



ACTS AND ROMANS

MISSION 66 STUDY GUIDE



Mission 66

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HERE'S YOUR MISSION 66 STUDY GUIDE OF THE BOOKS OF ACTS AND ROMANS!

Embark on a daily spiritual adventure with Mission 66, where the Scriptures unfold from Genesis to Revelation. Our engaging hosts guide you through the Bible, enhancing your comprehension and deepening your connection with God.

John Mathews and Esther Sisulu provide insightful, chapter-by-chapter audio commentary, making the Bible relevant and applicable. This Study Guide complements each session, ensuring the lessons resonate with you in your walk with God.



Drawing from the teachings of renowned Brazilian Bible scholar Luiz Sayão, originally delivered in Portuguese, John and Esther bring these lessons to life in English. In Brazil, the program is known as Rota 66, named after the iconic U.S. roadway. Mission 66 offers a nod to both the legendary Route 66 and the 66 books that comprise the Bible.



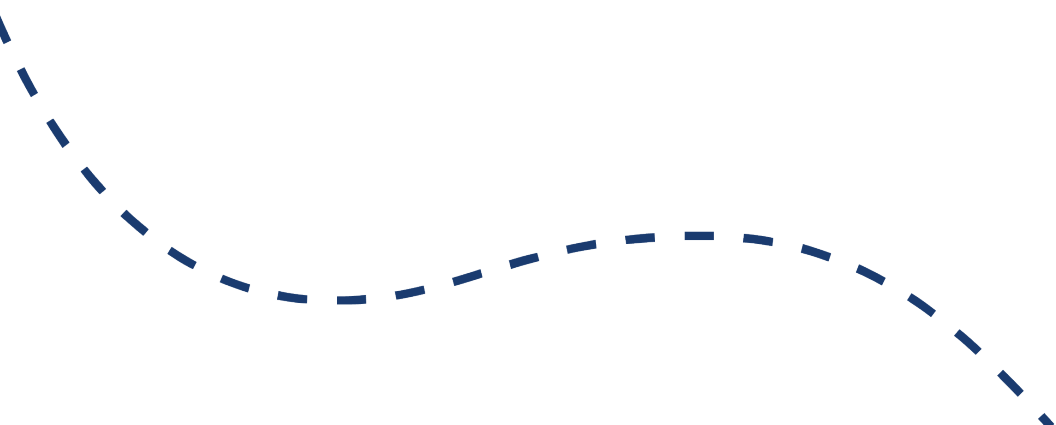
Mission 66 represents a collaborative effort between Dr. Sayão and TWR (Trans World Radio). This partnership took a significant leap forward in 2023 by initiating an effort to adapt, record, and share the program across the globe's most widely spoken languages. Each language version is taught to audiences by a dedicated pair of co-hosts, who impart the teachings with cultural relevance.

Currently, production, translation, and distribution are progressing in several languages including English, Spanish, Mandarin, Bahasa Indonesian, German, Japanese, Arabic, French, as well as others.

Contributions made to Mission 66 via www.mission66.org will help expand the creation, broadcasting, podcasting and other digital distribution in the world's top 10 languages.

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ACTS 1

SUMMARY

Acts 1, as presented by Esther Sisulu and John Mathews, marks the transition from Jesus' earthly ministry to the establishment of the early church. The chapter begins with Jesus providing instructions to his apostles and promising the arrival of the Holy Spirit. It then recounts Jesus' ascension into heaven, witnessed by his disciples. The apostles return to Jerusalem, where they join together in prayer, and select Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot as an apostle. The day's theme is the ascension of Christ and the preparation of the apostles for their mission to spread the gospel.

QUESTIONS

To whom is the Book of Acts addressed, and what does the name Theophilus mean?

What did Jesus instruct his disciples to do before he ascended into heaven?

How does Jesus respond to the disciples' question about the restoration of the kingdom to Israel?

What happens during Jesus' ascension?

Why was it necessary to replace Judas Iscariot as an apostle?

How did the disciples choose Matthias as the new apostle?

REFLECTION

Think about the importance of witnessing events firsthand. Why do you think it was important for the apostles to see Jesus ascend?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you be a witness to Jesus' love and teachings in your own community, just as the apostles were instructed to do?

ACTS 2

SUMMARY

In Acts Chapter 2, we witness the transformative power of the Holy Spirit during Pentecost. The disciples, once timid and uncertain, become bold proclaimers of the gospel as the Holy Spirit descends upon them. They speak in various languages, reaching a diverse crowd in Jerusalem, illustrating the reversal of the Tower of Babel and the inclusive nature of the gospel. Peter delivers a powerful sermon, convicting many and leading to the baptism of about 3,000 individuals. This event marks the birth of the early church, united in fellowship, teaching and prayer, emphasizing the communal aspect of Christian life.

QUESTIONS

What were the signs that accompanied the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost?

How did the crowd react to the disciples speaking in tongues?

What prophecy does Peter say was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost?

What does Peter tell the crowd to do in response to his sermon?

How did those who received Peter's message respond?

What characterized the life of the early believers after Pentecost?

REFLECTION

Consider how the arrival of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost changed the disciples. How does the Holy Spirit empower you in your faith journey?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What steps can you take to foster a sense of community and shared purpose within your church or fellowship group, similar to the early believers in Acts 2?

ACTS 3-4

SUMMARY

In Acts Chapters 3 and 4, the apostles encounter their first major opposition after the ascension of Jesus. Peter and John heal a lame man, leading to a powerful sermon by Peter that emphasizes repentance and faith in Jesus. Their actions and teachings infuriate the religious leaders, resulting in their imprisonment. Despite the threats and persecution, the apostles boldly proclaim the gospel, leading to the growth of the church. They are filled with the Holy Spirit and continue to preach with courage, underlining the theme “Faith over Fear.”

QUESTIONS

What miracle do Peter and John perform at the temple?

How do the religious leaders react to the apostles’ teachings and the healing of the lame man?

What is Peter’s message to the people in the temple?

Why were Peter and John arrested, and what happened while they were in custody?

How did the believers respond to the threats from the religious leaders?

What was the outcome of the apostles’ trial before the Sanhedrin?

REFLECTION

When facing opposition or challenges in your life, how do you draw on your faith to respond as Peter and John did?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there an area in your life where you need to exhibit more faith over fear? How can you apply the boldness of the apostles to your own situation?

