Introduction

The Book of Romans was written by the Apostle Paul during the latter years of his ministry, some 20-30 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Paul had been working diligently and seemingly tirelessly spreading the “Gospel” throughout the region, persevering through many difficulties and trials, for the sake of Christ. Addressed to “all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints,” his letter was written with several purposes in mind: to answer the unbelieving; to teach the believing Jew; to conform the Christian; to convert the Gentile (anyone who was not brought up in the Jewish faith); and to show the Gentile convert as equal with the Jewish convert in both rank in the Divine favor and as children of God. With all Scripture, it is important to bear in mind that God inspired his Word for both the immediate contextual time-frame in which it was written, and with long-term, eternal application and value. With these thoughts in mind, let’s delve into perhaps the most influential letter written by the Apostle Paul.

The Crux of It All – Romans 1:1-6; 16, 17

1. In the opening verses of Romans 1, Paul identifies himself as:
   a. ____________________________
   b. ____________________________
   c. ____________________________

2. Paul declares to his readers that the Gospel of God was promised:
   a. When? ____________________________
   b. Through Whom? ____________________________
   c. Where? ____________________________

3. Who is the subject of the “Gospel of God?
   a. ____________________________

4. By what act was Jesus Christ declared with power to be the Son of God?
   a. ____________________________

5. According to Paul, through Jesus Christ and for his name’s sake we receive grace and apostleship. As Christians we understand grace as a gift from God and view apostleship as status in His kingdom. What is the purpose given by Paul for grace and apostleship?
   a. ____________________________

6. Paul concludes the opening to his letter declaring, “I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the ____________________________ of everyone who believes.”
Reflection/Discussion: As believers, we identify ourselves as children of God. In your own walk with God and daily life as His child, which of the three identities in Question 1 do you identify with most? Least? How does God’s gift of grace continue to influence your identity in Him and your service for Him?

We do desire the salvation of our family members, friends, colleagues, and neighbors, but is there something about Christianity that is interfering with our witness to them? Something we are uncomfortable with or ashamed of? If not, why do we hesitate or cast our eyes downward or away when an opportunity presents itself to declare the name of Jesus? Spend time in prayer repent if need be and ask for His strength and “words to speak” in those times you are given to share His goodness.

A New Life: Righteousness through Grace – Romans 1-6

7. “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who ____________________________, …” (1:18)

8. Paul states that two aspects of God’s invisible qualities have been clearly seen since the creation of the world. What are they? (1:20)
   a. __________________________
   b. __________________________

9. On the day of God’s wrath, “God will give to each person according to what he has done.” (2:5-11)

   How does Paul describe those who will receive eternal life?
   a. __________________________

   How does Paul describe those who will receive wrath and anger?
   b. __________________________

10. On that day, will God show favoritism towards Jewish believers over Gentile believers?
    a. __________________________

(For Questions 11-16 read 3:9-29)

11. Apart from God, who is declared as righteous?
    a. __________________________

12. Apart from God, is there anyone who does good?
    a. __________________________

13. True or false, the righteousness from God is apart from the law?
    a. __________________________

14. True or false, compared with the glory of God, most people fall short.
    a. __________________________

15. All are justified freely by God’s: (circle correct answer)
    a. Love
    b. Grace
    c. Peace
    d. Joy
16. What are three benefits Paul describes of our justification through faith? (5:1-2)
   a. We have __________________________________________________________
   b. We have __________________________________________________________
   c. We rejoice in _______________________________________________________

17. How does suffering result in hope? Describe the process. (5:3-4)
   a. __________________________________________________________
   ______________________

18. As sinners, we were separated from God; we were God’s enemies. The death of Christ broke the separation, and through His blood we are justified and saved from the wrath of God; our relationship with Him is restored. Paul describes this restoration as having received: (5:11)
   a. __________________________

19. In Chapter 6 Paul encourages us to “count ourselves as dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.” Since this is so, what two things are we not to do: (6:12-13)
   a. ______________________________________________________________
   b. ______________________________________________________________

20. He continues, that rather, we are to: (6:13)
   a. ______________________________________________________________
   b. ______________________________________________________________

Reflection: The world tends to rely on the good deeds of man, institutions and governments to bring righteousness to our way of life and to overcome the ills of haplessness and darkness, otherwise known as the human condition. History has shown that man has failed miserably at thwarting evil and being God. Our own observations and experiences speak to the reign of wickedness in the hearts of man and the fleeting nature of any peace or joy induced by man. We as believers know and continue to grow in our understanding that the human condition is innate sinfulness and no amount of “good deeds” will overcome it. It is only overcome through God’s gift of grace and our faith in Jesus Christ. Although we are not immune to the hapless ways and effects of darkness in our lives, and we can and do fall, we as believers have a power within to keep wickedness from reigning and the peace and joy of God eternally sustaining.

Discussion: Read Romans 6:11-14. In his use of the word sin in this passage, Paul is not referring to specific instances or types of sin, such as sexual sin, but to all sin. What does Paul mean when he says, “Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to Him as instruments of righteousness.” Why does Paul use the word offer? What is the implication of the term instrument?

Spend a few moments in your prayer time thanking God His gift of grace. Ask for protection from the effects of darkness. Seek wisdom from Him on using your body as an “instrument of righteousness”.

Life: Spirit Influence, Promise, and Instruction – Romans 7-16

21. Compare and contrast the minds of those who live “according to the sinful nature” and those who “live in accordance with the spirit”: (8:5)
   a. Sinful Nature: ______________________________________________________
   b. With the Spirit: ___________________________________________________

22. Compare and contrast the minds of “sinful man” and those “controlled by the Spirit”: (8:6)
   a. Sinful Man: ______________________________________________________
   b. Controlled by the Spirit: ___________________________________________

23. “And if the spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is _______________ in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give _______________ to your mortal bodies through his spirit, who _______________ in you.” (8:11)

24. Read 8:26-27. Paul states, “… the Spirit helps us in our weakness.”
   a. How does the Holy Spirit intercede for us in our prayers?
      _________________________________________________________________
   b. The spirit intercedes in accordance with:
      _________________________________________________________________

25. What are the two conditions as related by Paul of those for whom God works for the good of? (8:28)
   a. _____________________________
   b. _____________________________

26. What is the method given by Paul to “test and approve what God’s will is?” (12:1-2)
   a. Offer ___________________________________________________________
   b. Do not __________________________________________________________
   c. Be _____________________________________________________________

Reflection: Through his letter to the Roman Christians Paul clearly states that God’s love toward us and His extension of grace does not depend on anything we do or desire, but on His mercy (9:16). In Chapters 12-15, Paul instructs Christians on how they (we) ought to live in view of God’s mercy. Specifically in 12:9-21, he provides a list of life instructions that are to be applied daily. Read 12:9-21. As you read each instruction, direct the instruction toward yourself asking, “Am I...” or “Do I...” as appropriate. For example: Ask yourself, “Am I sincere in my love towards others? Do I hate what is evil? Do I cling to what is good or am I clinging to bad behavior, immorality, selfishness, or pride?” Continue in this manner throughout the remainder of the passage.

Discussion: Share with your brothers one instruction you think you do well with and one you struggle with. Be open to their feedback. Pray for each other.

Continue with review sheet for the Book of Hebrews.