Study Guide 14  
Romans 8:1-25

_Fellowship opener:_  Share a time when you willingly went through a great challenge knowing that a great reward awaited you.

_Observation – Lord, help me to discover it!_

_Skim Romans 7 and review your completed Study Guide 13.

1. Write a short summary of what Paul says that the Law accomplished.

2. Reread verses 1-4. What has God done for those in Christ and what is now true for those who are in Christ?

3. List everything you discover about life in the flesh versus life in the Spirit. (There is additional space to answer on the next page.)

| Life in the flesh | Life in the Spirit |
Life in the flesh (continued) | Life in the Spirit (continued)

4. Reread verses 14-17. What is the relationship a believer has with God? (Recall what Paul wrote in Romans 5:10 about the relationship between mankind and God.)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

6. The Greek word, opheletes, is translated as obligation in verse 12.
   a. Using resources available to you: a dictionary, a Bible dictionary/encyclopedia, and/or a Bible study website such as blueletterbible.org, what do you discover about the word, obligation (opheletes)? [Vine’s Expository Dictionary, which is made freely available in blueletterbible.org’s verse study tools, is extremely useful. You may also access Vine’s definitions online at https://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved.html.]

   b. What is a believer’s obligation or debt? How are we able to fulfill this obligation? (See Galatians 2:20-21, 2 Peter 1:3, 2 Corinthians 3:5-6, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.)
7. How does the Spirit testify (verse 16) and bear witness to our adoption (verse 15) as God’s children? Ephesians 1:13-14 and 1 John 4:13 may help.

8. Read Jesus’ words to His disciples in John 14:16-17 and 16:5-11. Think about what is implied by Jesus calling the Spirit, the Helper. What is the implication of this in seeking to understand Romans 8:12-17?

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. Reflect: In what ways do I experience a groaning longing for future glory in Christ?
11. Practically speaking, how does one walk in the Spirit? Can you identify any areas in your life where you are walking according to the flesh? How do you plan to address that?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) What are some of the implications of the adoption imagery Paul uses in these verses? (Note that the NASB translators add “and daughters” in verse 15 for clarification, but what would it mean to be adopted as a son in that culture, especially as a woman?)

II) What is the difference between perfectionism and what God calls us to as believers who live in accordance with the Spirit?

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020
Scripture for Study Guide 14

Galatians 2:20-21
20 I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. 21 I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly."

2 Peter 1:3
3 for His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6
5 Not that we are adequate in ourselves so as to consider anything as having come from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, 6 who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10
9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in distresses, in persecutions, in difficulties, in behalf of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20
19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20 For you have been bought for a price: therefore glorify God in your body.

Ephesians 1:13-14
13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of the promise, 14 who is a first installment of our inheritance, in regard to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.

1 John 4:13
13 By this we know that we remain in Him and He in us, because He has given to us of His Spirit.

John 14:16-17
16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; 17 the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you.

John 16:5-11
5 “But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ 6 But because I have said these things to you, grief has filled your heart. 7 But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment: 9 regarding sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and regarding righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you no longer are going to see Me; 11 and regarding judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.
Genesis 3:17
17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten
from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’;
Cursed is the ground because of you;
With hard labor you shall eat from it
All the days of your life.

Genesis 4: 9-12
9 Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I
my brother’s keeper?” 10 Then He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood
is crying out to Me from the ground. 11 Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened
its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. 12 When you cultivate the ground, it
will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth.”

Numbers 35:33
33 So you shall not defile the land in which you live; for blood defiles the land, and no atonement
can be made for the land for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of the one who shed
it.

Psalm 106:38
38 And shed innocent blood, The blood of their sons and their daughters Whom they sacrificed to
the idols of Canaan; And the land was defiled with the blood.

Ezekiel 36:18
18 Therefore I poured out My wrath on them for the blood which they had shed on the land,
because they had defiled it with their idols.

Habbakuk 2:7-8
7 Will your creditors not rise up suddenly,
And those who collect from you awaken?
Indeed, you will become plunder for them.
8 Since you have looted many nations,
All the rest of the peoples will loot you—
Because of human bloodshed and violence done to the land,
To the town and all its inhabitants.

Deuteronomy 32:43
43 Rejoice, you nations, with His people;
For He will avenge the blood of His servants,
And will return vengeance on His adversaries,
And will atone for His land and His people.”

Isaiah 11:5-7
5 Also righteousness will be the belt around His hips,
And faithfulness the belt around His waist.
6 And the wolf will dwell with the lamb,
And the leopard will lie down with the young goat,
And the calf and the young lion and the fattened steer will be together;
And a little boy will lead them.
Also the cow and the bear will graze,
Their young will lie down together,
And the lion will eat straw like the ox.

Isaiah 65:17
17 “For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.

Revelation 22:1-4
22 And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. On either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; 4 they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads.
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Fellowship opener: Share a situation in which you placed extraordinary trust in another person for your own well-being – perhaps a surgery or a harrowing plane landing. In what ways was it difficult (or easy) to thoroughly trust this other person?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Skim Romans 8:1-25 to refresh your memory of the first half of the chapter 8.

Read Romans 8:26-39.

