

The Book of Romans May 2023

1:1-17

Observations

- To all those in Rome who are loved by God vs. Everybody?
- v. 12 to be mutually encouraged by each other's faith
- v. 17 the righteous shall live by faith
- v. 9 God is my witness, I serve with my spirit

Questions

- Was Paul set apart for the gospel as a child, or once God encountered him on the road? Psalm 139, Jeremiah 1, God know the number of hairs on our head, Ephesians 2:10,
- v. 17 What does living by faith look like? Answers later in Romans
- v. 17 the righteousness of God is revealed from faith, for faith - what does that mean? Testimony by faith of the righteousness of God, multiplies other people's faith. OR, from faith TO faith - revelation of righteousness grows us in our own faith.

1:18-32

Observations

- v. 20 People suppress the truth. Why?
- God has shown it (truth) to them v.19
- Claiming to be wise they become fools v. 22
- v. 26-28 God gave them over to their passions contrary to nature because they would not acknowledge God
- In 2,000 years our world hasn't changed

Questions

- Why do people suppress the truth? Afraid of what the truth will bring? Fearful of the truth; or that you can't live in that truth. Think you're protecting someone. Every time we sin there's a piece of deception involved. There's a veil over our eye; the enemy is trying to hide the truth from us. John 10:3 We can hear God's voice, but if we deny that we've heard God, we think we're not disobeying. Ps 95:7-9 If we don't know God very well we can be afraid of hearing God's voice. It's the Unrighteousness that is suppressing the truth, not acknowledging/denying who God is/His nature.

2:1 - 3:8

Observations

- No excuse for our sins
- When we call ourselves righteous, but condemn others, we push others away from God
- Important to understand that we're righteous by faith, not by our own strength
- 2:12 Those who sin under the law are judged by the law

Questions

- v. 14 what does it mean for the gentiles to be a law unto themselves? v. 15-16 says that they are acting righteously by an inner sense of right and wrong. They are still accountable. God has written His word on all hearts by His Spirit.

3:9-26

Observations

- v. 23 all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God
- v. 20 because of the law we have the knowledge of sin
- v. 9 All are equal when it comes to righteousness

Questions

- v. 18 why does it say they do not fear God?
- What is the fear of God? Faith and respect, fear of judgement from disobeying God, Knowing that He has the power, thinking about what God thinks rather than others, the unknown of what God has planned for your life, honour, keeps you accountable. Awe and respect for the power of God.
- Why did God write the law? Rom 6:7 if it had not been for the law we would not know what sin is. The Law shows that righteousness comes by the power of God as sin affects everyone. The law proves that no one is good enough by their own strength. Jesus is the example of perfection, and proof that we need Him.

4:1-25

Observations

- v. 15 the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression
- Throughout O.T. justification by faith
- Faith is super powerful
- v. 21 We can trust that God will keep His promises
- v. 20 He grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God

Questions

- How many times was Faith written in ch 4 and, how many times combined with righteousness?
- v. 9 Is the blessing only for the Jews?
- Is our faith also counted to us as righteousness?
- Is the blessing for the circumcised, uncircumcised, or both?
- v. 18 what does it mean that in hope he believed against hope

5:1-21

Observations

- v.1-2 Awesome!!!! Justified by faith
- v. 17-18 the intricacy of one man's sin vs one man's sacrifice
- v. 19 disobedience makes sinners, obedience makes righteousness
- v. Where sins increase grace abounds all the more
- v. 8-10 While we were enemies! Christ died for us.
- v. 5 it's the work of the Holy Spirit to make us know the love us God; He gives it to us by His Spirit
- v. 21 It's not our righteousness it is THROUGH Jesus
- v. 21 sin leads to death, grace leads to eternal life

