Study Guide 1
Romans Introduction & Overview

Fellowship question: What are you anticipating and/or looking forward to as you embark on the study of Romans?

Woman of the Word, you are about to study a book of the Bible that has been called the greatest letter ever written, a theological treatise, the cathedral of Christianity, an exposition of the Old Testament in view of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and the apostle Paul’s magnum opus, to name just a few. The influence of Romans has been far reaching throughout church history; it has a place in the stories of all those we would hold up as pillars of the faith.

This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian's while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul. It is impossible to read or to meditate on this letter too much or too well. The more one deals with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes.

Martin Luther, Preface to the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans

Believing Jews and believing Gentiles in Rome had differing ideas about Christian life in light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul’s primary reason for writing to the church in Rome was to explain the gospel clearly (and everyone’s need for it!) and to address a variety of erroneous assumptions each group had brought into their Christian walks. Paul does not often describe the assumptions outright; but we can deduce them from the logical arguments Paul presents to correct them.

Christianity, in Paul’s day, was considered a sect of Judaism by the Roman Empire. This permitted the church quite a bit of freedom to gather and worship. Aside from persecution during the latter part of Nero’s reign (54 - 68 AD), the Christian church existed in Rome in relative peace until the second half of the third century.

As we plumb the depths of Romans, we will also look at its contents in light of God’s greater story – how it fits and complements His story from Genesis to Revelation. The BIBLE storyline handout (color, full-size version available in the Appendix) will serve as a visual storyline context tool to assist us.

Storyline context is only one type of context. Other types of context are helpful in Bible study. Different contexts to consider are described on the next two pages.
Context Tools

Context is the circumstance that forms the setting for an event, statement, or idea. Understanding the circumstance(s) is key to understanding the meaning of what is being communicated.

Always approach Scripture keeping in mind its literary genre, time setting, and place within God’s bigger picture.

Consider:

1. Literary Style [writing genre] – some books of the Bible are more than one type
   - Narrative (The Law, History)
   - Poetry (Poems, Songs, Wisdom, Prophetic)
   - Prose Discourse [persuasive writing] (The Law, Wisdom, Letters)
2. Time Context – What did the message mean back in its time? (Turn back the clock!)

3. Storyline (What pieces of God’s story do you see here?)

- How does the passage connect with other Scripture?
- How does the passage apply to the body today?
- How does the passage point toward Jesus?
- What does the passage mean for the future?
Literary Context of Romans
In the early history of the church, it was common practice for the apostles and church fathers to send *epistles*, or letters to encourage and instruct regional bodies of believers or individuals. These letters were often then sent on to other churches for their edification. There are twenty-one epistles in the New Testament, fulfilling an aspect of Jesus’ call to the apostles (Acts 1:8) to serve as witnesses to the world about Him. Paul’s tone in his letter to the church in Rome is that of a shepherd tending to the flock. Paul desired the church to fully understand the gospel and to live their lives in light of that truth. Paul’s letter to the Romans was written in the literary style of *prose discourse* – persuasive writing linking and building on thoughts to lead or call readers into action.

Each epistle was written to speak into a specific *situational context*. Because the recipient(s) already understood the situational context, the writer does not usually explain it in his letter. As such, we must rely on clues within the text and historians for contextual insight, aiming to understand it through a cultural lens of their time rather than ours of today. You, as a seeker of truth, are encouraged to glean, as much as possible, the context from the text itself. You are also invited to supplement that context by researching the historical, geographical, cultural, and situational context as we journey through Romans together.

To begin, enjoy reading the book of Romans in its entirety to get a flavor of Paul’s writing style. As you read, focus on getting a sense of Paul’s overall message in his letter to the believers in Rome at the time.

1. Paul’s letter follows the customary structure of its time period. Briefly, jot your first impressions: (Use the provided divisions below, or create your own.)

   **OPENING (Romans 1:1-15)**
   - Sender:
   - Recipients:
   - Expressions of Prayer & Thanksgiving:

   **BODY (Romans 1:16-15:21)**
   - Romans 1:16-4:25

   **CONCLUSION (Romans 15:22-16:27)**
   - Closing:
   - Acceptance of Letter:
<table>
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<td>CLOSING (Romans 15:22-16:27)</td>
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2. What can you glean from Romans that gives clues about when Paul wrote this letter?

3. What reasons does Paul give for writing to the church in Rome? (See chapters 1, 15, 16.)

4. In what ways is Paul hoping to partner with the believers in Rome? (15:23-24)

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

1) Sometimes Paul refers to the Lord as Christ Jesus; other times he writes Jesus Christ. What, if any, difference do you see between these titles? What could be Paul’s intent behind why he sometimes uses one and sometimes the other?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES


Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020
Study Guide 2
Romans 1:1-17

Fellowship question: In three or four sentences, how did you come to know the Lord?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Read Romans 1:1-17.

