 7:21–25.

11. In his description of the war within Paul describes two opposing sides. What does he say are:
 - a. the laws at odds with one another?
 - b. the two types of slavery?
 - c. the two parts of himself that are in conflict?
12. Where does Paul turn in the midst of the battle? How does his response compare with the way(s) you tend to handle it?
13. Take a sneak peek at Rom. 8:1–2 and write a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord that Rom. 7 is not the end of the story.

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Life in the Spirit****Romans 8:1–17**

“For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” Romans 8:13–14

Day 1: Read Romans 8:1–17.

1. Glance back at Romans 7:14–24. How does the tone in that passage compare with the tone in this passage? What makes the difference?
2. According to verse 2, why is there “no condemnation”? What does that mean for you and all the things you feel guilty about?
3. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit in the following verses?
 - vs. 2:
 - vs. 6:
 - vs. 9:
 - vs. 11:
 - vss. 15–16:
 - Romans 1:4:
 - Romans 5:5:
4. Ask God to fill you anew with his Holy Spirit, to enable you to live “according to the Spirit” (vs. 4).

Day 2: Read Romans 8:1–4.

5. What was the law “powerless to do”? (vs. 4; Gal. 3:11) How does the description of Paul’s struggle in 7:18–23 help us understand his statement in verse 3 that the law was “weakened by the sinful nature”?
6. What is the righteous requirement of the law? (Matt. 22:37–40)
7. Look again at vss. 3b–4, and compare them with this verse: “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (2 Cor. 5:21). Who ultimately bore God’s condemnation of our sin? What did we receive instead of condemnation?

Day 3: Read Romans 8:3-13.

8. Christ fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law in every way, and we are justified when his perfect record is given to us. We are also in the process of being sanctified—made holy—so that our lives reflect our righteous status more and more. How is this being accomplished? (vss. 4–9; Ezek. 36:27)
9. What do you think it means that “your body is dead because of sin,” even though “your spirit is alive because of righteousness” (vs. 10)? (Gen. 3:19; Rom. 5:12; 2 Cor. 4:16)
10. We know that there is now no condemnation for us. Nevertheless, Paul says that we have an obligation. What is the “obligation” he refers to in verse 12?

Day 4: Read Romans 8:5–13.

11. Paul places great emphasis on our minds (vss. 5–7). Why is our mindset so important for the way we live? How can we make sure our minds are “set on what the Spirit desires” (vs. 5)? (Compare Rom. 12:2; Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:1–2.)
12. Read Galatians 5:16–25. What things characterize someone who lives according to the sinful nature? What things characterize someone who lives according to the Spirit?

<u>Sinful Nature</u>	<u>Spirit</u>
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13. Look again at vs. 13. Who is to put to death the misdeeds of the body? How is this to be done?

14. Think about a sin that you are struggling with. Pray for the Spirit to help you put it to death.

Day 5: Read Romans 8: 13–17.

15. Why were we slaves to fear before Christ entered our hearts? (Eph. 2:1–3; 1 John 4:18)
16. What happens when someone is adopted? What privileges are yours as one who has been adopted by God?
17. What is the condition for our sharing in Christ’s glory? (vs. 17)
18. What will the reward—our inheritance—be like? (1 Pet. 1:3–7; Rev. 21:1–4, 7)

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Our Glorious Future Romans 8:18–27**

“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.” Rom. 8:18

Day 1: Read Romans 8:18.

1. Read verse 18 with verse 17. What connection is there between suffering and glory?
2. What are some of the sufferings that Paul personally endured? (2 Cor. 11:24–27)
3. Many of the sufferings of this life are horrific, and yet Paul asserts that they are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. What do we know about ourselves as God’s children and about his glory? (See Gal. 4:4–7; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Jn. 3:2.)
4. Much suffering is unavoidable. Think, however, about the suffering that you refuse to endure, e.g., a difficult situation or relationship. What might you be sacrificing by habitually avoiding suffering?

Day 2: Read Romans 8:19–22.

5. In verses 19–22 what/who is groaning?
6. “Creation” in verses 19–22 encompasses all of God’s created world except for humans. How has creation suffered as a result of man’s sin? (See Gen. 3:17–19.)
7. For what is creation waiting in eager expectation?

Day 3: Read Romans 8:20–25.

8. List some things described in verses 21–25 that, as children of God, we are waiting and hoping for.

9. How do you think having the “firstfruits of the Spirit” intensifies our groaning? (For help, see 2 Cor. 1:21b and 22 where Paul uses the word “deposit” instead of firstfruits.)

