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Wednesday in the Word

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How to Study

Step 1 Make with an outline

- Start new sentences at the left margin.
- Put modifying phrases or clauses under the words they modify.
- Make the parallel phrases obvious.
- Place lists of qualities, actions, etc. in vertical columns.
- Highlight and/or color code repeated words or phrases.
- Underline main statements to distinguish them from explanations, modifying clauses, and rabbit-trails.
- Circle key connecting words.
- Identify crucial words of for possible word studies.

Step 2 Observe the details

- admonitions and reasons, use of questions, contrasts, comparisons and illustrations
- repetition of ideas, emphatic statements, commands

Step 3 Ask & Answer Questions

- Who is speaking to whom regarding what?
- Why is this included? Why is it important?
- How does one verse/thought lead to the next?
- What do the metaphors, images, comparisons and key words mean?
- What is the main theme? Minor themes

Step 4 Put it all together

- Consider the context: How does this passage relate to what precedes and what follows it?
- Write a summary of the passage in your own words.
- Finish these sentences:
"The main thought in this section is..."
"If I took this passage seriously, it would make the following difference in my life"
- Answer the specific study questions for each Week.

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Suggested Reading

How to Study the Bible

- [Basics of Bible Interpretation, by Bob Smith](http://www.raystedman.org/leadership/smith/) – a classic! great for the beginner. Now available FREE online, though I believe you can still buy a paper copy.
<http://www.raystedman.org/leadership/smith/>
- [Adventuring Through the Bible: A Comprehensive Guide to the Entire Bible, by Ray C Stedman](http://www.raystedman.org/bible-overview/adventuring) – this is my favorite one-volume commentary; It is often my starting point when beginning a new study. You can buy a paper copy or access it FREE online.
<http://www.raystedman.org/bible-overview/adventuring>
- [Precepts Austin – How to do an Inductive Study](http://www.preceptaustin.org/inductive_bible_study.htm) — Complete at least the first 3 lessons in how to do an inductive bible study. Then explore the rest of the resources on this helpful site. http://www.preceptaustin.org/inductive_bible_study.htm
- [Living by the Book](#), (Book and Workbook) by Howard G Hendricks & William Hendricks – also available as an ebook and a video series. Don't be intimidated by the size of the book. The writing is clear and engaging and you will learn a lot.
- [How to Read the Bible for All It's Worth](#), by Gordon Fee & Douglas Stuart – this is a must have resource; no Bible student should be without and it now comes as an e-book. Re-read the chapter for your particular type of passage when you start a new study.

Romans

- *Commentary on Romans*, Martin Luther, Zondervan Publishing House, 1954.
- *The Message of Romans*, John R.W. Stott, The Bible Speaks Today Series, Intervarsity Press, 1994.
- *Reason to Rejoice (Romans 1-16)* by Ray C Stedman, Discovery House Publishing, 2000.

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Chronology of Paul

(courtesy of Tom Darnell)

Date	Reference	Description	Epistle	Emperor
A.D. 34	Acts 9:1-19	Paul converted		Tiberius (14-37)
A.D.34-37	Acts 9:20-22 Gal. 1:15-17	Preached in Damascus & Arabia (receives gospel by revelation)		Caligula (37-41)
A.D. 37 (NIV 35; Bruce 38)	Acts 9:26-29 Acts 9:30 Acts 11:19-26	Paul introduced to Jerusalem church by Barnabas Returns to Tarsus in Celicia Barnabas brings Paul to Antioch in Syria (disciples first called Christians)		
A.D. 46 (NIV 43; Bruce 46)	Acts 11:27-29	Barnabas & Paul take famine relief to Jerusalem		Claudius (41-54)
A.D. 46-48	Acts 13 & 14	First Journey	Galatians (after journey)	
A.D. 49	Acts 15:1-35	Jerusalem council		Jews expelled from Rome (49)
A.D. 49-52	Acts 15:36-18:22	Second Journey	1 & 2 Thess	
A.D. 53-57	Acts 18:23- 21:16	Third Journey	1 & 2 Cor. Romans	Nero (54-68)
A.D. 57-59	Acts 21:17- 26:32	Roman arrest in Jerusalem & Caesarea		
A.D. 59	Acts 27:1-28:16	Journey to Rome		
A.D. 60-62	Acts 28:17-31	1st Roman imprisonment	Ephesians Philippians Colossians Philemon	
A.D. 62		Released from prison	1 Timothy Titus	
A.D. 65/67		2nd Roman imprisonment & execution	2 Timothy	Fire @ Rome (64)