ACTS 5

SUMMARY

Acts Chapter 5 presents a stark contrast between genuine faith and deceit. Ananias and Sapphira attempt to deceive the apostles by lying about their donation, leading to their sudden deaths as a sobering example of God's view on dishonesty. Despite this, the apostles continue performing miracles and spreading the gospel, even when faced with imprisonment. An angel of the Lord frees them, and they boldly return to preaching. The chapter emphasizes that the truth of the gospel cannot be stopped and that "Liars Don't Live Long."

QUESTIONS

What sin did Ananias and Sapphira commit, and what was the consequence?

How did the rest of the church react to the deaths of Ananias and Sapphira?

What miracles were the apostles performing following this incident?

What was the religious leaders' response to the apostles' actions, and what did they do?

How were the apostles released from prison, and what did they do afterward?

What advice does Gamaliel give to the Sanhedrin regarding the apostles?

REFLECTION

What lesson can you learn from Ananias and Sapphira's story about the importance of honesty in your own faith practice?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Think of a situation where you might be tempted to be dishonest. How can you commit to maintaining integrity in your actions and words?

ACTS 6-7

SUMMARY

Acts Chapters 6 and 7 detail the growth of the early church and the challenges it faces. As the community of believers expands, the apostles appoint seven men, including Stephen, to assist with practical needs, allowing the apostles to focus on preaching. However, Stephen is falsely accused and faces a hostile council. His eloquent defence recounts Israel's history and accuses the leaders of resisting the Holy Spirit. Despite the threat of death, Stephen boldly proclaims his vision of Jesus at God's right hand, leading to his martyrdom. The chapter theme "Twelve Plus Seven Minus One Equals Infinity" signifies the church's growth through trials.

QUESTIONS

Why were the seven men chosen, and what was their role?

What caused the opposition to Stephen, and how did he respond?

What is the significance of Stephen's speech before the council?

How do the religious leaders react to Stephen's defense?

What vision does Stephen see before his death?

What is the symbolic meaning behind the equation "Twelve Plus Seven Minus One Equals Infinity"?

REFLECTION

How does Stephen's courage and faithfulness in the face of persecution inspire you in your own walk with God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Have you ever faced opposition for your faith? How can you emulate Stephen's example of standing firm and speaking the truth?

ACTS 8

SUMMARY

Acts Chapter 8 highlights how persecution can serve as a catalyst for spreading the gospel. Following Stephen's martyrdom, Saul's intense persecution scatters believers, who continue to preach the Word. Philip evangelizes in Samaria, performing miracles and baptizing many, including Simon the sorcerer, whose false conversion and rebuke by Peter illustrates the need for genuine repentance. The chapter also tells the story of the Ethiopian eunuch's conversion and baptism, emphasizing the importance of personal faith and understanding Scripture. The theme "The Springboard of Persecution" underscores that even in the face of adversity, the gospel advances.

QUESTIONS

How does persecution affect the early church and its spread of the gospel?

What miracles does Philip perform in Samaria, and how do the people react?

Who is Simon the sorcerer, and what does his interaction with Peter teach us?

How does the Holy Spirit guide Philip to the Ethiopian eunuch?

What passage of Scripture does the eunuch struggle to understand, and how does Philip help?

What is the significance of the Ethiopian eunuch's baptism and Philip's subsequent journey?

REFLECTION

In what ways can challenges and difficulties in life become opportunities for growth and sharing your faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you be more open to the Holy Spirit's leading to share the gospel with others, as Philip did with the Ethiopian eunuch?

ACTS 9

SUMMARY

Today's theme is "A Radical Turn." Saul of Tarsus, who persecuted Christians, experiences a life-changing moment on the road to Damascus. Jesus himself appears to Saul, leading to his transformation. Saul is blinded, then healed by Ananias, and begins preaching about Jesus. Despite scepticism, Saul proves to be a passionate advocate for the faith he once tried to destroy, eventually being accepted by other disciples with Barnabas' support.

QUESTIONS

What was Saul's mission before meeting Jesus?

Who was sent by God to heal Saul's blindness?

What was Saul's response after being healed?

Who helped Saul gain acceptance among the other disciples?

Why did Saul have to escape from Damascus?

What did Peter do in Lydda and Joppa that was miraculous?

REFLECTION

Can you think of a time when you had to change your opinion about someone?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can you do to be more accepting of others who have changed for the better?

ACTS 10

SUMMARY

In “A Lunch That’s Hard to Swallow,” we learn that God’s love includes everyone, not just Jews. Cornelius, a Roman officer, and Peter, a Jewish apostle, both have visions leading them to meet. Peter realizes God accepts all people, and Cornelius’ household receives the Holy Spirit, showing that the gospel is for everyone.

QUESTIONS

Who had a vision to find Peter?

What did Peter’s vision teach him?

What happened at Cornelius’ house?

Why was Peter hesitant to visit Cornelius?

How did the Gentiles show they received the Holy Spirit?

What does Cornelius’ story show us?

REFLECTION

Have you ever felt left out and then included? How did it feel?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you show that everyone is welcome in your group or community?

ACTS 11-12

SUMMARY

The sessions on “A Universal Church” show us how the early church grew and included Gentiles. Peter explains his visit to Cornelius’ house, and the church in Antioch becomes a diverse community. Despite persecution and the martyrdom of James, the church’s faith grows stronger. Peter’s miraculous escape from prison reminds us that faith can overcome any obstacle.

QUESTIONS

What did the “Circumcision party” believe?

How did Peter defend preaching to Gentiles?

What did the Antioch church do during the famine?

Who was killed by King Herod?

How did Peter escape prison?

What happened to King Herod?

REFLECTION

What can you do when you disagree with friends but still want to work together?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Can you think of a way to help someone in need, like the early church did?

ACTS 13

SUMMARY

“Crossing Borders” takes us on Paul’s first missionary journey with Barnabas. They face opposition but spread the gospel far and wide. Even with challenges like John Mark leaving, the mission continues, showing that the gospel message is not limited by culture or location.

QUESTIONS

Why is Paul’s journey important?

How did Paul confront the magician?

Why did Paul visit synagogues?

What happened with John Mark?

What message did Paul give about the law?

How did the Gentiles in Pisidia react?

