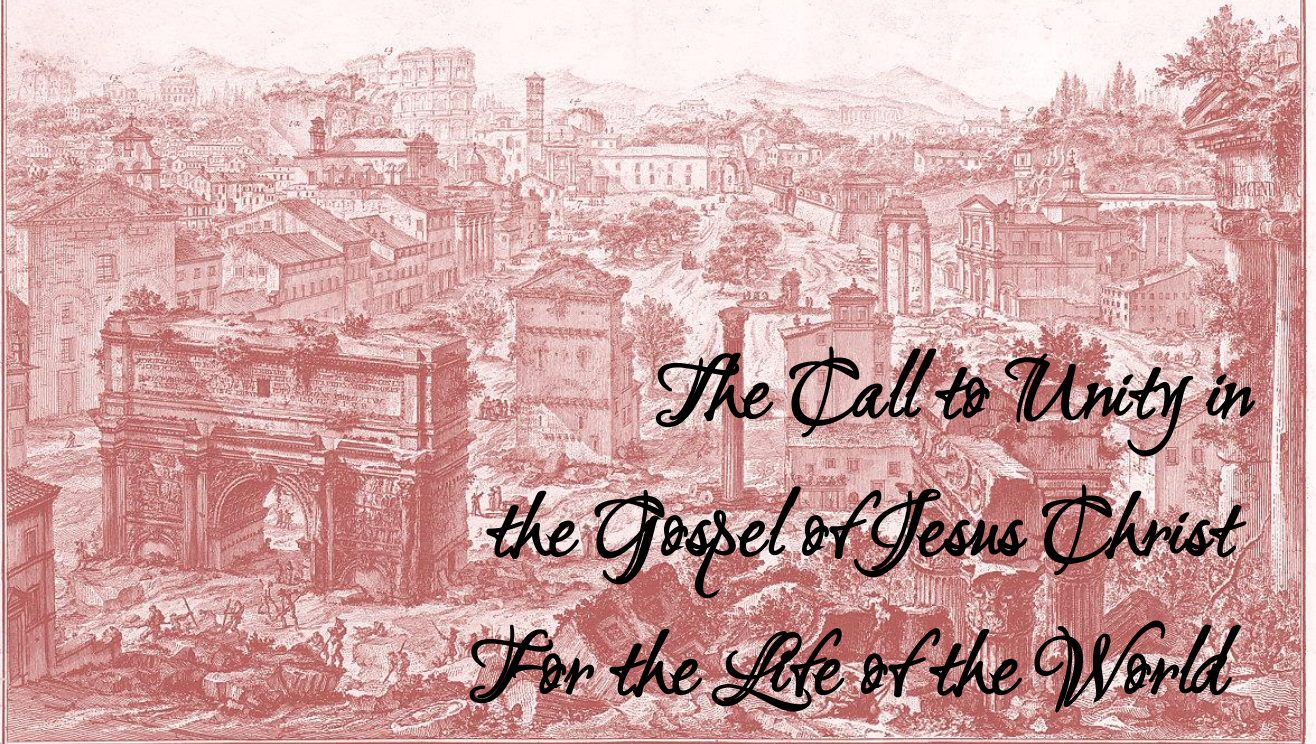


# Paul's Letter to the Romans



*The Call to Unity in  
the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
For the Life of the World*

*Veduta di Campo Vaccino*  
1. Vestibolo del Tempio di Giove Tonante  
2. Vestibolo del Tempio della Concordia  
3. Mura di Adriano e Mura di Aureliano  
4. Colonna Traiana  
5. Tempio di Antonino e Faustina  
6. Tempio di Romolo e Remo sotto il Colosseo  
7. Mura di Traiano  
8. Foro di Traiano  
9. Vestibolo del Palazzo de' Vecchi nel Palazzo  
10. Colonna del Tempio di Giove Statore  
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Giovanni Battista Piranesi's *Veduta di Campo Vaccino*, 1775



CHRIST COMMUNITY  
CHURCH  
*Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. Changed Community.*



# Paul's Letter to the Romans

*The Call to Unity in  
the Gospel of Jesus Christ  
For the Life of the World*

Part 5: Romans 14-16

# Introduction

Paul's Letter to the Romans is well known for its clear theological argument for salvation in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone. Martin Luther boldly declares:

This Epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but occupy (themselves) with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.<sup>1</sup>

