

Bible Study Guide for New Believers



Book of Romans

A New Believer Bible Study Guide Resource

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About the Author

A married couple that wishes to remain anonymous has written this guide. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ asked us to write this guide together to help new believers understand the Book of Romans. We pray that this guide will be useful to you in understanding God's truth.

Preface

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16, ESV)

The Bible has promised blessings to believers, who read, meditate upon and apply its timeless truth and wisdom. This is a Bible study guide that is designed to instill daily habits of prayer, meditation on the word and life application. It is our prayer that this guide be used to build up believers everywhere for the work that needs to be done for the kingdom of God.

How to Use this Guide

This bible study guide can be used for your individual study or can be a part of a Bible study group. In either setting, the authors suggest that the believer(s) first pray and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in understanding scripture. Then read the passage and consider it carefully. Once that is done, we encourage the believer to read the commentary.

We also want to emphasize that reading and understanding the Word of God requires time, patience and (most importantly) the leading of the Holy Spirit. We do encourage you, however, to be consistent in your Bible reading habits (i.e. daily reading). In time you will begin to see and understand the many spiritual riches the Word of God has to offer. It is our prayer that God will speak to you individually as you spend time reading His word one day at a time.

Book of Romans

Romans 1

Introduction (Romans 1:1-7)

1. Paul (the author of this book) was called to be an apostle (messenger of the Gospel).
 - a. Paul was prominent in the Jewish community, (see Galatians 1:13-16)
 - b. He previously persecuted Christians and was present at the stoning of Stephen, (see Acts 7:58, Acts 8:1-3) where he was known as Saul.
 - c. Paul had an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus, which resulted in his conversion to Christianity (see Acts 9:1-19)
 - d. Paul was chosen by God specifically to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentile (non-Jewish) world.
2. The word “Gospel” (v. 2), means “good news”
 - a. Referred to the coming of a Messiah (Jesus Christ), (see Isaiah 9: 6-7) who would be betrayed (see Psalms 41:9, Zechariah 11:12-13), be a sacrifice for the sin of mankind (see Isaiah 53:5-12), and would be resurrected (see Psalm 16:10 and Psalm 49:15)
3. Jesus was a direct descendant of David; (see Isaiah 9:7 and 2 Samuel 7:12-13)
4. Jesus gave a commission to the apostles to preach the Gospel to the Gentile world (see Matthew 28:16-20). In so doing, the call to obey God’s offer of justification through faith was proclaimed to the world.

Paul’s Longing to Visit Rome (Romans 1:8-17)

1. Paul commends the church at Rome for their faith. The faith of the church at Rome was an inspiration to all the churches that were undergoing persecution at the time.
2. We are to pray for and encourage our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted or in difficult circumstances
3. As Christians, we are obligated to spread the message of the Gospel
4. The Gospel is indeed good news! The Gospel plainly describes God’s plan for salvation. All salvation requires is the understanding of our status as sinners who are unholy and are apart from a holy God. All that is required is faith in Jesus Christ to be able to save us from our sins through his birth, life, death and resurrection.
5. Since we have faith in Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, we are declared righteous (without guilt and pleasing to God) and are able to live life in a way that is pleasing to God.

God's Wrath Against Sinful Humanity (Romans 1:18-32)

1. God was made apparent (in nature) to all of humanity
2. Humanity chose to ignore the apparently reality of God (the Creator) and chose to set their affections and worship on the creation (nature).
3. As humanity deliberately chose to ignore the truth of God, He allowed humanity to live life their way; he gave them over to evil and perverted desires (v. 24)
4. Homosexuality is a sinful behavior that was the most direct consequence of humanity's desire to reject God as sovereign. However, homosexuality was not the only sin that mankind committed. Verses 28 - 32 describe the total sinful and depraved nature of mankind.
5. Due to mankind's sinful nature, God's judgment was revealed upon those who committed the above sins and were unrepentant of their actions.