REFLECTION

When have you had to stick with something even when it got tough?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can you do to keep going when you face challenges?

ACTS 14-15

SUMMARY

Chapters 14 and 15 tell us about “The Council at Jerusalem,” at which the church decides how to include Gentiles. Paul and Barnabas do amazing things on their journey, like healing a man in Lystra. Even when Paul gets hurt, he keeps preaching. The council’s decision shows the church’s commitment to sharing Jesus’ message with everyone.

QUESTIONS

Why did the crowd mistake Paul and Barnabas for gods?

What did the Jerusalem Council decide?

How did the Antioch church react to the council’s letter?

What disagreement did Paul and Barnabas have?

What happened after Paul was stoned?

What did the council’s decision mean for the church?

REFLECTION

How do you handle it when people get the wrong idea about you?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

What can you do to help people understand each other better?

ACTS 16

SUMMARY

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas go on a missionary journey, but their plans change when the Holy Spirit guides them to Macedonia instead of Asia. They meet Timothy, a young disciple, whom Paul circumcises to avoid offending the Jewish believers. They encounter a fortune-telling slave girl, whom Paul frees from a spirit, causing uproar and their imprisonment. Despite their situation, they sing praises to God, leading to an earthquake that opens the prison. Instead of escaping, they convert the jailer and his family. They are released after Paul reveals his Roman citizenship, emphasizing God's sovereignty and the spread of the gospel through adversity.

QUESTIONS

What was Paul's initial plan, and how did the Holy Spirit redirect him?

Who is Timothy, and why did Paul decide to circumcise him?

What significant event happened in response to Paul's preaching in Philippi?

How did Paul and Silas respond to their imprisonment?

What led to the conversion of the Philippian jailer and his family?

How did Paul's Roman citizenship affect their release from prison?

REFLECTION

Reflect on a time when your plans were changed unexpectedly. How did you respond, and what was the outcome?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Consider a situation in your life where you feel stuck. How can you demonstrate faith and trust in God's plan, as Paul and Silas did in prison?

ACTS 17-18

SUMMARY

Paul's preaching in Thessalonica leads to conversions but also jealousy and persecution. In Berea, the people are more noble, examining the Scriptures. In Athens, Paul debates with philosophers and introduces the concept of the "unknown god," leading to a few conversions. In Corinth, he meets Priscilla and Aquila and has a successful ministry, despite opposition. The theme is that the gospel is a gift to the Greeks, transforming lives despite cultural or philosophical differences.

QUESTIONS

What was the response to Paul's preaching in Thessalonica, and how did it lead to persecution?

How were the Bereans different from the Thessalonians in their reaction to the gospel?

Describe Paul's approach to preaching in Athens and the outcome of his sermon.

Who were Priscilla and Aquila, and what role did they play in Paul's ministry?

What was the key message Paul conveyed in Corinth, and how was it received?

How did the opposition to Paul's message in Corinth unfold, and what was the result?

REFLECTION

Think about a time when you encountered different beliefs or philosophies. How did you engage with them, and what did you learn?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Identify a situation in which you can share your faith with someone who has different beliefs. What approach will you take to be respectful yet clear about the gospel message?

ACTS 19

SUMMARY

In Ephesus, Paul encounters disciples who haven't received the Holy Spirit and rectifies this. His preaching leads to extraordinary miracles, confrontations with sorcerers and a riot over the decline of the idol-making trade due to the gospel's spread. The chapter emphasizes the transformative power of the gospel and the spiritual and societal upheaval it can cause.

QUESTIONS

What misunderstanding did the disciples in Ephesus have, and how did Paul address it?

What unusual miracles occurred through Paul in Ephesus?

Who were the sons of Sceva, and what happened when they tried to use Jesus' name?

How did the new believers in Ephesus respond to their past involvement with magic?

What economic impact did the spread of the gospel have in Ephesus?

How was the riot in Ephesus resolved, and what does it reveal about the public perception of Christianity?

REFLECTION

Consider the influence of your beliefs on your actions and community. How can you ensure a positive impact?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Is there anything in your life that conflicts with your faith? What steps can you take to align your practices with your beliefs?

ACTS 20-21

SUMMARY

Paul travels through Macedonia and Greece, strengthening churches. He raises Eutychus from the dead in Troas and shares a heartfelt farewell with the Ephesian elders, warning them of future challenges. In Jerusalem, despite warnings of suffering, Paul is determined to complete his mission. These chapters highlight Paul's unwavering commitment to God's work despite impending trials.

QUESTIONS

What route did Paul take on his journey back to Jerusalem, and why?

How did the incident with Eutychus unfold, and what was Paul's response?

What were Paul's parting words to the Ephesian elders, and what did he warn them about?

How did the believers in Tyre and Caesarea react to Paul's decision to go to Jerusalem?

Who was Agabus, and what prophecy did he give about Paul?

How did Paul respond to the concerns of his fellow believers about his return to Jerusalem?

REFLECTION

Have you ever felt called to do something despite knowing it would be difficult? How did you find the courage to proceed?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Think of a commitment you've made to your faith community. How can you honour that commitment, and what challenges might you face?

ACTS 22

SUMMARY

In Acts 22, Paul is in Jerusalem and is misunderstood and attacked by the crowd for supposedly teaching against Jewish traditions. He shares his testimony, explaining his Jewish roots, education and dramatic conversion to Christianity. Despite his Roman citizenship, which saves him from being flogged, the crowd is enraged when he mentions God's command to preach to the Gentiles. The chapter shows the importance of standing for truth amid misunderstandings and the power of personal testimony.

QUESTIONS

Why was Paul misunderstood and attacked in Jerusalem?

What did Paul share about his background and education?

How did Paul describe his conversion experience?

What was the crowd's reaction to Paul's message about the Gentiles?

How did Paul's Roman citizenship help him?

What did the Roman commander decide to do to find out the truth about Paul?

REFLECTION

Think about a time you were misunderstood for doing the right thing. How did you handle it?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Have you ever shared your personal story of faith with others?
How can you use your experience to encourage someone today?

ACTS 23

SUMMARY

Acts 23 tells the story of Paul's confrontation with the Jewish council, his cleverness in dividing the Pharisees and Sadducees and a plot to assassinate him. Despite these dangers, God assures Paul he will testify in Rome. However, Paul's nephew uncovers the murder plot, and the Roman tribune ensures Paul's safe transfer to Governor Felix in Caesarea, highlighting God's protection and Paul's Roman citizenship benefits.

