

Who was Paul?

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and to the Greek.

Right now, tonight, are you willing to sign your name to this statement?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Logistics

1. Questions are encouraged.
 2. Taking notes is expected.
 3. Vocabulary is important. Have to understand the words to understand the concepts.
 4. I will use the New American Standard Version throughout the study.
 5. The study guide will include more than the slides.
 6. I will ask you specific questions that will be printed on the handouts.
 7. I suggest you purchase a three-ring binder to hold them in.
 8. The next week's scripture will be provided and will help you to read ahead.
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Ranking and Rating

How would you rate yourself on a scale of 1 to 10 on knowledge of the Book of Romans?

1. I know nothing about the Book of Romans
2. It is in the Bible and I can find it if given enough time.
3. I know the author's name and where he was born.
4. I have read the entire book.
5. I can quote from memory more than five verses from Romans.
6. I know the overall theme of the Book of Romans.
7. I know the historical context of the Book of Romans
8. I have been a part of a class, studied, or read a book on Romans.
9. I have a deep understanding of the entire Book of Romans.
10. I have taught a class on the Book of Romans

Romans basic knowledge quiz:

Q1: Paul speaks about the consequences of a sinful life. He says, for the wages of sin is __?__, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. 6:20-23

A: Judgement B: Life C: Death D: Forgiveness

Q2: The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, what happens to grace? Romans 5:20

A: Is taken away B: Also increased C: Decreased D: Is forsaken

Q3: The Bible says, "For all have sinned and fall short of what?" Romans 3:23

A: The wrath of God B: Plenty of harvest C: The glory of God D: His riches

Q4: If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be what? Romans 10:9

A: Anointed B: Rewarded C: Enriched D: Saved

Q5: Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of what? Romans 8:1-4

A: Sin and Death B: Moses C: Prayer and Fasting D: Abraham

Q6: For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in __?__ Romans 14:17

A: Humanity B: The Holy Spirit C: Breakthrough D: Long life

Q7: Paul tells us to present what, as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God? Romans 12:1-2

A: Our spirit B: Our bodies C: Our sacrifices D: Our wealth

Q8: When we do not know what we should pray for, who will know and intercede for us? Who is it Paul was referring to? Romans 8:26-28

A: Mary, mother of Christ B: Moses C: Holy Spirit D: Abraham

Q9: By whose hand did Paul write the book of Romans? Romans 16:22

A: Tertius B: John C: Timothy D: Gaius

Q10: But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to __?__ because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. Romans 8:10

A: Freedom B: Blessing C: Death D: Eternal life

Q11: God warns us not to conform to the pattern of this world, but to be transformed by a renewal of you what? Romans 12:2

A: Soul B: Mind C: Giving D: Strength

Q12: As it is written: "There is no one righteous" but whom? Romans 3:10

A: Just a few B: Except the Jews C: Not even one D: The prophets

Q13: For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the what?. Romans 8:14

A: Friends of Christ B: Children of God C: Disciples of God D: Sons of men

Q14: What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can ___? Romans 8:31

A: Fight us B: Walk with us C: Mess with us D: Be against us

Q15: I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the ___?___ that will be revealed in us. Romans 8:18

A: Glory B: Riches C: Wealth D: Break-throughs

Q16: So then faith comes by ___?___, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17

A: Singing B: Fasting C: Hearing D: Anointing

Q17: Paul says that neither death nor life, angels nor demons, tribulation, prosecution, nor anything else of all creation will be able to separate us from what? Romans 8:39

A: The church B: God's love C: Law of Moses D: Wealth

Q18: Regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of which famous king of Israel? Romans 1:3

A: David B: Noah C: Abraham D: Herod

Q19: Paul who was called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, is described as what to Jesus Christ? Romans 1:1

A: A priest B: A prophet C: A servant D: A brother

Q20: Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is ___? Romans 12:9

A: Trending B: Fun C: Prosperous D: Good

Q21: What will happen to those who have sinned without the law? Romans 12:12

A. Put under the law to be judged B. Perish without the law C. Receive mercy D. Perish with the law

Q22: If we base our life on works to justify ourselves what happens to grace? Romans 11:16

A. It grows B. there is no grace C. counted as righteousness D. faithfulness

Q23: Who is NOT pleasing in the sight of God? Romans 8:8

A. Those in the flesh B. Those not circumcised C. Those not in church D. Those not righteous

Q24: We call upon God in belief by hearing, and this requires what? Romans 10:14

A. Ears of righteousness B. Tradition C. a preacher D. Law

Q25: Form which tribe was the author of Romans? Romans 11:1

A. Judah B. Simeon C. Benjamin D. Levi

What is context?