Romans 2

God's Righteous Judgment (Romans 2:1-16)

1. We are reminded to not hypocritically pass judgment on those who are behaving sinfully
2. We are reminded to not despise God's patience, forbearance (not giving us the punishment that we deserve) and kindness. These qualities of God are intended to bring those who are sinners to repentance and salvation, including those who are hypocrites.
3. Those who stubbornly believe that they are blameless in the sight of God's law (without actually being blameless) are just heaping up God's judgment on themselves.
4. God will judge both the hypocrite and the self-seeking person. God will also bless the faithful and God seeking.
5. Righteousness is NOT obtained by merely hearing the law. One's actions determine if they are a faithful follower.
6. God will judge all of mankind (Jew and Gentile alike).
7. Gentiles (non Jews) were not given the Old Testament law. However, Gentiles have their conscience that speaks to them apart from the law. It should also be noted that this is prior to the Gospel being preached to the Gentile world.

The Jews and the Law (Romans 2:17-29)

1. The Jewish people have a special place in God's heart; they were the chosen people who received God's Law and were intended to be an example to the Gentile world.
2. The Jewish people were not taking seriously God's intention to be an example to the world. As a result, the Gentile nations did not take God seriously.
3. Circumcision was a covenant made between God and Abraham. God promised Abraham that he would bless his offspring and that they (as a nation) would be great.
4. Circumcision was a physical sign of being set apart as God's people. It was also representative of the spiritual separation of the Jewish people (in having the Law) from the Gentiles.
5. Physical circumcision has no value if the person who is circumcised does not follow the Law. Physical circumcision was indicative of the spiritual circumcision of the heart (thoughts and attitude) of the person. Therefore, a person who has all the outward signs of being separated for God (and observing the Law) but is yet disobedient (to the Law) in their thoughts, attitudes and actions is not a righteous person.
6. Gentiles (who are typically uncircumcised) who follow the law are considered as those who are circumcised physically. In addition, they are also part of the same promise as the physically circumcised through their obedience of what the Law intended.

Romans 3

God's Faithfulness (Romans 3:1-8)

1. The Jewish people hold a privileged position in God's eyes. The Jewish people were entrusted with the very words (Law) of God.
2. Even though some of the Jewish people were unfaithful and did not keep the Law (even though they were outwardly Jewish, see chapter 2), God demonstrated his faithfulness to the Jewish people in keeping his covenant (binding agreement) with Abraham. The Jewish people have indeed been blessed despite their unfaithfulness.
3. There will always be people who try to be "above the law". They will try to claim that their actions (though sinful) bring glory to God. This is a wrong interpretation of God's kindness, patience and forbearance (see chapter 2) so that one can continue in sin. God is never in the practice of condoning sin, in any form. God's will is that we repent, seek forgiveness and find grace and strength to prevent future sinful behavior.
4. For those who reject God's kindness, patience and forbearance, and continue deliberately in sinful behavior, there exists a judgment by God for them.

No One is Righteous (Romans 3:9-20)

1. No one is righteous of his or her own accord.
2. Whether you are a Jew or Gentile, you have no basis for righteousness in yourself (Isaiah 64:6)
3. The Law does not make us righteous; it is intended to make us conscious of our sinful nature. Indeed, the Old Testament Law had over 600 rules that governed all aspects of life for the Jewish people. It was physically impossible to not break the Law.
4. In addition, if you broke one of the Old Testament Laws, you were guilty of breaking ALL of the Laws (see James 2:10).
5. Each time you broke one of the Laws, (especially the Ten Commandments, which dealt with moral behavior), there was prescribed remedy that would often involve animal sacrifice and shedding of blood to cover the sin that was committed.
6. The reason for the shedding of blood through animal sacrifice was to illustrate the seriousness of sin. It also demonstrated that sin would lead directly (if not atoned for), to death (see Romans 6:23, James 1:15)

Righteousness Through Faith (Romans 3:21-31)

