

New Testament Recovery Version
Study Guide

For Vital Groups

Series II- Acts to Colossians

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL
TO THE
ROMANS

Week 1 Rom. 1:1--5:21

I. Key Verses:

- Rom. 1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,
- Rom. 1:4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Rom. 1:17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in it out of faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous shall have life and live by faith."
- Rom. 2:29 But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is of the heart, in spirit, not in letter, whose praise is not from men, but from God.
- Rom. 3:24 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus.
- Rom. 4:13 For *it was* not through the law *that* the promise *was made* to Abraham or to his seed that he would be the heir of the world, but through the righteousness of faith.
- Rom. 5:10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled.
- Rom. 5:17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

II. Central Lane:

Please read the corresponding outline.(NT RcV p. 599)

III. The Light of the Truth:

JUSTIFICATION

—Rom. 3:21-26; Rom. 3:22 note 1; 25 note 2, note 3;

Further Reading: Life-Study of Romans, Msg. 5.

IV. Life Supply:

What is justification? Justification means that the righteousness of God has been manifested. Although the righteousness of God has existed for ages, it was not manifested to us until we believed in the Lord and called on His name. Then the righteousness of God was revealed to us. When God's righteousness is revealed, it is manifested. It is manifested to us when we believe in the Lord Jesus.

According to our experience, it was not God who firstly approved us, but we who approved God. We do not know how much time God spent to convince us of His righteousness. We were rebellious and said, "I don't like God. God is not right." We all thought this way before we were saved. Many people speak against God saying, "If God is right, why are there so many poor people on the earth? If God is right, why is there no justice among the nations?" They admit that there is God, but claim that He is not righteous. Many of us can testify the same thing, confessing that we thought God was wrong, that He was not righteous. However, God has been patient with us, doing many things for us until He finally convinced us of His righteousness. Who justified whom first? We firstly justified God. When we were convinced by God of His righteousness, we justified Him and wept in repentance, saying, "God, forgive me. I'm so sinful and unclean. I need Your forgiveness." When we called on the name of the Lord Jesus, we not only were put into Christ but upon Christ. Now we are upon Christ as our propitiation place where God and we can justify one another. We declare, "God, You are righteous. I have no problem with You." Then God replies, "Dear child, I have no problem with you either." Firstly, we approved God; then God approved us. We justified God; then God justified us.

Because of this, boasting is excluded. None of us has anything of which to boast. We have not been justified by the law of works, but by the law of faith (3:27). This faith does not originate with us; it is of the living Christ. (*Life-Study of Romans, pp.57, 60-61, 63*)

Week 2 Rom. 6:1-10:21

I. Key Verses:

- Rom. 6:5 For if we have grown together with *Him* in the likeness of His death, indeed we will also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,
- Rom. 7:23 But I see a different law in my members, warring against the law of my mind and making me a captive to the law of sin which is in my members.
- Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life has freed me in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and of death.
- Rom. 8:11 And if the Spirit of the One who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.
- Rom. 8:29 Because those whom He foreknew, He also predestinated *to be* conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brothers.
- Rom. 9:23 In order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,
- Rom. 9:24 *Even us*, whom He has also called...
- Rom. 10:12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord is *Lord* of all *and* rich to all who call upon Him.

II. Central Lane:

Please read the corresponding outline.(NT RcV pp. 599-600)

III. The Light of the Truth:

THE DIVINE DISPENSING OF THE DIVINE TRINITY

—Rom. 8:2, 10, 6, 11; Rom. 8:2 note 1, note 3; 10 note 5; 6 note 3; 11 note 2;

Further Reading: Life-Study of Romans, Msg. 16.