QUESTIONS

Why did Paul call the high priest a "whitewashed wall"?

How did Paul create dissension among the Sanhedrin?

What was the significance of the dissension for Paul?

Who was involved in the plot to kill Paul?

How was Paul's life saved from the assassination plot?

Where was Paul sent after the plot was discovered?

REFLECTION

Consider a time when you faced a difficult situation. How did you navigate it, and can you see any parallels with Paul's strategic approach in Acts 23?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Think about a time you felt wrongly accused or in danger. How did you respond, and what can you learn from Paul's reliance on both God and his rights as a citizen?

ACTS 24-25-26

SUMMARY

Paul faces trials and accusations in front of Roman Governors Felix and Festus and King Agrippa after being falsely accused in Jerusalem. Despite the unfair treatment and the failure of human justice, Paul's faith and integrity remain intact. He uses his right as a Roman citizen to appeal to Caesar, highlighting the limitations of earthly justice and the reliability of divine purpose.

QUESTIONS

Why was Paul imprisoned for two years under Governor Felix?

How did Paul defend himself against the accusations?

Why did Paul appeal to Caesar?

What was Festus' opinion about Paul's case?

How did Paul's testimony affect King Agrippa?

Why did Paul write the letter to the Romans?

REFLECTION

Reflect on a time when you saw justice not being served. How did you feel, and how does Paul's experience provide perspective on divine justice?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Have you ever felt that you were treated unfairly? How can Paul's patience and trust in God's plan, despite human injustice, inspire you in such situations?

ACTS 27

SUMMARY

In Acts 27, Paul embarks on a perilous sea voyage to Rome, facing a violent storm and shipwreck. Through divine intervention and Paul's leadership, all passengers survive, demonstrating God's faithfulness and control even amid chaos and danger.

QUESTIONS

Why did Paul warn the crew about sailing from Crete?

What was God's promise to Paul during the storm?

How did Paul encourage the crew during the crisis?

What actions did the crew take to survive the storm?

How did they manage to reach land safely?

What does this incident reveal about God's providence?

REFLECTION

Think about a time when you faced an unforeseen challenge. How did you keep your hope and faith during that trial?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Consider how Paul's trust in God during a life-threatening situation can inspire you to have faith during your own storms in life.

ACTS 28

SUMMARY

Acts 28 concludes with Paul's arrival in Rome after a shipwreck on Malta. Despite his house arrest, Paul continues to boldly preach the gospel. He engages with the Jewish leaders, presenting Christ as the fulfillment of prophecy, and spends two years sharing God's kingdom without hindrance.

QUESTIONS

How did the natives of Malta respond to Paul after the shipwreck?

What miracle did Paul perform on Malta?

How did Paul's arrival in Rome affect the local Christians?

What was the response of the Jewish leaders in Rome to Paul's message?

How did Paul spend his time during house arrest in Rome?

What is the significance of the abrupt ending of Acts?

REFLECTION

Reflect on a time when external circumstances restricted you. How did you make the most of the situation, similar to how Paul used his house arrest?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Consider how you can share your faith and encourage others, even when facing personal limitations, as Paul did during his time in Rome.

ROMANS 1

SUMMARY

Today's theme is the "downward slide" of humanity as depicted in Romans Chapter 1. Our host, John Mathews, explains that when people reject God's truth, they end up in a downward spiral of sin and chaos. Paul's letter to the Romans outlines how righteousness comes through faith in Jesus, not through our deeds. The chapter warns that pride and idolatry lead to all sorts of evils and that rejecting God can lead to a life filled with unrighteous acts. Paul emphasizes the importance of believing in Jesus for salvation and warns against the danger of continuously rejecting God, as it can lead to a point of no return. He reminds the Romans that everyone, including the seemingly self-righteous, needs forgiveness and salvation through faith.

QUESTIONS

Who wrote Romans, and to whom was it addressed?

What is the main theme of Romans?

What does it mean to be a "saint" according to the Bible?

What key verse in Romans 1 highlights the concept of salvation by faith?

How does Paul describe humanity's rejection of God?

What does Paul mean when he says God "gave them up" to their sins?

REFLECTION

Think about a time when you faced a tough choice between right and wrong. How did you make your decision, and what did you learn from the experience?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

In what ways can you apply the concept of living by faith, not by works, in your own life?

ROMANS 2

SUMMARY

Romans 2 challenges the idea of living a double standard, particularly among those who know God's laws but fail to follow them. The Apostle Paul emphasizes that God sees through hypocrisy, and it's not enough to merely know what's right; one must also do what's right. Both Jews and Gentiles are equally accountable to God, and outward rituals such as circumcision are meaningless without inner transformation. True righteousness comes from a change of heart, not from simply following a set of rules.

QUESTIONS

What does Romans 2 say about judging others?

How does Paul describe true circumcision?

What is the consequence of having knowledge of the law but not following it?

Does God show favouritism according to Romans 2?

What does it mean to be a "real Jew" according to Paul?

How does Romans 2 relate to the concept of God's judgment?

REFLECTION

Reflect on a time when you might have held someone to a standard that you yourself did not meet. How did that make you feel, and what did you learn from it?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you apply the teaching of Romans 2 in your everyday life to ensure that your actions match your beliefs?

ROMANS 3

SUMMARY

Romans 3 declares that all people, regardless of their background, have sinned and fall short of God's glory. However, through faith in Jesus Christ we are justified freely by God's grace. The Law of Moses exposes our sin but cannot save us; salvation is a gift received by faith. Paul explains that both Jews and Gentiles can be justified by this faith, which upholds the law by fulfilling its true purpose.

QUESTIONS

What does Romans 3 say about the universality of sin?

According to this chapter, how are we justified before God?

What role does the Law serve if it cannot save us?

Is there any distinction between Jews and Gentiles concerning salvation?

What does it mean to be "justified by his grace as a gift"?

How does faith in Jesus Christ uphold the law?