1. Humanity, as we have seen, had no hope of righteousness and relationship with God by observing the Law.
2. However, God's righteousness was revealed to the world apart from observation of the Law. This was witnessed and foretold of by both the Law and the Prophets of the Old Testament. This righteousness was freely given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe, Jew and Gentile alike.
3. Jew and Gentile alike have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God.
4. Justification (declaring or making righteous in the sight of God) was given to all through the grace (unmerited favor) and redemptive (deliverance from sin) work of Jesus Christ.
5. Jesus Christ was presented as the ultimate sacrifice for atonement (standing in our place to receive the just punishment that was intended for us)
6. Jesus Christ atoned for all the sins of mankind in fulfilling the Law. Jesus Christ did not replace the Law, but achieved perfection for us so that we are no longer under the Law and its reminder of our imperfection.

Romans 4

Abraham Justified by Faith (Romans 4:1-25)

1. To understand why Paul mentions Abraham, we must understand Abraham's story. Abraham was an example of faith in the promises of God despite circumstances that were unfavorable.
2. If we read Genesis 12 - 15, we understand Abraham's background; he was called by God to leave his family, home and possessions. Abraham was told by God to leave all of these things behind.
3. In leaving everything behind, Abraham obeyed God's call in his life in faith. Abraham's obedience was subsequently blessed materially.
4. However, Abraham did not have the one thing that would make the promise of God (that his descendants would become a great nation) a reality: a biological son that would be his heir.
5. God directly answers Abraham in this matter (See Genesis 15:4). God then directs Abraham outside and has him try to count all the stars in the heaven, (which was an obviously impossible task) and promises him that his descendants would be like the countless stars.
6. Even though Abraham did not see the physical reality of holding his own child in his hands, he believed God's promise in faith.
7. This was the faith of Abraham; that he was able to trust God and God's promises in spite of the circumstances. In so doing, his faith in God was imputed (credited as if it was his own) to him as righteousness.
8. Abraham's example of faith is a template for the faith of the modern day believer. We like Abraham, believe in the promises of God (specifically the promise to all who believe in Jesus will receive salvation) and that faith is credited to us as our righteousness (see verse 23 and 24).
9. Paul then uses the example of the worker that receives wages to illustrate that we have righteousness that is given to us by faith in Jesus Christ. Our own efforts have never earned this righteousness.
10. David (see Psalms 32:1-2) notes that righteousness through faith is a blessing of God. It is a blessing because the righteousness of God that is credited to those who believe in Jesus will result in the cancellation of sin.
11. Paul also makes the point that (again) circumcision and by extension, the Law does not automatically mean you have the righteousness of God.
12. Abraham's righteousness was imputed to him **before** he was circumcised. Circumcision was a physical representation of the faith that he had when he was uncircumcised.

13. Since Abraham was imputed as righteous because of his faith prior to circumcision, he is the father of us all (spiritually speaking) who by faith have believed God and have received his righteousness through our faith in him. In this way, Abraham has become a “father of many nations” and his descendants have become as uncountable as the stars. What a glorious fulfillment of God’s promise to Abraham!

Romans 5

Peace and Hope (Romans 5:1-11)