Romans at a Glance

The apostle Paul writes to explain the good news of Jesus Christ, who as Messiah is the Savior for all people; who as the Transformer of lives writes His Law on our hearts; and who as the Lord of history is carefully bringing this salvation to all nations — culminating in the restoration of Israel.

Greetings 1:1-7	Presentation of the Gospel 1:18-8:39			God's Faithfulness to Israel 9:1-11:36	Practical Application 12:1-15:13	Personal Greetings & Remarks 15:14-16
1:8-15 Expressions of Paul's eagerness to share the gospel	1:18-3:20 Condemnation	3:21-5:21 Pardon	6:1-8:39 Freedom to Glory	9:1-33 Experienced in the past in God's sovereign choice of Israel	12:1-21 Love expressed in service to the body	15:14-33 Paul's explanation of his current ministry
1:16-17 Theme of the Book: Gospel is the power of God for salvation	1:18-32 The ongoing revelation of God's wrath	3:21-31 The explanation of justification	6:1-23 Freedom from sin	10:1-21 Not overruled by Israel's present partial rejection	13:1-14 Love expressed in subjection to the world	16:1-27 Final greetings and remarks
	2:1-16 The judgmental moralist	4:1-25 The example of justification	7:1-25 Freedom from Law	11:1-36 Manifest in the future restoration of the nation	14:1-15:13 Love expressed in sensitivity to weaker brothers	
	2:17-3:8 The self- confident religious person	5:1-21 The results of justification	8:1-39 Freedom from futility			
	3:9-20 The whole human race					

Romans Summary

Chapter	Main Point	Key Verse(s)
Book	God's power guarantees salvation from sin for those who trust Him because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.	For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith." (1:16-17)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5:1-11		
5:12-21		

Chapter	Main Point	Key Verse(s)
6:1-14		
6:15-7:6		
7:7-25		
8:1-11		
8:12-25		
8:26-39		

Chapter	Main Point	Key Verse(s)
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		

Romans 1:1-17

1. What does Paul's greeting (vs 1-15) tell us about the gospel?
2. What does Paul's greeting (vs 1-15) tell us about Paul himself?
3. What does Paul's greeting (vs 1-15) tell us about the chapter?
4. Vs 16-17 express the theme of the entire book of Romans. Explain this verse phrase by phrase:

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, —

for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, —

to the Jew first and also to the Greek. —

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; —

as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith." (Hab. 2:4)—

Romans 1:18-32

1. John Stott describes God's wrath as "God's righteous reaction to evil, his implacable hostility to it, his refusal to condone it, and his judgment upon it." According to this definition, how does God's wrath differ from human anger?
2. How does this passage describe God's wrath? For example, what provokes God's wrath? How is God's wrath revealed? In what sense is God's wrath a future judgment? A present reality? (vs. 18-24)
3. Notice Paul uses the term "exchange" three times (vs. 23, 25, 26). Who's exchanging what for what? What does that teach us about idolatry? How does this speak to the argument that mankind is basically good?
4. Paul also says "God gave them over" three times (vs. 24, 26, 28). To what did God give them? What is the significance of that for mankind? How does this passage answer the question of how can God condemn those who've never heard of him?
5. It's common today to see homosexuality as an "alternative lifestyle." Can you argue that homosexuality (even in a permanent committed relationship) is sin from this passage? How?