REFLECTION

Think about a situation where you felt the weight of your own mistakes. How does understanding justification by faith change your perspective on that situation?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Consider a way you can demonstrate the truth of being justified by faith in your interactions with others who may not share your beliefs

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ROMANS 4

SUMMARY

Romans 4 uses Abraham's example to illustrate that righteousness is credited through faith, not works. Abraham believed God's promises, and it was counted to him as righteousness before he performed any religious rituals. Paul argues that the promise to Abraham extends to all who believe, not just to those who follow the Law. Faith, not adherence to the Law, is the key to being justified before God.

QUESTIONS

How was Abraham justified before God?

What does Paul say about works versus faith?

Can circumcision or any other ritual make someone righteous?

Who, according to Paul, are considered Abraham's children?

How does the resurrection of Jesus relate to our faith?

What does it mean that "faith was counted to Abraham as righteousness"?

REFLECTION

Reflect on an area of your life where you might be relying on your own efforts rather than trusting in God's promises. What steps can you take to shift your trust to faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Identify a promise from God that you need to hold onto by faith and consider how you can encourage someone else with this truth.

ROMANS 5

SUMMARY

Romans 5 celebrates the benefits of being justified by faith, such as peace with God and hope in the glory of God. Paul explains that suffering can produce perseverance, character and hope. He contrasts Adam's act that brought sin and death to humanity with Christ's act that offers righteousness and life. Through Jesus, God's grace and the gift of righteousness reign, leading to eternal life.

QUESTIONS

What are the results of justification by faith according to Romans 5?

How does Paul describe the role of suffering in the life of a believer?

What is the significance of Adam and Christ's contrasting roles?

How does grace abound in response to increased sin?

What does it mean that death reigned from Adam to Moses?

What is the ultimate gift God offers as opposed to the wages of sin?

REFLECTION

Think about a time when you experienced suffering. How did it contribute to your personal growth, and how can you view future challenges through the lens of hope?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you live out the truth of being at peace with God in a practical way in your daily life?

ROMANS 6

SUMMARY

Romans 6 addresses the misconception that grace encourages sin. Paul argues that believers, united with Christ in his death and resurrection, should consider themselves dead to sin but alive to God. Christians are called to offer themselves to God as instruments of righteousness, not to let sin reign in their lives. The chapter reaffirms that freedom from sin's slavery leads to sanctification and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

What does it mean to be dead to sin and alive to God?

How should believers view sin now that they are under grace?

What does baptism symbolize in the life of a Christian?

How does Paul describe the change from being slaves to sin to being slaves to righteousness?

What are the consequences of being a slave to sin versus being a slave to God?

What does Romans 6 say about the wages of sin and the gift of God?

REFLECTION

Reflect on the concept of being a slave to righteousness. How does this image challenge the way you think about serving God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Identify a habit or sin you struggle with and make a practical plan to present yourself to God as an instrument for righteousness in that area of your life.

ROMANS 7

SUMMARY

Romans 7 discusses the struggle between our desire to obey God's law and our natural inclination to sin. It uses the analogy of a marriage to explain how believers are released from the law through Christ's death, enabling them to serve God in a new way through the Spirit. Paul describes his own struggle with sin, explaining that even though he wants to do good, he often does the opposite. This chapter highlights the internal conflict within Christians, who battle against their sinful nature even as they seek to live righteously.

QUESTIONS

What analogy does Paul use in Romans 7 to describe our relationship with the law?

What does Paul mean when he says we are released from the law?

How does Paul describe his struggle with sin?

Who does Paul say will deliver him from his struggle with sin?

What does it mean to serve in the new way of the Spirit?

According to Romans 7, what is the purpose of the law?

REFLECTION

Reflect on a time when you experienced an internal struggle between doing what you know is right and giving into temptation. How did you handle this conflict?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Identify one area in your life where you struggle with sin. What practical steps can you take to overcome this challenge and align your actions with your desire to follow God?

ROMANS 8

SUMMARY

Romans 8 offers encouragement by detailing the benefits of a life led by the Spirit. Christians are free from condemnation, adopted as God's children, and have the Holy Spirit to help and guide them. Despite suffering, there is a future glory awaiting believers. The Spirit intercedes in prayer, and God works all things for good for those who love him. The chapter ends with a powerful assertion that nothing can separate us from God's love in Christ Jesus.

QUESTIONS

What is the main benefit of being a Christian mentioned in Romans 8?

According to this chapter, how does the Spirit help us?

What does it mean to be adopted as children of God?

How does Paul describe the future glory that awaits believers?

What assurance does Romans 8:28 give to Christians?

What can separate us from the love of God?

REFLECTION

Think about a difficult situation when you felt the Holy Spirit's guidance or comfort. How did that experience impact your faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you respond to life's challenges with the assurance that God is working for your good and that nothing can separate you from his love?

ROMANS 9

SUMMARY

In Romans 9, Paul expresses deep sorrow for his fellow Israelites who have not accepted Christ. He explores the concept of God's sovereignty and election, explaining that not all descendants of Israel are part of spiritual Israel. Using examples of Isaac and Jacob, Paul illustrates that God's choice is based on his promise, not on human descent or effort. Despite Israel's unbelief, God's Word hasn't failed, and his mercy extends to the Gentiles, fulfilling his purposes.

QUESTIONS

What is Paul's attitude toward his fellow Israelites in Romans 9?

What does Paul mean by "not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel"?

How does the example of Jacob and Esau illustrate God's sovereignty?

What does Romans 9 say about God's mercy and compassion?

How does the chapter address the question of God's justice in election?

According to Romans 9, what role do the Gentiles play in God's plan?

REFLECTION

Consider how the idea of God's sovereignty influences your understanding of his plan for your life and the world.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you embrace the concept of God's sovereignty and trust his decisions, even when they are difficult to understand?

ROMANS 10-11

SUMMARY

Romans 10-11 explains that righteousness comes through faith in Christ, not the law. Paul's desire is for Israel to be saved, but they have misunderstood God's righteousness. Salvation is available to all who believe, Jew and Gentile alike. In Chapter 11, Paul discusses Israel's rejection and a remnant chosen by grace. He foresees a future in which Israel will turn back to God, and this will bring even greater blessings.

QUESTIONS

What is Paul's heart's desire for Israel in Romans 10?

How, according to these chapters, does one attain righteousness?

What is the significance of calling on the name of the Lord?

What does Paul say about a remnant of Israel?

According to Paul, how will "all Israel" be saved?