IV. Life Supply:

[Romans 8] verse 11 says, “But if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from among the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ Jesus from among the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit Who indwells you.” The Spirit in this verse is the Spirit of resurrection. We have seen that our spirit is life (v. 10) and that our mind also is life (v. 6). Now we come to the last item of our being, our mortal body. Our body is dying. However, life is given even to our dying mortal body. Our body can participate in this life, be sustained with this life, and be supplied with this life through His Spirit who indwells us. Undoubtedly, the indwelling Spirit is the resurrected Christ (1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17). Christ as the indwelling Spirit constantly imparts life to every aspect of our being.

An excellent illustration of this is electricity. Although electricity has been installed into a building, its flow can be frustrated. Christ, the life-giving Spirit, has been installed into our being as the heavenly electricity. However, only a small part of our being gives Him a free course; most of our being is not open to Him, but rather frustrates Him. For example, your emotions may be a frustration to Christ. Therefore, Christ has difficulty imparting Himself as life into your emotions. You need to pray, “Lord, deal with my emotions. Break through my emotions that You may impart Yourself as life into them.” We need this kind of experience. Do not take this as a doctrine or teaching. This must be put into practice. If you practice this, you will find that Christ as life is now in your spirit, waiting for an opportunity to spread Himself into every area and avenue of your being. He is waiting to penetrate the hidden parts of your being. If you open yourself to Him, He will even impart Himself as life into your mortal body, making you a person who is filled with all the riches of His life.

We need to say, “Hallelujah! I am not a debtor to the flesh. I don’t owe it anything. I am not obliged to it. I am discharged from it and freed from it. I have been fully liberated from this hopeless thing called the flesh. I am not a debtor to the flesh to live according to it any longer.” (*Life-Study of Romans, pp.198-200*)

Week 3 Rom. 11:1-16:27

I. Key Verses:

Rom. 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree.

Rom. 12:2 And do not be fashioned according to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and well pleasing and perfect.

Rom. 12:11 Do not be slothful in zeal, *but* be burning in spirit, serving the Lord.

Rom. 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 15:16 That I might be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, a laboring priest of the gospel of God, in order that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, having been sanctified in the Holy Spirit.

Rom. 16:20 Now the God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

II. Central Lane:

Please read the corresponding outline.(NT RcV pp. 600)

III. The Light of the Truth:

TRANSFORMATION

—Rom. 12:2; Rom. 12:2 note 1, note 2, note 3, note 4, note 5, note 6;

Further Reading: Life-Study of Romans, Msg. 25.

IV. Life Supply:

Suppose that a person has a very pale complexion and that someone else, wishing to change his colorless complexion, applies some coloring to his skin. This, no doubt, produces an outward change, but it is not an organic change, a change in life. How then can a person truly have a colorful face? By daily absorbing into his body healthy food with the necessary organic elements. Because your body is a living organism, when an organic substance enters into it a chemical compound is formed organically by the process of metabolism. Gradually this inward process will change the coloration of your face. This change is not outward; it is a change from within, a change resulting from the process of metabolism.

According to the Bible, this metabolic change is termed transformation. In the process of transformation the life of Christ is added to our being. When His life, which is organic and filled with vitamins, permeates our being, a spiritual, chemical compound is formed. This changes our constitution both in nature and in form. This is transformation. It is not outward correction or external adjustment. It is absolutely an inward metabolic change in our organic element, a change in life and with life by the Lord Spirit (2 Cor. 3:18). In the process of transformation the divine element is wrought into us. If we keep in mind this proper understanding of transformation as we approach Romans 12 through 16, we shall realize that this portion of the Word is altogether different from what our natural concept would lead us to believe it is.

The will mentioned in 12:2 is to have the church life. The house that you purchase, the job that you have, and the person that you marry should all depend on the church life. Even the clothes that you wear should depend on the church life. If you are right with the church life, you will know what you must do. Everything must be for the church life, for to have the church life is the unique will of God. This is good, well-pleasing, and perfect. And this is for the Body life. The presenting of our bodies, the transforming of our souls, and the renewing of our minds are all for the Body life. (*Life-Study of Romans, pp.293-294, 302*)