



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

Transformative Truths from the Book of Romans

OPENING & PRAYER:

Over the next several weeks, we're diving deep into the book of Romans—a book that contains the very heart of the gospel. Romans, written by the Apostle Paul around 56 AD, stands out as a foundational text for understanding salvation, the nature of God, and the Christian life. Paul wrote this letter not to a church he founded, but to believers in Rome who needed a clear, thorough explanation of the gospel. This makes Romans unique among Paul's letters, as he lays out the doctrine of salvation from the ground up.

"Father, we are excited to dive into the book of Romans. Please guide our studies and discussions to help us better understand Your Truths. Help us to not lean on our own understanding, but lean on your truths this week. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."

SCRIPTURE:

*And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. **Acts 2:5***

*Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **Acts 2:10***

*I commend to you Phoebe our sister, who is a servant of the church in Cenchrea, that you may receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also. **Romans 16:1***

*So, as much as is in me, I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." **Romans 1:15-17***

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. **Romans 1:18-19***

*For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, **Romans 1:20-22***

*and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. **Romans 1:23-25***

*But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **Romans 3:21-24***

*Believers, Including Paul, May Not Always Feel Like They Measure Up To God's Righteousness **Romans 6:1-8:17***

*What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **Romans 6:1-4***

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. **Romans 8:18-19***

*Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Romans 8:37-39***

*I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, **Romans 9:1-5***

*who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen. **Romans 9:1-5***

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. **Romans 12:1-2***

GO DEEPER:

The impact of Romans throughout history is undeniable. From Augustine to Martin Luther to John Wesley, countless lives have been transformed by its message. Luther even called it “the chief part of the New Testament and the purest gospel.” The clarity and depth found in Romans have sparked revivals and personal awakenings for centuries. That’s why, this summer, the challenge is to read (or listen to) four chapters of Romans each week, soaking in its truth, observing what God is saying, applying it personally, and inviting the Holy Spirit to change our hearts.

Romans can be broken down into six main sections, each building on the last. First, Paul establishes that all people are sinful—not because we sin, but because we’re born into sin. The evidence of God is all around us, and denying Him leads to darkness and confusion. Second, Paul reveals that God forgives sinners who repent, and that righteousness comes not from the law or our own efforts, but through faith in Jesus Christ. Third, even after salvation, believers often struggle to feel like they measure up, but Paul reminds us that our old nature is dead and we are called to walk in newness of life.

Fourth, Paul addresses the reality of suffering. While believers face trials like everyone else, the promise of final redemption far outweighs present difficulties. Fifth, Paul’s heart breaks for his fellow Jews who have not accepted Christ, reminding us of the importance of sharing the gospel with those closest to us. Finally, Paul calls us to live transformed lives—offering ourselves as living sacrifices and

renewing our minds so we can discern God's will. As we journey through Romans together, expect to be challenged, encouraged, and changed.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

The evidence of God's existence is woven into creation itself. Even the simplest things—like a stack of rocks—point to a Creator. Denying this truth leads to spiritual darkness, but acknowledging it opens the door to understanding and light. Every person is born with an innate awareness of God, and it takes intentional rejection to suppress that knowledge. **[19:34]**

Righteousness before God is not something we can earn or achieve through our own efforts or by following the law. It is a gift, freely given through faith in Jesus Christ. Justification means God sees us “just as if we had never sinned,” and this grace is available to all who believe, regardless of their past. **[27:12]**

The Christian journey is marked by both victory and struggle. Even Paul admitted to wrestling with doing what he knew was right. The old sinful nature is crucified with Christ, but we must daily choose to walk in the newness of life, relying on God's Spirit rather than our own strength. **[31:22]**

Suffering is a reality for everyone, but for believers, it is never the end of the story. The present challenges we face are not worth comparing to the glory that awaits us. Nothing—no hardship, no power, no circumstance—can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. **[34:30]**

Because of God's mercy and forgiveness, we are called to live differently. This means offering our bodies as living sacrifices and renewing our minds so we can discern and live out God's will. Transformation is not a one-time event but a continual process as we align our lives with God's righteousness. **[37:39]**

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. In Romans 1:18-25, what does Paul say about how people respond to the evidence of God in creation? What are the consequences of denying this evidence?
2. In Romans 12:1-2, what two specific instructions does Paul give for how believers should live in response to God's mercy?
3. Pastor Charlie used the example of stacked rocks to show that creation points to a Creator. Have you ever had a moment in nature or life where you sensed God's presence or design? How did you respond? **([19:34])**

4. The sermon says that righteousness is a gift, not something we can earn. How does this challenge the way people often try to “measure up” spiritually? **([27:12])**
5. Paul admits to struggling with doing what is right, even as a believer. Can you relate to this struggle? What helps you rely on God’s Spirit instead of your own strength when you face temptation or discouragement? **([31:22])**

CLOSING PRAYER:

“Father, thank you for your guidance and love for us. We know that we are far from perfect, but you do not call us to be perfect. You have forgiven our imperfections. You overcome where we fall short. We thank you and love you for it. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”