

QUESTIONS

- 1) The gospel is the _____ of God to _____ for _____ who _____.
- 2) When Paul says, "The just shall live by faith," what Old Testament passage is he quoting? _____
- 3) "But he is a Jew who is one _____; and circumcision is that of the _____, in the _____, not in the letter; whose praise is not from _____ but from _____."
- 4) When we sin, we fall _____.
- 5) What two Old Testament men does Paul use or quote to explain justification by faith _____
- 6) How has God demonstrated His love toward us?

- 7) Summarize how Paul explains that in baptism, we are baptized into Christ's death.

- 8) What is Paul explaining when he uses the example of a married woman whose husband has passed away in chapter 7 _____
- 9) For those who are in Jesus, there is no _____.
- 10) All things work together for _____ for those who _____.

"The Just Shall Live By Faith"

Faith is a major theme throughout the book of Romans. In fact, many recognize Romans 1:17 as the thesis of Paul's letter when he says, "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith.'" Paul explains the reality that all people (Jews and Gentiles) have sinned, and thus are guilty before God. God's grace has made a way, however, for man to be reconciled to God and forgiven of sins. The way a person accepts God's gracious gift is through faith. As Paul said in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace you have been saved through faith..." Unfortunately, many make the mistake of equating "faith" with nothing more than mental assent. Paul's letter to the Romans shows this to be a mistake. Faith is not simply a mental action; it is something that guides our life. Notice again, the just shall **live** by faith. Faith guides all that the Christian does. Faith prompts one to obey God, and faith leads one to live in accordance with God's will. Paul's examples shed further light on this. Abraham, for instance, is pointed to as one justified by faith. A brief examination of Abraham's life will reveal a man who followed and obeyed God. Is Paul wrong then? Of course not! Paul wants us to see that only faith in God will prompt proper living and obedience. Without faith, we will follow mere regulations or human tradition. With faith, we will follow God. Faith will enable us to live sacrificially, obediently, and lovingly. Is that how we are living our lives? Are we "living by faith?"

F
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H

"That You May Grow Thereby..."

A weekly Bible reading plan



Romans 1-8

The Just Shall Live by Faith

Overview

After the four gospel accounts and the book of Acts, a new section of the New Testament begins—a section containing various letters written by the Apostle Paul. The first of these is the book of Romans. Paul did not start the congregation(s) in Rome, but he longed to visit them. He also hoped they would assist him with his plans to visit Spain (15:24). More importantly, Paul wrote by inspiration to assist the brethren with much needed doctrinal clarity. As with many churches Paul wrote to, it seems the brethren in Rome were struggling with their new identity in Christ. Gentile and Jewish backgrounds could lead to tensions between brethren. Paul's letter would serve to remind the Roman Christians of the transforming power of the Gospel, and thus how they should view their new life, particularly in relation to one another and the world. While the book of Romans is full of important doctrine, it is also full of practical application. It teaches us about the unfathomable grace of God, the saving role of obedient faith, and the transformation of life found in those who "live by faith."

Suggested Reading Schedule

Monday: Romans 1-2

Tuesday: Romans 3-4

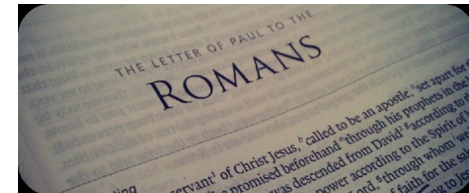
Wednesday: Romans 5-6

Thursday: Romans 7

Friday: Romans 8

Outline of Romans

- I. Opening (1:1-17)
- II. The Heart of the Gospel (1:18-4:25)
 1. Universal Effect of Sin (1:18-3:20)
 2. Justification by Faith (3:21-4:25)
- III. Assurance of the Gospel (5-8)
 1. Hope of Glory (5)
 2. Freed from Sin (6)
 3. Freed from the Law (7)
 4. Assurance of Eternal Life (8)
- IV. Defense of the Gospel (9-11)
 1. National Israel (9-10)
 2. Spiritual Israel (11)
- V. Transforming Power of the Gospel (12-16)
 1. A Living Sacrifice (12)
 2. Putting on Christ (13)
 3. The Weak & Strong (14)
 4. Paul's Plans (15)
 5. Final Warnings (16)



Key Words

As you read through Romans, keep an eye out for the following key words that are used frequently. These words form major themes throughout Paul's letter. You might highlight or underline these words to help you find and follow them throughout the book.

Law	Spirit
Sin	Flesh
Faith	Grace
Righteousness	Gospel

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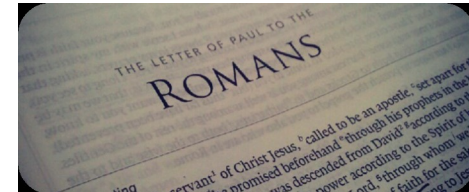
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