What do these chapters say about God's faithfulness to his promises?

REFLECTION

Reflect on the inclusivity of the gospel message and how it has impacted your life or the lives of those around you.

PERSONAL APPLICATION

How can you better share the message of salvation through faith in Christ with those who might still be relying on their own efforts to attain righteousness?

ROMANS 12

SUMMARY

Romans 12 teaches how to live as a Christian. It urges believers to offer themselves as living sacrifices, not conforming to the world but being transformed by renewing their minds. The chapter emphasizes using one's God-given gifts for the benefit of the church and practicing genuine love. It encourages humility, diligence and hospitality, along with harmonious living and non-retaliation. Paul closes with a call to overcome evil with good.

QUESTIONS

What does it mean to offer your body as a living sacrifice?

According to Romans 12, how can we renew our minds?

What are some of the spiritual gifts mentioned in the chapter?

How should Christians treat those who persecute them?

What does Paul say about living in harmony with others?

How are believers to overcome evil, as instructed in Romans 12?

REFLECTION

Reflect on the role of your mind in living out your faith. How does renewing your mind affect your actions and attitudes?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Consider the spiritual gifts you may have. How can you actively use them to serve your church community and reflect Christ's love?

ROMANS 13

SUMMARY

Romans 13 encourages believers to practice righteousness not only within the church community but also in the broader society. The chapter emphasizes the importance of being good citizens, respecting authorities and fulfilling civic duties such as paying taxes, because God establishes governments to maintain order. The apostle Paul stresses that love is the fulfillment of the law, and by loving others, we follow Christ's example. As we anticipate salvation's completion, we must live honourably and follow Jesus closely, avoiding sinful behaviours.

QUESTIONS

What does Romans 13 say about Christians' relationship with government authorities?

Why does Romans 13:6 instruct believers to pay taxes?

What is one debt that believers should always owe to others?

How does love fulfill the law, as explained in Romans 13:10?

What should believers do as they know the time of salvation is near?

According to Romans 13:13-14, how are Christians to conduct themselves?

REFLECTION

Reflect on a situation when you had to choose between obeying God or human authority. How did you approach this decision?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Think about one way you can show love to your neighbour this week, fulfilling the law as instructed in Romans 13.

ROMANS 14

SUMMARY

In Romans 14, Paul addresses the acceptance and unity within the Christian community despite differing personal convictions on non-essential matters. He encourages believers to respect each other's choices regarding dietary laws and observance of special days, emphasizing that all actions should honour God. The chapter reminds us that we each will stand before God's judgment seat, so we should not judge others but rather focus on living in peace and edification.

QUESTIONS

How should Christians treat those with different opinions on non-essential matters?

What are some examples of disputable matters mentioned in Romans 14?

According to Romans 14:8, for whom do we live and die?

What is the kingdom of God about, as stated in Romans 14:17?

Why should Christians avoid causing others to stumble?

What is the ultimate accountability for all believers, as mentioned in Romans 14:12?

REFLECTION

Reflect on a time when you had a different opinion than a fellow believer on a non-essential matter. How did you handle the situation?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Identify a non-essential matter that you feel strongly about and consider how you can approach it with love and respect for others who may differ.

ROMANS 15-16

SUMMARY

Paul concludes his letter to the Romans by encouraging believers to support and accept one another, just as Christ accepted them. He reiterates the importance of unity among Jewish and Gentile believers, and he shares his mission to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. Paul provides personal greetings and warnings against divisive individuals. He expresses his travel plans and asks for prayer. The epistle ends with a doxology, praising God for his wisdom and revelation through Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS

What obligation do strong believers have toward the weak?

According to Romans 15:2, who should believers aim to please?

What is Paul's hope for the Roman Christians in Romans 15:13?

Who does Paul commend to the Romans in Chapter 16, and why?

What warning does Paul give about certain individuals in Romans 16:17?

How does Paul describe the gospel in Romans 16:25-26?

REFLECTION

Think about the role unity plays in your faith community. How can you contribute to a spirit of acceptance and support?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Identify a person in your faith community who may need encouragement or support this week and take a step to help them.

Over 3 billion people have little or no access to the gospel.

We aim to tell them.

"I was desperate and discouraged, with no desire to continue living. But thanks to God I believed in Jesus and you were the channel to make that decision. I would like to beg you for two things: First, please send me the booklet you talked about on the program. I want to grow spiritually. And secondly, pray for me. I am in deplorable economic conditions."

MISSION 66 LISTENER IN
LATIN AMERICA



Speaking Hope to the World

ACTS 1 | ANSWERS

The Book of Acts is addressed to Theophilus, which means “Lover of God.”

Jesus instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus tells them it is not for them to know the times or seasons set by the Father’s authority.

Jesus is lifted up into heaven, and angels tell the disciples that he will return in the same way.

It was necessary to maintain the number of apostles and to have a witness to Jesus’ resurrection.

The disciples cast lots to choose between two qualified candidates, and Matthias was chosen.

ACTS 2 | ANSWERS

A sound like a mighty rushing wind, tongues of fire and speaking in various languages.

They were amazed and questioned what it meant, while some mocked the disciples.

Peter says Joel’s prophecy about the outpouring of the Spirit was fulfilled.

Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

They were baptized and about 3,000 were added to the church.

They devoted themselves to apostolic teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayer.

ACTS 3-4 | ANSWERS

They heal a man lame from birth.

They arrest Peter and John, feeling threatened by their teachings.

Peter tells them to repent and turn back to God for the forgiveness of sins.

For preaching in Jesus’ name and causing unrest.

They pray for boldness to continue preaching.

They are warned not to preach in Jesus' name but rejoice for being worthy to suffer for him.

ACTS 5 | ANSWERS

They lied about the amount they donated and died as a result.

They feared and respected the apostles more.

The apostles performed many miracles and healings.

They arrest the apostles but are forced to release them after divine intervention.

The apostles are freed by an angel and continue preaching.

Gamaliel advises caution and letting the apostles be, as opposing them could mean opposing God.

ACTS 6-7 | ANSWERS

Seven men were chosen to assist with daily distribution to widows.

Stephen is accused of blasphemy and gives a defence.

Stephen recounts Israel's history to show their pattern of resisting God.

They are enraged and stone Stephen to death.

