

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	04 Sept.....Romans 1:1-17	Good News To Tell
2)	11 Sept.....Romans 1:18-3:26	Good News to Hear
3)	18 Sept.....Romans 3:27-4:25	Good News to Believe
4)	25 Sept.....Romans 5:1-21	It's All About Grace
5)	02 Oct.....Romans 6:1-23	It's All About New Life
6)	09 Oct.....Romans 7:1-25	It's All About Victory
7)	16 Oct.....Romans 8:1-39	It's All About Certainty
8)	23 Oct.....Romans 9:1-11:36	It's All About God's Plan
9)	30 Oct.....Romans 12:1-21	Does Your Life Please God
10)	06 Nov.....Romans 13:1-14	Can You Be Counted On
11)	13 Nov.....Romans 14:1-12	Do You Respect Others
12)	20 Nov.....Romans 14:13-23 ...	Do You Strive for Peace with Others
13)	27 Nov.....Romans 15:1—16:27 ...	Does Your Life Speak Well of God?

INTRODUCTION

- Romans is often considered the most challenging book in the New Testament because of its intricate doctrinal discussions on sin, grace, salvation, faith, righteousness, justification, sanctification, death, redemption, resurrection and glorification
- Paul wrote this letter possibly from Corinth while on his 3rd missionary journey, and sent it by **Phebe** (see 16:1), servant (deaconess) in the church of Cenchrea, which was a port city of Corinth
- The date of this letter was between 55-57 AD, just ~25 years after the cross. Nero was Rome's emperor at this time. In less than 10 years (64 AD) Nero would set fire to Rome & blame the Christians
- Paul encouraged the Jewish & Gentile converts to get along and live a holy life through faith, hope & love, though they lived in a society which allowed deep racial prejudice, slavery, prostitution, abortion, homosexuality, pedophilia and a host of other social ills
- **Ancient Rome was very similar to our modern society, at least according to Socrates** – *“Children today are tyrants. They contradict their parents, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers.”*
- ...and Paul didn't tell the believers to protest against society's evils, but to take action against the evil which lurked within themselves and within the church – Judgment begins at God's house!
- **The main purpose** for writing this epistle to the Romans was to show believers are justified by faith without works of the law
- **Chapter 1** deals with grace, justification by faith, praying, the gospel, depravity, homosexuality, and death – all within 32 verses

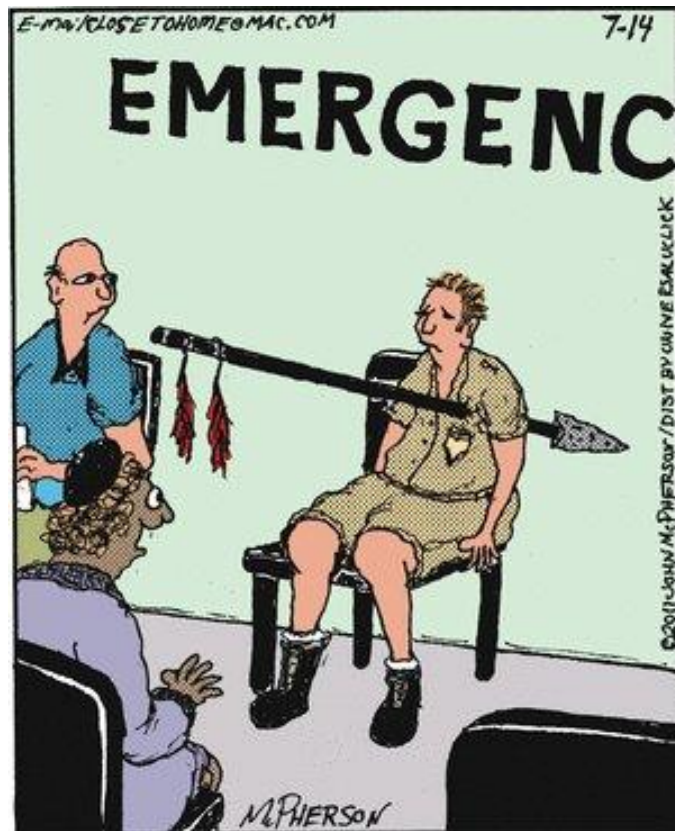
Passage	Comments
1:8-15	<p>Paul's Longing to Go To Rome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v10. Paul continually prayed for a visit to Rome, but was hindered either by God's providence, Satanic opposition, or pressing obligations at other churches • He finally ended up going to Rome, but not as a tourist on a holiday cruise but a prisoner in handcuffs • How often do we pray for good things and never see an answer to our liking? → But pray we must • Recall Paul even prayed for a 'thorn in his flesh' to be removed, and God said "Nope, not happening!"
1:16-17	<p>Doctrine of God's Righteousness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These 2 verses are the Theme for Romans • God's power to save sinners is through the preaching of the Gospel → Christ paid the price for our sins • God is right in His dealings with Man – no one can accuse Him of being unjust, unloving • "From faith to faith" → Salvation begins with hearing the Gospel shared by faith and received by faith

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- As we pour through Romans we are going to see some doctrines surface which are controversial issues in many churches today
 - Did Christ die for all or only for the Saints?
 - Did Christ call a few or everyone – but only a few accepted?
 - Does God's mercy extend to all or only to some?
 - Are some chosen for Heaven and others chosen for Hell?
 - Do we have a choice where we end up, or is everything signed and sealed?
- We will address these and more over the next 13 weeks...

NEXT WEEK: Romans 2. God's goodness leads people to repentance, Gentiles are included in the grace of God, and to be a true Jew is an inward process

Passage	Comments
1:1-5	<p>Doctrines of Christ –the Foretold Messiah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Paul's unique calling as an Apostle. He hits the Romans early with his authoritative credentials – but he highlighted he was a servant to Christ first • v2-4. Paul also addresses the obvious → Christ is the reason for our faith – He is central to our way of life • v5. Paul highlights his unique mission, along with the other apostles, to win the lost and disciple them (obedience of faith) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Too many times Christians just want to win the lost and stop there ♦ The other half of our battle is to disciple believers to become more like Christ every day – this is very hard work since it takes time, thoughtful engagement, and often times money
1:6-7	<p>Doctrine of Being Called</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If we accept Christ as Lord of our life by heeding His call to live for Him, then we become called ones • John 6:40 – 'everyone who believes in the Son (accepts His call) will have eternal life' • John 5:40 – but others are unwilling to accept the call of Christ, so they lose out on having eternal life • How do we know we are called? Is it a feeling? Is it a single decision or prayer? Is it a life-long process? • Scripture says our calling does come from God (8:28), and He involves us in that calling process



So, other than that, how did you like the Missions Trip?