10. Is verse 23 a contradiction of verse 16? If we have already been adopted, how can we yearn for our adoption?

Day 4: Read Romans 8:24–25.

11. What is the key word in verses 24 and 25?

12. What do you think Paul means when he says that “in this hope we were saved”? What is the relationship between faith and hope?

13. How does this “hope” differ from the world’s idea of hope? (Rom. 5:1–5; 1 Pet. 1:3)

Day 5: Read Romans 8:26–27.

14. What specific things does the Holy Spirit do for us? (vss. 26 and 27)

15. Often we may feel that our prayers aren’t eloquent or even understandable. How do these verses encourage us?

16. Share one specific way you have seen the Holy Spirit at work in your heart.

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**More Than Conquerors****Romans 8:28–39***“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* Romans 8:31**Day 1: Read Romans 8:28–29.**

1. In these verses, Paul continues to address the concern of suffering in the Christian’s life. What kinds of experiences may be included in the phrase “in all things”? (vs. 28)
2. What do YOU consider your “good”? What does GOD consider your “good”? (vs. 29)
3. For what kind of people does God work out all these things for good? (vs. 28)
4. How do you know if you “love him”? (1 John 5:3–5)

Day 2: Read Romans 8:28–29.

5. You have been called “according to (God’s) purpose”. (vss. 28–29) What is his ultimate purpose for his creation? (Ephesians 1:10b) What is his purpose for you personally within this larger, all-encompassing purpose? (vs. 29a)
6. In light of this purpose, consider how the Son himself was made perfect. (Hebrews 2:10) How will YOU then be made perfect? (Hebrews 2:11; Rom.5:3–4)

Day 3: Read Romans 8:29–30.

7. Verse 29 says that God “foreknew” and “predestined” you. When did he do that? (Eph. 1:4)
8. Verse 30 says that God “called” you. When did he do that? (Eph. 1:13)

9. When you were called, it was a calling to be “justified”. (vs. 30) What does that mean? (Rom.8:3–4)

10. In what sense have you already been “glorified”? (2 Corinthians 3:18) In what sense do you still await glorification? (1 Corinthians 15:51–54)

Day 4: Read Romans 8:31–35.

11. Verse 31 says, “If God is for us, who can be against us?” As a matter of fact, there may well be many against us (!), but what is the point of Paul’s statement?

12. What is the strongest argument of God’s being “for” you, no matter how baffling the trials that life may hold? (vss. 31–32)

13. In verse 26 we learned that the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. Who else intercedes for us? (vs. 34)

Day 5: Read Romans 8: 36–39.

14. What picture of normal Christian life does Paul paint by quoting words 1500 years old in verse 36? How is that different from some contemporary views of what is normal Christian life?

15. Paul has wracked his brain to draw up a list of things that will NOT separate you from God now that you belong to him. Add a few things of your own to the list.

16. If God’s control of the happenings in the universe is infinite (vs. 29), and if God’s love for you is also infinite (vs. 32), what is your comfort in any trial?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**The Israel Within Israel****Romans 9:1–29**

“For he says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.’ It does not therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.” Rom. 9:15–16

Day One: Read Romans 9:1–5.

1. It could be said that Paul is “wearing his heart on his sleeve” at the beginning of this chapter. Describe the scope and intensity of his feelings as revealed in verses 1–3.
2. List the blessings and rich heritage the Jews enjoyed as related by Paul in verses 4–5.
3. In his letters Paul often calls Jesus Christ “Lord,” but what rare statement does he make about him in verse 5?
4. How does Paul’s concern for his kinsmen (vs. 3) compare with your concern for the lost—especially those you know and love? Take a moment to pray that your heart would be like Paul’s, and pray for those you know who are lost.

Day Two: Read Romans 9:6–13.

5. What does Paul mean when he says “not all who are descended from Israel are Israel?” (See Rom. 2:28–29.)
6. In verses 7–9 Paul makes a distinction between Abraham’s descendants and his children (or offspring). Who is the child of promise? (See Gen. 15:4; 18:1, 10–14.) In contrast, who is considered his “descendant”? (See Gen. 16, esp. vs. 15.)
7. In contrast to Isaac and Ishmael who had the same father but different mothers, Jacob and Esau were twins. What does Paul say accounts for God viewing Jacob one way and Esau another? What does Paul say explicitly is not the reason for God’s choice?
8. How do the examples of Isaac and Ishmael and Jacob and Esau support Paul’s claim that God’s word does not fail?