1. Mark in distinctive ways every mention (including pronouns) of God, Jesus, the Spirit, and believers in these verses. List your observations of each in the appropriate section below.

Suggestion if you need ideas: God Jesus Spirit believers, you, those, us, etc.
2. Read the passage again with the Trinity (Father, Son, Spirit) in mind. What do you note about the interconnectedness of God, Jesus, the Spirit, and believers?

3. Looking at the whole of chapter 8, list what you discover about God’s purposes for believers.

4. List everything the passage mentions that cannot separate us from the love of God and of Christ.
Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

5. What comfort does the truth of verses 26 and 27 give you? See also 1 Corinthians 2:10-11.

   a. Do you wrestle with the idea that God predestined believers? What are your thoughts and feelings about it? (How has what you’ve learned thus far in your study of Romans respond to and/or inform your concerns?)
   
   b. Using resources available to you: a dictionary, a Bible dictionary/encyclopedia, and/or a Bible study website such as blueletterbible.org, what do you discover about the word, predestined (proorizo.) [Vine’s Expository Dictionary, which is made freely available in blueletterbible.org’s verse study tools, is extremely useful. You may also access Vine’s definitions online at https://www.studylight.org/dictionaries/ved.html.]
c. Read verses 28-30 again. Verse 28 might be very familiar to you as it is frequently memorized or quoted – but these verses are all part of one thought.
   i) Verse 29 begins with the preposition *For*, so verse 29 is expounding on what preceded it. What is the outcome to which God works all things together?

ii) Summarize in your own words what Paul is saying in verse 28-30.

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d. What additional understanding about *predestination* do the following Scriptures provide: 1 Corinthians 2:7, Ephesians 1:5, and Ephesians 1:11? See also Jesus’ words in John 10:22-30.

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When we came to Christ, it was like walking through a gate. On the outside were inscribed these words: "Whosoever will, may come." Once we passed through the gate into the Saviour's arms, we could look back and see these words inscribed on the inside: "Chosen from the foundation of the world."

- Original attribution unclear, but an illustration used by Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), Harry A. Ironside (1876-1951), Donald Grey Barnhouse (1895-1960), and many others.

7. Reread verse 31 in light of the encouragement Paul has imparted in chapter 8. What point is Paul emphasizing for believers in using the term *poorizo* (predestined)?
8. To better understand how “God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose,” (v. 28) let’s look at the example of Joseph (Abraham’s great-grandson) from passages in Genesis, supplied at the end of this guide. Read Genesis 37:1-4, 37:14, 37:18-28 and skim the Key Point summary provided of chapters 39-49 at the end of the guide.

a. Briefly list some the high points and low points of Joseph’s life.

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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!

9. Do you ever doubt that experiencing difficulty in life can work for your good or the good of others who belong to Jesus? How can remembering the experiences of Joseph, or remembering Jesus’ life on earth, reassure you? What specifically do you want to recall in tough (or good!) times?

10. Recall a time in which you might have felt distant from God’s love. (It might involve a sin you committed or a sin committed by someone else that deeply hurt you. It may have been so heinous that you wondered how God could even look on it. Perhaps you are in the midst of something right now!) Write one or two words to identify the situation. Identify why you felt (or feel) separated from God’s love. Now review the list you made in question 4. Which things from the list apply to your perception? Keeping in mind Romans 1:8 and your list from question 4, what do you want to remember moving forward when Satan tries to sow doubt about God’s love for you?
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) Someone might say that divine predestination absolves believers of any responsibility. Why is this incorrect?

II) One line of reasoning suggests that God foreknew the course of human history and then made His plans accordingly, predestining some people for salvation. In this scenario, who receives the glory for one’s salvation?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

https://www.gotquestions.org/predestination-foreknowledge.html

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020

Scripture for Study Guide 15

1 Corinthians 2:10-11
10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among people knows the thoughts of a person except the spirit of the person that is in him? So also the thoughts of God no one knows, except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:7
but we speak God’s wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory;

Ephesians 1:5
5 He predestined us to adoption as sons and daughters through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Ephesians 1:11
11 In Him we also have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things in accordance with the plan of His will,
John 10:22-30
2 At that time the Feast of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem; 23 it was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple area, in the portico of Solomon. 24 The Jews then surrounded Him and began saying to Him, “How long will You keep us in suspense? If You are the Christ, tell us plainly.” 25 Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me. 26 But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep. 27 My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give them eternal life, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. 30 I and the Father are one.”

Genesis 37:1-4
Now Jacob lived in the land where his father had lived as a stranger, in the land of Canaan. 2 These are the records of the generations of Jacob.

Joseph, when he was seventeen years of age, was pasturing the flock with his brothers, while he was still a youth, along with the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father’s wives. And Joseph brought back a bad report about them to their father. 3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons, because he was the son of his old age; and he made him a multicolored tunic. 4 And his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers; and so they hated him and could not speak to him on friendly terms.

Genesis 37:14
14 Then he [Jacob/Israel] said to him [Joseph], “Go now and see about the welfare of your brothers and the welfare of the flock, and bring word back to me.” So he sent him from the Valley of Hebron, and he came to Shechem.