1. List everything the passage tells you about Paul, including his identity and purpose.

2. List everything you discover about the Roman believers from the passage. (Include their identity(ies) and reputation as a church.)

3. Re-read Romans 1:1-17, marking/highlighting every mention of the gospel. How does Paul describe the gospel?

4. List everything you discover about faith from the passage.
INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

Time Context
We first meet Saul (Paul) of Tarsus in Acts 7. At that time as a devout Pharisee, he went by his Hebrew name, Saul. Pharisees were a sect of the Jewish faith who observed strict obedience to the Mosaic Law. Saul had been trained by Gamaliel, a well-respected rabbi, and he himself was regarded with great respect. In Acts 7:58, we read of Saul’s persecution of a Christ follower named Stephen. From Acts 8:3 we then see Saul, “ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison.” After Jesus appeared to Saul in Acts 9, and the subsequent transformation of his heart and mind, this man of passion begin to channel his zeal for Christ’s namesake as a new man: Paul, the apostle and bond-servant of Christ Jesus (Romans 1:1).

Boldly and without hindrance, Paul spread the good news as a traveling missionary. He wrote Romans from Corinth during the early reign of Roman Emperor Nero. Nero ruled and controlled the Roman Empire, which covered an expansive area of land all around the Mediterranean Sea. (See the dotted line in Figure 2-1.) Paul’s desire was to continue to travel to Spain, the western reaches of the Roman Empire, passing through Rome. Paul had planted many churches during his missionary journeys, but the church in Rome was not one of them. Founders of the church in Rome are unknown. It is believed by many commentators that Christ followers had heard the good news elsewhere before arriving in Rome, in turn organically planting the church in Rome.
5. Deep Insight Questions:
   a. What is a believer’s *call*? (As a place to start, see the following: Romans 1:5-7, 16-17; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Galatians 1:6; 1 Corinthians 7:15, 17; Galatians 5:13; Colossians 3:15; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; Romans 12:3-8. Cross references are provided at the end of each Guide. The text of Romans is a separate handout.)

   b. How does Scripture further define the gospel? (For some insight, see the following cross references: Matthew 4:23; Luke 9:2; 6, Acts 20:24, 25; Acts 8:12; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Romans 14:17; 1 Corinthians 4:20).
6. Look a few years after the writing of Romans and read Acts 26:4-23, in which Paul is giving his defense before King Agrippa. Paul shared his life story as his testimony.
   a. How did Paul describe his life before his encounter with Jesus?
   
   b. According to Acts 26:15-18, how did Paul describe his call from the Lord?
   
   c. What was Paul’s response to Jesus’ call? See Acts 26:19-23.
Identify Spiritual Principles:
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are applicable across time and culture.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

7. Reflect: What is my identity? What is my purpose? In what ways do I walk in the truth about my identity and purpose? In what areas do I need to refocus?

8. Reflect: What is the Christian Church’s reputation today? My church’s reputation? My family’s? My personal? What should each’s reputation be?
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) What does it mean that the gospel is a message of continual relevance in a believer’s faith walk rather than a one-time message at conversion?

II) How would you describe God’s overall story from creation to our future glory in as few words as possible to a non-believer?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

http://www.mapsofwar.com/ind/imperial-history.html
http://www.mapsofwar.com/ind/history-of-religion.html

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020

Cross References for Study Guide 2
(Excluding Romans references; Romans has its own handout.)

1 Corinthians 1:9
9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Galatians 1:6
6 I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel;

1 Corinthians 7:15
15 Yet if the unbelieving one leaves, let him leave; the brother or the sister is not under bondage in such cases, but God has called us to peace.

1 Corinthians 7:17
17 Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as God has called each, in this manner let him walk. And so I direct in all the churches.
Galatians 5:13
  13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Colossians 3:15
  15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful.

1 Thessalonians 4:7
  7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

Matthew 4:23
  23 Jesus was going throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.

Luke 9:2
  2 And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

Luke 9:6
  6 Departing, they began going throughout the villages, preaching the gospel and healing everywhere.

Acts 20:24-25
  24 But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, so that I may finish my course and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. 25 “And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face.

Acts 8:12
  12 But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike.

1 Corinthians 15:1-8
  15 Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, 2 by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.
  3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; 7 then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; 8 and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.

1 Corinthians 4:20
  20 For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power.
Acts 26:4-23

4 “So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem; 5 since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. 6 And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers; 7 the promise to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews. 8 Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead?

9 “So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10 And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them. 11 And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.

12 “While so engaged as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests, 13 at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me. 14 And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ 15 And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. 16 But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you; 17 rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you, 18 to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.’

