

THE GOOD NEWS OF THE GOSPEL

Romans 1:1-15

Lesson 1

FIRST DAY: Introduction

1. God has so much to unpack to you this year as you study the book of Romans! Martin Luther, the well-known reformationist, wrote, *Romans is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.* Even as God transformed Martin Luther, and many others, through the study of Romans, so God desires to transform your life (Romans 12:2) as you study the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Within this wondrous epistle are the keys to the Christian truths of salvation, grace, faith, and justification that will establish you in Jesus Christ. You will have opportunity to lay hold of some of the most profound and transforming promises of God.

Paul began this epistle by identifying himself, the Gospel, and those to whom he was writing. At this point, Paul had not visited the house churches located throughout Rome. However, he was eager to meet with these believers so that they could grasp the greatness of the salvation that was theirs through Christ Jesus.

Use the following to identify and highlight:

- a. Paul and the Good News – Romans 1:1-4
 - b. The Gospel and believers – Romans 1:5-7
 - c. Evidences of Paul's concern – Romans 1:8-12
 - d. Paul's desire – Romans 1:13-15
2. Ask God to open your understanding and establish you in the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ!

*I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all ...
without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers.*
Romans 1:8-9

SECOND DAY: Read Romans 1:1–4

1. According to Romans 1:1, this great epistle to the believers in Rome was written by Paul. Record and comment on the three ways he identified himself to the believers in Rome:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

(1) Which of these self-descriptions do you find most compelling?
2. Paul stated that the Gospel was not new news, but its origins could be traced *through His (God) prophets in the Holy Scriptures*. Use Luke 24:25–27, John 5:39, and 1 Peter 1:10–12 to comment on why this is an important fact about the Gospel.
3. In Romans 1:3 Paul pointed to Jesus as the ultimate fulfillment of Jeremiah 23:5–6. Why do you think Paul stressed this point?
4. Use examples from Jesus' earthly ministry to show how He was *declared to be the Son of God* (Romans 1:4):
 - a. *With power*
 - b. *According to the Spirit of holiness*
 - c. *The resurrection from the dead*
5. How do you suppose Paul's introduction to these believers would have enhanced **their** appreciation of the Gospel?
 - a. How does it enhance **your** appreciation?

THIRD DAY: Read Romans 1:5–7

1. It is through the Gospel (Good News), that *we have received grace and apostleship* (Romans 1:5a). *Grace* has been defined as unmerited favor, while *apostleship* denotes a calling as a special ambassador. Why is it significant that we have received:
 - a. *Grace*
 - b. *Apostleship*
 - (1) Notice that Paul said we have *received* rather than earned. What does this imply to you?
2. In the NLT Romans 1:5 reads, *Through Christ, God has given us the privilege [grace] and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey Him, bringing glory to His name.* How does this magnify the purpose of the *grace* and *apostleship* that we have *received*?
3. Link the identity of those to whom Paul wrote (Romans 1:5b–7a) with John 15:16. What do you see?
 - a. How do you see yourself included in this company?
4. In what two ways did Paul described *all who are in Rome*:
 - a. Romans 1:7a
 - (1) How can you claim this description as your own? See 1 John 3:1.
 - b. Romans 1:7b
 - (1) The word *saints* in Greek is *hagios*, which means *set apart* or *holy*. It does not refer to only a few righteous individuals, but to all those who put their faith in Christ Jesus. Use 1 Corinthians 6:11 to describe who you are as a *saint*.
5. According to Romans 1:7c, what is the disposition of *God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ* toward us as believers?
 - a. Why is this essential for every believer to remember?
 - b. Why do you think *grace* precedes *peace*?

FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 1:8–12

1. How did Paul feel about the believers in Rome? Romans 1:8a
 - a. From Romans 1:8b what had Paul heard about these believers? See also Romans 16:19a.
 - b. How does the fact that Rome was the depraved capital of the Empire, enhance your appreciation of these believers' testimony?
2. According to Romans 1:9a, how did Paul *serve* God? See also John 4:24.
3. In Romans 1:9 Paul stated, *without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers*. Use the following Scriptures to shed light on Paul's prayer life:
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 5:17
 - b. Ephesians 1:15–16
 - c. Ephesians 6:18
4. What was Paul's *request* of the Lord? Romans 1:10
 - a. Paul's request was predicated on *the will of God*. Connect this with 1 John 5:14. What lesson do you receive from this?
5. Why did Paul *long to see* these believers? Romans 1:11
6. What did Paul desire to receive from the Roman believers? Romans 1:12
 - a. Share a time you received encouragement from other believers.

FIFTH DAY: Read Romans 1:13–15

1. According to Romans 1:13a, what did Paul want the *brethren* to know?
 - a. Although Paul was in the will of God, his plans to go to Rome had been *hindered*. Because Paul was *hindered* from visiting, he wrote this epistle to the Romans. How do you see this hindrance as part of God's will?
 - (1) Share a time God *hindered* you in order to accomplish His will?
2. Why else did Paul want to *come* to them? Romans 1:13b
 - a. Use the verses below to identify the types of *fruit* Paul desired to have *among* them:
 - (1) Romans 6:22
 - (2) Galatians 5:22–23
 - (3) Ephesians 5:9
 - (4) Hebrews 13:15
 - b. What *fruit* do you desire most?
3. Romans 1:14 in the NLT reads, *For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike*. Use 1 Timothy 1:12–17 to explain Paul's sense of obligation.
 - a. What obligation do you feel because of all that Jesus Christ has done for you?
4. From Romans 1:15 note and comment on Paul's enthusiasm about going to Rome.
 - a. Why do you think Paul felt this way?
 - (1) How can you be *ready* to minister to others?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. From your study this week, share your thoughts about the Apostle Paul's declarations concerning:
 - a. Himself
 - b. The Gospel
 - c. His heart toward the believers in Rome
 - d. His intentions
2. In what way were you inspired by your study this week?

You also are the called of Jesus Christ ... beloved of God, called to be saints.
Romans 1:6-7