Day Three: Read Romans 9:14–18.

9. Bearing in mind our study of Romans so far and verses like Isa. 64:6 and Rom. 3:23 in particular, why does it make sense for Paul to ask a question about God’s justice (vs. 14) and respond by speaking of his mercy (vs. 15)?

10. Rewrite verse 16 in your own words. Can there be any doubt as to whether or not you can work your way into heaven?

11. What reasons does Paul give for the way God worked in Pharaoh? Was God unjust in his dealings with Pharaoh? Why or why not?

Day Four: Read Romans 9:19–29.

12. Summarize the four points Paul makes in response to the questions, “Why does God blame us? And who resists His will?”
 - a. vss. 20–21:
 - b. vss. 22–24:
 - c. vss. 25–26:
 - d. vss. 27–29:

13. In verses 22–24 Paul poses two possible motives for God’s actions. What are these motives and what do they reveal about God?

14. Why do you think Paul mentions that the Gentiles’ inclusion in salvation was prophesied in the Old Testament?

Day Five: Read Romans 9:1–29.

15. As you review these verses, what do you think should be our attitude toward the Jews?

16. As you reflect on these verses, what impresses you about who God is or how he works?

17. As you reflect on these verses and on God's call to you, what one word captures or summarizes your response?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Unbelief and Man's Responsibility****Romans 9:30—10:21**

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

Day 1: Read Romans 9:30—10:21.

1. Why do you think Paul is spending so much time discussing the fate of Israel? (Hint: see 10:1.)

2. A major contrast in this passage is between "a righteousness that is by the law" and "a righteousness that is by faith."
 - a. How does one strive for righteousness by the law? (See Deut. 6:25 and Rom. 10:3, 5.)

 - b. Describe righteousness by faith. (10:4; see also Rom. 4:5; and Gal. 2:16)

 - c. What irony concerning these approaches to righteousness is communicated in verses 9:30–31?

3. What is wrong with the way Israel pursues righteousness? (9:32)

4. Read Rom. 10:3 carefully. What is in our nature that leads us to prefer a righteousness based on law (or works) rather than a righteousness based on faith?

Day 2: Read Romans 9:30—10:4.

5. Who is represented by the stone of 9:32–33?

6. Look again at verses 31–33. Why is this person (the stone) more of an obstacle to Israel than to the Gentiles?

7. It's a good thing to have zeal for God, but what is wrong with the attitude behind Israel's zeal? (10:2–3)

8. Many people think that in the spiritual realm all they need is zeal and sincerity. What do verses 10:1–4 say about this belief?

Day 3: Read Romans 10:1–4.

9. Explain the statement in 10:4: “Christ is the end of the law.” (See Matt. 5:17 and Gal. 3:23–25.)

10. All of us can fall into the trap of setting up laws that we think will make us righteous. What laws do you obey to establish your own righteousness? Think about ways in which you judge or criticize others. Is it because they are violating some law you have set up for yourself or them?

11. How is Christ the end of your own lawmaking?

Day 4: Read Romans 10:5–13.

12. How do Moses’ words quoted in 10:5 point to Christ? (Recall Rom. 8:3–4.)

13. What does verse 8 tell you about how accessible the gospel is?

14. If someone—anyone—wants to be saved, what do they need to do? (10:9–13)

15. Look again at the two specific components of salvation in verse 9. Why are both things necessary?

Day 5: Read Romans 9:30—10:21.

16.
 - a. In verses 14–15 what four conditions must be met for one to call on the Lord and be saved?

 - b. As Christians, which of these conditions is our responsibility?

 - c. What is the responsibility of the hearer? What are his/her only two possible responses? (vss. 16–17)

17. How does God lead someone to salvation?

18. What actions and attitudes work against someone’s salvation? (9:32; 10:2– 3, 21)

19. Look again at 10:1. What is Paul’s response to Israel’s unbelief? What is your response to the unbelief that you encounter?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**God's Plan for Israel and the Gentiles****Romans 11:1–24**

“Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness.” Romans 11:22a

Day One: Read Romans 11:1–8.

1. With what question does Paul open this passage? What has led Paul to ask this question?
2. How does he answer his question? (Compare 1 Sam. 12:22; Ps. 94:14.) What “evidence” does he give to back up his answer? (vss. 1b, 2b–4)
3. On what basis is the remnant chosen? (vss. 5–6)
4. What did Israel seek, and why was it unable to obtain it? (See 9:30–32.) How are you prone to fall into the same trap?