19 “So, King Agrippa, I did not prove disobedient to the heavenly vision, 20 but kept declaring both to those of Damascus first, and also at Jerusalem and then throughout all the region of Judea, and even to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance. 21 For this reason some Jews seized me in the temple and tried to put me to death. 22 So, having obtained help from God, I stand to this day testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the Prophets and Moses said was going to take place; 23 that the Christ was to suffer, and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles.”
Study Guide 3
Romans 1:18-32

Fellowship question:  Is ignorance ever an acceptable excuse?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Read Romans 1:18-32.

1. List your observations from the text about God. Include His attributes and His actions.

2. What are the root causes of unrighteousness highlighted in this passage? (Look closely at verses 1:21, 25, 28.)

3. Describe the progression in the text that ultimately leads to being worthy of death (verse 1:32).

4. What characteristics do you see in the sins which Paul highlights? A couple of examples are given to get you started.
   - Involve heart, body, and mind – no aspect of being human is absent.
   - Mankind does not only commit the sins, it gives approval to others who do.
Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

1. Let’s look a little deeper at the meanings of a few key words. Using resources available to you: a dictionary, a Bible dictionary/encyclopedia, and/or a Bible study website such as blueletterbible.org, define the following words: (Entries from the book, Vine’s Expository Dictionary, which are also made freely available in blueletterbible.org’s verse study tools, are extremely useful. You may also access Vine’s definitions online at https://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved.html)

   a) Truth (v18, 25)  (*alētheia*, Strong 225)

   b) Glory (v23)  (*doxa*, Strong 1391)
### 5. How is the wrath of God being revealed? (v18) (Note the use of a present tense verb.)

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<td><strong>f)</strong></td>
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Reflect a bit on God’s creation and His holiness. When you’re ready, enjoy Psalm 19.

6. What invisible qualities of God have been made known via creation?

7. What does Psalm 19 add to your understanding of God’s standard of righteousness?
Identify Spiritual Principles:
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are applicable across time and culture.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?

**APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!**

8. How does humanity give glory (weight, value) to things other than God today? Can you identify any examples from your own life? (You may need to consider what consumes your time.) What tangible steps can you take to realign your thinking to God’s perspective?

9. **Reflect:** What is my typical response when I detect idol worship in other people? How might God desire me to respond that would draw others to Him? (Keep this in mind for Romans 2!)
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APPENDICES

Appendix A .................. A-1
    BIBLE Story Line Tool

Appendix B .................. B-1
    Events in Paul’s Life

This Romans study was written by Jen Binford and Mary Ann Porter, in collaboration with Jan Nielson. (2020)

Cross references provided at the end of study guides is from:
New American Standard Bible (NASB)
The Lockman Foundation
In accordance with terms of use.
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FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) How is God’s wrath different from human anger?
II) What choice has humanity consistently faced since the time of creation?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCE(S)

https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-wrath-of-god/

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020

Scripture for Study Guide 3

Psalm 19
For the choir director. A Psalm of David.

19 The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
2 Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.
3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard.
4 Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their utterances to the end of the world.
In them He has placed a tent for the sun,
5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber;
It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.
6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens,
And its circuit to the other end of them;
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.
7 The law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.
8 The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.
9 The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether.
10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.
11 Moreover, by them Your servant is warned;
In keeping them there is great reward.
12 Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.
13 Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins;
Let them not rule over me;
Then I will be blameless,
And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.
14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer.
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Fellowship question:  What comes to mind when you think about judgement?

**OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!**

*Read* Romans 2:1-16.

1. Look for clues about the group of people Paul is addressing in these verses. (Their character, their heart attitude(s), their perspective, etc.) List everything you discover.

2. What does Paul write about the day of God’s wrath and God’s coming judgment?

3. In verses 12-16, identify the contrasted groups. What do these verses reveal about each group?
Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

4. Let’s look more closely at the concept of God’s wrath. (Romans 2:5)
   a. What comes to mind when you think of wrath?

b. Read the following cross references at the end of the lesson – Ephesians 2:3, Isaiah 11:4, 1 John 3:1-10, Matthew 7:13-22, and 2 Peter 3:3-9 – and note what you learn about God’s judgement and wrath.

c. Using any Bible language tools available to you, what do you discover about the Greek word orgé /or-ga/, that is translated as wrath. (Or rewrite your discoveries from Study Guide 3.)
d. Now summarize what you understand about God’s holy wrath and how it compares to your perception of wrath from 4a.

5. Read Proverbs 30:12 and then summarize it in your own words. Now reread Romans 2:1-16.

6. What further understanding of the coming judgment and wrath do you gain from Christ’s words in Matthew 25:31-46 and John’s words in Revelation 20:11-15?
   a) Matthew 25:31-45
b) Revelation 20:11-15

Identify Spiritual Principles:
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are applicable across time and culture.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?