Questions

- How do we learn to rejoice in suffering? 1 Thess 5:16-18 James 1:2-5
- Know that we're going to grow, or that something good will come. Having hope that suffering is going to be over soon. Realizing that life on earth and our life is quite short in comparison to eternity. Trusting in God for the strength to endure. Jesus works all things together for good. He can redeem all things. Revelation 12:11 We will overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony. What has God already done? Attitude of focusing on God's faithfulness rather than circumstances. Either we run to God in suffering, or run away from Him. It's good to set your heart on running to God in hard times by nurturing intimacy with God on a daily basis so we go to Him naturally in hardship. God will carry our burdens for us.
- What is suffering? Discomforts vs. persecutions. Going through something so difficult that it brings us to a point of submission. Even when things are difficult, what does God see as the opportunity for giving glory to Him? When we set our mind to persevere for God's glory He provides and carries our burdens. James 4:13

6:1-23

Observations

- v. 23 GIFT of God is eternal life!
- v. 1 and v. 15 funny that people think that forgiveness means we can do whatever we want. By no means!
- v. 13 Use your whole body to glorify God!
- v. 3 and v. 5 Great picture of baptism
- v. 20-21 you can go your own way, but there's no meaning to your life if you do that

Questions

- v. 2 How can we who died to sin still live in it? Hope for a better life. v. 7, 25 "complexity haunts me, for I am two men, entrenched in a battle I can never win", DC talk v. 22 Jesus has set us free from being slaves to sin. v. 17 becoming obedient in your heart by the power of the Holy Spirit helps us overcome sin and temptation.
- v. 3 and v. 5 what does it mean to be baptized into Jesus' death? To be one with Jesus. v. 6 Our sin died with Jesus on the cross to baptism signifies our old self dying with Jesus and our new self being raised with Him. Being sanctified in Jesus.

7:1-25

Observations

- v. 21 we have a tendency to do what's wrong instead of right
- v. 25 Not always able to be perfect with our lives but trying to learn with God in the Spirit
- v. 8 sin takes advantage of opportunity to tempt us
- v. 4-5 fruit for God vs. Fruit for death
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Questions

- v. 17 and 20 "No longer I who do it, but sin who dwells in me" What does that mean? "The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak" we get tempted to act in our fleshly nature, but our spirit is still willing to follow God. v. 23, 25 we struggle to refuse temptation, but there is still grace and freedom in Christ and now no condemnation in Christ. A process of learning to live spiritually alive in Christ. When we have died and live again in Christ, we may sin but our true identity is now in Christ. Your sin no longer defines you, you are seen by God through the blood of Christ.
- v. 9 "I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died." What does this verse mean?

8:1-39

Observations

- v. 6-7 Setting your mind is an action and a choice. By an action, we participate in a promise from God.
- v. 38 Nothing can separate us! From God's love
- v. 15 The spirit of adoption: Adopted children had more rights than a born son in ancient Roman culture. The adoptive parent was required by law to complete the adopted child's irrevocable rights and inheritance.
- v. 26 the Spirit Himself interceded for us.
- v. 26-27 The Spirit Himself intercedes/prays for us when we don't know what to say.
- v. 19-23 Creation is waiting to be set free and longing eagerly for it.
- Garden of Eden here we come!!!
- v. 31 If God is for us who can be against us? Nothing can separate us from the love of God
- v. 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness that we are children of God.
- v. 18 Our current sufferings are not to be compared to the glory of God and His kingdom!

Questions

- v. 24 "Hope that's not seen is not hope" - What does that mean? Once we have hope fulfilled, we no longer have to hope for anything.
- v. 22, 23, 26 word study on groaning? The Spirit groaning together suggests "sustaining" in the greek language in v. 22
- v. 17 Heirs provided that we suffer with Him in order that we be glorified with Him. What about suffering is important here? John 15:18-27
- v. 36 Why are people persecuted for their faith? John 15:18-27

9:1-33

Observations

- v. 15 I will show mercy to anyone I choose
- v. 21 Potter has the choice to make what He wants out the same clay
- v. 33 Anyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame

Questions

- v. 15 Do we think God is equally fair? He is equally Just and Merciful through Jesus. Is it up to us to question the Maker regarding the purpose for what He makes? He leaves the 99 to go after the 1.
- v. 26-27 How would they be sons of the Living God if they're not His people. Refers to all Gentiles who are not born into the family of God, but are adopted in.
- v. 18 He has mercy on whoever He wills and hardens whoever He wills. Why Harden anyone? God give's people over the will of their own hearts. Ultimately people choose the hardening of their won hearts.