Romans 2

1. When we judge others, what does that reveal about God's judgment? And our own? (vs. 1-5) What have we understood correctly? What have we misunderstood?
2. What is the result of our judging others? (vs. 5-10) What does it mean that "God will render to every man according to his deeds" in vs. 6? Does this contradict salvation by faith? Why?
3. Why does Paul emphasize that there is no partiality with God (vs. 11-16)? Is he saying that some people can keep the law in vs. 14?
4. Vs. 11-13 — especially vs. 13 — are often called the "keys" to understanding this chapter. Why would scholars make that claim? How do these verses explain the rest of the chapter, especially vs. 17-24?
5. How would Paul define a true "Jew"? (vs. 25-29) Explain the role and value of outward marks of religion like circumcision. What are today's religious symbols and outward marks of religion? When do they have value and when are they of no value?
6. Can we judge ourselves and others Christians by the marks of religion? What should we expect if we do make such judgments? (vs. 1-29)

Romans 3

1. In vs. 1-8, Paul deals with objections to the gospel. Summarize the objections and Paul's responses (vs. 1-2, 3-4, 5-8). Why would the Jews raise these objections? Are Paul's responses persuasive? Why?
2. In vs. 9-18, Paul concludes his argument. What is his conclusion?
3. If we are not justified by keeping the law, then what is the purpose of the law? (vs. 19-20)
4. Based on 1:18-3:20, if you were on trial, God was the judge and Paul was the prosecuting attorney, summarize the charges against you, your plea, the evidence, and the verdict.
5. In 3:21-26 Paul announces the gospel. How is justification obtained? How is it not obtained? (vs. 21-23)
6. Why does justification by faith work when justification by the law didn't? (vs. 24-26)?
7. What are the results of justification? (vs. 27-31) In relation to the believer? To God? To the Law?

Romans 4

1. How does 4:1-8 illustrate 3:27-28? What did Abraham obtain ("find")? How did he obtain it? See also Genesis 15:1-6.
2. Paul quotes Psalm 32. What does the Psalm add to his point? Note that David wrote this Psalm after his adultery with Bathsheba. In Psalm 32, on what basis does David hope for God's forgiveness?
3. How does 4:9-12 illustrate 3:29-30? When was Abraham declared justified ("righteous")? What was the significance of Abraham's circumcision?
4. How does 4:13-25 illustrate 3:31? On what basis was the promise to Abraham realized?
5. In vs. 14-15 Paul claims the Law can not be the basis for the promise. Why? What does this imply about the promise and faith? (Hint, read vs. 16-17)
6. Vs. 17-25 describe Abraham's faith. What does Paul want us to learn from and about Abraham's faith?

Review 1-4

Chapter 4 marks the end of Paul's argument that we are justified by faith. Review his main points from Chapters 1-4. Based on what you learned, how would you respond to the following statements?

"Well, this Jesus stuff is ok. But I think there are many ways to God. Jesus is just one of them."

"I believe in God. I go to church every week. I tithe. I treat my wife and children well. I don't cheat or lie. Don't bother me with all this talk of God an sin. I'm doing fine."

"I've had it with church! The people there are just as selfish and greedy as everyone else. They're just a bunch of hypocrites! Church doesn't have anything to offer me."

"I tried Christianity once, but it didn't work. I prayed and nothing happened. I didn't get any better!"

Romans 5:1-11

1. Paul's tells us that as a result of our justification we exult in three things. First, in verse 2 we "exult in the hope of the glory of God." What is hope? Glory?
2. In what sense do we "exult in tribulation" (vs. 3)? What's the connection between tribulation and hope? Is Paul saying we have to prove ourselves through tribulations? Does that contradict his argument that we are justified on the basis of faith and not works?
3. In vs. 5-10, Paul argues that "hope does not disappoint". What hope? Summarize his argument.
4. Does Paul's argument convince you that your hope will not disappoint? If so, how should that affect your attitudes? The way you face hardships? The way you might counsel others in hardships? What should that tell you about the times God does not answer your prayers in the way you expect?
5. In vs. 11 what does it mean to "exult in God"? What is reconciliation? How is it different from justification?
6. Paul argued for justification by faith in chapter 1-4. Chapter 5 begins the implications of justification by faith. How do the three things we exult in (vs. 2,3,11) follow from justification by faith?