APPLICATION — Lord, help me to live it!

7. Answer for yourself the question Paul poses in verse 4: In what ways have I thought lightly of the riches of God’s kindness and tolerance and patience, forgetting that the kindness of God leads me to repentance?
8. Businessman Stephen Covey aptly wrote, “We judge ourselves by our intentions and others by their behavior.” (*The Speed of Trust: The One Thing that Changes Everything*) In light of what you have learned in Romans 2:1-16, in what ways might you take on a similar attitude as the moralizers whom Paul is addressing? What is the remedy to that thinking?

9. Reflect: How has judgment (my own or from others) impacted my relationships? What have I learned from the passage to God-align my thinking toward healthier relationships moving forward?

**Further Applications:**

**FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:**

I) Taking into consideration the spiritual principle/truth of Ephesians 2:8, *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God*, what can we infer from Scripture about the role of good works in the life of a Christian? In other words, what is the distinction between good works rooted in one’s conscience and good works rooted in faith?

II) In Romans 2:13, Paul says that the doers of the Law will be justified (NASB) (declared righteous, NIV), yet a little later in Romans 3:20, Paul writes, “… by the works of the Law
no flesh will be justified in His sight….” How can both statements be true? (Don’t worry if you do not have an answer right now, by the time we finish studying Romans, you will!)

**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/essay/the-wrath-of-god/

> Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020

**Scripture for Study Guide 4**

**Ephesians 2:3**

3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.

**Isaiah 11:4**

4 But with righteousness He will judge the poor,
And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth;
And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

**1 John 3:1-10**

3 See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

4 Everyone who practices sin also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness. 5 You know that He appeared in order to take away sins; and in Him there is no sin. 6 No one who abides in Him sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him. 7 Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous; 8 the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil. 9 No one who is born of God practices sin, because His seed abides in him; and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 10 By this the children of God and the children of the devil are obvious: anyone who does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor the one who does not love his brother.
Matthew 7:13-22
13 “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

15 “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? 17 So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 So then, you will know them by their fruits.

21 “Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. 22 Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?’

2 Peter 3:3-9
3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4 and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation.” 5 For when they maintain this, it escapes their notice that by the word of God the heavens existed long ago and the earth was formed out of water and by water, 6 through which the world at that time was destroyed, being flooded with water. 7 But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men.

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. 9 The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Proverbs 30:12
2 There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, Yet is not washed from his filthiness.

Matthew 25:31-45
31 “But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; 33 and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.
34 “Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; 36 naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me.’ 37 Then the righteous will answer Him, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You something to drink? 38 And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? 39 When did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ 40 The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’

41 “Then He will also say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; 43 I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me.’ 44 Then they themselves also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?’ 45 Then He will answer them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.’

Revelation 20:11-15
11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
Study Guide 5
Romans 2:17-29

Fellowship question: Why is changing one’s heartfelt belief so difficult?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Refresh your memory about the first half of Romans chapter 2.
Read Romans 2:17-29.

1. Paul now turns his attention to another people group. Who are they and what do you discover about them?

2. Look closely at Paul’s rhetorical questions in this passage and briefly summarize them. What seems to be the root of the issue? What is he challenging his readers to realize?

3. Skim back through what we have read thus far in Romans from the mindset of a Jewish follower of the Way. A believing Jew would have been in hearty agreement with all that Paul had written. Now list all the offenses of which Paul says the Jews themselves are guilty.
4. From verses 25-29, what does Paul bring to light about outward circumcision versus inward circumcision?

| Outward Circumcision | Inward Circumcision |

Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)
5. Let’s flash-back in the history of the Jews to explore the connection between circumcision and the Law.

a) Read Genesis 17:9-14. What was the purpose of circumcision with respect to the Abrahamic covenant?

b) Read Exodus 24:3-8. How do the people respond upon hearing God’s Law from Moses? (This is the Mosaic Covenant.) Read also Leviticus 12:1-3 to see how circumcision becomes a part of the Law.
c) Read Joshua 5:1-8, which takes place as the Israelites prepare to enter the land of Canaan after the death of Moses. Now traveling in history up to the time of Paul writing Romans, what importance did circumcision have to the Jews of Paul’s day?

6. Now look at the following cross-references and summarize what you learn about circumcision of the heart: Deuteronomy 10:16, 30:6; Jeremiah 4:4, 31:31-33, 32:29-40; Ezekiel 36:26, 27; Galatians 5:1-6; Philippians 3:2-3; and Colossians 2:9-12. (Note: some of the verses speak of physical circumcision; use these to contrast physical to spiritual circumcision.)