1. Following the same pattern of thought from chapter 4, chapter 5 opens by talking about how we are justified through faith. Since we are justified and there is a removal of our past sins, we are at peace with God.
2. Through Jesus Christ, we have access to the grace (unmerited favor) of God. (See also 1 Timothy 2:5). In addition, as believers in Jesus Christ, we now have a hope of eternal glory (heaven).
3. “We also glory,” means we give God the glory and praise in our difficult circumstances.
4. Difficult circumstances (trials, also known as “testing of your faith”) produce perseverance (steadfastness in doing something despite difficulty). This quality comes from trusting in God and asking Him for the grace to endure the trial we are undergoing (see James 1:3-5).
5. Perseverance leads to the development of character (the mental and moral qualities that are consistent with that of Jesus Christ). Enduring a difficult circumstance causes you to get closer in your relationship with God. Through that experience, you begin to develop the fruits of the Holy Spirit (see Galatians 5: 22 – 23).
6. Jesus Christ’s character in us produces hope out of difficult circumstances. His character in us allows us to build our faith in trusting him for all of life’s situations.
7. We also have the hope of being with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ once this life is over. This hope does not put us to shame because the Holy Spirit has demonstrated God’s love to us.
8. God (the Father) didn’t send Jesus Christ to die for our sins because we were deserving of it; Jesus Christ died for us because of his love for us.
9. We are saved from God’s wrath because of Jesus Christ’s sacrifice for our sins. We could be spending an eternity in the fires of hell but because of his love and forgiveness we are able to enjoy eternity with Jesus.

Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ (Romans 5:12-21)

1. Sin entered the world through Adam, and Adam's disobedience to God in the Garden of Eden. (Genesis 3)
2. The consequence for Adam's sin was death.
3. Death came to all humanity, because all mankind has sinned. (see Romans 3:23).
4. Prior to the Law being given to Moses, sin was present in all humanity. God judged the sin at that time in the world, and destroyed the world through the Flood (Genesis 6:5-7)
5. Moses was an Old Testament leader and prophet of Israel. Through Moses, God gave the nation of Israel the Law and the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20).
6. The two people of Adam and Jesus Christ are compared and contrasted. Adam (who committed the trespass or sin) allowed sin and death to rule over all of mankind and brought condemnation.
7. Jesus Christ (the gift) followed many trespasses (sins) after Adam. His gift (life, death and resurrection) brought about humanity's justification (being made right with God).
8. Summary:
 - a. Adam → Trespass (Sin) → Death → Eternal damnation and judgment
 - b. Jesus Christ → Gift (Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection) → Eternal life

 - c. Adam → Disobedience → Condemnation → Mankind made sinners
 - d. Jesus Christ → Obedience → Justification → Mankind made righteous
9. As mentioned before, the Law made us conscious of sin. Sin exponentially increased after the Law was given due to the inherently sinful nature of man.
10. God (the Father), knowing that there was no way that man could approach his holy and perfect presence sent Jesus Christ to be an atonement (to stand in place for us) for our sins. This was a demonstration of God's grace (unmerited favor), so that we would not be judged by the Law, but would receive eternal life.

Chapter 6

Death to Sin, Alive in Christ (Romans 6:1-14)

1. God's gracious gift of salvation through his grace does not give us a license to freely commit sin. We are a new creation and are dead to the past life of sin.
2. Baptism is a public declaration that a person has fully put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ to atone, redeem and save their soul.
3. When a person is baptized, they are fully immersed in water. This symbolizes that the old person (the sinful nature prior to being born again) is buried with Christ.
4. When a person is raised out of the water after immersion baptism, it symbolizes that the person is a new creation in Christ Jesus. The raising up of the person from the water after baptism symbolically represents the promise that the person who is saved will be resurrected to be with Christ at his second coming (see 1 Corinthians 15:52, and 2 Corinthians 5:8-9).
5. This does not mean that you will never sin again. We all sin (as we are human and imperfect) but now that we have Jesus as our Savior, we ask God to forgive us. In addition, we are sanctified (being made holy) daily through the work of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 6:11, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Ephesians 4:22-24).

Slaves to Righteousness (Romans 6:15-23)

1. Paul illustrates our spiritual status by using the example of slaves
 - a. A slave had no choice or say in their daily activities or the direction of their life
 - b. A slave was directed by their master to do tasks that the master considered important.
2. Paul then compares and contrasts being a slave to sin against being a slave to righteousness:
 - a. A slave to sin would lead ultimately to death
 - b. A slave to righteousness would ultimately lead to eternal life.

