

# Paul's Letter to the Romans

## Reading Questions

---

**Directions:** Answer the questions below on a sheet of loose-leaf paper. Complete sentences are not necessary, only complete answers.

### Romans: Intro

1. What are the two reasons that Romans has long held "pride of place" in the collection of Paul's letters?
2. Where was Paul (probably) when he wrote Romans?
3. When Paul wrote this letter, he was about to leave the city in which he wrote it to go where? What did he intend to take there?
4. Once Paul arrived in Rome, his plan was to "enlist support" for a mission to where?
5. According to the account in Acts, how ultimately did Paul arrive in Rome?
6. According to the Roman historian Seutonius, when was the Edict of Claudius declared? Why was it declared, and what did it say?

### Romans 1

7. What does Paul say about Jesus' ancestry "according to the flesh" in the greeting to this letter?
8. What does Paul say about Jesus' ancestry "according to the spirit" in the greeting to this letter?
9. For what purpose does Paul claim that he received the grace of apostleship?
10. Paul states that he had "often planned to come" to Rome, but that he had "been prevented." What do these statements suggest about the possibility of any previous visits Paul had made to the city?
11. To whom does Paul consider himself "under obligation"?
12. Why does Paul claim that he is "not ashamed of the gospel"?
13. Why do the wicked have "no excuse" and have to face the wrath of God?
14. What did the wicked worship "rather than the creator"?

### Romans 2

15. Why is everyone who passes judgment on the wicked "without excuse"?
16. When God passes his "just judgment," by what standard will everyone be "repaid"?
17. What will happen to "all who sin outside the law"?
18. What will happen to "all who sin under the law"?
19. What does Paul mean when he says that Gentiles "are a law for themselves even though they do not have the law"?
20. Paul makes the claim that "one is not a Jew outwardly." What does this mean, and how does he relate it to circumcision?

### Romans 3

21. For Paul, what is the "advantage" in being a Jew?
22. Paradoxically, Paul claims that human wickedness provides proof of what?
23. Why will no human being be justified in God's sight by observing the law?
24. Paul claims that the righteousness of God was manifested apart from the law, but testified to by what?
25. Why does Paul think that God's actions through Jesus are not an "occasion for boasting"?

### Romans 4

26. To which two major OT figures does Paul appeal to make his case that we are justified by faith?
27. Paul says that "if those who adhere to the law are the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void." Why?
28. Paul emphasizes the promise God made to Abraham to make him the father of "many nations." Why does Paul emphasize this (why does it matter to him), and in which other letter did Paul emphasize this promise?

### Romans 5

29. Paul mentions the theological virtues again in this chapter. What is the value of faith, according to Paul?
30. Paul mentions a cycle in which hope leads to more hope. Explain it.
31. Why does Paul claim that "hope does not disappoint"?
32. How does Paul think that "God proves his love for us"? Why is this a source of confidence for those who have faith?
33. What two things came into the world as a result of Adam?
34. At the end of Ch.5, Paul makes a strange statement: He claims that "The law entered in so that" what might increase? Where this increased, what "overflowed all the more"?

### Romans 6

35. Paul asks the Romans if they are unaware that when they were baptized into Christ Jesus they were also baptized into something else. What? What does he mean by this?
36. What should the "parts of our bodies" be used for as a result of this?
37. Paul says that those who have faith have been freed from slavery to sin, but have become slaves to something else. What?
38. What is "the wages of sin"? What is "the gift of God"?

### Romans 7

39. Paul says that when the Romans were "in the flesh," their "sinful passions were awakened and worked in their members to bear fruit for death." What awakened those passions?
40. How did sin find an opportunity to produce in Paul "every kind of covetousness"?

41. Apart from the law, what, according to Paul, is "dead"?
42. Explain the internal conflict (the "principle") that Paul describes in Rom 7 that makes him "miserable"?

### **Romans 8**

43. What was the law "powerless" to do, and how did God accomplish it anyway?
44. What is the "concern of the flesh," and what are the two things that Paul sees as a problem with this?
45. How does Paul use adoption as a metaphor for explaining the benefits of baptism?
46. Paul says that creation itself is "groaning." What does he mean by this, and how is it connected to his beliefs about the "glory to be revealed to us"?
47. Paul says that those whom God foreknew he also "predestined" to be what? What could this mean?

### **Romans 9**

48. Paul again refers to the Isaac story in Genesis, and he claims that the fact that God's covenant was carried through Isaac means that who are counted as descendants of Abraham?
49. From Paul's perspective, who is responsible for the "hardening" of Pharaoh's heart, and what point does this prove?
50. Paul suspects that some will find fault with his example of Pharaoh, because it suggests what about the source of disobedience to God's will? How does he answer this?
51. Paul says that Israel "stumbled over the stone that causes stumbling." To what is he referring?

### **Romans 10**

52. Paul says of Israel that in their unawareness of the righteousness that comes from God and their attempt to establish their own righteousness, they did not do what?
53. In 10:9, what are the two things Paul says one must do to be saved?

### **Romans 11**

54. A tough one: Paul borrows the term "remnant," originally used by the prophet Isaiah. What did it refer to when used by Isaiah, and what does it refer to when used by Paul?
55. Paul says something startling to the Gentiles in Rome: What is the real reason he glories in his ministry to Gentiles?
56. What is the metaphor Paul uses in this chapter to explain how God has chosen to include Gentiles in salvation history? How does Paul use this metaphor to chastise Gentiles who might consider themselves better than Jews?
57. Paul refers to a "hardening" that has come upon Israel. What does he mean, and what purpose does he think it serves?

### **Romans 12**

58. In this chapter, Paul uses a metaphor to explain why Christians should not think of themselves too highly. Explain the metaphor.
59. What is the other letter in which Paul used this same metaphor?
60. Paul quotes an unusual passage from the OT, in which it says that one should give food and drink to a hungry and thirsty enemy. Why?

### **Romans 13**

61. Why does Paul advise the church at Rome to obey even secular authorities?
62. A tough one: In this chapter, Paul paraphrases a teaching of Jesus found in the synoptics and quotes a teaching from John. What are these two teachings?
63. Ch 13:11-14 sounds similar to another Pauline letter. Which one, and list at least three things that this passage in Romans has in common with the other letter.

### **Romans 14**

64. Rather than judging one another, what does Paul suggest we should resolve ourselves to do?
65. Paul claims that the kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink, but of what?
66. Much of this chapter seems to be dealing with the issue of eating certain foods, an issue Paul dealt with in a previous letter. Which letter was it, what type of food was at issue, and what did this reveal about the community to whom Paul was writing?
67. What type of food is at issue in Romans, and what does this reveal about the Roman church?

### **Romans 15**

68. In this chapter, Paul gives a brief description of where he has gone to preach the gospel. What does he say?
69. When Paul writes Romans, to what city is he headed, and what is his reason for going there?
70. Paul intended to pass through Rome on his way to where?
71. Paul asks the Romans to pray that he would be delivered from someone. Who? And to whom might this be referring?

### **Romans 16**

72. Who is the "sister" Paul commends to the church at Rome? What was she? What was her title in Greek? (Look in the footnote, if you must)
73. Who are the two "co-workers in Christ Jesus" who "risked their necks" for Paul's life?
74. What is the name of the woman whom Paul calls an "apostle" in the concluding greetings in Romans?
75. According to 16:22, who is the actual writer of this letter? What is the technical name for such a person?
76. What is the name of the city treasurer of Corinth who sends greetings to Rome in the conclusion of this letter?