Skill Builder

Identify Spiritual Principles:
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are applicable across time and culture.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

8. Think of two or three rhetorical questions that believers might ask of themselves today along the lines of what Paul asked the Jews. Now examine your own heart using your questions; how do you answer them?

9. In verse 24, Paul boldly rebuked those blasphemying God’s name among the Gentiles. In what ways can believers misrepresent God’s name today? (Bonus points if you can share an example from your own life and how you intend to respond differently should you encounter a similar situation in the future.)
10. Consider an instance or pattern of your own behavior that seems counter to what you know of God’s truth. If belief is the driver of behavior, what are some steps you might take to shape knowledge into belief? (Andrew Bennet, a British politician, once said, “The longest journey you will ever take is the eighteen inches from your head to your heart.”)

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) Paul addressed the Jews who found value in identifying with their ethnic status, but what are other areas of life where we are tempted to find our value? Where is our true value and identity?

II) What are signs of genuine, internal heart transformation versus external effort and striving? Ecclesiastes 4:6 is poignant as you consider this question.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

https://bibleproject.com/explore/the-law/

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020

Scripture for Study Guide 5

Genesis 17:9-14

9 God said further to Abraham, “Now as for you, you shall keep My covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations. 10 This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised. 11 And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you. 12 And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or
who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants. 13 A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14 But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

Exodus 24:3-8
3 Then Moses came and recounted to the people all the words of the LORD and all the ordinances; and all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words which the LORD has spoken we will do!” 4 Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. Then he arose early in the morning, and built an altar at the foot of the mountain with twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel. 5 He sent young men of the sons of Israel, and they offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as peace offerings to the LORD. 6 Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar. 7 Then he took the book of the covenant and read it in the hearing of the people; and they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!” 8 So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

Leviticus 12:1-3
12 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, 2 “Speak to the sons of Israel, saying:
‘When a woman gives birth and bears a male child, then she shall be unclean for seven days, as in the days of her menstruation she shall be unclean. 3 On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

Joshua 5:1-8
5 Now it came about when all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard how the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan before the sons of Israel until they had crossed, that their hearts melted, and there was no spirit in them any longer because of the sons of Israel. 2 At that time the LORD said to Joshua, “Make for yourself flint knives and circumcise again the sons of Israel the second time.” 3 So Joshua made himself flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth. 4 This is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the people who came out of Egypt who were males, all the men of war, died in the wilderness along the way after they came out of Egypt. 5 For all the people who came out were circumcised, but all the people who were born in the wilderness along the way as they came out of Egypt had not been circumcised. 6 For the sons of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, that is, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished because they did not listen to the voice of the LORD, to whom the LORD had sworn that He would not let them see the land which the LORD had sworn to their fathers to give us, a land flowing with milk and honey. 7 Their children whom He raised up in their place,
Joshua circumcised; for they were uncircumcised, because they had not circumcised them along the way.

Now when they had finished circumcising all the nation, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed.

Deuteronomy 10:16
16 So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer.

Deuteronomy 30:6
6 “Moreover the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.

Jeremiah 4:4
4 “Circumcise yourselves to the LORD
And remove the foreskins of your heart,
Men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem,
Or else My wrath will go forth like fire
And burn with none to quench it,
Because of the evil of your deeds.”

Jeremiah 31:31-33
31 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. 33 “But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the LORD, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the LORD, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Jeremiah 32:29-40
29 The Chaldeans who are fighting against this city will enter and set this city on fire and burn it, with the houses where people have offered incense to Baal on their roofs and poured out drink offerings to other gods to provoke Me to anger. 30 Indeed the sons of Israel and the sons of Judah have been doing only evil in My sight from their youth; for the sons of Israel have been only provoking Me to anger by the work of their hands,” declares the LORD. 31 “Indeed this city has been to Me a provocation of My anger and My wrath from the day that they built it, even to this day, so that it should be removed from before My face, 32 because of all the evil of the sons of Israel and the sons of Judah which they have done to provoke Me to anger—they, their kings, their leaders, their priests, their prophets, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 33 They have turned their back to Me and not their face;
though I taught them, teaching again and again, they would not listen and receive instruction. 34 But they put their detestable things in the house which is called by My name, to defile it. 35 They built the high places of Baal that are in the valley of Ben-hinnom to cause their sons and their daughters to pass through the fire to Molech, which I had not commanded them nor had it entered My mind that they should do this abomination, to cause Judah to sin. 36 ‘Now therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel concerning this city of which you say, ‘It is given into the hand of the king of Babylon by sword, by famine and by pestilence.’ 37 Behold, I will gather them out of all the lands to which I have driven them in My anger, in My wrath and in great indignation; and I will bring them back to this place and make them dwell in safety. 38 They shall be My people, and I will be their God; 39 and I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear Me always, for their own good and for the good of their children after them. 40 I will make an everlasting covenant with them that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; and I will put the fear of Me in their hearts so that they will not turn away from Me.