1. Provides authorial intent –Who is the author? What the writer intends to say. What was God trying to say through the author? Context provides a check to see only what you want it to say. Proof Texting a
 2. Historical context provides underlying reasons for the author to write.
 3. Chronological context provides an understanding of the time in which the text was written.
 4. Language context – Have to define words in the original language of the author – Word studies
 5. Four levels of context
 - a. Immediate setting – context of the surrounding texts. How do they fit, Is there any logical breaks in thought or idea
 - b. Book setting – context of the interpretation and place of the book in which the text is found.
 - c. Gospel setting – the context within the whole of the Gospel
 - d. Textual chain – using a cross-reference bible that provides parallel scriptures and understandings.
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Romans Context

Romans – Why was it written?

- Paul was writing with an underlying goal. UNITY
 - He had to show them there was no difference between the groups within the church.
 - One Body in Christ
- Fullest explanation of the Gospel from Paul's understanding.
- The major themes in the Book are: Need, Salvation, Righteousness, Sanctification, Power, Practice

Four Divided Groups in the Roman Church

All four groups knew and acknowledged the need for change. The need for God to do something with them and for them. They used words like justified, righteousness, salvation, sanctification, belief, knowledge, the way, hope, and covenant. They needed change in their lives but all four saw different pathways to God.

Group 1 – The Greeks – Gentiles Romans 1:18-32

Identity – Primary language was Greek. Spoke some Latin for political needs. The Greeks were always found in the lower third in the Roman hierarchy of classes. This group of churchmen found their culture and morals from their roots. They included pagans who found themselves captives of Roman armies. The Greeks were followers of logic and intellectual understanding. This group included slaves and freed slaves from all over the empire. They were alien emigrants living in Rome. They were constantly seeking avenues of advancement but also understood their place. Greek culture allowed them a way of living in the hope to move up to the next level of Roman life. They lived with the knowledge they would always be less than and Roman Citizen

History – They were a very large group in Roman life. At the time of the writing of Paul's letter to the Roman church, there were more slaves in Rome than citizens. They were classified as Greeks because it was the only common language for the Empire.

Orthodoxy – With the diversity of ethnic lives came a litany of personal cultural understandings. There was no common and accepted behavior in this group. Christianity was seen as a faith structure that would

satisfy the guilt of living a lawless life. They knew God but they did not glorify Him. They knew the truth but did not live it. Eat drink and be merry because God loves a sinner. As long as you believe in something, it is good enough.

Issue – They were marginalized by other groups. They were the sinners in the middle of self-righteousness and head-wagging believers.

Sin – Behavior is all relative. Sin is something that depends upon the circumstance. We all sin but sin is not enough to keep you out of heaven. God Loves the sinner so why not just keep on sinning? Christianity is a sinning religion. Sin is bad, but God loves me.

Works – In the grand scheme of things my actions are driven by a hope that God is the judge and no one else. My works are the essence of who I am. Belief is a good thing, but my actions speak louder than my knowledge of God. Look at my works and be grateful that I am doing something.

Salvation – Salvation by perfected knowledge and specific works.

Group 2 – Moralistic Latin Christians Romans 2:1-16

Identity – Spoke Latin, the language of Roman politics and Greek. They were the Roman middle class and low-level Roman bureaucrats. They could hold a few household slaves. They were people of high morals in both social and political environments. They found a home in the church with others of their class. They were in a constant conflict between Roman hierarchy and Church egalitarianism, i.e. “How can we all be equal in the church, when in the real Roman world it is all about what class you were in?”

History – They had become Christians because of the social nature of the church. A place of meeting to enhance stature. They were a very transient group. Constantly coming into the church but not staying very long. They were the church hoppers of the day.

Orthodoxy – Love of your fellow man was the extreme edge of belief. Outside of their own class, their concerns for others were minimal. Love was reserved for those in the same class as them. They knew God, but they did not see a need to glorify or give thanks to him. They struggled with the belief that there is one God because the Roman Emperor proclaimed himself a god.

Issue – They saw themselves as above the rabble. They would tolerate the Greeks and the Jews but would view them as lesser than themselves. They lived on the periphery of the church. Not anti-faith but just enough to get you in.

Sin – Sin is a moral issue. They would say, “My job is to set the standards for everyone else and then judge you when you even get close to bending my code.” Morals are set by the culture and context of the situation, therefore, sin is bad but only bad according to my accepted standards.

