

Sample Study

Romans 1-6

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Read - Romans 1:1-17, 15:15-16:27, other references as given.

Our study of Romans begins with a bold declaration from God through the His servant Paul. Man can find complete acceptance before a holy God and receive the *gift* of eternal life. He can have absolute assurance during this lifetime that he will have a place in heaven when he dies. No longer does he have to live in fear and dread about standing before God in eternal judgment. But why does man even have to be saved? Aren't his good works enough to gain him acceptance before a benevolent God? Let's examine what God says about man's good works and his need for salvation from God.

1. Whom did God use to write the book of Romans (1:1)?
2. Many ancient letters were dictated to a secretary or amanuensis (*pronounced a-man-u-en-sis*) who physically wrote the letter. These letters were often hand-carried by another person traveling to the vicinity of the recipient(s) and delivered personally. Frequently, a brief word of commendation about the letter carrier was included to introduce him or her for the purpose of finding lodging or employment.
 - a. What was the name of the amanuensis who originally penned the book of Romans (16:22)?
 - b. Whom did God use to deliver this letter to the Christians in Rome (16:1, 2)?
3.
 - a. How did the apostle Paul assess the content of his letter (15:15)?
 - b. Oftentimes we credit personal boldness to personality, natural self-confidence or even pride. What did Paul say was the source of his boldness?
 - c. In what ways *do you think* your Christian life would be enhanced if you could consistently appropriate this same strength?
4. Paul wrote to the Roman Christians informing them of his desire to visit Rome (15:19-24).
 - a. Who or what *do you think* hindered him from visiting the church prior to this time?
 - b. What were the circumstances that prevented the apostle Paul from immediately visiting the church in Rome at this time (15:25-28)?
5.
 - a. What does the apostle Paul call the financial gift given by the churches of Macedonia and Achaia (Thessalonica, Berea, Philippi, etc.) to the saints in Jerusalem (15:26-28)?

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1. The apostle Paul.
2.
 - a. Tertius.
 - b. Phoebe.
3.
 - a. He said he wrote boldly on some points.
 - b. The grace of God (15:15).
 - c. Answers will vary but could include the following: fruit of the Spirit, evangelism, effective individual ministry and prayer, etc.
4.
 - a. Although it is not stated what hindered him up to the point of the writing of this letter, the use of the word "hinder" seems to indicate something adversarial. This implies that the adversary could possibly be Satan or a representative (cf. Dan. 10:10-13; 1 Thess. 2:18). However, Paul could have been hindered from coming to Rome by the constraining burden of the Lord upon his heart to fulfill the work that God had given him (cf. 2 Tim. 4:7, etc.). Whatever the hindrance Paul faced or we will face, we can be assured that God's ultimate plan cannot be stopped.
 - b. He was on his way to deliver a financial offering that was given by the churches of Macedonia and Achaia to the saints in Jerusalem who were facing great financial difficulty.
5.
 - a. A contribution (v. 26), fruit (v. 28), and possibly a debt (v. 27).
 - b. Just as fruit is evidence of a healthy tree, our willingness to give to the needs of others is evidence of our spiritual vitality. In the letter to the Corinthians, the gift the Corinthians planned to give for the same cause was said to be proof of the sincerity of their love (2 Co. 8:8). The word "fruit" could also be used to illustrate the nourishment and refreshment (in this case spiritual) that the saints at Jerusalem would receive. Other answers could apply.
 - c. Those who have benefited and have been encouraged by the Word of God have a Biblical responsibility to assist those who have committed themselves to the spiritual advancement of others.
6. People who were not Jewish. They were Gentiles who had been saved and now wanted to financially assist those in Jerusalem who were originally responsible for bringing the message of salvation to them through missionaries.
7.
 1. He wanted to inform them of his desire to visit them and preach to the believers in Rome (v. 20).
 2. He wanted the church to assist him financially when he went to Spain (v. 24).
 3. He wanted the church to support him in prayer as he went to Judea and Jerusalem with the financial contribution (vv. 30-32).
8. Spain.
9.
 - a. "Helpers in Christ Jesus," "well-beloved," "kinsmen," "fellow prisoners who are of note among the apostles," "apostles in Christ," "helper," "approved in Christ," "in the Lord," "brethren," "saints."
 - b. "In the Christ Jesus" and "helpers."
 - b. Perhaps they were believers he had known from other cities and churches who had moved to the great city of Rome.
10.
 - a. They were to keep a close watch on those who were causing dissensions and disturbances among the Christians in Rome. These self-styled teachers were causing problems by introducing ideas and teachings contrary to what had been taught by the apostles and prophets. The believers in Rome were to turn away from these false teachers.
 - b. God had caused the simple obedience of the believers in Rome to be known (no doubt by word of mouth) among the entire Christian community throughout the Roman Empire. Their simple obedience had been used by God to encourage the heart of the Apostle Paul. It is an encouraging thought to realize that the simple obedience of an individual believer can be used to encourage the hearts of people he has never met.