Genesis 37:18-28
18 When they [Joseph’s brothers] saw him [Joseph] from a distance, and before he came closer to them, they plotted against him to put him to death. 19 They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer! 20 Now then, come and let’s kill him, and throw him into one of the pits; and we will say, ‘A vicious animal devoured him.’ Then we will see what will become of his dreams!” 21 But Reuben heard this and rescued him out of their hands by saying, “Let’s not take his life.” 22 Then Reuben said to them, “Shed no blood. Throw him into this pit that is in the wilderness, but do not lay a hand on him”—so that later he might rescue him out of their hands, to return him to his father. 23 So it came about, when Joseph reached his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the multicolored tunic that was on him; 24 and they took him and threw him into the pit. Now the pit was empty, without any water in it.

25 Then they sat down to eat a meal. But as they raised their eyes and looked, behold, a caravan of Ishmaelites was coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying labdanum resin, balsam, and myrrh, on their way to bring them down to Egypt. 26 And Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood? 27 Come, and let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.” And his brothers listened to him. 28 Then some Midianite traders passed by, so they pulled him out and lifted Joseph out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty shekels of silver. So they brought Joseph into Egypt.
Key Points – Genesis 39-49

- Joseph taken to Egypt, sold to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh. (39:1)
- Joseph is successful in his responsibilities and is promoted to oversee Potiphar’s household. (39:2-6)
- Handsome Joseph rejects overtures from Potiphar’s wife and is falsely accused of attempted rape. Potiphar has Joseph put in prison and even there he prospers. (39:7-23)
- While in prison Joseph meets Pharaoh’s chief baker and chief cupbearer. They have dreams which Joseph interprets; Joseph asks the cupbearer to speak well of him to Pharaoh, but the cupbearer forgot Joseph. (40:1-23)
- Pharaoh has troubling dreams that none of his wise men can interpret; his cupbearer remembers Joseph and Joseph is summoned to Pharaoh. (41:1-14)
- Joseph interprets Pharaoh’s dreams, suggests a course of action to address the coming seven-year famine, and the Pharaoh is so impressed that he puts Joseph over the action plan, his palace, and his people. (41:15-49)
- The famine is widespread; it reaches even Canaan. Jacob sends ten sons (Benjamin remains with Jacob) to Egypt to procure grain. (42:1-5)
- Appearing before Joseph, but not recognizing their brother, the ten men agree to Joseph’s terms over the grain. [Simeon remains imprisoned in Egypt; the brothers were to return with their youngest brother Benjamin as evidence of their honor.] Joseph clandestinely includes their payment with the sacks of grain. (42:6-25)
- The brothers arrive home and discover the money; it will appear as if they have stolen from Pharaoh. Eventually they need to return to Egypt to obtain more food; this time they bring Benjamin, double payment, and gifts. (43:1-15)
- The brothers arrive in Egypt, Simeon is returned to them, and Joseph hosts a meal for his brothers. (43:16-34)
- Joseph instructs his house steward to supply his brothers for their return trip home with food, place their money at in the openings of their sacks, and place Joseph’s silver cup in Benjamin’s sack. (44:1-2)
- The men leave for Canaan, but Joseph springs the trap and the men are escorted back to Egypt. Because the cup was in Benjamin’s sack, they understand that he will now become Joseph’s slave. (44:3-13)
- Appearing before Joseph, Judah (the eldest) earnestly pleads to take Benjamin’s place. (44:14-34)
- Joseph reveals himself as their brother. Jacob’s entire household is brought to Egypt to ride out the remaining years of the famine. (45,46, and 47)
- Jacob becomes ill and blesses each son before he is gathered to his people. (48 and 49)

Stop! ➔ Complete question 8a before you read further!

Genesis 45:6-8

6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are still five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 So God sent me ahead of you to ensure for you a remnant on the earth, and to keep you alive by a great deliverance. 8 Now, therefore, it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his household, and ruler over all the land of Egypt.
Genesis 50:15-21

15 When Joseph’s brothers had seen that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!” 16 So they sent instructions to Joseph, saying, “Your father commanded us before he died, saying, 17 ‘This is what you shall say to Joseph: “Please forgive, I beg you, the offense of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.”’ And now, please forgive the offense of the servants of the God of your father.” And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, “Behold, we are your servants.” 19 But Joseph said to them, “Do not be afraid, for am I in God’s place? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to keep many people alive. 21 So therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones.” So he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

†
Fellowship question: To what do you feel entitled, say in a restaurant, a hospital emergency room, or at the Department of Motor Vehicles?

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

Read Romans 9.

1. What caused Paul’s “great sorrow and unceasing grief”? (In 10:1-4, Paul completes his thought.)

2. Making notes on the diagram below, track the lineage of children of the promise (spiritual children of Israel):

![Lineage Diagram]

- Abraham
  - Ishmael (by Hagar)
  - Isaac (by Sarah)
    - other sons
    - Esau
    - Jacob/Israel
      - 12 tribes
        - Jacob/Israel
          - Edomites
            - Reuben
            - Simeon
            - Levi
            - Judah
            - Dan
            - Naphtali
            - Gad
            - Asher
            - Issachar
            - Zebulun
            - Joseph
            - Benjamin
            - Paul
          - Moses
            - David
              - Jesus
3. What evidence does Paul give to challenge his reader’s potential protest that God is unjust in His choices?