Day Two: Read Romans 11:5–10.

5. Into what two groups is “Israel” divided? (vs. 7)
6. How do the Old Testament verses Paul quotes describe the hardening of those who are not elect? (vss. 8–10; compare 1:21–22)
7. Reading this passage, some might question the fairness of God’s choosing some and hardening others. How did Paul answer this kind of objection in 9:18–24?
8. Look at Mt. 13:11–17, and pay special attention to the way Jesus closes the Old Testament quotation (vss. 16–17). Take a moment to reflect on how blessed you are that you “see” and “hear,” and give thanks to God for that blessing. Then pray for someone whose eyes need opening by God.

Day Three: Read Romans 11:11–21.

9. What is the second main question Paul asks in this passage? (vs. 11) How does he answer it?

10. In these verses Paul describes the progression of God's plan of salvation.
- How does Israel respond to Christ? (vs. 20a):
 - How do the Gentiles benefit from Israel's response? (vss. 11b, 12, 15a):
 - What is the result of the Gentiles' belief for the Israelites? (vss. 11b, 14):
 - What will the final outcome be for all of God's people? (vss. 12b, 15b):
11. Review Paul's metaphor of the olive tree. What do the following represent?
- the olive tree:
 - the root (Hint: See vs. 28b):
 - the natural branches:
 - the wild branches:
 - breaking branches off:
 - grafting branches in:

Day Four: Read Romans 11:17–21.

12. What attitude is Paul warning Gentile believers against in this passage? Why might they be tempted to have such an attitude?
13. Why is such boasting inappropriate? (vss. 20–21; 3:27–28) How might such an arrogant, boastful spirit threaten the Gentiles' place in the people of God?
14. Considering the context, what do you think Paul means when he says "be afraid"? (Compare Mt. 10:28.)
15. When have you felt arrogance in your own heart? How did it affect your relationship with God?

Day Five: Read Romans 11:22–24.

16. In addition to the warning for the Gentile believers in Rome, what hope does this passage contain for unbelieving Israelites? (vss. 23–24)
17. Some people emphasize only God's kindness, others only his sternness; this week's passage illustrates both. Do you tend to emphasize only one of these qualities? Or do you tend to pick one and then the other, depending on the way you want to view a certain situation or person—or yourself? How can this passage give you a more balanced picture of God?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Israel Will Be Saved****Romans 11:25–36****Day 1: Read Romans 11:25–36.**

1. In the Bible, a “mystery” is a part of God’s plan formerly hidden, now revealed. What is the mystery that Paul here announces?
2. What does Paul mean by saying that Israel has “experienced a hardening”? (See vss. 7–10.)
3. Why might the Gentiles be tempted to become “conceited”(vs. 25) about this if they didn’t know what God is up to in his historical plan for Israel? (See vss. 17–24.)

Day 2: Read Romans 11:25.

4. How did the “hardening” of the Jews come about, historically speaking, and how did it work to the benefit of the Gentiles? (11:20, 25b; Acts 13:46; 18:5–6)?
5. The hardening of Israel toward the gospel is “in part”. What do those qualifying words indicate? Do you yourself know any of the saved remnant of Israel moving among us?

Day 3: Read Romans 11:26–29.

6. What is the future of Israel? (11:26–27)
7. Why is the future favor of God on Israel assured? What is the “election” (vs. 28) and “call” (vs. 29) Paul is referring to?
8. There are three main interpretations as to the meaning of “all Israel” in verse 26: a) the total number of elect Jews of every generation; b) the total number of the elect, both Jews and Gentiles; c) the great majority of Jews of the final generation. How will “all Israel” finally be saved? (vss. 20, 26b, 27) Is there any other way for anyone to be saved?

Day 4: Read Romans 11:26–32.

9. Who is it who will finally “turn godlessness away from Jacob” (i.e., the Jews) in the last days of God’s plan for history?

10. When any person is saved, what is the initiating cause? (11:5, 6, 30)

11. Describe God’s amazing, boast-busting plan of salvation in (a) the reciprocal role of Jew and Gentile (11:11, 25, 28); (b) the relationship of man’s disobedience and God’s mercy? (11:30, 31)

12. What does it mean that “God has bound all men over to disobedience”? (vs. 32) Does it mean he *caused* our disobedience? (Romans 1:21, 24, 26, 28)

Day 5: Read Romans 11:33–36.