Chapter 7

Released From the Law, Bound to Christ (Romans 7:1-6)

1. Paul uses an example of marriage to illustrate our intimate relationship with sin. Just as a husband and wife are connected spiritually, emotionally, and physically so were we with our sinful nature prior to being born again.
2. Underneath the Mosaic Law, if a married woman became a widow, she was free from the bonds that were made with her former husband.
3. In so doing, she was free to marry and to form the same bonds with her new husband. There were no spiritual consequences, as the wife was not committing adultery.
4. Similarly, when we became born again, our old sinful nature has died. This broke our relationship, our “marriage” (if you will) to our sinful nature.
5. We were then able to enter into a relationship with our Savior Jesus Christ and be fully committed to him.

The Law and Sin (Romans 7:7-25)

1. The law, because it points out our sinful nature, is not sinful. In fact, it points us to the fact that we are in constant conflict between two natures: our sinful nature and our regenerated mind in Christ.
2. Since we are imperfect, our sinful nature always wants us to commit sin and to go backwards and be a slave to sin.
3. Our regenerated mind is in conflict with our sinful nature. It reminds us through the power of the Holy Spirit what is pleasing to God and what is not.
4. When our sinful nature prevails, we commit sin. We are then made acutely aware of our fallen nature and our inclination to sin.
5. This conflict is what troubles both Paul and ourselves. It is a reminder that we are looking forward to the day when we will be perfect and be delivered permanently from our sinful nature.

Chapter 8

Life Through the Spirit (Romans 8:1-17)

1. Jesus Christ succeeded in fulfilling the law where all mankind failed.
2. Jesus Christ himself was made to be sin in our place, even though he did not sin himself (see 2 Corinthians 5:20-21). This was done so that we might have in him the righteousness of God.
3. As a result, the law was fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ for all of mankind.
4. Those who live by the flesh will reap the consequences of the flesh. Those who live by the Spirit will reap the consequences of the Spirit.
5. The consequences of the Spirit are life and peace. The consequence of the flesh is death.
6. Since we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior (and are indwelt with the Holy Spirit), we are in the realm of the Spirit.
7. We are in our mortal bodies and will see a physical death. However, the Holy Spirit will guarantee our eventual resurrection in our new immortal bodies.
8. Therefore, we have an obligation to live according to the Spirit (which leads to life) and not to the flesh (which leads to death).
9. Since we are children of God, we are not subject to the same treatment as slaves (see chapter 6). We have an elevated status as heirs of the promise of God leading to eternal life.

Present Suffering and Future Glory (Romans 8:18-30)

1. There is a void that we all have in our lives when we are born. Knowing Jesus as our Savior and being filled with the Holy Spirit can only fill that void and emptiness.
2. People always have dissatisfaction in life and try to fill that void with other people, alcohol, drugs, work or money.
3. But the only way to have true contentment is when we have made peace with our creator.
4. These verses describe the frustration that all creation faces, so they may seek a relationship with Christ to have a more purposeful and meaningful life.
5. The Holy Spirit is our intercessor and helps us pray for things that are within God's will for our lives.
6. If we are born again, we know that all things in our life will work together for our good. God can make beauty for ashes even in terrible circumstances. (Isaiah 61:3)
7. God will teach us in every trial we go through and help us grow closer to him and rely on him.

Present Suffering and Future Glory (Romans 8:18-30)

1. Sometimes the very trial we face may be used to help others grow closer to God and to bring him glory.
2. We may not understand at the time of testing why we have faced such terrible circumstances or pain. However, in time, the reason for testing maybe revealed.
3. However, sometimes we face trials and difficulties for our own foolish decisions or for not walking in obedience with God's will.
4. However, if we repent and ask God for help he can redeem and restore a terrible situation even if it is our fault we got into the mess in the first place.
5. God has predestined for Jesus to come into the world and die for our sins and for the redemption of mankind. God already knew who would reject him and who would accept him. We must make the right choice while we are here on earth. Our choice to believe what Christ did on the cross will determine our eternal destiny.

