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Bethel Gospel Tabernacle

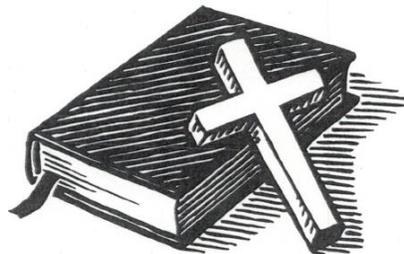


C.A.R.E. SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

C.A.R.E. Study Material

BOOK OF ROMANS

*And daily in the temple, and in every house,
they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.*
(Acts 5:42 (KJV))



For more information on the C.A.R.E. Ministry
Please email CARE@bgtintl.com or call the Church office
Christ-Like **A**pproach in **R**eaching **E**veryone

Copies of this Study Material can be found
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Notes

1. ROMANS 1:1-17

Paul's desire was to preach the Good News of the gospel to every nation. The good news is that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and he came to this earth to save us from our sins. In the first chapter of ROMANS, Paul expresses his enthusiastic desire to communicate this Good News to all the nations.

OPEN

1. What is the best news you have ever received?

EXPLORE

2. Who is the subject of the Good News? (1:3-4)
3. For whom is the gospel message given? (1:5)
4. To whom does Paul want to preach the gospel? (1:14-15)
5. What reasons does Paul give for being proud of the Good News? (1:16)

GET IT

6. How would you describe the Good News in simple terms?
7. Why would you say the gospel is good news?
8. How is this message beneficial to all people in all nations?
9. With whom in particular would you like to share the gospel?

APPLY

10. How can you communicate that you have Good News for people in your everyday life this week?

2. ROMANS 1:18-2:26

God carefully watches what we do with our lives. His judgment is based on rewarding good and punishing evil. Everyone will be judged on the basis of what they have done in their lives. The only way to escape that judgment is to appeal to Jesus for mercy.

OPEN

1. Do you believe people are basically good or basically evil? Why?

EXPLORE

2. What examples does this passage give of a person who does evil? (1:29-32)
3. How does this passage describe a person who does good? (2:7)
4. What does this passage indicate will happen to those who do evil? (2:8-9)
5. What does this passage indicate will happen to those who do good? (2:7, 10)

GET IT

6. What excuses do you hear people give for the wrong things they do?
7. How can knowing we will be accountable for our actions help us determine the way we live?
8. How would you describe God's system of judgment to another person?
9. Would you describe that system as fair or unfair? Why or why not?

APPLY

10. In what way can you become more accountable for your actions, big and small, this week?

3. ROMANS 2:17-3:20

In this passage, Paul teaches that no one is capable of obeying everything God says all the time. In other words, everyone is a sinner. But God does not leave us in our sins. Through our sin, we see our need for God and the salvation he offers through his Son.

OPEN

1. Why do you think it is difficult to always do the right thing?

EXPLORE

2. What is contradictory about the behavior of the Jews in this passage? (2:21-23)
3. Who does Paul say is guilty of committing sin? (3:9)
4. Who is under God's judgment? (3:19)
5. What does Paul say the law does for us? (3:20)

GET IT

6. What do you think about the idea that "only good people get to heaven"?
7. How does it make you feel to realize that every person is a sinner?
8. How does this passage help your understanding of the purpose of God's law?
9. How have your mistakes and failures helped to emphasize your need for God?

APPLY

10. What repeated mistakes or failures can you pinpoint in your life that indicate a fresh need for God's help?

4. ROMANS 3:21-31

Paul reminds us in this passage that all people have sinned. But God has provided a solution to this universal problem. Through faith in Jesus Christ, every person can be made right with God.

OPEN

1. When is a time when you experienced a problem that initially seemed unsolvable?

EXPLORE

2. What characteristics does Paul say all people have in common? (3:23-24)
3. How does Paul describe the gift of God's grace? (3:24)
4. How does Paul describe God's actions in this passage? (3:25)
5. What is the key ingredient to God's plan for making people right with him? (3:28)

GET IT

6. In what ways do people try to earn their way into being right with God?
7. Why do you think God's plan described in this passage is a better plan than trying to keep the law perfectly?
8. How would you describe God's grace in simple, practical terms?
9. How would you tell someone about God's plan for being right with God?