4. Who are human beings in relation to who God is? (Paul draws several analogies.)

Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

5. Keeping in mind what Paul has already said about Jews in chapters 2 and 3, why do many of them not attain righteousness? (Why might some Jews err in regarding themselves as children of the promise? To what did they feel entitled?)
6. Considering the provided cross references, how did God demonstrate His mercy, compassion, and faithfulness to the people of Israel? (Feel free to cite other examples.) Exodus 2:23-25, Exodus 32:1-14; 2 Chronicles 20:1-17, Romans 4:6-8, Luke 1:26-33, and Romans 5:8.

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 on your own heart: is there anything to which you feel entitled? What is at the root of the entitlement? If you identified anything, use the space below to respond to your Father. Fall on God’s mercy and grace and commit to surrendering your will to His in this area.

8. What will you do to guard your own heart, as a “son of the living God,” (verse 26) to seek His glory, rather than preserve/assert your own rights? How can you apply this to a situation today?

Further Applications:
FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) Why do many Christians struggle with the concept of election (NIV) (choice, NASB) in verse 11?

II) In verse 13, God says, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.” Does loved or hated stand out to you more and why do you think it does? If the statement was made to emphasize the degree to which God loved and blessed Jacob and his descendants, how might that add to your understanding?

Scripture for Study Guide 16

Exodus 2:23-25

23 Now it came about in the course of those many days that the king of Egypt died. And the sons of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry for help because of their bondage ascended to God. 24 So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 25 And God saw the sons of Israel, and God took notice of them.

Exodus 32:1-14

Now when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people assembled around Aaron and said to him, “Come, make us a god who will go before us; for this Moses, the man who brought us up from the land of Egypt—we do not know what happened to him.” 2 Aaron said to them, “Tear off the gold rings which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” 3 So all the people tore off the gold rings which were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. 4 Then he took the gold from their hands, and fashioned it with an engraving tool and made it into a cast metal calf; and they said, “This is your god, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt.” 5 Now when Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of it; and Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a feast to the LORD.” 6 So the next day they got up early and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and got up to engage in lewd behavior.

7 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, “Go down at once, for your people, whom you brought up from the land of Egypt, have behaved corruptly. 8 They have quickly turned aside from the way which I commanded them. They have made for themselves a cast metal calf, and have worshiped it and have sacrificed to it and said, ‘This is your god, Israel, who brought you up from the land of Egypt!’” 9 Then the LORD said to Moses, “I have seen this people, and behold, they are an obstinate people. 10 So now leave Me alone, that My anger may burn against them and that I may destroy them; and I will make of you a great nation.”

11 Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said, “LORD, why does Your anger burn against Your people whom You have brought out from the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? 12 Why should the Egyptians talk, saying, ‘With evil motives He brought them out, to kill them on the mountains and to destroy them from the face of the earth’? Turn from Your burning anger and relent of doing harm to Your people. 13 Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, Your servants to whom You swore by Yourself, and said to them, ‘I will multiply...
your descendants as the stars of the heavens, and all this land of which I have spoken I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” 14 So the LORD relented of the harm which He said He would do to His people.

2 Chronicles 20:1-17
Now it came about after this, that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat. 2 Then some came and reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Aram; and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi).” 3 Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD; and he proclaimed a period of fasting throughout Judah. 4 So Judah gathered together to seek help from the LORD; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the LORD.

5 Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD in front of the new courtyard; 6 and he said, “LORD, God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You. 7 Did You not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land from Your people Israel, and give it to the descendants of Your friend Abraham forever? 8 They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, 9 ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, or judgment, or plague, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (for Your name is in this house), and cry out to You in our distress, and You will hear and save us.’ 10 Now behold, the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, whom You did not allow Israel to invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (for they turned aside from them and did not destroy them), see how they are rewarding us by coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance. 12 Our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.”

13 All Judah was standing before the LORD, with their infants, their wives, and their children.

14 Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jehiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; 15 and he said, “Listen, all you of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat: This is what the LORD says to you: ‘Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God’s. 16 Tomorrow, go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 You need not fight in this battle; take your position, stand and watch the salvation of the LORD in your behalf, Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow, go out to face them, for the LORD is with you.”

Romans 4:6-8
6 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the person to whom God credits righteousness apart from works:

7 “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHOSE LAWLESS DEEDS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN, AND WHOSE SINS HAVE BEEN COVERED.
8 BLESSED IS THE MAN WHOSE SIN THE LORD WILL NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.”
Luke 1: 26-33
26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and was pondering what kind of greeting this was. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”

Romans 5:8
8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
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Study Guide 17
Romans 10

Fellowship opener: Describe a situation where you missed the forest for the trees.

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!
Romans 10 is a continuation of the thought Paul begins in Romans 9. Skim Romans 9 to recall the matter on Paul’s heart.

Read Romans 10.