Works - Works are a fruit of moral belief structure. I do what I do because they are a part of my personal moral understanding of who I am. Works are the scale that tips the favor of God in my direction. I am justified by weighing down my side of the scales. Belief without works is dead and sometimes without belief.

Salvation – You are saved by belief **and** works.

Group 3 – Jewish Christians Romans 2:17-29

Identity – They were becoming the merchant class, storekeepers, import and export dealers, frugal, and practical-minded. They lived in a special quarter in Rome and therefore segregated away from others.

They lived and traded in the common square of Rome. They were seen by society as mystics and fortune tellers. They saw The Church as a subset of Judaism. Spoke Greek the language of trade and Latin the language of Roman politics. Their uniqueness was in an ethnic understanding based on personal history.

History – Emigrated to Rome because of empire trade. Most came at first as slaves after being concurred by Pompeii. They had worked their way up the ladder of economics through hard work and conformity to trade standards. They had accepted Jesus as the Messiah. Carried the messages and speeches of Jesus in their heart and became part of the traveling church. Had been forced out by the decree of Claudius. The expulsion of the Jews was to prevent political meetings. It was more of a political issue than an ethnic or religious issue. After Claudius's death, they returned to Rome and the church.

Orthodoxy – Jews can become Christians believing in the prophecies of the Tanach. Belief in the Messiah of the Nation of Israel did not change the Law and the associated lifestyle of food, ceremony, or conformance to holidays. The covenant with Abraham makes them set apart from the rest of the world.

Issue – With the belief of the Messiah came a requirement for all Roman Christians and all Greek Christians to follow the Laws, ceremonies, and holidays if they are to be part of the covenant.

Sin – Sin is written in a set of codes and laws of the Talmud, Mitzvot, and Torah. Sin is accounted to the overall culture and ethnic covenant. For When Jews sin not the ideal but are covered by the covenant of Abraham. They are sealed by circumcision and sacrifices in Jerusalem.

Works – It is not an issue of works in general, but the works specifically set by the covenant of God. There was no requirement of love for anyone outside of their ethnicity. They thought they were righteous because of their conformance to Godly standards. Works are good, as long as they are part of the Torah.

Salvation – You are saved by covenant and special works.

NOTE: There was a fourth group the devout, we are not introduced until the last chapter of the Book.

Vocabulary

Apostle: The word apostle means “one who is sent out.”

In the New Testament, there are two primary usages of the word apostle. The first is in specifically refers to the twelve apostles of Jesus Christ. The second is in generically refers to other individuals who are sent out to be messengers/ambassadors of Jesus Christ.

Gospel: The word gospel literally means “good news”.

This phrase occurs 93 times in the Bible, exclusively in the New Testament. In Greek, it is the word euaggelion, from which we get our English words evangelist, evangel, and evangelical. The gospel is, broadly speaking, the whole of Scripture; more narrowly, the gospel is the good news concerning Christ and the way of salvation.

Flesh: There are four definitions of the Greek word SARX.

- a) The soft substance of the living body, which covers the bones and is permeated with blood) of both man and beasts,

- b) It is used of natural or physical origin, generation or relationship, "My child is my flesh",
- c) The sensuous nature of man, "the animal nature" or my appetite.
- d) Human nature, the earthly nature of man apart from divine influence, and therefore prone to sin and opposed to God

Holiness: Belonging to God as consecrated to God's service, and in so far as they are conformed in all things to the will of God.

Grace: The unmerited divine assistance given to humans for their regeneration or sanctification. A virtue coming from God. A state of being the recipient of a gift.

Gentile: A person who is not Jewish, especially a Christian. Among Mormons a person who is not a Mormon. It may refer to a heathen or pagan.

Faith: persuasion, credence; moral conviction of religious truth, or the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher, especially reliance upon Christ for salvation. Part of a grouping of people by such by profession. assurance, belief, believe, faith, fidelity.

Saint: The word "saint" is derived from a Greek verb (hagiazō) whose basic meaning is "to set apart, " "sanctify, " or "make holy." Same as holiness

Guide for Next week [Romans 1:18 – 3:20](#)

1. Read the scripture all at once quickly - 30 verses
2. Find a place of quiet and read it out loud slowly with deliberation.
3. Write down anything that stands out to you.
4. Are there any words that you think need definition – if so look them up
5. Try to state in one sentence what is being written about.
6. Who or what is being addressed.
7. What questions do you have that need further explanation: write them down
8. Make an effort to memorize the verse for this week

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16