13. What is it about God that Paul praises and is amazed by? (vss. 33–36)

14. How does Paul describe God in these verses?

15. Why are verses 33–36 an appropriate capping to 9:1—11:32?

16. Write your own personal “doxology” (praise to God) for the work of God that he has done in your life.

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Living Sacrifices****Romans 12:1–8**

“I urge you...in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices.” Romans 12:1

Day 1: Read Romans 12:1.

1. In chapters 1—11 Paul has discussed theology, but from chapter 12 through the end of Romans, Paul discusses practical matters. Why does he devote so much effort to the “practical”? (Hint: What does how we live have to do with what we believe?)
2. What connection do you see between Romans 11:30–32 and Romans 12:1?
3. List some ways that God has shown mercy to you. (And thank Him!)

Day 2: Read Romans 12:1.

4. In verse 1, what are we called to do? (See also 1 Cor. 6:19–20.)
5.
 - a. Describe the kind of sacrifices that God wants us to be.
 - b. Read Romans 6:11–13 with Psalm 51:17 and describe how we become sacrifices that God can use.
6. Worship encompasses all of life, not just what we do on Sunday morning at church.
 - a. How do we worship God in the often mundane activities of our lives—eating, socializing, babysitting, exercising, carpooling, working?
 - b. How do we worship God in the attitudes and emotions of our hearts?

Day 3: Read Romans 12:1–2.

7. What must happen before we can “test and approve” (know and agree with) God’s will?

8. In what ways do you tend to conform to the “pattern of this world”? How are verses 1 and 2 an encouragement to you?

9. Read Romans 12:2 (see also Rom. 8:5, 9,12–13; 2 Cor. 3:18; Luke 11:13; Ps. 119:105):
 - a. What is God’s role in our transformation?

 - b. What is our role?

Day 4: Read Romans 12:3–8.

10. What does Paul assume about the context in which we are called to live out our faith?

11. What does verse 3 imply about how we should treat other believers?

12. Can you recall a time when you did not treat others as verse 3 suggests you should? By God’s grace how can you act differently the next time this situation occurs?

Day 5: Read Romans 12:1–8.

13. What facts are a corrective to feelings that we (and our gifts) are superior to (or inferior to) other Christians? (vss. 3–6)

14. What gifts does Paul list in vss. 6–8? What needs are met through the exercise of these gifts? How could you help to meet one or more of these needs?

15. What connection do you see between using your spiritual gifts in the body of Christ and presenting yourself as a living sacrifice? What is the purpose of the gifts that God gives to us? (Eph. 4:11–16)

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Sincere Love****Romans 12:9–21***“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”* Romans 12:21**Day One: Read Romans 12:9–21.**

1. The word for “sincere” in verse 9 literally means “without hypocrisy.” In what ways can love be hypocritical? Why is it so important that our love as Christians be genuine?

2. Compare verse 9 with Amos 5:15 and I Thess. 5:21–22.
 - a. How do these verses say we should respond to evil? to good?

 - b. Why do you think they all mention both good and evil, rather than just one or the other?

 - c. How do your own attitudes and responses to good and evil need to change in light of these verses?

Day Two: Read Romans 12:9–13.

3. What do Jesus’ words in John 13:34–35 tell us about how and why we’re called to “be devoted to one another in brotherly love”?

4. What do you think Paul means when he says we are to honor one another above ourselves? (Consider Rom. 12:3, Phil. 2:3, I Pet. 5:5–6.)

5. What tends to “zap your zeal,” to “sap your spiritual fervor” as you serve the Lord? What can you do to guard against it from happening?

6. “Joyful in hope” – “patient in affliction” – “faithful in prayer” (vs. 12): consider these as three strands of a rope. How does each strand help support the other two?

Day Three: Read Romans 12:13–16.

7. Which is harder for you — to “mourn with those who mourn” when you’re feeling good or to “rejoice with those who rejoice” when you’re feeling down? Why do you think we’re called to do both no matter how we feel?

8. How does living in harmony with others differ from everyone having to be or act the same?
9. What is essential if we are to obey Paul's command not to be proud or conceited? (Consider Phil. 2:1–5.)

Day Four: Read Romans 12:14, 17–21.

10. Paul gives four commands as to how we're not supposed to treat our enemies, as well as four commands as to what to do instead. List these commands below:

Do not:

Do instead:

vs. 14

vs. 17

vs. 19

vs. 21

11. In light of Luke 6:27–36, why must Christians react differently to their enemies?
12. Between what you know of yourself and what you know of God, give at least three reasons why you are not qualified to take revenge against your enemies.
13. Think of a situation in your own life where you may be getting overcome by evil. What can you do to begin overcoming that situation with good?