1. What observations can you make about the people group of whom Paul writes in verse 1-4.

2. Paul contrast two types of righteousness in this chapter. List what Paul says about each:

| Righteousness by the Law | Righteousness by Faith in Christ |
3. In verses 14 and 15, Paul mentions a sequence of action to retrace the steps which result in a believer calling on the name of the Lord (v. 13). What are they from start to finish, noting who performs the action?

- Call on the name of the Lord (Believers)

4. Look closely at verses 16-21. What can you discover about the Jews, both historically (Old Testament) and in Paul’s day?

**Reread the passage; what else stands out?**

**Further Observations**

**Themes (Main Ideas)**
5. What are the dangers of man-made righteousness and misdirected zeal? (See Proverbs 16:2, Romans 2:8, and 1 John 1:5-6.)


7. At this time in Rome, the epicenter of the Empire, the emperor was considered a deity. At an emperor’s coronation, he would ceremoniously demonstrate his power over life and death by pardoning some prisoners and selecting others to be executed on the spot. Coins were inscribed with Caesar’s image and the word “Divius,” “god/lord”; “Caesar is Lord” was the creed that citizens were expected to proclaim and to understand as their source for safety and life. In light of this historical context, reread verses 5-13.
   a. Why does Paul state this truth? (How are verses 9 and 10 more than a simple formula to follow?)
   
   b. How would Paul’s words have challenged cultural norms?
   
   c. What do Jesus’ words in Luke 12:8, 9 make clear?
8. What is one’s responsibility in salvation? In other words, hearing the gospel requires a response. What is that response according to Romans 10 (and what does it entail)?

9. We may be quick to identify how the Jewish leaders’ use of the Law led to self-righteousness, but can be a little harder to see anything similar in ourselves. In what ways do we create our own kingdoms as believers (or as a body of believers)? How does this harm us as well as others?
10. How has confessing Jesus as Lord come at a cost for you?

11. Reflect: Do you agree or disagree that we each have blind spots of misdirected zeal? Consider what is quick to offend you – is it revealing misplaced zealousness? A value/heart-attitude inconsistent with God’s desire for you? What steps can you take now or when a similar situation arises to realign [subject in verse 3] yourself to God’s righteousness?

Further Applications:

**FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:**

I) Thus far in Romans we have discovered that we are justified (exonerated), yet still in the process of sanctification. What distracts me from abiding in and remaining aligned to God’s righteousness?

II) How does outward confession express inner conviction?
ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

https://www.gotquestions.org/Augustus-Caesar.html
https://www.gotquestions.org/Martyrdom-of-Polycarp.html

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020

Scripture for Study Guide 17

Proverbs 16:2
2 All the ways of a person are clean in his own sight,
But the LORD examines the motives.

Romans 2:8
8 but to those who are self-serving and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, He will give wrath and indignation.

1 John 1:5-6
5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

Matthew 5:17
17 “Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.

Ephesians 2:13-18
13 But now in Christ Jesus you who previously were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall, 15 by abolishing in His flesh the hostility, which is the Law composed of commandments expressed in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two one new person, in this way establishing peace; 16 and that He might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the hostility. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were far away, and peace to those who were near; 18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.

Luke 12:8, 9
8 “Now I say to you, everyone who confesses Me before people, the Son of Man will also confess him before the angels of God; 9 but the one who denies Me before people will be denied before the angels of God.
Study Guide 18
Romans 11:1-12

Fellowship question: When you get lost, say either on a road trip or a hike, what is your typical response? Do you keep going, retrace your steps, or do you stop and reassess your plan? (What if you’re in a group and you’re the only one that realizes the group is off track?)

OBSERVATION — Lord, help me to discover it!

Skim Romans 9 and 10 to refresh your memory about Paul’s anguish for his unsaved brethren and the Jews’ blindness to God’s plan for them – the plan that began with their father Abraham.

Read Romans 11:1-12.

1. What is the question Paul asks in the first part of verse 1? He then cites a few examples to answer this question. What do you observe about the evidence Paul provides?

   The question:

   The evidence:
   Paul, himself:

   Elijah:

   Grace:

2. “What then?” Paul asks in 11:7. In other words, what is the plight for the people of Israel who earnestly sought to access God through works/the Law, rather than through faith?
3. What attributes of God do you observe from these verses?

4. What do you see in verses 11 and 12?

*Reread the passage; what else stands out?*

*Further Observations*

*Themes (Main Ideas)*
5. Let’s look a bit closer at Elijah’s situation to which Paul refers.
   a. **Skim** 1 Kings 18:16-19:10. What is Elijah’s state of mind at this point in the narrative?

   b. **Closely read** 1 Kings 19:11-18. What is God’s response to Elijah when he claims that Israel has rejected God?

   c. What is Paul’s purpose in flashing back in history to Elijah in the first part of Romans 11?
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!

6. Reflect: How do the deceived (those who have false thinking) come to recognize the deception? Do I recognize that the enemy is at work to mislead me? How can I safeguard my heart toward truth?

