

A Word from Kathy

The book of Romans has been called “the Christian’s Constitution.” Of course the whole Bible is God’s inspired word to us and is to be studied and followed, but Romans is especially clear and concise. This letter to the Roman believers is primarily doctrine. The theme of this book is the righteousness that comes from God.

We should never take our time in God’s word lightly. Every time we open his word, it is an opportunity for God to speak to us. Invite him in to do just that, then personalize the truth you see. Read the chapter at least twice before starting. Pray and ask God to speak to your heart .

Observation

1. Who is the author of this letter? Jot down the things you learn about him in verse 1.

It is imperative that Paul state these facts about his authority. He is about to speak very candidly to the Church in Rome concerning sin.

In order to gain a better understanding, you might want to look at the definition of a few words taken from this chapter as defined by the Strongs Concordance.

called-	invited by God,
set apart-	to mark off from others by boundaries, specifically selected for God’s purpose,
gospel-	good news of Jesus the Messiah

2. What facts did you glean in verses 3-4 concerning Jesus?
3. Paul stated his ministry very clearly in verse 5; what was his God-given assignment?
4. Who were the original recipients of this letter (vs 7)?
5. What was Paul’s attitude toward the believers in Rome? Why did he feel this way? What was the desire of his heart (vss 8-10)?

6. Paul had desired many times to come to Rome, but had been prevented from doing so. According to verses 11-13, what did he long to do when he arrived in Rome?
7. In verses 15-17, Paul expressed his desire to preach the gospel, the good news of Jesus, to them. How did he describe his feelings about sharing the gospel?

Paul's life had been dramatically changed by his encounter with the Lord while on his way to Damascus. (Read Acts 9:1-9 and Philippians 3:7-10.)

In Romans 1:17, Paul says the gospel is the power of God for salvation to all who believe. It is the righteousness of God _____ to all, by _____.

8. In verses 18-23, scripture says that God's wrath has been revealed, unveiled, laid open to be clearly seen by all. What is God's wrath (violent, justifiable passion and abhorrence, anger exhibited in punishment, indignation) revealed against?
9. According to verse 18, we see that men and women suppress the truth by their wickedness. What is the truth about God that they are hindering or denying by their wickedness? Hint: Remember the first name of God given in Genesis 1:1 is Elohim, the All-Powerful One, the creator of all things. Write out your thoughts; why do men and women suppress this truth?
10. According to verse 19, do we have any excuse for our sinful acts of rebellion against God? Can anyone truly say they know nothing about God and his righteous standard? What does verse 20 say about all our excuses?
Psalms 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handywork .
11. What does verse 23 say they become good at doing?
12. Verse 24 begins with the word "therefore;" any time we see this word, it is an opportunity to stop and look back at all the author has stated. In this case Paul is about to reveal to them the extent to which things have spiraled away from God's original plan

for mankind. Because man desired to sin and to live according to his own plan, because he refused to acknowledge God as the ruler of all things, because he exalted himself above God, what does verse 24 say God did?

13. "God gave them over"; this is a judicial term meaning to hand over a prisoner to his sentence (vss 24, 26, 28). Who are the captors (who are their masters since they were unwilling to turn to God) named in these three verses?
14. After suppressing the truth by their wickedness (vs 18), what do we find them doing in verse 25?
15. What is the result of God giving them over to their own wickedness (vs 29)?
16. Sadly, as a result of being left to our own wickedness, men and women will continue in their sins. How clearly did Paul state their lack of innocence before a holy God (vs 32)?
17. After reading, studying and answering questions on this chapter, what would you say the key thought and purpose would be? Try to write it in one sentence.

Application

18. Paul very clearly understood the call of God on his life. God had given him a longing in his heart to see others share in the free gift of salvation. He had a genuine, sacrificial love for others that is revealed in his prayers and his actions. How does your life reveal your desire to see others hear and experience the good news of Jesus Christ?
19. When you go to church, to Bible study, or simply get together with other believers, what is on your heart? Are you purposeful in your time together as Paul stated in verses 11-12?

20. In verses 15-16, Paul shared that he was “eager” and “unashamed” to share the gospel, the “good news” with others. He truly understood that it is the power of God. The gospel is not only the provision for salvation, forgiveness and restored relationship with our God, but it also provides the power to walk by faith.

2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Are you eagerly and unashamedly sharing this good news with others?

We should never be rude or harsh as we share this good news, but convinced that what we are sharing can truly be a life changing gift. Without Christ, men and women will never experience genuine peace.

21. Paul did not shy away from speaking the truth. Men and women spiral out of control and plummet to unbelievable depths when left to their sin. God reveals himself in many ways to each of us; we have a choice to acknowledge God or choose to be the lord of our own lives. Either way, we are without excuse the scripture says. Ask yourself the following questions:

Do you believe in the God of creation, or do you honestly believe that you are the master of your own life?

In what ways do you or did you suppress this truth?

What lies do you or did you try to exchange for God's glory?

Are you able to control your passions and lusts?

Consider your inner circle of friends; do you find pleasure in being with others who will join you in your sin?

It is good to ask ourselves hard questions from time to time. Eternity is too long to be wrong; salvation is too wonderful to miss.

22. If you are a believer and follower of Christ, write down some ways your walk of faith has changed because of your time in this first chapter of Romans.