Day Five: Read Romans 12:9–21.

14. What is the connection between Rom. 12:1 and verses 9–21?
15. How will what you've learned from chapters 1–11 keep you from turning verses 9–21 into a new form of the law?
16. Turn verses 9–21 into a prayer for yourself today:

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Living in the Present Time****Romans 13**

"And do this, understanding the present time." Romans 13:11a

Day One: Read Romans 13:1–7.

1. What two reasons does Paul give why we are to submit to the governing authorities?
2. Consider your view of authority and those who govern. Do you honor and respect those in authority? Do they have to “earn” your respect? Are you cynical about them? How does your view need to change?
3.
 - a. Does submission to authority mean unconditional obedience at all times?
 - b. Look at Acts 4:18–20 and 5:27–29. Under what condition is it our duty to disobey the governing authorities? (You may also want to look at Ex. 1:15–17; Dan. 3 and 6.)
4. In this passage, we are commanded to submit to authorities, honor them, and pay the taxes due them. What further responsibility do we have toward those in authority? (1 Tim. 2:1–4) Take a moment now and do this.

Day Two: Read Romans 13:1–7.

5. From whom do those who govern receive their authority? (compare Dan. 4:17)
6.
 - a. What two responsibilities do authorities have toward those they govern?
 - b. How does the second of these responsibilities contrast with our duty as individual Christians? (12:19–20)
7. Why should we pay taxes? (compare 1 Tim. 5:18)

Day Three: Read Romans 13:8-10.

8. Look back over Rom. 12:9–21. What does that passage tell us about loving one another and our “fellowman”?

9. What is the only debt that we never finish paying off?
10. Look at the commandments Paul lists in verse 9. How do they demonstrate Paul's point that love is the fulfillment of the law?
11. Do Paul's command to love and his statement that "love is the fulfillment of the law" mean that we are under a new system of works righteousness? (Rom. 3:21–22; 7:6; 8:3–4)

Day Four: Read Romans 13:11–14.

12. What does Paul mean by "the present time" (vs. 11)?
13. How does a proper understanding of the present time (vss. 11–12a) encourage us to lead a life of love and godliness (vss. 12b–14)? (Mk. 13:33–37; 2 Pet. 3:10–14)
14. How do you tend to "slumber"? What needs to happen for you to "wake up"?
15.
 - a. What "day" is "almost here" (vs. 12)? (Is. 13:6–13; Joel 2:30–32; Rev. 6:12–17)
 - b. How do we as believers view the coming Day of the Lord? (Is. 12; Lk. 21:25–28; Rev. 7:9–10, 13–17)

Day Five: Read Romans 13:11–14.

16. List the pairs of positive and negative commands in the following verses.

	Positive	Negative
vs. 12:		
vs. 13:		
vs. 14:		
17. What is the "armor of light"? (Eph. 6:13–17; 1 Thess. 5:8)
18. In one sense we "clothed [ourselves] with Christ" (Gal. 3:27) when we were joined to him in his death and resurrection by faith. Given that this inward clothing has already taken place, how are we now to "clothe [ourselves] with the Lord Jesus Christ"? (Col. 3:9–10, 12–14)
19. How much thought do you give to "how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature"? What is the antidote? (Rom. 6:11–14; 12:2; Col. 3:1–2)

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Accepting One Another****Romans 14**

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” Romans 14:19

Day 1: Read Romans 14.

1. In a word or phrase, what concern for the church is uppermost in Paul’s mind now that he has, in his letter, reviewed the important doctrines of the faith? (Skim chapters 14—16 quickly)
2. Why are there “disputable matters” at all in our Christian faith? (Reflect on 2 Peter 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 13:12)
3. What kinds of matters are definitely NOT “disputable”? (1 Corinthians 15:3, 4)
4. Gleaning from verses 2–6, what kinds of matters are “disputable”?
5. What is a matter of supreme importance and that is threatened when “weak” and “strong” Christians do not “accept” (vs. 1) one another? (Romans 15:5)

Day 2: Read Romans 14:1–6.