7. In his desperate state, Elijah was able to hear the gentle whispering of God (1 Kings 19:12-13). Now reflect: How can I remain in tune with the gentle whispers of the Spirit?
8. Read the parable of the sower in Mark 4:13-20. With respect to my own posture towards spiritual truth, how would I describe the soil of my heart? How do I respond to the spiritual truth revealed to me by God’s mercy, as He works in me?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) In Zechariah 2:8, written in the 6th century BC, the Jews are referred to as the apple of God’s eye. Jerusalem and its temple were destroyed by the Romans in the Siege of Jerusalem in 70 AD. Think about the history of the Jewish people from that event to today. What evidence of God’s continued involvement with them do you see?

II) Consider people today who are seeking God’s favor by works rather than by faith. In light of what we’ve learned about Israel in chapters 9 through 11, what wisdom might you share with them if presented the opportunity?

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020

Scripture for Study Guide 18

1 Kings 18:16-19:10

16 So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and informed him; then Ahab went to meet Elijah.

17 When Ahab saw Elijah, Ahab said to him, “Is this you, the cause of disaster to Israel?” 18 He said, “I have not brought disaster to Israel, but you and your father’s house have, because you have abandoned the commandments of the LORD and you have followed the Baals. 19 Now then,
send orders and gather to me all Israel at Mount Carmel, together with 450 prophets of Baal and four hundred prophets of the Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

20 So Ahab sent orders among all the sons of Israel and brought the prophets together at Mount Carmel. 21 Then Elijah approached all the people and said, “How long are you going to struggle with the two choices? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people did not answer him so much as a word. 22 Then Elijah said to the people, “I alone am left as a prophet of the LORD, while Baal’s prophets are 450 men. 23 Now have them give us two oxen; and have them choose the one ox for themselves and cut it up, and place it on the wood, but put no fire under it; and I will prepare the other ox and lay it on the wood, and I will not put a fire under it. 24 Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD; and the God who answers by fire, He is God.” And all the people replied, “That is a good idea.” 25 So Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose the one ox for yourselves and prepare it first, since there are many of you, and call on the name of your god, but put no fire under the ox.” 26 Then they took the ox which was given them and they prepared it, and they called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “O Baal, answer us!” But there was no voice and no one answered. And they limped about the altar which they had made. 27 And at noon Elijah ridiculed them and said, “Call out with a loud voice, since he is a god; undoubtedly he is attending to business, or is on the way, or is on a journey. Perhaps he is asleep, and will awaken.” 28 So they cried out with a loud voice, and cut themselves according to their custom with swords and lances until blood gushed out on them. 29 When midday was past, they raved until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice; but there was no voice, no one answered, and no one paid attention.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come forward to me.” So all the people came forward to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD which had been torn down. 31 Then Elijah took twelve stones, corresponding to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Israel shall be your name.” 32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD; and he made a trench around the altar, large enough to hold two measures of seed. 33 Then he laid out the wood, and he cut the ox in pieces and placed it on the wood. 34 And he said, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the burnt offering and on the wood.” And he said, “Do it a second time,” so they did it a second time. Then he said, “Do it a third time,” so they did it a third time. 35 The water flowed around the altar, and he also filled the trench with water.

36 Then at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, Elijah the prophet approached and said, “LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, today let it be known that You are God in Israel and that I am Your servant, and that I have done all these things at Your word. 37 Answer me, LORD, answer me, so that this people may know that You, LORD, are God, and that You have turned their heart back.” 38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood, and the stones and the dust; and it licked up the water that was in the trench. 39 When all the people saw this, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The LORD, He is God; the LORD, He is God!” 40 Then Elijah said to them, “Seize the prophets of Baal; do not let one of them escape.” So they seized them; and Elijah brought them down to the brook Kishon, and slaughtered them there.

41 Now Elijah said to Ahab, “Go up, eat and drink; for there is the sound of the roar of a heavy shower.” 42 So Ahab went up to eat and drink. But Elijah went up to the top of Carmel;
and he bent down to the earth and put his face between his knees. 43 And he said to his servant, “Go up now, look toward the sea.” So he went up and looked, but he said, “There is nothing.” Yet Elijah said, “Go back” seven times. 44 And when he returned the seventh time, he said, “Behold, a cloud as small as a person’s hand is coming up from the sea.” And Elijah said, “Go up, say to Ahab, ‘Harness your chariot horses and go down, so that the heavy shower does not stop you.’” 45 Meanwhile the sky became dark with clouds and wind came up, and there was a heavy shower. And Ahab rode and went to Jezreel. 46 Then the hand of the LORD was on Elijah, and he belted his cloak around his waist and outran Ahab to Jezreel.

19 1Now Ahab told Jezebel everything that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. 2 Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, “So may the gods do to me and more so, if by about this time tomorrow I do not make your life like the life of one of them.” 3 And he was afraid, and got up and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah; and he left his servant there. 4 But he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a broom tree; and he asked for himself to die, and said, “Enough! Now, LORD, take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.” 5 Then he lay down and fell asleep under a broom tree; but behold, there was an angel touching him, and he said to him, “Arise, eat!” 6 And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a round loaf of bread baked on hot coals, and a pitcher of water. So he ate and drank, and lay down again. 7 But the angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him, and said, “Arise, eat; because the journey is too long for you.” 8 So he arose and ate and drank, and he journeyed in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mountain of God.