Ezekiel 36:26
26 Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Ezekiel 36:27
27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

Galatians 5:1-6
5 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. 2 Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. 3 And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. 4 You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.

Philippians 3:2-3
2 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; 3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.

Colossians 2:9-12
9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, 10 and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority; 11 and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; 12 having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you
were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Ecclesiastes 4:6

6 One hand full of rest is better than two fists full of labor and striving after wind.
Study Guide 6  
Romans 3:1-20

Fellowship opener:  
Share about a time in which you were entrusted with a great treasure for someone or an important responsibility.

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Skim Romans 2 and glance over your completed Study Guide 5 to refresh your memory about Paul’s word to his Jewish brethren.

Read Romans 3:1-20.

1. At the end of chapter 2, Paul concludes that one is a [true] Jew who is one inwardly and that [true] circumcision is of the heart. This could lead his reader to ask the next questions Paul sets forth, “What advantage has the Jew?” and “What is the benefit of circumcision?” How does Paul answer this question? (This will be explored further in question 6.)

2. What is the human condition according to Paul?

3. What do you observe about the Law from these verses?

4. What do you observe about sin from verses 9-20?

5. List the questions that Paul poses:
6. How was being *entrusted with the oracles of God* (v. 2) advantageous to the Jews? [Support your answer with Scripture. Passages such as Jeremiah 24:6,7; Psalm 119:33-40; Isaiah 45:1-7 (God’s call on the yet unborn King Cyrus of Persia); and Zechariah 8:20-23 could serve as a start.]

7. What inherent responsibility was associated with the Jews being *entrusted with the oracles of God* (v. 2)?
8. Look at Psalm 14:1-3, 5:9, 10:7, 36:1, 53:1-3, 140:3; Isaiah 59:7; and Proverbs 1:16, which are the verses Paul is quoting. What concepts are being emphasized by Paul?

9. Better news is coming in the second half of chapter 3. But if the chapter ended here, what conclusions can you draw about being *under sin*?

**Identify Spiritual Principles:**
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are applicable across time and culture.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?

**APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!**

10. If the natural/carnal state of human existence is enslavement to sin, how does acknowledging that inform your walk as a believer?
11. Genuinely pray Psalm 139:23-24: *Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.* Ask God to reveal any false thinking or areas of pride. Reflect on what He is revealing to you.

12. If we were to reframe Paul’s questions in 3:1 with Christianity in mind, they might be posed as “What advantage is there to being a member of a church? What is the benefit of baptism?” We would agree that those things, in and of themselves, do not save anyone. So then, what purpose do they serve in your walk? Taking it further, as Christ’s Church, entrusted with the gospel, what is our responsibility?

**FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:**

I) How do you explain to someone the original intent of the Law?

II) Much of the western world can be classified as having a post-Christian worldview. Do you think those societies are coasting on Christian “heritage”? Why or why not?

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020
Scripture for Study Guide 6

Jeremiah 24:6

For I will set My eyes on them for good, and I will bring them again to this land; and I will build them up and not overthrow them, and I will plant them and not pluck them up.

Jeremiah 24:7

I will give them a heart to know Me, for I am the LORD; and they will be My people, and I will be their God, for they will return to Me with their whole heart.

Psalm 119:33-40

He.

33 Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes,
And I shall observe it to the end.
34 Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law
And keep it with all my heart.
35 Make me walk in the path of Your commandments,
For I delight in it.
36 Incline my heart to Your testimonies
And not to dishonest gain.
37 Turn away my eyes from looking at vanity,
And revive me in Your ways.
38 Establish Your word to Your servant,
As that which produces reverence for You.
39 Turn away my reproach which I dread,
For Your ordinances are good.
40 Behold, I long for Your precepts;
Revive me through Your righteousness.

Isaiah 45:1-7

45 Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed,
Whom I have taken by the right hand,
To subdue nations before him
And to loose the loins of kings;
To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:
2 “I will go before you and make the rough places smooth;
I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.
3 “I will give you the treasures of darkness
And hidden wealth of secret places,
So that you may know that it is I,
The LORD, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name.
4 “For the sake of Jacob My servant,
And Israel My chosen one,
I have also called you by your name;
I have given you a title of honor
Though you have not known Me.
5 “I am the LORD, and there is no other;
Besides Me there is no God.
I will gird you, though you have not known Me;
6 That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun
That there is no one besides Me.
I am the LORD, and there is no other,
7 The One forming light and creating darkness,
Causing well-being and creating calamity;
I am the LORD who does all these.