6. When we usually think of a “weak” person, we think of a person who caves in easily to temptation. But what does Paul mean by a person “whose faith is weak”?
7. According to verses 1–3, and 5–6, what does a “weak” Christian believe about food/special days, and what does a “strong” Christian believe?
8. What is the “weak” Christian wrong about? What is the “strong” Christian right about?
9. What is the sin danger of the “strong” person whose understanding of Christ is mature? (vs. 3a) What is the sin danger of the person whose understanding is still limited? (vs. 3b)
10. How could you tell in what areas you might be a “weak” Christian? Who could help you find out? (Psalm 139:23–24)

Day 3: Read Romans 14:3–19.

10. Why should all Christians accept one another? (vss. 3c–4, 9–10)
11. What are you doing when you “look down on” (vs. 3) a Christian “whose faith is weak” at some point, or who disagrees with you on some “disputable matter”? (vs. 4a)
12. Since the matter of “food sacrificed to idols” is not a hot issue in 21st century America, what might be some of today’s “disputable matters” that threaten Christian unity?
13. What is the commendable attitude of a “strong” Christian who is convinced of the rightness of his particular belief or conduct as he lives among other Christians who may not share those beliefs? (vs. 13; 1 Cor.10:23–24, 32–33)

Day 4: Read Romans 14:4–21.

14. To whom is your brother (and you!) primarily accountable for his actions? (vss. 4, 8, 10, 12)
15. Rather than judging another, to what positive end should we put our energies? (vs. 19)
16. What example does Paul give of implementing this? (vss.14-16)
17. Can you think of an example in your life of something that you consider good (vs. 16) but that you don’t parade before other believers who might disagree, or a belief that you should “keep between yourself and God” (vs. 22)? Can you think of occasions that might cause you to exercise voluntary self-restraint of your Christian liberties? (vs. 21)

Day 5: Read Romans 14:14–23.

18. What is the kingdom of God most fundamentally a matter of (vs. 17), and who is the person who is “pleasing to God and approved by men” (vs. 18)? Are those *your* priorities too?
19. As to personal behavior, what is the “rule” or guideline given in verse 14b?
20. In the generosity and liberality of God’s judgment towards men’s weak faith described in this chapter, what is the one thing he calls flat-out “sin”? (vs. 23)
21. How will your attitude towards your Christian brother change as a result of this chapter?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**A Spirit of Unity****Romans 15:1–13***“Each of us should please his neighbor for his good, to build him up.”* Romans 15:2**Day 1: Read Romans 15:1–4.**

1. Whom does Paul address in verse one?
2. In Paul’s day many believers were unclear as to the implications of Christ’s sacrifice for observance of Old Testament law. What were the “failings of the weak” in this regard? (review 14:2, 5)
3. What did the “strong” in faith believe? (see 14:14, Galatians 5:1, 6)
4. Discuss what Paul meant by saying that the “strong” (those whose belief in Christ’s perfect fulfillment of the law allows them freedom) ought not to “please ourselves” (vs. 1) but that each should “please his neighbor for his own good” (vs. 2).
5. As an illustration of one who did not live to “please himself” (vs. 3) Paul refers us to Christ (quoting Psalm 69:9), who preferred to bear insult rather than assert his rights and stir up strife. Read Psalm 69:9–13 today and meditate on Christ’s attitude.

Day 2: Read Romans 15:5–6.

6. What is the “spirit” that Paul pleads for in verse 5?
7. How would our words, opinions, suggestions, and behavior toward fellow believers look different if we framed them in a way to “build up” our neighbor rather than to just be in the right?
8. What would the outcome look like? (vs. 6)

Day 3: Read Romans 15:7–9.

9. Why are frivolous splits and divisions among believers most heinous? (vs. 7; John 13:34–35; 17:20–23) Describe your own state of spiritual maturity at the time that “Christ accepted you”.

10. What noun is used to describe Christ in verse 8?

11. If this is so, what should be your attitude towards your fellow believer—whether you perceive him as “weak” or “strong”?

Day 4: Read Romans 15:7–12.

12. Having urged unity and love among Christians who don’t see eye to eye about matters of food and holy days (or movie-going or rap music?), Paul now turns to a special case, or challenge, for unity in verses 8–12. What is it?

13. Why should the Jewish and Gentile Christians accept one another as one, and not argue or judge one another? (Galatians 3:28; 5:6)

14. Citing the book of Deuteronomy, Paul exhorts, “Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people!” What do the Gentiles have to rejoice about? (Galatians 3:6–9)

Day 5: Read Romans 15:4, 13.

15. In the course of discussing unity, Paul quotes Psalm 69:9 (vs. 3). Then in the following verse he makes a sweeping statement about the value of reading the Old Testament today. List a few words from verse 4 that tell what we have to gain by reading the Old Testament.

