

343: Aug 11; 18. Trust, Grace (New Testament Weeks 32-33)

8/11: Romans 1-6

8/18: Romans 7-16

Outline:

Part I.

1. Paul's key questions
2. Flow of Paul's argument
3. Sunday School Lesson
4. Reading Review and Nuggets

Part II.

5. Background and overview of Romans
6. Bonus: Grace is Not God's Backup Plan, by Adam Miller

Welcome to Romans!! Arguably one of the most significant books in the history of Western civilization. Romans has been called "The Gospel according to Paul" First, let's get orientated:

Key questions Paul addresses:

What is the nature of Paul's mission? (He's concerned to address misconceptions)

What is the relationship between Jews, Gentiles, and Salvation? (the main focus of the letter)

What is the relationship between the Law of Moses and Faith in Jesus (or Faith of Jesus)

How can Christians properly care for each other?

Paul is hoping for the support of those in Rome

To bring these issues home, this is very similar to the question: If we can just be baptized during the Millennium or after we die, why be a member of the Church now?

Flow of Paul's argument:

Summary of Basic Information

DATE: In the winter of 57/58 from Corinth (55/56 in the Revisionist Chronology).

TO: God's beloved in Rome, where Paul had never been but had friends.

AUTHENTICITY: Not seriously disputed.

UNITY: A very small minority posits the joining of two separate letters; a larger minority maintains that chap. 16 was added later.

INTEGRITY: Besides chap. 16 (or the doxology in 16:25–27), a few have rejected chaps. 9–11 as not truly Pauline.

FORMAL DIVISION:

A. Opening Formula: 1:1–7

B. Thanksgiving: 1:8–10

C. Body: 1:11–15:13

D. Concluding Formulas (15:14–16:23) plus Doxology (16:25–27).

DIVISION ACCORDING TO CONTENTS:

1:1–15: Address/greeting, Thanksgiving, and Proem about Paul's wish to come to Rome

1:16–11:36: Doctrinal Section:

Part I: 1:16–4:25: Uprightness of God revealed through the gospel

1:18–3:20: God's wrath and sins of Gentiles and Jews

3:21–4:25: Justification by faith apart from the Law

Part II: 5:1–8:39: God's salvation for those justified by faith

Part III: 9:1–11:36: God's promises to Israel

12:1–15:13: Hortatory Section:

Part I: 12:1–13:14: Authoritative advice for Christian living

Part II: 14:1–15:13: The strong owe love to the weak

15:14–33: Paul's travel plans and a blessing

16:1–23: Recommendation for Phoebe and greetings to people at Rome

16:25–27: Concluding doxology.

Lesson:

Sunday School thoughts:

- 1) Time to start using a new translation! Pick up Wayment if you don't already have it, or listen to the podcast reading. Even if you think of it as a reference to help clarify the KJV, use another translation. The gospels are mostly understandable, but the letters are very challenging to understand in the KJV.
- 2) GRACE. This is worthy of the main focus of discussion, because members struggle with it so much.

- 3) Specifically, Grace, achievement, and background (Jews vs. Gentiles) What do we mean by faith and works?
 - a) Order of operations (not trying to earn salvation, but accepting Christ, coming into proper relationship with God, which puts us in a humble relationship of Grace with each other).
 - b) Don't boast in background (family members of Church back generations, connecting to important people, etc)
- 4) Dealing with misunderstanding (talk with each other! Give yourselves and each other the opportunity to really understand, apart from rumors and simplifications)
- 5) Members and non-members. (Paul's message to the members of our day...) How do we apply Romans to ourselves?

From my Atonement talk:

Here's the miracle though. When you admit you are wrong, you are never more likely to find out what is right. When you admit you are in need, you are never more likely to get help. When you admit you are weak, you are never more likely to be made strong. That's what God means in the Book of Mormon verse Ether 12:27... it does not say "I give unto humans weaknesses so that they can make a checklist and totally overcome each weakness one by one and then yay, they are perfect all on their own!" I know some people who try that way, but that's not what God says here. God says that we are given WEAKNESS. Singular. God gives us human limitations, why? So that we will be HUMBLE. Because when we are humble, we aren't trying to be perfect, though we do try to be better. When we are humble, we realize we won't get it right. When we are humble, we are open to learning, apologizing, forgiving. When we are humble, we give and receive grace.

Reading Review

344: Aug 11; 18. Trust, Grace (New Testament Weeks 32-33, Scripture Study)

Some historical points: (From Raymond Brown)

Bonus: Grace is not God's backup Plan: by Adam Miller

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nTppU9BoFIk> (Maxwell Podcast, Adam Miller talking about book)

<https://podcasts.apple.com/au/podcast/come-follow-me-read-along/id1458235174>