Zechariah 8:20-23
20 “Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. 21 The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, “Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go.” 22 So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD.’ 23 Thus says the LORD of hosts, ‘In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, “Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”

Psalm 14:1-3
For the choir director. A Psalm of David.
14 The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.”
They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds;
There is no one who does good.
2 The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men
To see if there are any who understand,
Who seek after God.
3 They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt;
There is no one who does good, not even one.

Psalm 5:9
9 There is nothing reliable in what they say;
Their inward part is destruction itself.
Their throat is an open grave;
They flatter with their tongue.

Psalm 10:7
7 His mouth is full of curses and deceit and oppression;
Under his tongue is mischief and wickedness.
Psalm 36:1
For the choir director. A Psalm of David the servant of the LORD.
   36 Transgression speaks to the ungodly within his heart;
   There is no fear of God before his eyes.

Psalm 53:1-3
For the choir director; according to Mahalath. A Maskil of David.
   53 The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God,”
   They are corrupt, and have committed abominable injustice;
   There is no one who does good.
   2 God has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men
   To see if there is anyone who understands,
   Who seeks after God.
   3 Every one of them has turned aside; together they have become corrupt;
   There is no one who does good, not even one.

Psalm 140:3
   3 They sharpen their tongues as a serpent;
   Poison of a viper is under their lips. Selah.

Isaiah 59:7
   7 Their feet run to evil,
   And they hasten to shed innocent blood;
   Their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity,
   Devastation and destruction are in their highways.

Proverbs 1:16
   16 For their feet run to evil
   And they hasten to shed blood.
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Fellowship question: Is there such a thing as appropriate pride?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Read Romans 3:21-31. You may wish to read the entire chapter to refresh you memory.

2. Before wrestling with these ten verses, which some theologians have called the heart of the Bible, think about Paul’s argument that we have studied thus far (Romans 1:18-3:20). What is our standing before God in our sin condition?

3. There are some key terms that we will look at closely. You may wish to mark every occurrence of them in Romans 3:21-31. From this passage, list everything you see about the following words:

- Righteousness (be sure to note whose righteousness is being discussed)
- Just/Justifier/Justified
- Faith
4. Now list everything that God does in these verses and His reason(s) for doing so, if a reason is given.

5. List everything the text tells you about believers (those who have faith in Jesus).
6. In your own words, write a one to two sentence summary of what Paul’s message is in this passage.

Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

7. Let’s look a little deeper at the meanings of a few key words. Using resources available to you: a dictionary, a Bible dictionary/encyclopedia, and/or a Bible study website such as blueletterbible.org, define the following words: (Entries from the book, Vine’s Expository Dictionary, which are also made freely available in blueletterbible.org’s verse study tools, are extremely useful. You may also access Vine’s definitions online at https://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved.html)

a. Righteousness (dikaiosynê, Strongs 1343)
<p>| | |</p>
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<td>b.</td>
<td>Just, justified, justifier (<em>dikaioō</em>, <em>Strongs</em> 1344)</td>
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<td>c.</td>
<td>Faith (<em>pistis</em>, <em>Strongs</em> 4102)</td>
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<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>Redemption (<em>apolytrōsis</em>, <em>Strongs</em> 629)</td>
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<td>e.</td>
<td>Propitation (<em>hilastērion</em>, <em>Strongs</em> 2435)</td>
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The Greek word *hilastērion* (translated *propitiation* (NASB) or *atonement* (ESV, NIV)) is the same word the Jews used for the mercy seat – the cover of the ark of the covenant in the Holy of Holies. **Read Leviticus 16** about the Day of Atonement, the one day per year that the high priest, after properly cleansing himself, would enter the Holy of Holies to sprinkle the bull’s blood and the goat’s blood on the mercy seat to atone for the sins of the people, the sins of the priests, and to cleanse the entire tabernacle/temple. One reason to do this was to ensure God’s continued presence.

8. In one or two sentences, describe your impression of the various requirements on the Day of Atonement.

9. Now read Leviticus 17:11. Why was bloodshed required for atonement?
10. What additional understanding do the Leviticus passages give you about Jesus’ death as an atoning sacrifice?

Identify Spiritual Principles:
(Statements about the themes/main ideas and/or God’s character that are applicable across time and culture.)

What spiritual principles have you learned from God’s Word in this passage?

APPLICATION – Lord, help me to live it!

11. Reflecting on Romans 3:21-31, how would you describe to a nonbeliever the process by which someone becomes right with God? (Interesting fact: righteousness was formerly termed rightwiseness.)
12. **Examine your own heart:** in our Western culture that focuses heavily on comparison and achievement, are there any areas where as a Christian you feel superior to those who do not know Jesus? What about to fellow believers? How does this passage speak to that type of [internal] pride and boasting? What is a proper posture as a Christian? As a church?

