

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1)	09 Sept. 2026	Romans 01	True Power
2)	13 Sept.	Romans 02	Coming Judgment
3)	20 Sept.	Romans 03-04	Saving Faith
4)	27 Sept.	Romans 05	Restored Relationship
5)	04 Oct.	Romans 06	Freedom
6)	11 Oct.	Romans 07	Struggle
7)	18 Oct.	Romans 08	Indwelt
8)	25 Oct.	Romans 09-10	Believe
9)	01 Nov.	Romans 11	Kindness
10)	08 Nov.	Romans 12	Sacrifice
11)	15 Nov.	Romans 13	Represent
12)	22 Nov.	Romans 14	Unity
13)	29 Nov.	Romans 15-16	Purpose

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), a servant (deaconess) in the church of Cenchrea, which was a port city of Corinth.
- The date of this letter was between 55-57 AD, about 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 and blame the Christians.
- Paul encouraged the Jewish and Gentile converts to get along and live a holy life through faith, hope, and 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!..... 1Peter 4:17
- 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
Romans 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 first highlighted he was a servant to Christ v2-4. Paul also addressed the obvious → Christ is the reason for our faith. How is Christ seen in our faith? v5. Paul highlighted his mission, along with others, to win the lost and disciple them (obedience of faith). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Too many times, we just want to win the lost and stop there and avoid teaching the whole counsel of God. 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 and methodical engagement, and often times money. How well are we evangelizing and discipling today?
1:6-7	<p>Doctrine of Being Called</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If we accept Christ as Lord of our lives by heeding His call to live for Him, then we become called ones. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are you called? Are you living for Him wholeheartedly? 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 having eternal life in Heaven. 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.

Passage	Comments
1:8-15	<p>Paul's Longing to Go to Rome</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv8-9. Prayer is key to winning and discipling people. How often do we pray for witnessing opportunities? How often do we pray for fellow believers? vv10-13. Paul continually prayed to visit Rome, but was hindered either by God's providence, Satanic opposition (1Thes 2:18), or pressing obligations at other churches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 a timely 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!" v11. Can we still impart "some spiritual gift" to others? Or, has this ability ceased? We will tackle this in Romans 12. v14. Paul says he was obligated to get the Gospel out to unbelievers (Gentiles). Do we have such an obligation? What are we doing about it? How often do we witness?
1:16-17	<p>Doctrine of God's Righteousness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These 2 vss are the theme for Romans → The Just Shall Live by Faith: Hab 2:4; Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38 God's power to save sinners is through the preaching of the Gospel → Christ paid the price for our sins. "From faith to faith" → Salvation begins with hearing the Gospel shared by faith and received by faith. How is God's power displayed in one's salvation? Are supernatural miracles involved? Consider the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Changed Lives – We are new creatures..... 2Cor 5:17 We inherit unfathomable riches in Christ.... Eph 1:3; 3:8 When we are weak, then we are strong 2Cor 12:10

More on Romans

- As we pour through Romans, we are going to see doctrines surface which are very controversial in many of our churches today
 - Did Christ die for all or only for the so-called elect?
 - Did Christ call/draw a few or everyone – but only a few accept?
 - 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 without our will being involved?

Romans Road to Salvation

- God Is The Creator Of Life | Romans 1:20-21
- Why We Need Salvation (Our Sins) | Romans 3:23
- Man's Inability to Save Himself | Romans 3:10
- The Penalty Of Sin is Death | Romans 6:23a
- God's Plan Of Salvation By Jesus | Romans 5:8
- God's Promise Of Eternal Life | Romans 6:23b
- Man's Responsibility to Believe | Romans 10:9-10
- Results Of Salvation = No Condemnation | Romans 8:1

INTRODUCTION – ROMANS 1:18-32

- Can we prove to the world that God exists?Yes & No
- God is a God who hides Himself (*Isaiah 8:17*), but when we honestly examine the evidence, we see God's fingerprints everywhere.
- Others won't believe even if someone rose from the dead... *Lk 16:31*
- God made it theoretically possible for every able-minded person throughout all of history to make it to Heaven. So, when someone ends up in Hell, they can only blame themselves.