APPLY

10. What areas can you pinpoint this week where you are relying on your own ability to be right with God instead of relying on Christ's free gift of grace?

5. ROMANS 4:1-25

God gave Abraham a great promise. He would make Abraham the father of many nations. If anyone knew about what it is to live on faith, it was Abraham. From his story, we learn that we can receive God's greatest promises to us by trusting him wholeheartedly.

OPEN

1. What everyday situation requires you to trust someone else?

EXPLORE

2. What does this passage indicate kept Abraham from bragging about his right relationship to God? (4:1-3)
3. Who can receive God's promises? (4:16)
4. What did God promise Abraham? (4:18)
5. What reasons did Abraham have for not believing God's promise? (4:19)

GET IT

6. What areas of our lives often require us to have more faith than other areas?
7. What is difficult about accepting God's promises through faith instead of through evidence that you can see, hear, and touch?
8. Why does living by faith in God's promises keep us from boasting about our good standing with God?
9. What does the phrase "God's promise" mean to you?

APPLY

10. What Scripture passages can you focus on this week to strengthen your faith in God's promises concerning a particular need in your life?

6. ROMANS 5:1-21

Paul teaches in this passage that every person is doomed to death and disobedience because of sin. However, Christ has rescued us from a no-win situation just in time. Through his death on the cross, Christ is able to restore all people to a right relationship with God. All people through Jesus Christ can experience reconciliation with God.

OPEN

1. How does our society practice the idea of “you get what you deserve”?

EXPLORE

2. What was the nature of our relationship with God when Christ died for us? (5:10)
3. What is the nature of our relationship with Christ after his death? (5:11)
4. How did Adam’s disobedience affect the entire human race? (5:17)
5. How does Christ’s death on the cross reverse what Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden? (5:18-19)

GET IT

6. How would you describe how we as sinful people “deserve” to be treated by God?
7. What does it mean to you to realize Christ died to make you friends with God at a time when you were outright enemies because of sin?
8. What new opportunities exist for all people because of Christ’s death that were not possible before it?
9. How does Christ’s death on the cross personally alter your present situation and your future?

APPLY

10. How can you gain new perspective this week from this passage concerning a situation that may seem hopeless and beyond restoration?

7. ROMANS 6:1-23

In every person's life a choice must be made: to follow sinful ways or the way of Christ. Before Christ comes into our lives, we are slaves to sin. However, Christ's death gives us a new opportunity to faithfully do what God wants us to do.

OPEN

1. What resources do you rely on when making difficult decisions?

EXPLORE

2. What happens to a Christian's old life when they begin living for Christ? (6:6)
3. What power does sin have in a Christian's life? (6:11)
4. How does this passage describe a Christian's relationship with goodness? (6:18)
5. What is the ultimate result of sin? What does God provide as an alternative? (6:23)

GET IT

6. What kinds of ways do Christians often give into their sinful nature?
7. What is the penalty for being a slave to sin?
8. How would you describe the effect Christ has on your ability to live a successful Christian life?
9. What does it mean to you to consider yourself a slave to God?

APPLY IT

10. How can this passage help you make plans this week to tackle an area in which you are a slave to sin rather than to God?

8. ROMANS 7:1-25

In this passage, Paul empathizes with the common human experience of struggling with sin. All of us want to do what is right, but often we give in to temptation and our own evil desires. Paul explains that Christ sets a person free from the shackles of sin. Wicked habits no longer have to control us; instead, the Spirit of the living God can control our actions.

OPEN

1. What does freedom of speech or religious freedom mean to you?

EXPLORE

2. What example from marriage does Paul use to prove a point? (7:1-3)
3. What parallel to sin does Paul make in the illustration on marriage? (7:4)
4. What aspects of his behavior does Paul say he does not understand? (7:15-20)
5. What conclusions does Paul make concerning the contradictions in his behavior? (7:21-25)

GET IT

6. How does Paul's marriage illustration help you understand your own relationship to sin?
7. What parts of Paul's own example of confusion do you relate to and why?
8. How does it make you feel to realize Paul struggled along the same lines as we do today?
9. If you were really free from the lure of sin, what do you imagine your life would look like?

