

## *Acts 1 Study and Discussion Questions*

### *Lesson Eleven: Romans, Part 1 – Romans 1-8*

Read Romans 1. For background information about Paul's letter to the Romans, see Lesson 6, question 14 (noting where Paul was and what he was doing when he wrote this letter) and compare Paul's opening greeting in Romans 1:7-15 to some of his closing words in Romans 15:25-28. Paul wrote his letter to the Romans from Corinth during his third missionary journey, prior to his departure for Jerusalem (where he planned to deliver the offering he had collected from the churches of the Diaspora). In Romans 15:25-28, Paul expressed that, after completing his mission in Jerusalem, he hoped to make a fourth missionary journey in which he would go to Spain and visit the Romans en route.

- 1) What does Romans 1:3-4 reveal about Jesus' nature? Paul declared that Jesus has a human nature as the Son of David and a divine nature as the Son of God.
- 2) From Romans 1:18-20, use Paul's words to list:
  - a) the two qualities of God that are clearly visible to all people of all time and in all places simply by looking at nature God's "eternal power and divine nature" (1:20) are obvious in creation.
  - b) Paul's conclusion about the accountability of all mankind to know that God indeed exists They are "without excuse" (1:20)
  - c) the response of the majority of human beings to this evidence They "suppress the truth" (1:18)
- 3) According to Romans 1:26-27, how does God view homosexuality? Homosexuality is a perversion of the natural order that has ultimately resulted from man's refusal to acknowledge Him (the Fall [Genesis 3]).
- 4) Paul set up God's solution to the hopeless and depraved condition of humanity (1:21-32) in Romans 1:17, which many consider to be the theme verse of the letter. If you have discovered "a righteousness that is by faith" in Jesus Christ to be your salvation from your previous, pitifully sinful condition, briefly share a testimony about this. Personal sharing

Read Romans 2:1 – 3:20.

- 5) Who was Paul most likely addressing in Romans 2:1 as "you who pass judgment" (compare Romans 2:6, 9-11, and 17-24)? Paul anticipated that all who read his words about depravity in chapter 1 would be tempted to judge others as depraved without first looking at themselves. In particular, he was concerned about Jews (not the individuals to whom he wrote, but the Jewish population at large) who passed judgment on "Gentile sinners." For the most part, the Jews had rejected the Gospel, and Paul wrote as though he was debating with them.
- 6) The Jewish people not only had general knowledge of God through creation (1:20) but they also had the knowledge of God revealed more particularly in the Old Testament Scriptures (3:2).
  - a) According to Romans 2, what seems to have been the attitude of Jews about their heritage? The Jews believed they had inherited a special position before God that excluded them from judgment.
  - b) Whether or not you are Jewish, consider whether you have been guilty of this same attitude. Conversely, Romans 2:29 speaks of the person who has a heart that has been circumcised by the Spirit of God as the one who will be praised by Him on the Day of Judgment. How would you explain the phrase "circumcision of the heart by the Spirit" (see Galatians 5:24-25, Philippians 3:3 and Colossians 2:11) and what evidence is there that this is taking place in your own life? When a person enters a relationship with God by faith (as opposed to a relationship based merely on following rules [the Law]), God's Spirit "circumcises" our hearts, cutting off (putting to death) the sins our hearts previously held onto so dearly. Some evidence of this work of the Holy Spirit occurs immediate upon conversion but other evidences are progressive as we mature spiritually. Personal sharing

Read Romans 3:21-5:11.

- 7) According to Romans 3:21-22, 26, 28 and 4:3, 5, 13, 16, how does one receive God's righteousness? **God imputes Christ's righteousness to those who trust Jesus Christ by faith.**
- 8) Read Genesis 15:1-6 with Romans 4:18-22. What promise of God in Romans 3-4 are you "fully persuaded" (4:21) that He has the power to keep (include the verse number of the promise)? **Among other possible answers: that God will justify us (3:28) and declare us righteous (or credit our faith as righteousness) (3:22, 4:4, 23-24).**
- 9) According to Romans 5:1-5, once we have been "justified" before God by faith, our suffering in life takes on meaning. Name one of the qualities in Romans 5:3-4 and explain how it is currently being developed in you. **Personal sharing**

Read Romans 5:12-7:25.