Passage	Comments
Romans 1:18-23	<p>Doctrine of Natural Revelation – No Excuse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv18-19. Though God has given them internal and external evidence, the unrighteous suppress the truth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What internal evidence has God provided? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God has instilled in the heart of everyone a realization of eternity <i>Ecc 3:11</i> 2. God's moral Law of right and wrong are attested by the conscience <i>Rom 2:15</i> • But the conscience can be made weak (<i>1Cor 8:12</i>); or defiled (<i>Titus 1:15</i>); evil (<i>Heb 10:22</i>); shipwrecked (<i>1Tim 1:19</i>); or seared (<i>1Tim 4:2</i>) through intentional self-deception (<i>1Cor 3:18; Jam 1:26</i>). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What external evidence has God provided? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substantial proof for the Resurrection.... <i>Acts 17:31</i> 2. Scientific proof through the laws of mathematical probability: The odds of only 8 Messianic prophecies being fulfilled in one person is at least 1×10^{28}. For any more prophecies to be fulfilled would astronomically be impossible for them to refer to any other person than Jesus Christ. • vv20-23. Since the creation, God's invisible attributes are visible (omniscience, omnipresence, all powerful, all loving, all just, all merciful) BUT HOW? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Power/Truth/Just/Righteous. E.g., finding billions of dead things buried in rock layers all over the world give credence to Noah's global flood. ♦ Mercy/Love. Mankind is still here. ♦ Omniscience. The complexity of life, the vastness of the universe, and beauty found everywhere. ♦ Omnipresence. If God's word is true, then His presence is everywhere, as testified <i>Ps 139:8</i>
1:24-25	<p>God Gave Them Over to Their Lusts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v24. What would this look like? Probable sins include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Loose living, few morals, most anything goes ♦ The sad part is there would be countless innocent victims from child prostitution, incest, rape, pornography, and exploited women & children. • v25. "Served the creature" – What does this look like? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Man determines his ways. Man becomes God. ♦ Truth becomes relevant, not absolute.
1:26-27	<p>God Gave Them Over to Degrading Passions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As they went from bad to worse, what would it be like? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Sins of Rome included acceptance and promotion of adultery, homosexuality, bestiality, pedophilia, and child sacrifice on a national scale. ♦ Seems like America today (abortion, gay rights, and uncontested divorce and remarriage). Bestiality & pedophilia are next on the agenda. • v27b. "...receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error". IOW, they reaped what they sowed on a national scale. What would this look like? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Sexually transmitted diseases? ♦ Broken families & no one knows what sex they are?

Passage	Comments
1:28-32	<p>God Gave Them Over to a Depraved Mind</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "...they wax worse & worse <i>2Tim 3:13</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What would this look like? Probable sins include masochism, sadism, and other sexual perversions not appropriate to even talk about <i>Eph 5:12</i> • v28. BUT what does it mean "God gave them over..."? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this: God allowed them to do the evil they concocted with no forms of corrective punishment. ♦ Unfortunately, this would mean punishment would come later, possibly when they stood before God's judgment seat. ♦ ...and there would be many innocent victims between now and then...OUCH • What can the Church do? <input type="checkbox"/> Challenge society? <input type="checkbox"/> Preach against such sins? <input type="checkbox"/> Do nothing but wait? • Food for Thought. If the Church condones and promotes adultery via remarrying of divorcees, how can we tell the world homosexuality is wrong without it being hypocritical? Remember, adultery is considered an abomination and is lumped in with homosexuality as a deadly sin..... <i>1Cor 6:9-10; Gal 5:19-21; Ezek 22:11</i>

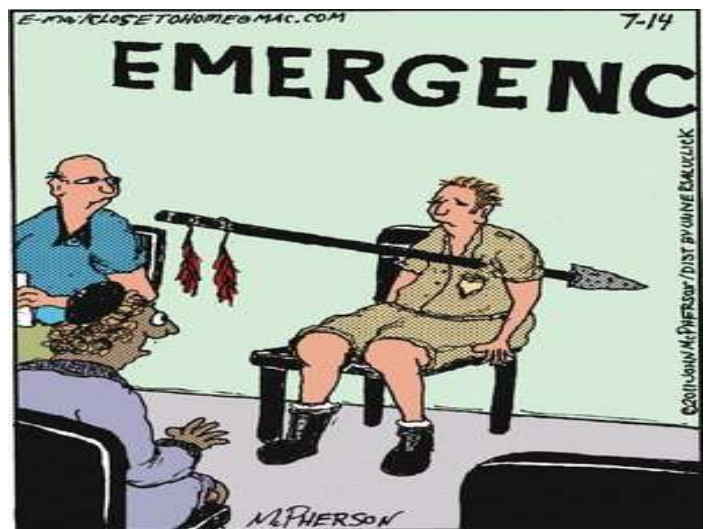
REMINDER: Basics of Hermeneutics (Principles of Interpretation)

- We know what the Bible says, but what does it mean?
- Because of our sometimes erroneous assumptions and biases the Bible can be used to develop any conceivable doctrine imaginable from Limbo to space aliens, from Calvinism to Arminianism, and from Catholicism to Pentecostalism.
- We must consider the context, the culture, the grammatical structure, the type of prose, and the whole counsel of God to help determine the intended meaning and possible applications.
- More often than not, one's assumptions and biases are the old wineskins, or the strongholds and fortresses which have to be demolished and rebuilt before someone converts from false doctrine to sound doctrine. *Matt 9:17*

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- Sinners have no excuse for missing out on salvation; and we Christians have no excuse wasting our salvation on our flesh.
- So, let us pick up our cross (our responsibilities) and serve diligently.

NEXT WEEK: Romans 02. 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.



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