More Than Conquerors (Romans 8:31-39)

1. The born again believer has already claimed the victory after Jesus has won the battle.
2. If God is for us then no one in this world can be against us. Though we may face opposition and persecution, God will always love us and be there for us.
3. There is absolutely nothing in this world that can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus. Not death, life, angels, demons, present, future, any powers, height, depth, or anything in all creation.

Chapter 9

Paul's Anguish Over Israel (Romans 9:1-5)

1. Paul, who was formerly a Jew, is in anguish regarding his Jewish brethren. He remembers his former way of life and how he was proudly boasting in the law for his own righteousness.
2. However, Paul now understands that the law that does not save anyone but merely makes one more conscious of sin.
3. There is no one on this earth (with the exception of Jesus Christ) who is able to keep the law perfectly. As a result, those who rely totally in the law for the basis of their own righteousness will be judged and found guilty.
4. Paul is in anguish as the Jewish people were given so much of what was related to God. Yet, they are lost and are headed to judgment.

God's Sovereign Choice (Romans 9:6-29)

1. Abraham's descendants were through Isaac. Isaac was the physical son of promise, however God makes a point of saying that Isaac's children would be counted as part of Abraham's descendants.
2. This is consistent with the promise that God had regarding Abraham that his descendants will be like the stars in the sky or sand on the seashore.
3. Abraham never met all of Isaac's offspring however he believed the promise of God. Since we are not the physical children of Abraham but are children of the promise, we now have the same blessings that God gave to Abraham's physical descendants.
4. This would seemingly be an arbitrary choice in God's behalf. Indeed, this was part of God's plan to include all of mankind in his plan of salvation. He desired to show mercy to those who did not fully deserve it.

Israel's Unbelief (Romans 9:30-33)

1. Paul compares both the Gentiles and the Jews. The Gentiles did not seek after the righteousness of God as they were not given the law or anything related to God.
2. The Jewish people were given the Law and everything else related to God. The Jewish people pursued righteousness as a matter of the Law.
3. Ironically however, the Gentiles ended up obtaining righteousness and the Jewish people did not. Paul gives a clear reason for why: the pursuit of righteousness by the Jewish people through works instead of faith.

Israel's Unbelief (Romans 9:30-33)

4. Since the Jewish people pursued righteousness through works and observation of the law they could not accept in faith the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (“ the stone that causes people to stumble”). As a result, they stumbled and fell short of the glory of God.

Romans 10

Israel's Unbelief (Romans 10:1-21)

1. Paul compares both faith based and works based righteousness.
2. Works based righteousness is based on effort and how much more you can perform more than someone else.
3. There are often “ winners and losers” in works based righteousness.
4. Faith based righteousness differs from works based righteousness as there is no human effort involved.
5. In faith-based righteousness, everyone is a “winner”. No one is left out of God’s grace and mercy.
6. The only requirement for faith-based righteousness is to believe that God (through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ), can save!
7. The Jewish people are without excuse as to why they have rejected a faith-based righteousness.
8. God has sent many prophets in the Old Testament times to remind the Jewish people to follow him in faith.
9. Moses and Isaiah are mentioned specifically, (see Deuteronomy 32:31, and Isaiah 65:1)
10. As a result of the Jewish people rejecting God’s offer of righteousness by faith. God has opened the door to faith-based righteousness to the Gentile world.

Romans 11

The Remnant of Israel (Romans 11:1-10)

1. The majority of the Jewish people have rejected God's offer for faith-based righteousness.
2. However, just like the time of Elijah there will always be a set few (the elect) that will accept God's offer for righteousness through faith.