9 Then he came there to a cave and spent the night there; and behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and He said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 10 And he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of armies; for the sons of Israel have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they have sought to take my life.”

1 Kings19:11-18

11 So He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD.” And behold, the LORD was passing by! And a great and powerful wind was tearing out the mountains and breaking the rocks in pieces before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind. And after the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake, a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire, a sound of a gentle blowing. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” 14 Then he said, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of armies; for the sons of Israel have abandoned Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. And I alone am left; and they have sought to take my life.”

15 The LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; and when you have arrived, you shall anoint Hazael king over Aram. 16 You shall also anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. 17 And it shall come about that the one who escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall put to death, and the one who escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall put to death. 18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal and every mouth that has not kissed him.”
1 Kings 19:12-13
12 And after the earthquake, a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire, a sound of a gentle blowing. 13 When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. And behold, a voice came to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

Mark 4:13-20
13 And He *said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them. 16 And in a similar way these are the ones sown with seed on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; 17 and yet they have no firm root in themselves, but are only temporary; then, when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately they fall away. 18 And others are the ones sown with seed among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, 19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things enter and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 20 And those are the ones sown with seed on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much.”

Zechariah 2:8
8 For the LORD of armies says this: “After glory He has sent me against the nations that plunder you, for the one who touches you, touches the apple of His eye.

NASB Formatting Notes:
- *Italics* are used to indicate words which are not found in the original Hebrew, Aramaic, or Greek but implied by it.
- **SMALL CAPS** are used to indicate Old Testament quotations or obvious references to Old Testament texts.
- *Asterisks (*)* denote places where a Greek historic present tense verb has been translated in English as a past tense verb.
Study Guide 19  
Romans 11:11-36

Fellowship question: Is envy always a bad thing?

OBSERVATION – Lord, help me to discover it!

Skim Romans 11:1-12 to refresh your memory of Paul’s words thus far in the chapter.

(While we included verses 11 and 12 in Study Guide 18, we will use them again as a launching point for this Guide.)

Read Romans 11:11-36.

1. From verses 11-15, what aspirations does Paul have for his ministry?

2. List everything Paul says in this section about the two people groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jews/Israel</th>
<th>Gentiles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>


3. Paul uses an illustration of an olive tree to communicate his argument. In the space below sketch the picture Paul describes. Label each part/component and what it represents. (Don’t worry if you don’t have a label for each part initially; we will explore it further.) You may want to use a different color for the wild olive parts.

4. Read verses 11-36 again. What warnings to Gentiles are mentioned?

5. What does Paul say concerning God’s plan for Israel?
6. Read verses 11-36 one more time. What do you observe about God from this passage?

Reread the passage; what else stands out?

Further Observations

Themes (Main Ideas)

INTERPRETATION – Lord, help me to understand it.

In our area of Southwest Idaho, many yards have rose bushes. Most of these plants are grafted roses, in which a rose valued for its flowers is grafted to a wild rose rootstock whose hardiness and disease resistance is better for our region. During the growing season a gardener cuts back any suckers (wild rose shoots) growing from the root to ensure that the desirable rose stems receive all of the root’s nourishment.

In Israel, wild olive trees are primarily used for the rootstock. As such, it is interesting that the method in the olive tree illustration Paul uses is the reverse – the wild is grafted onto the cultivated! Let’s give that some thought!
7. What insight about the olive tree analogy is provided by the following verses?
   a. Jeremiah 11:15, 16  [Jeremiah (c. 650-570 BC) prophesied to the southern kingdom before the Babylonian captivity.]

   b. Genesis 26:3-5 (Do you see any connection(s) between this restatement of the Abrahamic Covenant and Paul’s olive tree analogy?)

   c. The phrase, the *Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*, occurring frequently in the Bible, but we’ll look at: Exodus 2:24, Deuteronomy 29:13, Matthew 8:11, Acts 3:12-13. (Hint: Think about how this phrase is used to remind the people of something.)

   d. Isaiah 27:1-6

   e. Now look back at your drawing in question 3. There may be some labels upon which you may wish to expound.
The olive, cultivated in groves or orchards throughout Palestine, was an accepted emblem of Israel, as was also the vine. Paul now develops the metaphor in such a way as to accommodate and illustrate his teaching about Jews and Gentiles. The cultivated olive is the people of God, whose root is the patriarchs and whose stem represent the continuity of the centuries. Now some of the branches have been broken off, standing for the unbelieving Jews who have been temporarily discarded, and you (Gentile believers), though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others the Jewish remnant), so that you now share with them in the nourishing sap from the olive root.

Some commentators make heavy weather of Paul’s allegory. They point out that according to the normal procedure, “grafts must necessarily be of branches from a cultivated olive inserted into a wild stock, the reverse process being one which would be valueless and is never performed. C. H. Dodd goes further and makes merry at Paul’s expense. ‘Paul had the limitations of the town-bred man … and he had not the curiosity to inquire what went on in the olive-yards which fringed every road he walked.’ Poor ignorant city boy! So some scholars draw attention to Paul’s reference in verse 24 to what is ‘contrary to nature’ and suggest that Paul knew what he was saying and was deliberately wishing to teach theological rather than horticultural lessons.