APPLY

10. In what practical ways can you communicate what you are learning about the freedom Christ offers to someone you know who is enslaved to sin?

9. ROMANS 8:1-39

Paul reminds us that our old, sinful selves compete with our new selves. A constant battle wages between these two selves over the choices we make every day. The path of wickedness always lies right before us. In order to avoid it, we must consult God's compass—the Bible—and then surrender to the Holy Spirit, our guide on earth.

OPEN

1. If you had the power and resources to help a person in need, who would you help and what would you do?

EXPLORE

2. What do people living for themselves think about compared with a Christian's thoughts? (8:5-8)
3. What characteristics describe a person who has the Spirit of God? (8:9-11)
4. How does the Spirit of God prove someone is a true child of God? (8:14-16)
5. How does this passage indicate the Spirit helps Christians? (8:26-27)

GET IT

6. What does this passage teach you about the importance of your thoughts?
7. What sort of things do you think the Spirit wants you to think about?
8. How can you tell if someone is really a true Christian or not?
9. What difference does it make to you that the Spirit prays for you?

APPLY

10. What changes do you need to make with regards to your thought patterns so that the Spirit can more easily influence your thoughts?

10. ROMANS 9:1-29

God is beyond our imagination: He is all-powerful; he knows all things; and he is perfect. He is God—the one and only God. His sovereignty—the fact that he controls all things—is difficult for many of us to fathom. In this passage, Paul describes the sovereign will of God—an attribute of God that should inspire nothing less than reverential awe.

OPEN

1. How would you explain the difference between the will of God and fate to an unbeliever?

EXPLORE

2. How would you characterize Paul's feelings towards the Jewish people? (9:1-5)
3. What role does this passage teach that people have in influencing God's decisions? (9:16)
4. What reason does Paul give for not questioning God? (9:20)
5. How does Paul illustrate the sovereignty of God? (9:20-21)

GET IT

6. When are people most tempted to question God's ways?
7. What is difficult for you to understand about God's sovereignty?
8. What is comforting to you about your role as a piece of clay and God as the potter? What is potentially uncomfortable?
9. What else did you learn from this passage about the character of God?

APPLY

10. In what area do you need to gain greater trust in the sovereignty of God this week?

11. ROMANS 9:30-10:21

Like the Jews in this passage, people often seek God through their own ways. Paul, however, makes it clear that there is only one way to be reconciled to God. The one way is through faith in Jesus Christ, God's only Son.

OPEN

1. If you were lost in a city you had never been in before, how would you react?

EXPLORE

2. What illustration does Paul use to describe the Jews' misunderstanding concerning God's plan of salvation? (9:32-33)
3. Who is "the stone" that makes people stumble? (9:33)
4. How did the Jews try to make themselves right with God? (9:31)
5. What two things must a person do to respond to Jesus according to God's way? (10:9-10)

GET IT

6. Why do you think some people believe in God but refuse to accept the claims of Christ?
7. What ways do you see people today trying to be right with God through their own ways?
8. What do you think is difficult for some concerning the role of faith in salvation?
9. How would you describe what it means "to believe in Christ" to a nonbeliever?

APPLY

10. Who can you pray for this week that that person might find God's perfect way of salvation?

12. ROMANS 11:1-36

Paul reminds us in this passage that Jews and non-Jews alike are included in God's plan of salvation. He uses the illustration of branches grafted onto a tree to describe how all people have the opportunity to be God's people—a privilege that once belonged solely to the Jews. Anyone, whether Jewish or not, can respond to God's offer of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. They become part of God's family.

OPEN

1. What is your family background?

EXPLORE

2. How does Paul describe his family heritage? (11:1)
3. How do Gentiles, or non-Jews, benefit from the Jews' disbelief? (11:11-12)
4. What illustration does Paul use to demonstrate a Gentile's inclusion in God's plan of salvation? (11:17-21)
5. How does Paul describe God's current relationship with the Jewish people? (11:28)

GET IT

6. How does the illustration of the grafted branches help you better understand your relationship with the Jewish people?
7. How does this passage help you understand God's relationship with the Jewish people?
8. What does God's relationship with the Jews teach you about God's character?
9. What similarities do unbelieving Gentiles and unbelieving Jews have in common?