Romans 5:12-21

The questions below focus on the key phrases. If you can figure out the main phrases, it can help you figure out the passage. *Don't be discouraged. This is a tricky passage.*

1. In Romans 5:12-21, Paul answers the question how can one man bring so many benefits to so many people by comparing Jesus and Adam. How are Adam and Jesus similar? (Hint: compare vs. 12 with vs. 18.)
2. In vs. 13-14, what does he mean 'sin is not imputed when there is no law but death reigned'? (Hint: Review the end of chapter 1 and remember how we've defined death and the consequences of sin.)
3. Who are the people in vs. 14 who had "not sinned in the likeness of Adam's offense"??? If you're not sure, list any options you can think of.
4. How are Jesus and Adam different (vs. 15-17)? Why does Paul take such care to emphasize their differences?
5. In vs. 20-21, explain "the law came that transgression might increase?" Why does he emphasize that?
6. In vs. 21, what does it mean that 'sin reigned in death and grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life'?

Romans 6:1-14

1. What's the objection to the gospel that Paul is facing in vs. 1? Pretend you are one of Paul's critics. Why would you raise this objection?
2. Paul compares the historical, physical death of Jesus with a metaphorical death of believers (vs. 3-11). What is the reality behind this metaphor? What about us changes after our metaphorical death & resurrection?
3. Is Paul claiming that believers should no longer struggle with sin? If so, why do we still sin? If not, what *is* he claiming? (Hint: remember the objection in vs. 1 that he's answering.)
4. Vs. 11-14 are his conclusion. What does it mean to "consider yourselves to be dead to sin but alive to God in Jesus Christ" (vs. 11)? (Hint: Note the "therefore" in vs. 12 and consider the context, especially vs. 12-14.)
5. Imagine you're faced with the temptation of a particular sin at a particular moment in time. Does what you learned from this passage help? Why or why not?
6. How would you counsel someone who confessed to you that he/she continually struggled with a particular sin? Assume the person is genuinely repentant and desires to be free of the sin.

Romans 6:15-7:6

1. What's the objection to the gospel that Paul is facing in vs. 15? Pretend you are one of Paul's critics. Why would you raise this objection?
2. The Law said "do this and live. Don't do this and die." But as believers, Paul has made it clear that we are no longer under the law. So in vs. 16, how can Paul claim *both* that sin results in death *and* that if we sin we will not lose our inheritance? Are these contradictory statements? (Hint: review Romans 4)
3. In vs. 17-19, what does Paul mean that by "slaves to sin" and "slaves to righteousness"? If it's true that believers are now "slaves to righteousness", why would Paul exhort them to act like it in vs. 19?
4. What does Paul mean in 6:23 that the wages of sin is death? How does that answer the question in vs. 15?
5. In 7:1-6, what does Paul mean by "the law has jurisdiction over a person as long as he lives." What point is Paul trying to make by the analogy? (Hint: the analogy is not between marriage/adultery and faith. The analogy is between the woman's relationship to the law and believer's relationship to the law.)
6. Suppose you have a teenager who wants to sleep with her boyfriend. She argues that they'll be "safe" and no one will get hurt because they love each other and if it's based on love it can't be wrong. If the only resource you had available to you was this passage, how could you respond to her?

Romans 7:7-25

1. What's the objection to the gospel that Paul is facing in vs. 7? Pretend you are one of Paul's critics. Why would you raise this objection? What is it about Paul's gospel would lead you to this conclusion?
2. What does Paul claim the Law did for him in vs. 7-8 and why was that important?
3. In vs. 9-11 what does he mean by "I was once alive apart from the Law"? "sin became alive and I died"? How does vs. 12 — "so then the Law is holy" — follow from 7-11?
4. Paul answers a follow-up question in vs. 13. Why would Paul's critics raise this question?
5. In vs. 13-14 how does Paul answer the question? What does he mean "sin might become utterly sinful" and "the Law is spiritual, but I am of flesh"?
6. What dilemma is Paul describing in vs. 15-25? How is this dilemma created? What does he mean by "in my flesh"? "the principle that evil is present in me"? "I joyfully concur with the Law of God in the inner man"? What is the "war"?
7. In vs. 15-25 is Paul talking about his pre-Christian experience or his post-Christian experience or both?