Ingrafted Branches Romans (11:11-24)

1. Paul is saying that the Jewish people (though some have rejected Jesus Christ and righteousness through faith) are not completely shut out of coming to faith in Christ.
2. If the Gentiles, (who we have previously seen were not seeking after righteousness, but obtained righteousness through faith) could provoke the Jewish people to jealousy (since Gentiles were not supposed to have the righteousness of God) and cause them to return to obtaining righteousness through faith, God would give them the same righteousness of the Gentiles.
3. Paul also states that the falling away of the Jewish people led to the salvation of the world. However, the restoration of the Jewish people to faith would give them eternal life.
4. Paul culminates his message of how the Gentiles have obtained righteousness through faith by using the imagery of a grafted wild olive shoot.
5. The wild olive shoot represented the Gentile believers (the church). The wild olive shoot is from an olive tree that was not carefully cultivated and was generally neglected. The wild olive tree would generally be found in extremely unfavorable conditions for growth and would have little of chance in bearing good olives (or fruit).
6. The cultivated olive tree represents the spiritual connection that the Jewish people have with God through the Law and the Prophets. The cultivated olive tree indicates that this connection was not recent but was continuous over a prolonged period of time. In addition, the cultivated olive tree was cared for and was given the most optimal conditions for bearing good olives.
7. Ironically however, we find that the cultivated olive tree has its branches that were broken off, where there should have been good fruit (olives). In their place, a part of the wild olive tree, (which had little or no chance for bringing forth fruit), was grafted.

Ingrafted Branches Romans (11:11-24)

8. The grafted wild olive shoot became a part of the cultivated olive tree and began to bear fruit where there was previously none. It was a metaphor for how God saved Gentiles who were far away from God (the wild olive tree) and brought them into the family of God.
9. The broken branches represent the Jewish people that have rejected salvation and righteousness through faith. They were without fruit and were removed.
10. The Gentile believers are also reminded that that they have not replaced the Jewish people.
11. The Jewish people who turned away from God's offer of righteousness through faith were indeed broken off because of their unbelief. However, the text reminds us that God still desires that the Jewish people (and all of humanity who have turned away from him) to return to him in faith and be reconnected to him and his promise of eternal life.

All Israel Will Be Saved (Romans 11:25-32)

1. In a reference to the end times and specifically the tribulation, Paul notes that all the people of Israel will be saved.
2. God still loves the Jewish people (as he does all humanity) and desires that no one perish but that all have eternal life!

Doxology (Romans 11:33-36)

1. It is amazing that God would plan to save any of humanity given man's fallen and sinful nature!
2. We should be grateful and indebted to God for his gracious gift of salvation to all of humanity, Jew and Gentile alike.

Romans 12

A Living Sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2)

1. As a living sacrifice, we give up our sinful desires and ambitions.
2. As believers, we have to remember that while our bodies have been unchanged, our minds and thought patterns have been changed.
3. We no longer look at the world the same way we did before.
4. Our minds are changed to see the world as God sees the world: sinners who desperately need the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
5. As a result, when we look at the world from the perspective of grace and truth, we are easily able to determine what is acceptable to God and what isn't.

Humble Service in the Body of Christ (Romans 12:3-8)

1. The church (body of Christ) is made up of individual members. No one member is more important than the other.
2. Each member has unique gifts, talents, and responsibilities.
3. We are commanded to use our gifts, talents, and abilities for the edification of the church body (see 1 Corinthians 12)

Love in Action (Romans 12:9-21)

1. These are practical guidelines of how love can be put into action.
2. Love should not just be demonstrated to the people who are believers, but also to the unbeliever.
3. Proverbs 25:21-22 are directly quoted by Paul to illustrate the timeless importance showing kindness to those who are out to do you harm.
4. When you show kindness to those who your enemies, it reveals the love of God to all humanity.

