

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.

- 1) What does Romans 1:3-4 reveal about Jesus’ nature?

- 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

 - b) Paul’s conclusion about the accountability of all mankind to know that God indeed exists

 - c) the response of the majority of human beings to this evidence

- 3) According to Romans 1:26-27, how does God view homosexuality?

- 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.

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)?

- 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?

- 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?

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?
- 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)?
- 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.

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

ONE MAN = JESUS CHRIST
Gift

- 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.

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")?

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

Romans 2:1

Romans 3:9

Romans 3:20

Romans 3:21-22

Romans 5:1

Romans 5:18

Romans 8:1

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.

15) Which phrases in Romans 8 are particularly encouraging to you in your present circumstances (tell specifically how they apply)?