In 1905, however, Sir William Ramsay wrote an interesting article, which is still quoted, in which he drew on both ancient and modern authorities. The process Paul described, he wrote, was still in use in Palestine ‘in exceptional circumstances …’, for ‘it is customary to reinvigorate an olive tree which is ceasing to bear fruit by grafting it with a shoot of the wild-olive, so that the sap of the tree ennobles this wild shoot and the tree now again begins to bear fruit’. Paul’s reference, therefore, is not to ‘the ordinary process of grafting the young olive-tree’ but to ‘the method of invigorating a decadent olive-tree’. In this case what is ‘contrary to nature’ is not the ‘grafting’ but the ‘belonging’, namely that the shoot has been cut from the wild olive to which it naturally belonged and has been grafted into the cultivated olive to which it does not naturally belong.


8. Explain the mystery that Paul mentions in Romans 11:25. Hosea 2:23 (which Paul quoted in Romans 9:25) and Jeremiah 31:21-34 may be helpful.
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!

9. Explain how spiritual pride [of any kind!] has no place in the life of Jesus’ followers. How will you safeguard yourself against it?

10. Think about the progression you have experienced thus far in Paul’s letter to the Romans.
   ◆ Sin: Mankind is sinful, hopeless, destined for wrath, and in desperate need of salvation. (Romans 1:18-3:20)
   ◆ Salvation: In His grace, God offers man justification (righteousness). Through our believing on Jesus’ death on the cross for our sin and resurrection to life, God provides salvation – a path to restoring relationship between mankind to Himself. (Romans 3:21-5:21)
   ◆ Sanctification: In addition to salvation, God provides a means of sanctification through the gift of His Spirit to believers. Where we were once lived enslaved to the flesh (sinful nature), we now can live by the Spirit in obedience to God. He who began the good work in us will see it to completion! (Romans 6:1-8:39)
   ◆ Sovereignty: But what about the Jews? Has God forgotten them or replaced them altogether with the Gentiles? Absolutely not! God has been at work throughout
history to build a kingdom. Jesus’ kingdom consists of people from many nations/races and as stated in Romans 11:29, “the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable.” (Romans 9:1-11:32)

Now reread Romans 11:33-36. Does praise and worship stir in your own heart as you reflect on this Romans: Roadmap to Righteousness!? What do you say to your Lord in response?

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OR CONTEMPLATION:

I) Think about God’s story from Eden to today. How did/does grafting in believing Gentiles stimulate the olive tree’s fruit?

II) What aspects of God’s character have felt especially evident in this chapter?

III) Consider how the beginning of Romans 9 and the ending of Romans 11 function as beginning and ending parentheses around everything in between.

Cole Women’s Bible Study Writing Team, 2020
Scripture for Study Guide 19

Jeremiah 11:15-16
15 What right has My beloved in My house
When she has carried out many evil schemes?
Can the sacrificial flesh take away from you your disaster,
So that you can rejoice?”
16 The LORD named you
“A green olive tree, beautiful in fruit and form”;
With the noise of a great tumult
He has set fire to it,
And its branches are worthless.

Genesis 26:4 [God speaking to Isaac in the land of Gerar]
3 Live for a time in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to
your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your
father Abraham. 4 I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give
your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be
blessed, 5 because Abraham obeyed Me and fulfilled his duty to Me, and kept My
commandments, My statutes, and My laws.”

Exodus 2:24 [the Hebrews enslaved in Egypt]
24 So God heard their groaning; and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and
Jacob.

Deuteronomy 29:13 [Moses speaking to the Hebrews in the land of Moab, following the Mosaic
covenant given at Sinai]
13 in order that He may establish you today as His people, and that He may be your God, just as
He spoke to you and as He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Matthew 8:11 [Jesus, commenting on the Capernaum centurion’s faith]
11 And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with
Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven;

Acts 3:12-13 [Responding to the astonished crowd after Peter had healed the beggar at the
Beautiful gate of the temple]
12 But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, “Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this,
or why are you staring at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made him
walk? 13 The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant
Jesus, the one whom you handed over and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he
had decided to release Him.

Isaiah 27:1-6
On that day the LORD will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent,
With His fierce and great and mighty sword,
Even Leviathan the twisted serpent;
And He will kill the dragon who lives in the sea.
On that day,
“A vineyard of beauty, sing of it!
1 I, the LORD, am its keeper;
I water it every moment.
So that no one will damage it,
I guard it night and day.
4 I have no wrath.
Should someone give Me briars and thorns in battle,
Then I would step on them, I would burn them completely.
5 Or let him rely on My protection,
Let him make peace with Me,
Let him make peace with Me.”
6 In the days to come Jacob will take root,
Israel will blossom and sprout,
And they will fill the whole world with fruit.

Hosea 2:23
I will sow her for Myself in the land.
I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion,
And I will say to those who were not My people,
‘You are My people!’
And they will say, ‘You are my God!’”

Jeremiah 31:31-34
31 “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers on 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 “For 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 write it on their heart; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 They will not teach again, each one his neighbor and each one 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 wrongdoing, and their sin I will no longer remember.”