- 10) List the key terms that are repeated in Romans 5:12-21, putting each one under the applicable heading below (the first is given as an example).

ONE MAN = ADAM

Sin  
Death  
Trespass  
Condemnation

ONE MAN = JESUS CHRIST

Gift  
Righteousness  
Grace  
Life

- 11) Put Paul's rhetorical questions in Romans 6:1, 6:15, and 7:7 into your own words (the first two questions naturally result from Paul's statement in Romans 5:20). Then use phrases from the verses that follow each question to summarize Paul's answers.
  - 1) In Romans 5:20, Paul said that where sin increased, grace increased all the more. Thus, in Romans 6:1, Paul asks rhetorically whether those who have been justified by faith in Christ ought to continue sinning so that God's grace can be magnified. He answers the question by saying believers have been "baptized into (Christ's) death" and "buried with him through baptism into death in order that... we may live a new life" (6:3-4); that "our old self was crucified... that we should no longer be slaves to sin" (6:6); and that we ought to "count (ourselves) dead to sin and... not let sin reign" in us (6:11-12).
  - 2) Since Paul had also stated in 5:20 that the law was brought in so that the trespass might increase, in Romans 6:15, he asks (rhetorically) whether it matters if we sin, since we are no longer under the law. To this, he answers that we ought to consider ourselves "slaves to God" (6:22), rather than slaves to sin as we used to be (6:17), and that this will lead us to become "slaves of righteousness" (as opposed to exploiting the righteousness of God that has been imputed to us).
  - 3) In Romans 7:7, Paul asks if the law is sinful. He answers, "Certainly not!" (7:7). "The law is holy" (7:12) and "spiritual" (7:14), but our problem with the law is that we are "unspiritual" (7:14) in our "sinful nature" (7:18) and though we "delight in God's law" (7:22) our sinful natures remain "enslaved to the law of sin" (7:25). The solution to our dilemma is being "rescued from our bodies of death" (7:24) "through Jesus Christ our Lord" (7:25). The Law makes us aware of our sin, but that does not make the Law itself sinful.
- 12) If you have put your faith in Jesus Christ for salvation, how does Romans 7:25 explain the battle going on within you recently with regard to a particular sin (no need to name the sin in discussing your answer if you are not yet ready to confess it openly)? By faith, will you take Paul's declaration in verse 25 as your own throughout this week, especially with regard to that particular sin ("thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord")? **Personal sharing**

Read Romans 8.

- 13)** Paul developed a theology between Romans 1 and 8. Summarize each of the following verses as a means of noting the development of this treatise.
- Romans 1:18 **God's wrath against mankind's sin is being expressed, for men and women suppress truth regarding Him.**
- Romans 2:1 **No one ought to think of him or herself as exempt from judgment.**
- Romans 3:9 **All are equally under sin (both Jews and Gentiles).**
- Romans 3:20 **We are incapable of observing the Law perfectly enough to be declared righteous by God, and thus, remedy our situation ourselves. Trying to keep the Law by our own efforts will only make us aware how sinful we actually are.**
- Romans 3:21-22 **A righteousness that is from God comes by faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.**
- Romans 5:1 **Those who are justified by this faith have peace with God.**
- Romans 5:18 **Adam's sin resulted in all being sinners, but Jesus' righteousness has brought justification to all (who believe).**
- Romans 8:1 **Those who are "in Christ" (by faith) are no longer under God's condemnation.**
- 14)** Referring to Romans 8:18-25, Genesis 3:17-18, Acts 3:21, 1 Corinthians 15:51-52, 2 Peter 3:13, and Revelation 21:1-4, summarize the hope of every believer. **The hope of the believer is "the restoration of all things" (Acts 3:21) at the end of time, when all creation will be "liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into freedom" (Romans 8:21). God will then restore creation to its former glory in a "new heaven and a new earth" (Revelation 21:1) and restore our own physical bodies from sin and death, giving us brand new, glorious, eternal bodies. We will live under a new "order" (Revelation 21:4), dwelling in God's own presence.**
- 15)** Which phrases in Romans 8 are particularly encouraging to you in your present circumstances (tell specifically how they apply)? **Personal sharing**