10:1-21

Observations

- v. 11 Anyone who believes in Him will not be put to shame
- v. 8 the message is very close at hand, it is in your heart
- v. 14 How are people supposed to know about God if we are not telling them?
- Verse for Israel - 10:1

Questions

v. 15 why is it beautiful to bring the good news? Isaiah 52:7

11:1-36

Observations

- v. 18 Do not be arrogant toward the branches the root supports you.
- Note God's kindness and justice
- v. 6 if it's by grace it's no longer works
- v. 2 God has not rejected His people
- v. 36 !!! To Him be the GLORY!!!!

Questions

- v. 18 Do not be arrogant toward the branches, the root supports you. What would be arrogant. You're not there by your own merit. The gentiles could have felt like they were above the Jews because they were not living under the law.
- v. 8 What does it mean that God gives them a spirit of stupor down to this very day? Or a spirit of frustration. v. 25 God's give time for the gentiles in the nations to be saved.
- v. 5-6 How would grace no longer be grace? Grace is by definition a free gift so if you have to earn it it's not grace anymore.

12:1-21

Observations

- v. 2 Do no be conformed to the ways of this age
- v. 21 do no the overcome with evil but overcome evil with good
- v. 19-20 God is protecting us from having a hardened heart by avenging on our behalf
- v. 14 bless those who persecute you
- v. 19 God will take revenge one day

- v. Heap coals on your enemies with kindness (give them the blessing of light and warmth)
- v. 4 Can be easy to think we're not important but the smallest part is important
- v. 11 be fervent is to be hot or boiling of liquids

Question

- v. 10 How to outdo one another in showing honour without being proud

13:1-14

Observations

- v. 7 Pay to all what is owed, tax, revenue, respect, honour. Interesting that all are in same context.
 - v. 5 Be in subjection to more to have relationship, avoid God's wrath
 - v. 12 the night is far gone, put on the armour of light
- v. 9 love your neighbour as yourself. If you're negative towards yourself you'll be negative towards others as well. Treat them as you treat yourself.
- v. 11 We're that much closer to salvation!!

Questions

- v. 1-2 what are the governing authorities? Parents? Government? God? Greek uses different words for "government" in these verses. Can include "heavenly authorities". Submit can also mean order, or graciously submitting to the consequence that an unjust government may enact, if you follow the truth against the leadership. Even Paul used his Roman citizen rights to dispute the unjust punishment he was given. The church is meant to be a prophet voice to the health of society.

14:1-23

Observations

- v. 8 whether we live or die we are the Lord's
- v. 13 never put a stumbling block in the way of others
- v. 14 nothing is unclean, unless you believe it's unclean
- v. 1 If someone is a new believer be gentle with your opinions/beliefs

Questions

- v. 4 who are you to pass judgement on another? It is before his own master he stands. What does stand mean in this verse?
- v. 6 what's up with all the eating?

15:1-33

Observations

- v. 23 I have longed to come to you
- v. 5 harmony mentioned a couple times. Singing in harmony, matches/blends but it's not the same.

Questions

- v. 1 what does it mean to bear the failings of the weak and what should we not please ourselves with?
- v. 21 What does it mean that those who haven't been told will see and understand?

16:1-27

Observations

- v. 5 The first to convert to Christ in Asia
- Reading the names in v. 16; they are very greek names, even of greek god's. No matter where they came from before, Paul regarded them as accepted in Christ.
- Phoebe delivered the letter. Was there strategy sending it with a woman? God always uses people you don't expect.

Questions

- v. 16 What's the cultural greeting? More enthusiastic, typical with a kiss next to the cheek.
- v. Why does Tertius say he wrote the letter? Paul was likely dictating to Tertius.