

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 01 Mar 2020	Romans 01a	Compelled
2) 08 Mar	Romans 01b	Guilty
3) 15 Mar	Romans 02	Insufficient
4) 22 Mar	Romans 03-04	Justified
5) 29 Mar	Romans 05	At Peace
6) 05 April	Romans 06-07	Free
7) 12 April	Luke 24:1-12 [EASTER]	Raised
8) 19 April	Romans 08-09	Secured
9) 26 April	Romans 10	Saved
10) 03 May	Romans 11	Mercy
11) 10 May	Romans 12	Sacrifices
12) 17 May	Romans 13	Citizens
13) 24 May	Romans 14	Accepting
14) 31 May	Romans 15-16	Reach

**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 Cenchræa, 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, as 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

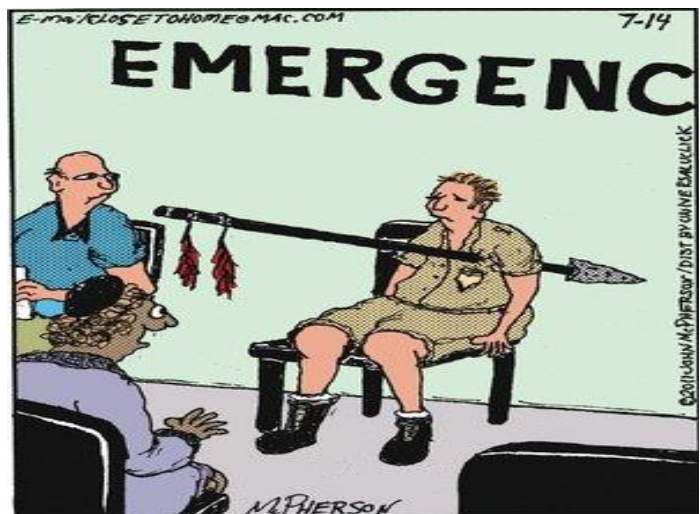
Passage	Comments
Romans 1:1-5	<p><b>Doctrines of Christ –the Foretold Messiah</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v1. Paul's unique calling as an Apostle. He hits the Romans early with his authoritative credentials – but he first highlighted he was a servant to Christ</li> <li>v2-4. Paul also addressed the obvious → Christ is the reason for our faith. How is Christ seen in our faith?</li> <li>v5. Paul highlighted his mission, along with others, to win the lost and disciple them (obedience of faith)                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Too many times we just want to win the lost and stop there, and avoid teaching the whole counsel of God</li> <li>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. Are we doing it?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:6-7	<p><b>Doctrine of Being Called</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>Are you called? Are you living for Him wholeheartedly?</li> <li><b>John 6:40</b> –everyone who believes in the Son (accepts His call) will have eternal life'</li> <li><b>John 5:40</b> – but others are unwilling to accept the call of Christ, so they lose out having eternal life in Heaven</li> </ul> </li> <li>How do we know we are called? Is it a feeling? Is it a single decision or prayer? Is it a life-long process?</li> <li>Scripture says our calling does come from God (8:28), and He involves us in that calling process</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
1:8-15	<p><b>Paul's Longing to Go to Rome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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?</li> <li>vv10-13. Paul continually prayed to visit Rome, but was hindered either by God's providence, Satanic opposition (<b>1Thes 2:18</b>), or pressing obligations at other churches                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He finally ended up going to Rome, but not as a tourist on a holiday cruise but a prisoner in handcuffs</li> <li>How often do we pray for good things and never see a timely answer to our liking? → But pray we must</li> <li>Recall Paul even prayed for a 'thorn in his flesh' to be removed, and God said "Nope, not happening!"</li> </ul> </li> <li>v11. Can we still impart "some spiritual gift" to others? Or, has this ability ceased? We will tackle this in Romans 12.</li> <li>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?</li> </ul>
1:16-17	<p><b>Doctrine of God's Righteousness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These 2 vss are the theme for Romans → The Just Shall Live by Faith.....<b>Hab 2:4; Rom 1:17; Gal 3:11; Heb 10:38</b></li> <li>God's power to save sinners is through the preaching of the Gospel → Christ paid the price for our sins</li> <li>"From faith to faith" → Salvation begins with hearing the Gospel shared by faith and received by faith</li> <li>How is God's power displayed in one's salvation? Are supernatural miracles involved? Consider the following:                     <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changed Lives – We are new creatures ..... <b>2Cor 5:17</b></li> <li>We inherit unfathomable riches in Christ.....<b>Eph 1:3; 3:8</b></li> <li>When we are weak, then we are strong..... <b>2Cor 12:10</b></li> </ol> </li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- 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?
- We will address these and more over the next 13 weeks...

**NEXT WEEK: Romans 1:18-32.** If someone ends up in Hell, they can only blame themselves. God made it possible for every able-minded person throughout all of history to make it to Heaven.



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