Romans 8:1-11

1. Vs. 1 tells us there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus. What kind of condemnation does he mean? (Hint: review chapter 7.)
2. In this section, Paul explains how faith in Jesus solves the problem of "moral paralysis" which he described in chapter 7. Why does faith solve that problem? Why couldn't the Law solve it? (vs. 2-4)
3. In vs. 5-9, what does Paul mean by "in the Spirit" vs. "in the flesh"? If you are not sure, list several possibilities, even if you think they are heresy. (Hint: remember how we defined 'flesh' from chapter 6 & 7.)
4. In vs. 5-9, is "in the flesh/Spirit" different from "walking according to the flesh/Spirit"? If so, how?
5. Could someone who's living a moral and exemplary life be "in the flesh"? Conversely, could someone who's continually struggling with a particular sin be "in the Spirit"? Why or why not?
6. Based on what you've learned from chapters 7 and 8:1-11, how would you respond to someone who claimed that the only reason Christians aren't righteous now is because they don't choose it and they haven't appropriated God's power through His Holy Spirit?

Romans 8:12-25

1. In vs. 12-14, what does Paul mean by "obligation"? by "putting to death the deeds of the body"? Remember to consider these terms in light of Paul's teachings on justification by faith (ch. 1-5) and his view of sin (ch. 6-8).
2. In vs. 15-17 what's the difference between a "spirit of slavery" and a "spirit of adoption as sons"? Contrast the rights, privileges, and treatment of "slaves" and "sons."
3. Why does Paul emphasize that we are not just sons but *heirs*? (vs. 15-17) What's the difference?
4. In vs. 17 Paul says the Spirit bears witness with our spirit "if we suffer with Him". What kind of suffering does he mean? (Consider the context. Vs. 18-25 also talk about suffering.) What is our suffering evidence of? (Remember ch. 5:1-11.) How can knowing that help you when life hurts?
5. Paul compares the present sufferings to childbirth (vs. 18-22). What's the similarity between the two?
6. Suppose a friend has just experienced a devastating, personal tragedy of some sort. How could you encourage her based on what you've learned about suffering and hope from Romans, particularly from ch. 8?

Romans 8:26-39

1. In vs.26-27 what is "our weakness"? Does Paul expect us to know what we should pray for? Does prayinf for the wrong things hinder God's plan for us? Why or why not?
2. In vs. 28 what's "good"? (Consider vs. 29-30.) What are we predestined to? Does this claim in vs. 28 conflict with the sufferings he described in vs. 18-25? Why or why not? Are the sufferings necessary?
3. How does the Spirit's intercession (vs. 26-27) assure us that all things must work together for good (vs. 28-30)? How does the fact that God "foreknew", "predestined", "called" and "justified" us assure us?
4. Vs. 31 begins Paul's conclusion: "so what shall we say to these things?" What does he conclude? Do you agree with his conclusion?
5. In vs. 36 Paul quotes Psalm 44:22 which says we'll die for His sake and then he says in vs. 37 that "in all things we overwhelming conquer". Is this contradictory? Why?

Review 1-8

Chapter 8 marks the end of the next major section of Romans. Review his main points from Chapters 5-8.

1. What did you learn from Romans 1-8 that encouraged you most?

2. What did you learn from Romans 1-8 that surprised you most?

3. Based on 1-8, if you were to present the gospel to someone, what are the most important items to discuss?

4. Imagine you are counseling a Christian who is struggling with a particular sin. What would you say to them based on chapters 6-8?