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**Enjoy:**

**When I Survey the Wondrous Cross**

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

*Isaac Watts, 1707, Public Domain*

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**Further Applications:**

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FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) Consider Paul’s words in Galatians 6:14 – *But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* How is an execution device worthy of boasting?

II) With all you have learned thus far in the Romans study, what insight have you gained about why it is important to study both the Old Testament and the New Testament?

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020

Scripture for Study Guide 7

Leviticus 16

16 Now the LORD spoke to Moses after the death of the two sons of Aaron, when they had approached the presence of the LORD and died. 2 The LORD said to Moses:

“Tell your brother Aaron that he shall not enter at any time into the holy place inside the veil, before the mercy seat which is on the ark, or he will die; for I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat. 3 Aaron shall enter the holy place with this: with a bull for a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering. 4 He shall put on the holy linen tunic, and the linen undergarments shall be next to his body, and he shall be girded with the linen sash and attired with the linen turban (these are holy garments). Then he shall bathe his body in water and put them on. 5 He shall take from the congregation of the sons of Israel two male goats for a sin offering and one ram for a burnt offering. 6 Then Aaron shall offer the bull for the sin offering which is for himself, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household. 7 He shall take the two goats and present them before the LORD at the doorway of the tent of meeting. 8 Aaron shall cast lots for the two goats, one lot for the LORD and the other lot for the scapegoat. 9 Then Aaron shall offer the goat on which the lot for the LORD fell, and make it a sin offering. 10 But the goat on which the lot for the scapegoat fell shall be presented alive before the LORD, to make atonement upon it, to send it into the wilderness as the scapegoat.

11 “Then Aaron shall offer the bull of the sin offering which is for himself and make atonement for himself and for his household, and he shall slaughter the bull of the sin offering which is for himself. 12 He shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the LORD and two handfuls of finely ground sweet incense, and bring it inside the veil. 13 He shall put the incense on the fire before the LORD, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on the ark of the testimony, otherwise he will die. 14 Moreover, he shall take some of the blood of the bull and sprinkle it with his finger on the mercy seat on the east side; also in front of the mercy seat he shall sprinkle some of the blood with his finger seven times.
15 "Then he shall slaughter the goat of the sin offering which is for the people, and bring its blood inside the veil and do with its blood as he did with the blood of the bull, and sprinkle it on the mercy seat and in front of the mercy seat. 16 He shall make atonement for the holy place, because of the impurities of the sons of Israel and because of their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and thus he shall do for the tent of meeting which abides with them in the midst of their impurities. 17 When he goes in to make atonement in the holy place, no one shall be in the tent of meeting until he comes out, that he may make atonement for himself and for his household and for all the assembly of Israel. 18 Then he shall go out to the altar that is before the LORD and make atonement for it, and shall take some of the blood of the bull and of the blood of the goat and put it on the horns of the altar on all sides. 19 With his finger he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it seven times and cleanse it, and from the impurities of the sons of Israel consecrate it.

20 "When he finishes atoning for the holy place and the tent of meeting and the altar, he shall offer the live goat. 21 Then Aaron shall lay both of his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess over it all the iniquities of the sons of Israel and all their transgressions in regard to all their sins; and he shall lay them on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a man who stands in readiness. 22 The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to a solitary land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

23 "Then Aaron shall come into the tent of meeting and take off the linen garments which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there. 24 He shall bathe his body with water in a holy place and put on his clothes, and come forth and offer his burnt offering and the burnt offering of the people and make atonement for himself and for the people. 25 Then he shall offer up in smoke the fat of the sin offering on the altar. 26 The one who released the goat as the scapegoat shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water; then afterward he shall come into the camp. 27 But the bull of the sin offering and the goat of the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall be taken outside the camp, and they shall burn their hides, their flesh, and their refuse in the fire. 28 Then the one who burns them shall wash his clothes and bathe his body with water, then afterward he shall come into the camp.

29 "This shall be a permanent statute for you: in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, you shall humble your souls and not do any work, whether the native, or the alien who sojourns among you; 30 for it is on this day that atonement shall be made for you to cleanse you; you will be clean from all your sins before the LORD. 31 It is to be a sabbath of solemn rest for you, that you may humble your souls; it is a permanent statute. 32 So the priest who is anointed and ordained to serve as priest in his father’s place shall make atonement: he shall thus put on the linen garments, the holy garments, 33 and make atonement for the holy sanctuary, and he shall make atonement for the tent of meeting and for the altar. He shall also make atonement for the priests and for all the people of the assembly. 34 Now you shall have
this as a permanent statute, to make atonement for the sons of Israel for all their sins once every year.” And just as the LORD had commanded Moses, so he did.

**Leviticus 17:11**

11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood by reason of the life that makes atonement.”