He sees Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

It symbolizes that God's work cannot be stopped by human actions.

ACTS 8 | ANSWERS

Believers are scattered and continue to preach, fulfilling Jesus' command.

Philip heals and exorcises unclean spirits, leading to many conversions.

Simon is a sorcerer who believes but tries to buy the Holy Spirit's power.

Philip is directed by an angel and the Spirit to meet the eunuch.

The eunuch reads Isaiah 53 and Philip explains it refers to Jesus.

The baptism signifies the eunuch's personal faith, and Philip's journey shows the gospel's spread.

ACTS 9 | ANSWERS

Saul was going to arrest Christians in Damascus.

Ananias healed Saul.

Saul became a Christian and started preaching.

Barnabas helped Saul.

Jews wanted to kill Saul, so he escaped at night.

Peter healed a paralysed man and brought a woman back to life.

ACTS 10 | ANSWERS

Cornelius, a Roman officer.

God accepts everyone.

The Holy Spirit came to everyone.

Jews didn't mix with non-Jews.

They spoke in languages they didn't know.

God's message is for everyone, not just Jews.

ACTS 11-12 | ANSWERS

They thought non-Jews had to become Jews to follow Jesus.

Peter shared that God showed him he should preach to everyone.

They helped their brothers in Judea.

James, the brother of John.

An angel helped him get out.

He died because he didn't give God credit.

ACTS 13 | ANSWERS

It showed the message of Jesus going to new places.

Paul made the magician blind.

To share the news with Jews and others there.

He left the journey and went home.

Paul said Jesus was more important than the law.

Non-Jews were happy and believed the message.

ACTS 14-15 | ANSWERS

They thought the apostles were gods because of a miracle.

Gentiles didn't have to become Jews to believe in Jesus.

They were happy and encouraged.

Paul and Barnabas disagreed about John Mark.

Paul was almost killed, but he got up and kept preaching.

The church was open to everyone, not just Jews.

ACTS 16 | ANSWERS

Paul planned to go to Asia; the Holy Spirit redirected him to Macedonia.

Timothy was a well-regarded disciple; Paul circumcised him to avoid offending Jewish believers.

They were imprisoned after freeing a slave girl from a spirit.

They prayed and sang praises to God.

The earthquake opened the jail; Paul and Silas' actions and words convinced the jailer to convert.

Paul's citizenship prompted an apology from the magistrates and their release.

ACTS 17-18 | ANSWERS

Some Jews were jealous of Paul's success; they incited a mob.

The Bereans were noble, verifying Paul's words with Scripture.

Paul used a local altar to introduce the concept of God; few Athenians converted.

Priscilla and Aquila were fellow tentmakers and ministry partners.

Paul preached Jesus as Messiah; many believed, including synagogue leader Crispus.

A silversmith feared loss of income and incited a riot; Christianity was seen as no threat to public order.

ACTS 19 | ANSWERS

They only knew of John's baptism; Paul explained and baptized them in Jesus' name, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Paul's touch healed illnesses and cast out spirits.

They attempted exorcisms in Jesus' name but were beaten by a possessed man.

They confessed and burned their sorcery books.

The spread of Christianity threatened the idol trade.

A city clerk diffused the riot, asserting the legality of Christian practices.

ACTS 20-21 | ANSWERS

Paul traveled through Macedonia and Greece, spending the winter there.

Eutychus fell from a window during Paul's long sermon; Paul revived him.

Paul urged them to shepherd God's church and warned of false teachers.

They pleaded with Paul to avoid danger.

Agabus was a prophet who foretold Paul's imprisonment.

Paul was ready to face imprisonment or death for Christ's sake.

ACTS 22 | ANSWERS

Paul was misunderstood as teaching against Jewish law and customs and was accused of defiling the temple.

Paul shared that he was a Jew, born in Tarsus, and educated under Gamaliel in Jerusalem.

Paul recounted being blinded by a heavenly light and hearing Jesus' voice on his way to Damascus.

The crowd became angry and shouted for Paul's death when he mentioned his mission to the Gentiles.

Paul's citizenship prevented him from being flogged without a trial, highlighting his legal rights.

The Roman commander arranged for Paul to speak before the Jewish council to uncover the reasons for the accusations against him.

ACTS 23 | ANSWERS

Paul called the high priest a "whitewashed wall" as a response to being struck on the order of the high priest, possibly not recognizing his authority or criticizing his hypocrisy.

Paul declared his alignment with the Pharisees on the belief in the resurrection, knowing it was a contentious issue with the Sadducees.

The dissension allowed Paul to avoid a united verdict against him, as the Pharisees and Sadducees began to argue among themselves.

More than 40 Jews were involved in the plot to kill Paul.

Paul's nephew overheard the plot and informed Paul, who then had the young man tell the tribune, leading to Paul's protection by the Roman soldiers.

After the plot was discovered, Paul was transferred to Caesarea to appear before Governor Felix.

ACTS 24-25-26 | ANSWERS

Paul was imprisoned for two years because Governor Felix hoped for a bribe and also wanted to appease the Jewish leaders.

Paul defended himself by stating he did nothing against the Jewish law, temple or Caesar and that his arrest was due to his belief in the resurrection.

Paul appealed to Caesar to avoid being handed over to his enemies in Jerusalem and to have his case heard as a Roman citizen.

Festus found no grounds for the death penalty or imprisonment for Paul but was obliged to send him to Caesar due to Paul's appeal.

King Agrippa was intrigued by Paul's testimony, and although he did not convert, he acknowledged that Paul could have been set free if he hadn't appealed to Caesar.

Paul wrote the letter to the Romans to address the righteousness of God and how it is obtained through faith, not works.

ACTS 27 | ANSWERS

Paul warned the crew about sailing from Crete because he foresaw the voyage would result in loss and danger.

God promised Paul that he would stand before Caesar and that all those sailing with him would survive.

Paul encouraged the crew by sharing God's promise and urging them to eat for strength.

The crew lightened the ship by throwing cargo overboard and took measures to secure the ship's boat.

They reached land safely by following Paul's guidance and relying on floating ship pieces after the vessel ran aground.

This incident reveals God's providence in protecting Paul and fulfilling his promise that Paul would testify in Rome.

ACTS 28 | ANSWERS

The natives of Malta showed unusual kindness by kindling a fire for the shipwreck survivors.