5. Based on Romans 1-8, read each question *carefully* and decide whether it is true or false.
 - A. Unconfessed sin breaks a believer's relationship with God.
 - B. Although justification involves no human cooperation, sanctification does require human cooperation.
 - C. Believers should do good works out of gratitude for what God has done for us.
 - D. Sin results from my failure to choose to walk according to my new nature.
 - E. If I want to be pleasing to God, I need to pray and study the Bible regularly.
 - F. A mature Christian who is walking in the Spirit should experience victory over sin all or most of the time.
 - G. I should seek to do the right thing even if I don't feel like it, because doing so will result in godly desires.
 - H. I should seek to align my desires with God's desires, because doing so will result in godly actions.
 - I. Genuine believers will experience growth in every area of their lives. If you're not experiencing growth in every area of your life, you're not a Christian.

Romans 9:1-13

In what is some of the most spiritually and intellectually difficult material in the Bible, the apostle raises some tough questions about the workings of God. As you study remember to read Romans 9-11 as a unit. Persevere! Difficult questions can be faced and answered.

1. Notice how many times Paul refers to himself in 9:1-5. Having just spoken of God so profoundly in Chapter 8, why does Paul now speak about himself?
2. Paul lists 8 advantages given to Israel. Describe them and consider parallel advantages to modern Christians.
3. Why did many Jews who had all these advantages reject and condemn their Messiah? (vs 9-13).
4. In 9:13 what does God mean when he says he “hated” Esau? Hint: Read the Genesis accounts of Esau’s life and God’s dealings with him and compare with Jesus’ use of hate in Luke 14:26.
5. Summarize what 9:1-13 teaches about the nature of salvation.

Romans 9:14-33

1. In verse 14 Paul asks the question, "Is God unjust?" How do his quotes from the Old Testament (Exodus 33:19 & Exodus 9:16) explain his answer?
2. Verse 19 levels the charge "If God is 'responsible' for all our human evil, how can He blame us?" Paul gives 4 answers to that charge. Summarize them in your own words. Hint: Compare with Job 38-40.
3. How do the quotes from Hosea & Isaiah in vs 25-29 support Paul's point?
4. At this point people object, "How can we tell whether people are chosen or not? If you can't tell by the advantages they have, how can you tell?" How does Paul answer? (vs. 30-33)
5. Summarize what chapter 9 teaches about God's justice and God's mercy.

Romans 10:1-21

1. What does Paul see as the problem with the Israelites zeal with regards to salvation (vs 1-7)?

2. What is the alternative to that zeal (vs 9-13)?

3. Paul cites the Old Testament several times. What's the main point of each citation in context?
vs 6-8 = Deut 30:12 vs 11 = Isaiah 28:16 vs 13 = Joel 2:32
vs. 15 = Isaiah 52:7 vs 16 = Isaiah 53:1 vs 18 = Psalms 19:4
vs 19 = Deut 32:21 vs 20 = Isaiah 65:1 vs 21 = Isaiah 65:2

4. Vs 14-15 give four questions. Vs 16-21 provide the answers. According to these verses, what are the usual steps to belief?

5. Summarize: according to chapter 10, what is necessary for salvation?

6. Based on 14-21, how would you answer the question, "What happens to people who never hear about Jesus?"

7. If someone said to you, "Since God calls and saves whom He chooses, there is nothing we can do about it. We might as well sit back and do nothing." Based on chapters 9 and 10 how would you respond?

Romans 11:1-32

1. This chapter asks & answers two questions: Verse 1: has God rejected the Israelites? Verse 11: Is God through with Israel as a nation? Why are these reasonable questions to ask at this point in his argument?
2. Paul answers the first question with two examples: himself & Elijah. How do his examples answer the question? (vs 1-10)
3. Why does Paul tell us this about Israel? What is pictured for us in this relationship that God has with Israel?
4. According to verses 11-16, how was Israel's transgression's part of God's plan?
5. Verses 17-24 give a warning to the Gentiles. Explain the warning and what it means to us.
6. In verses 25-32, Paul argues that a day is coming when God will restore Israel to its promised place as head of the nations What does that teach us about salvation?