16. Add to your list from 2 Timothy 3:16–17 and 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11.

17. In verse 13 Paul pronounces a benediction on his readers. What does he ask God to give them and us? What does he imply that we are to render to God in turn?

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**Paul's Mission and Plan****Romans 15:14–33**

“Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.” Romans 15:17

Day One: Read Romans 15:14–16.

1. Paul's description of the Roman believers in verse 14 sounds too good to be true. What phrases does he use to describe them? In what way is this description true of all believers, even you? (2 Cor. 3:5, 18)

2. Scan back over the section headings in the book of Romans, reviewing the many issues Paul has written about “quite boldly” indeed. (vs. 15) Why was he able to write so boldly to people he had never met? (vss. 15–16)

3. The language Paul uses in verse 16 to describe his “priestly duty” is that of the Old Testament sacrificial system.
 - a. What is the “offering” Paul writes of here?

 - b. How is this offering a surprising new covenant twist on the old system? (Acts 21:27–30)

 - c. How did the unclean Gentiles become “acceptable to God”? (vs. 16)

Day Two: Read Romans 15:17–22.

4. What is Paul's attitude toward the many things accomplished in his widespread ministry? Who gets the credit?

5. Think about an accomplishment that you are proud of. Who gets the credit? Why?

6. Paul writes that through him, Christ has been “leading the Gentiles to obey God”. (vs. 18) We might have expected him to write that Gentiles were “believing in” God. Why do you think he chooses the wording he does? (compare 1:5; James 2:14–17)

Day 3: Read Romans 15:22–32.

7. Paul asks his Roman readers to pray that the Jewish believers in Jerusalem would accept the gift from the Gentile church. Why would this even be a concern? (cf. Acts 10:27–28; 11:2–3)
8. Why do you think Paul so clearly wants the Roman church to know about this gift and be praying about it?
9. What reason does Paul give why the Gentiles owed the Jewish Christians a portion of their material blessings? (vs. 27; cf. 11:17–18)

Day Four: Read Romans 15:23–32.

10. In verses 28–29, Paul states confidently his plans to go to Rome and Spain. Into whose hands does Paul entrust his future? (vss. 31–32)
11. Under what circumstances does Paul in fact get to Rome? (Acts 25:10–12; 27:1; 28:16–19)
12. Look at James 4:13–16. How do you view your future? Is there any room for boasting? Is there any need for fear?

Day 5: Read Romans 15:30–33.

13. How does Paul ask the Romans to join in his struggle?
14. What phrases does Paul use to give his request for prayer more weight? (vs. 30)
16. How do you view praying for missionaries? How urgent to you is their need for prayer? What things (circumstances or heart attitudes) can keep you from praying? If your heart is cold, ask God to give you zeal for his work. Then pray for missionaries that you know of.

FROM GUILT TO GLORY**God's Grace to Us Romans 16**

"To the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ." Romans 16:27

Days 1 and 2: Read Romans 16:1–16.

1. What do we learn about Phoebe, who is delivering this letter to Rome? How does Paul ensure that she is provided for upon her arrival?

2. Verses 3 through 15 consist of Paul's greetings to individuals in Rome. What glimpses are we given into the life of a Christian in the early church?

3. What characteristics does Paul praise and honor in people? How does this encourage you?

4. Notice the number of times that Paul uses the phrases "in Christ" and "in the Lord." What is the significance of this?

5. How does your own connection to other believers compare with Paul's? What are some concrete ways that you could deepen your bond to other Christians?

Day 3: Read Romans 16:17–20.

6.
 - a. What warning does Paul give in verse 17?

 - b. By this warning and similar ones as in Gal. 1:7–9, is Paul contradicting his earlier exhortations in Romans 14:1, 3 and 15:1, 2, 7? Why or why not?

7. What are some characteristics of false teachers? How does their motivation compare with Paul's? (Review 15:17–20.)

8. How can we be “wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil” or as the Message puts it: “make sure that every ‘good’ thing is the real thing”?

Day 4: Read Romans 16:21–27.

9. What things do verses 21–23 tell us about Paul's companions?

10. In verses 25–27 what does Paul say about God? About the gospel?

11. What mystery is Paul referring to in verse 25? (Rom. 11:25; Eph. 3:4–6)

12. According to verse 27 what is the ultimate goal of this mystery?

Day 5: Reflect on Romans.

13. What are some of the lessons the Holy Spirit has taught you through your study of Romans? Consider sharing one of these at our next meeting.