



SERMON BASED STUDY GUIDE

Pastor Charlie Riley

LIVING TRANSFORMED: EMBRACING SALVATION AND SURRENDER

OPENING & PRAYER:

Romans 9-12 brings us to the heart of what it means to be a Christian and how that reality should shape our lives. The foundation is clear: salvation is not about our own efforts, religious background, or self-made righteousness. It is about receiving the righteousness of God, which is given as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no other way to be right with God—no law, no tradition, no amount of zeal can substitute for faith in Christ. The process is simple but profound: confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. This is the doorway to salvation, and it is available to everyone, regardless of background or past.

"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:

Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

Romans 10:1-2

*For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. **Romans 10:3-4***

*For Moses writes about the righteousness which is of the law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down from above) **Romans 10:5-6***

*or, " 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart"(that is, the word of faith which we preach): **Romans 10:7-8***

*that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. **Romans 10:9-10***

*For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." **Romans 10:11-13***

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies (YOUR LIFE) a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. **Romans 12:1***

*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 12:2***

*For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. **Romans 12:3***

*And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted. **Matthew 23:12***

*For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; **Romans 12:4-6***

*Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. **Romans 12:14-16***

*Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. **Romans 12:17-19***

*Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. **Romans 12:20-21***

GO DEEPER:

But the journey doesn't end at salvation. Romans 12 lays out what a transformed life looks like. First, it calls for total surrender—an "all-in" mentality where every part of our lives is offered to God as a living sacrifice. This isn't about self-punishment or religious showmanship, but about a reasonable response to the mercy we've received. Next, we are warned not to be molded by the world's patterns, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. The real battle is internal, and victory comes as we allow the Holy Spirit to reshape our thinking and behavior.

A healthy Christian life also requires sober self-assessment. We are not to think too highly or too lowly of ourselves, but to see ourselves as God sees us: forgiven, righteous, and part of His family. Our identity is no longer self-defined, but rooted in Christ. This leads naturally to serving others. The church is a body, and each member has a unique role to play. Serving is not just a duty, but a privilege and a blessing, and it's essential for the health of the whole body.

Finally, we are called to supernatural living—overcoming evil with good. Instead of seeking revenge or responding in kind to those who wrong us, we are to bless, forgive, and trust God with justice. This is not easy, but it is the way of Christ, and it opens the door for repentance and healing, both for us and for those who oppose us.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

Salvation is a gift of God's righteousness, not something we earn or achieve. The only way to be right with God is through faith in Jesus—confessing with our mouth and believing in our heart. This truth levels the playing field for all people, regardless of background, and calls us to share it boldly with others. [\[07:30\]](#)

The words we speak shape the faith in our hearts. When we confess God's truth, our hearts are trained to believe it, and this cycle of confession and belief is how faith grows. Waiting for feelings or external proof before speaking faith will leave us stagnant; faith begins with our declaration and is completed as our hearts catch up. [\[13:19\]](#)

Surrendering to God is a reasonable response to His mercy. True surrender is an “all-in” commitment—offering every part of our lives, not just our Sunday mornings or spare time. This kind of surrender is both dangerous and transformative, as it means nothing is held back from God's purposes. [\[24:21\]](#)

The world is constantly trying to mold us, but transformation comes by renewing our minds with God's truth. The real battle is not external but internal, and victory is found as we allow the Holy Spirit to change our thinking, values, and responses. This process is ongoing and requires intentional cooperation with God. [\[27:02\]](#)

Supernatural living means overcoming evil with good, even when it's hard. Instead of seeking revenge or holding onto offense, we trust God to handle justice and choose to bless those who wrong us. This not only protects our hearts but also creates opportunities for repentance and healing in others. [\[42:02\]](#)

LEARNING AND GROWING:

1. In Romans 12:2, what are the two commands Paul gives about how we relate to the world and our minds? **[[27:02]]**
2. Why does Paul instruct believers to overcome evil with good, instead of seeking revenge? What does this reveal about God's heart and the way of Christ? **[[42:02]]**
3. Have you ever struggled with feeling like you need to "earn" God's approval or salvation? How does understanding salvation as a gift change the way you relate to God and others? **[[07:30]]**
4. The world is always trying to mold us. Can you identify a specific way you've felt pressured to think or act like everyone else? How can you intentionally renew your mind with God's truth this week? **[[27:02]]**
5. When someone wrongs you, is your first instinct to get even or to trust God with justice? Share a recent situation where you had to choose between revenge and blessing. What did you learn from it? **[[42:02]]**

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."