Chapter 13

Submission to Governing Authorities (Romans 13:1-7)

1. Human governments (even unjust ones) are set up by God. God will judge unjust or cruel governments in short order (see Daniel 2:21).
2. People who are in rebellion against a government, especially in armed conflict, will bear the consequences of their rebellion through human judgment.
3. Those who obey the law have nothing to fear from the government. The one exception is if there is a law that prohibits or prevents you from worship of God or requires that you worship be directed to those in government instead of God (see the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego Daniel 3)
4. If you break the law, the government has a responsibility to administer justice. Thus, you are subject to the law and whatever punishment that is given.
5. We also are subject to paying our fair share in taxes as well. (see Matthew 22:16-22)

Love Fulfills the Law (Romans 13:8-10)

1. The greatest commandments are “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your strength.” and “Love your neighbor like yourself”. (Matthew 22:37-39).
2. When you do both of these things with conviction and truth, you will have fulfilled the Law.

The Day Is Near (Romans 13:11-14)

1. Jesus Christ’s second coming is imminent! Therefore let us act as if he will come today and live for him!

Romans 14

The Weak and the Strong (Verses 1-23)

1. In any church or group of believers, there will be those who are strong in their faith and there are those who are weak.
2. The strong in the faith must not be judgmental, but rather be kind and showing the love of God to those who are weak or struggling in the faith.
3. Everyone has his or her own actions or behaviors (such as choice in diet and fasting preferences) that may be questionable to another believer.
 - a. Do not judge or discriminate another believer over such petty matters. These choices are between the individual and God.
4. We are instructed to be tolerant of another individual's choices as long as they are not immoral or overtly sinful.
5. We have to understand that the body of Christ is drawn from all races, cultures, and walks of life. There will be differences of opinion in regarding minor aspects of the Christian life such as fasting and dietary choices.
6. We should not let these or any other minor factors lead to condemnation or judgment toward each other as believers.
7. All of us individually must give an account for ourselves before God for all that we have done.
8. We should never be a hindrance to the fellowship and function of the body of Christ; but rather we should build each other up to do the work of the Kingdom of God here on Earth!

Romans 15

The Weak and the Strong (Romans 15:1-13)

1. There should be no artificial separation or division in the body of Christ, for we are all equal in the sight of God.
2. Let us strengthen those who are weak in their faith.
3. The church should not be a place where we put down those who are new or weak in their faith.
4. The body should come together to pray for and encourage those who are struggling in their faith.
5. In so doing, the church will be edified and able to perform its kingdom-focused mission here on Earth.

Paul the Minister to the Gentiles (Romans 15:14-22)

1. Paul has written this letter to remind believers, both Jews and Gentiles, of the gracious gift that God has given through his son Jesus Christ.
2. Paul was given a commission to preach the gospel to the Gentiles.
3. In his duties as a minister to the Gentiles, he was able to see God's power in signs and wonders through the Holy Spirit. In addition, he was able to preach the gospel to those have never heard it before.
4. Let Paul's ambition in preaching the Gospel be our aim (see verse 20)

Paul's Plan to Visit Rome (Romans 15:23-33)

1. It should be noted that the churches in those days were able to assist each other in terms of physical needs as well as praying for them.
 - a. This is a reminder from the Bible that the church (then as it is now) is worldwide. We do not worship God in isolation.
 - b. We should always keep our fellow believers in prayer and support them with their physical needs.
 - c. We should also especially remember our fellow believers who are facing persecution and seek to pray for and assist them earnestly.
2. We also must remember to pray for and encourage those who are in full time ministry.

Romans 16

Personal Greetings (Romans 16:1-27)

1. The church should commend those who are faithful in their ministry and testimony and support them wholeheartedly.
2. We are to avoid false teachers who will cause divisions and obstacles that are contrary to the truth of the Gospel.
3. False teachers do not serve Jesus Christ but themselves.
4. Paul also encourages us to not be naïve and to be aware that false teachers do exist, even today in the church.
5. Paul once again praises the believers in Rome for their faithfulness and obedience to the Gospel of Christ.
6. Paul closes the book of Romans by writing that the mystery that was hidden for ages in how the Gentiles may come to the obedience through faith has now been revealed. Praise God for his plan to save all mankind!