APPLY

10. Who can you explain God's gift of salvation to, this week?

13. ROMANS 12:1-21

It is tempting to think only about ourselves. But Paul reminds us that a Christian continually has others' interests in mind. He uses the illustration of a body with many parts to illustrate the concern each Christian should have for another. A Christian's response to others should be filled with concern and compassion—a stark contrast to the world's selfish patterns.

OPEN

1. What is the best “random act of kindness” you have experienced or witnessed?

EXPLORE

2. What is Paul's illustration of how Christians should interact together? (12:4-5)
3. What are the various gifts people can have that Paul lists in this passage? (12:6-8)
4. What actions and attitudes does Paul discourage in this passage? (12:9-21)
5. What positive actions and attitudes are encouraged here? (12:9-21)

GET IT

6. In what specific areas is it tempting for a Christian's actions and attitudes to be similar to the world's?
7. What gifts in this passage pique your interest? Which ones, if any, do you believe you may possess?
8. How does the illustration of a body with many parts help you understand your relationship with other Christians?
9. What is most difficult about putting others' concerns before your own?

APPLY

10. In what specific area this week will you focus more on others' needs than your own?

14. ROMANS 13:1-14

Christians may find themselves at odds with government officials from time to time. Paul outlines principles to follow concerning our relationship to those in positions of authority over us. He encourages Christians to respect authority and consider officials as God's appointed servants. Furthermore, he reminds us that God is always in charge. He is the ultimate authority.

OPEN

1. If you could be "President-For-A-Day," what one thing would you accomplish?

EXPLORE

2. From where do people in authority ultimately receive their power? (13:1)
3. How should Christians respond to government in light of their relationship with God? (13:2)
4. How does Paul describe the relationship between God and those in authority? (13:4)
5. What rule does Paul encourage a person to follow? (13:9)

GET IT

6. How does knowing God grants a person power affect your understanding of authority?
7. When have you experienced an authority figure who faithfully served in their position as God's servant?
8. How should Christians respond when an authority figure leads against the grain of God's teaching?
9. Why do you think loving your neighbor as yourself is a good summary of a Christian's interaction with others?

APPLY

10. How can you specifically focus your prayers on our current government officials this week?

15. ROMANS 14:1-15:13

Some people are stronger in their faith than others. Paul instructs those who are strong to pay careful attention to the needs of those who are weaker. We cannot judge others based on our own knowledge and level of experience. Instead, we should live our lives to encourage those who may be weaker and inspire them to become stronger.

OPEN

1. When have you found it difficult to refrain from judging another person?

EXPLORE

2. About what does Paul warn Christians not to argue? (14:1)
3. What reason does Paul give for not judging others? (14:10-12)
4. What does Paul say is most important when it comes to discussing what is right and wrong? (14:17)
5. How should those who are stronger in the faith treat others who are weaker? (15:1-2)

GET IT

6. What are some “gray areas” about which Christians often disagree?
7. What example can you give of how a stronger Christian can show concern for a weaker Christian?
8. Why is it tempting to judge others according to your own standards?
9. In what way could this passage influence how you form most of your opinions?

APPLY

10. How can you encourage a Christian child, student, or adult this week who may be weaker than you in their faith?

16. ROMANS 15:14-16:27

Paul was a man on a mission. God gave Paul the unique assignment to spread the gospel among non-Jews. Paul was successful in his venture and expected to do more work when he arrived in Rome. Paul is a model of a Christian who steadfastly pursues God's purposes for his life.

OPEN

1. If you could live your life again and pursue one, secret ambition, what would it be and why?

EXPLORE

2. What is the special gift God gave to Paul? (15:15-16)
3. Why does Paul say he was previously unable to visit Rome? (15:20-22)
4. Which people was Paul planning to visit next? (15:25)
5. Who are some of the people to whom Paul sent greetings and what significance did they have to Paul? (16:1-16)

GET IT

6. How does a person come to understand what God's purpose is for their lives?
7. What do you feel is your mission concerning God's work?
8. Like Paul, what significant people have you met as a result of pursuing God's purpose for your life?
9. Like Paul, how would you know when you finished your life's purpose?

APPLY

10. When can you spend some time this week reading the Bible and praying to God so that you can reorient your life towards God and his will for you?