Paul healed the father of Publius, the island's chief official, who was suffering from fever and dysentery.

Paul's arrival encouraged the local Christians in Rome, who came to meet

and support him.

The Jewish leaders were curious about Christianity, and while some were persuaded by Paul's message, others did not believe.

During house arrest, Paul preached the kingdom of God and taught about Jesus Christ to all who visited him.

The abrupt ending of Acts signifies the ongoing nature of the gospel's spread, leaving the reader to continue the mission of sharing Christ's message.

ROMANS 1 | ANSWERS

The Apostle Paul wrote Romans to the Christians in Rome.

The main theme is God's righteousness and how humans are justified by faith.

A saint is anyone set apart for God's purpose, saved through faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:17, "The righteous shall live by faith," is the key verse.

Humanity knew God but did not honour him, becoming futile in their thoughts and exchanging his glory for images of created things.

It means that after God has continually been rejected, he eventually allows people to follow their own sinful desires, possibly beyond the point of no return.

ROMANS 2 | ANSWERS

Judging others is hypocritical because we often commit the same sins we criticize.

True circumcision is a matter of the heart, performed by the Spirit.

Knowledge of the law without obedience leads to judgment and exposes hypocrisy.

God shows no partiality; both Jews and Gentiles are equally accountable.

A real Jew is one inwardly, with circumcision of the heart.

It demonstrates that everyone will be judged by God's standards, not human traditions.

ROMANS 3 | ANSWERS

All have sinned and fall short of God's standard.

We are justified by faith apart from the works of the Law.

The Law reveals sin but cannot save; only faith in Jesus justifies.

There is no distinction; both are justified by faith.

It's a declaration of righteousness without our merit.

Faith fulfills the Law's purpose by leading to righteousness.

ROMANS 4 | ANSWERS

Abraham was justified by believing God's promises.

Works cannot justify; only faith does.

No; righteousness was credited to Abraham before circumcision.

Those who have faith like Abraham's.

It ensures our resurrection and eternal life.

Believing God's promises brings righteousness.

ROMANS 5 | ANSWERS

Peace with God, grace and hope.

It produces perseverance, character and hope.

Adam's sin brought death; Christ's obedience brings life.

God's grace exceeds sin.

Death's reign shows humanity's need for grace.

Eternal life through Jesus, contrasted with death from sin.

ROMANS 6 | ANSWERS

Rejecting sin's power and living for God.

Believers should not sin; grace empowers righteousness.

Symbolizes union with Christ in death and resurrection.

From obedience to sin leading to death to obedience to God leading to righteousness.

Sin leads to death; serving God leads to sanctification and life.

Sin earns death; God gives eternal life through Jesus.

ROMANS 7 | ANSWERS

Paul uses the analogy of marriage to describe our relationship with the law.

Being released from the Law means we are no longer bound by it to achieve righteousness since we belong to Christ.

Paul describes his struggle with sin as doing what he hates and failing to do what he knows is right.

Paul says that God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, will deliver him from his struggle with sin.

Serving in the new way of the Spirit means obeying God out of love and inner desire, not out of obligation to the law.

The purpose of the law is to reveal sin and show the need for a Savior.

ROMANS 8 | ANSWERS

The main benefit is that there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

The Spirit helps us by interceding for us in prayer and giving life to our mortal bodies.

Adoption as children of God means we have an intimate relationship with God and are heirs to his promises.

Paul describes it as incomparable to the present sufferings and includes the redemption of our bodies.

Romans 8:28 assures us that God works all things together for good for those who love him.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS 9 | ANSWERS

Paul expresses great sorrow and wishes he could be cut off from Christ if it would mean the salvation of his fellow Israelites.

It means that being a true Israelite is not about physical descent but about being part of God's spiritual family through faith.

It shows that God's choice of individuals for his purposes is not based on human actions or merit.

God shows mercy and compassion according to his will, and it's not dependent on human desire or effort.

It suggests that God's ways and choices are beyond human understanding, and he is just in choosing to whom to show mercy.

The Gentiles' inclusion in God's plan demonstrates his mercy and fulfills his promise to make Israel jealous and save all people.

ROMANS 10-11 | ANSWERS

Paul's heart's desire is for Israel to be saved.

Righteousness is attained through faith in Jesus Christ, not by following the law.

Calling on the name of the Lord signifies belief in Jesus and leads to salvation.

Paul states that there is a remnant of Israel chosen by grace, despite the nation's unbelief.

"All Israel" will be saved when the full number of Gentiles comes in, and the Jewish people acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah.

They affirm God's faithfulness and his irrevocable gifts and calling, showing that he will fulfill his promises to both Jews and Gentiles.

ROMANS 12 | ANSWERS

Offering your body as a living sacrifice means dedicating your whole life to God's service.

We renew our minds by seeking God's will and aligning our thoughts with his truth.

Some spiritual gifts mentioned include prophecy, service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership and mercy.

Christians should bless their persecutors and not curse them.

Paul advises us to live in harmony, not be proud, and to associate with the humble.

Believers are instructed to overcome evil with good rather than seeking revenge.

ROMANS 13 | ANSWERS

Believers should be subject to governing authorities because God has established them.

Believers pay taxes because authorities are God's servants, attending to governance.

Believers should always owe love to others.

Love does no harm to a neighbour, thus fulfilling the law's requirements.

Believers should wake from spiritual sleep and live honourably.

Christians should behave decently, clothe themselves with Jesus, and not indulge in sinful desires.

ROMANS 14 | ANSWERS

Welcome them without quarrelling over opinions.

Dietary choices and the observance of certain days.

We live and die for the Lord; we belong to him.

Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

To avoid causing spiritual harm or hindering another's faith.

Each will give an account of themselves to God.

ROMANS 15-16 | ANSWERS

To bear with the failings of the weak and not just please themselves.

Believers should aim to please their neighbours for their good and edification.

Paul hopes they will be filled with joy, peace and hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Phoebe is commended for her service to the church.

Avoid those who cause divisions and put obstacles in the way that are contrary to the teachings received.

The gospel is the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages but now disclosed and made known to all nations.

The gospel is for everybody

We believe the gospel is for everybody and that all peoples should have access to the redemptive power of Jesus in their heart language. No matter how hard they are to reach.



Speaking Hope to the World