Romans 11:33-12:1-21

1. Study the doxology & exhortation in verses 11:33-12:2. What's the main point? How is it an appropriate response to chapters 9-11?
2. What do verses 3-8 teach us about our own abilities? (Note vs 3 particularly)
3. Based on this chapter, how would you define spiritual gifts?
4. Is 9a "Let Love be without hypocrisy" a fair summary of the rest of the chapter? Why?
5. Summarize the "dos" and "do nots" in verses 9-21. What do they teach us about love?
6. In light of chapters 1-11, on what basis can you hope to live the way chapter 9 describes?

Romans 13:1-7

1. What does this passage teach us about government institutions? Why should we submit to them? Consider that when Paul wrote this Nero was Caesar and the context of love that both precedes & follows.
2. Three times Paul calls governments “God’s servants”. What does he mean by that?
3. What does Paul mean by “doing right” in vs 3? Compare with Acts 4. Did Peter & John act consistently with Paul’s teaching in this chapter?
4. According to vs 6-7, what we might owe to the government.
5. From traffic laws to taxes, how might this passage affect your daily life? Business? Politics?
6. Based on this passage, how would you counsel a Christian living in under a corrupt government or in an oppressed country?

Romans 13:8-14

1. What is the relationship between love and law (vs 8-10)?
2. What does Paul mean by “owe nothing to anyone” in vs 8? Is it wrong for a Christian to contract a debt, or to mortgage a house? Hint: Consider the far context (chap 12-13) and the near context (vs 1-7).
3. What does Paul mean by it’s “time to wake up” in vs 11? What are we to wake up from and wake to? What does he mean “salvation is nearer to us than when we believed?” Hint: Compare with Proverbs 24:30-34
4. What does it mean to put on the “armor of light” in vs 12? How would we do that?
5. Paraphrase the meaning of vs 14 in your own words. How can you apply that to your life?
6. Read the account of Amnon & Tamar in 2 Samuel 13. How did Amnon “make provision for the flesh”?

Romans 14:1-23

1. Who are the “weak” and what characterizes them?
2. How do we “accept” those who differ with us on doubtful issues? (vs 1-3)
3. Next Paul says “judge not” those who differ with us (vs 4-12). How is that different than accept? What are we to avoid & why?
4. What does it mean to put a stumbling block or obstacle in another’s way (vs 13)?
5. What does “pursuing the things which make for peace” (vs 19) look like?
6. The early church struggled with issues relating to eating meat, drinking wine, or observing days. What are the issues facing today’s church? Which issues are always wrong and which are matter of opinion?

Romans 15:1-13

1. Who are the “strong” (vs 1) and what divides them from the “weak”?
2. Contrast pleasing ourselves and pleasing our neighbors. What does this look like in the church? In our communities?
3. Paul quotes Psalm 69:9 in vs 3. How do Christ’s example and the quote from this Psalm illustrate Paul’s point?
4. Paul cites the Old Testament several times. What’s the point of the citations in context?
vs 9 = Psalm 18:49 vs 10 = Deut 32:43
vs 11 = Psalm 117:1 vs. 12 = Isaiah 11:10
5. What problems would the Jews and Gentiles of Paul’s day have had with each other?
6. Based on chapters 12-15, describe a healthy church.

Romans 15:14-33

1. Paul shifts now to a largely autobiographical section. For what does Paul praise the Roman church (vs 14-16)?
2. How does Paul evaluate his own ministry so far (vs 17-21)?
3. In verse 17 Paul says he has reason to “boast” (or glory). What’s the basis of Paul’s confidence?
4. This letter was probably written from Corinth around 57 AD. At this point in his life, why does Paul say he has “fully preached the gospel of Christ” (vs 19)?
5. What does Paul expect from his future (vs 22-33)?
6. Summarize the main themes of 12-15.

Romans 16:1-27

1. Study the list of names in vs 1-16. What clues do you see about the diversity of his friendships?
2. What does Paul have in common with these people?
3. Paul gives a final warning in vs 17-20. Why do you think he closed with this particular warning?
4. How do these people differ from the “weak” he described in the previous chapters?
5. Explain Romans 1:16-17 now, in light of what you’ve learned from Romans: *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous man shall live by faith.”*