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# A STUDY OF ROMANS

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# STUDY OF ROMANS

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Read the Book of Romans**

It would be advantageous if you were to read this book more than once.

### **B. Background Study**

From your studies answer the following questions:

1. Who is the author of Romans?

a. List some things we know of the author that relate to his message in Romans (see Acts 22, Phil. 3:2ff, Acts 9, 2 Cor. 11, Rom. 11:13)

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2. To whom is the letter addressed?

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3. When was it written and from where? (Review any Acts class notes you have)

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4. How and when was the church established in Rome?

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### **B. Background on the City of Rome and the Times**

1. Locate the city on a map

2. If you have access to an encyclopedia or other reference books, do some reading on the city of Rome in the times of the Roman Empire. Make notes of what you find.

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**B. The Church at Rome**

1. How long does the text of Romans imply the church at Rome had been in existence (i.e. a 'short time'; a 'long time')?

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2. What were the saints in Rome known for throughout the whole world (1:8, 16:19)?

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**C. Purpose(s)/Theme of the Epistle**

1. Introduction to Romans
2. What would you describe the theme of the book to be? Scripture?

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3. Provide an outline of the major sections of the book and associated chapters (limit to 3 or 4 sections)

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## D. What Romans Does Not Teach

Some 'interesting' quotes:

1. *“This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul. It is impossible to read or to meditate on this letter too much or too well. The more one deals with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes. Therefore I want to carry out my service and, with this preface, provide an introduction to the letter, insofar as God gives me the ability, so that every one can gain the fullest possible understanding of it. Up to now it has been darkened by glosses [explanatory notes and comments which accompany a text] and by many a useless comment, but it is in itself a bright light, almost bright enough to illumine the entire Scripture. To begin with, we have to become familiar with the vocabulary of the letter and know what St. Paul means by the words law, sin, grace, faith, justice, flesh, spirit, etc. Otherwise there is no use in reading it.” (Preface to the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans by Martin Luther, 1483-1546)*
2. *“Other distinctives of the Presbyterian Church in America are: 1) **Total depravity** of man. Man is completely incapable within himself to reach out towards God. Man is totally at enmity with God, cf. Romans 3:10-23. 2) **Unconditional election** by the grace of God. There is absolutely no condition in any person for which God would save him. As a matter of fact, long before man was created, God chose or predestined some to everlasting life. He did this out of His mere good pleasure, cf. Ephesians 1:4 and 5. 3) **Particular(Limited - wlo) atonement**. God in His infinite mercy, in order to accomplish the planned redemption, sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to die as a substitute for the sins of a large but specific number of people, cf. Romans 8:29 and 30. 4) The **irresistible grace** of God is when the Holy Spirit moves upon a particular person whom He has called to apply the work of redemption, the Spirit of God does so effectually, cf. John 3:5 and 6. 5) The **perseverance of the saints** is that gracious work of god's sanctification whereby He enables a saved person to persevere to the end. Even though not complete in this life, from God's perspective it is as good as accomplished, cf. Romans 8:30, 38, and 39, and Philippians 1:6.” (The Westminster Presbyterian Church of Bryan/College Station)*

# STUDY OF ROMANS

## Review

1. Who wrote the book of Romans?
2. From where was it written?
3. When was it written?
4. Describe the theme of Romans in one sentence - give scripture basis for your answer?
5. Give a three part outline to the book (including chapters).

## II. Paul's Introduction to the Epistle

### A. The Writer's Credentials (1:1)

1. What were Paul's credentials (from the text) and what allowed him to call himself an apostle (harmony)?

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### B. A Brief Synopsis of the Gospel (1:2-6)

1. By whom and where did God promise the gospel? Cite at least one Old Testament passage that promised the gospel.

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2. Paul is writing to a part of the world that had a long history of Gentile existence. Why would Paul make a point about Jesus being a "descendant of David"?

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3. What clearly established Christ to be God's Son?

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4. Paul describes having received 'grace and apostleship'; who is the "we" Paul refers to in verse 5?

a. While 'receiving grace' is true for all Christians (e.g. Eph. 2:1-8; Rom. 3:24), how is this especially true for him? (see Rom. 15:15-19; 1 Cor. 15:8-10; Eph. 3:1ff)

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5. Paul's apostleship was "*for obedience to the faith*" having application "*among all nations*" (vs. 5).

a. As an apostle, to whom did Paul preach and to whom was he especially chosen to serve? (Acts 9:15; Eph. 3:1-8)

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b. Reflecting on Paul's apostleship, what did he preach (Acts 14:7; Rom. 1:15; Rom. 15:14-18; Gal. 1:6-12; 2 Tim. 4:6-8; Rom. 6)? Was this a "faith only" message? Scriptures?

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c. Mark the words throughout Romans which follow the 'obedience' family (e.g. obey, obedient, obedience, etc.) Suggest you use a concordance to locate all of the appropriate texts.

6. Compare Romans 1:1-6 with Romans 16:25-27. Make a chart outlining the similarities between the two passages. Note, Paul's epistle starts and ends with this theme.

<i>Romans 1:1-6</i>	<i>Romans 16:25-26</i>
Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called [as] an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,	
concerning His Son, [ <i>Jesus Christ our Lord - vs.4</i> ]	
who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness	
which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,	
through whom we have received grace and apostleship	
to bring about the <b>obedience of faith</b> among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake,	

**C. Paul's Introductory Remarks and Explanations of His Eagerness to Preach in Rome (1:8-15)**

1. Paul states that their "faith is spoken of throughout the world". How might this have been the case? How is "faith" being used in this context? (Rom. 16:17-19)

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2. Note Rom. 1:10-11. How did Paul's desire to visit Rome eventually come about? (refer to Acts 19 and following; Rom. 15:20-32).

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3. Why did Paul long to visit the brethren in Rome? (suggestion - mark the "that" terms in verses 1:11-13)

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4. What is the "spiritual gift" Paul wishes to impart to them?

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5. Paul was ready to preach in Rome. What was the "fruit" to which Paul referred? In what sense was he "under obligation"(NASB) or a "debtor" (NKJV), vs. 14?

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