From the foundation of this clear theological argument, Romans offers a pastoral plea for this theology to unify God's people in how they live for the life of the world.<sup>2</sup> We make a critical mistake when we divorce theology from its intended purpose to shape our lives into the image of Christ. Unfortunately, this particular mistake tore apart the diverse Roman church from the inside out. Paul stepped into this rift and lovingly sought to mend their painful divisions with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Just as Paul provided the healing balm of the Gospel of Jesus to the Romans, we too are offered this same cure to our divisions. As a helpful reminder of what we mean when we say the Gospel of Jesus, here's our working definition from our membership material:

The Gospel is the power of God for the total salvation of everyone who believes and the restoration of all things on a cosmic scale- as written in **Romans 8**. More fully, God the Creator has acted according to His will to deliver us, His created sons and daughters, from our sins and restore us to Him. He did this by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life on the cross for the sins of his people satisfying His wrath toward sin. Jesus

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<sup>1</sup> Martin Luther, *Commentary on Romans*, trans. by J. Theodore Mueller (Grand Rapids: Kregel Classics, 1976), xiii.

<sup>2</sup> Remember, the phrase "for the life of the world" comes from **John 6:50-51** in which Jesus declares the redemptive purpose for which He has come into the world: to grant eternal life to those who believe in Him as Savior (or the Bread of Life). We, the Church, continue God's mission in Christ as we offer Jesus as the bread of life to each other and to our neighbors. This phrase that we use often serves to remind us of our humbling calling as ambassadors of reconciliation in union with Christ.

was then raised from the dead to grant us newness of life in the resurrection, ascended to heaven where he continues to intercede for us, and will return again to make all things new and glorious. In summary, you are not being saved FROM God, but you are being saved TO God! He has pursued you in Christ so that you may dwell in and be blessed by His presence for all of eternity!

Praise God for His unchanging truth and the finished work of Jesus that sets us free from all that divides us for His glory and for the life of the world!

To begin our journey, let us consider the historical circumstances for Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul wrote this letter near the end of his third missionary journey around 57 A.D. At the time of writing, he was most likely in Corinth during his 3 month stay in Greece recorded in **Acts 20:2-3**.<sup>3</sup> The Roman church was not planted by Paul nor had he yet visited them; however, he was planning to visit on his way to deliver aid to the suffering churches in Jerusalem.<sup>4</sup> The most plausible explanation for the origin of the Roman church is that it was started by a group of Jews converted at Pentacost who returned to share their transformation in the Gospel of Jesus.<sup>5</sup> The Lord abundantly blessed their efforts such that the Gentile converts quickly exceeded the number of Jewish Christians in the church. The Roman church served as a glorious picture of the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant along with God's other promises concerning the redemption of Gentiles. In **Ephesians 3:6**, Paul marvels at this reality when he refers to it as, "this mystery (of Christ) is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."<sup>6</sup>

Unfortunately, this glorious witness to the power of the Gospel was soon marred by sinful divisions within the church. The seeds for these divisions were sown when Emperor Claudius scattered the Jewish Christians from Rome around 49 A.D.<sup>7</sup> This opened the way for

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<sup>3</sup> D. A. Carson & Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992, 2005), 394; Charles Hodge, *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1977 based on the Revised Ed., 1886), 9, further confirmed Paul's location based on several notable Corinthians being mentioned throughout Romans.

<sup>4</sup> Hodge, 7. Hodge states, "History, therefore, has left us ignorant of the time when the church was founded, and the persons by whom the work was effected.", 7.; cf. **Romans 15:25** concerning Paul's plan to visit.

<sup>5</sup> Carson & Moo, 395; This possibility casts a more sorrowful shadow over the eventual division in the Roman church given the unifying purpose of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentacost.

<sup>6</sup> Paul alludes to this in his benediction to the letter in **Romans 16:25-27**.

<sup>7</sup> cf. **Acts 18:1-2** for Biblical testimony to this event.

the converted Gentiles to step into church leadership. They interpreted this as evidence of God's particular favor on them as His newly chosen people.

This circumstance changed again as a result of political transition in Rome. The Jewish Christians were allowed to return in 54 A.D at the start of Emperor Nero's reign.<sup>8</sup> Disagreement between the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians erupted immediately over who had the legitimate right to rule the Roman church as God's chosen people. This revealed their underlying disunity in how they viewed themselves, each other, and, ultimately, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.<sup>9</sup> John Stott describes their disunity as primarily rooted in their distorted theology:

Even the most casual reading of Romans betrays the fact that the church in Rome was a mixed community consisting of both Jews and Gentiles, with Gentiles in the majority (1:5f., 13; 11:13), and that there was considerable conflict between these groups. It is further recognized that this conflict was primarily not ethnic (different races and cultures), but theological (different convictions about the status of God's covenant and law, and so about salvation).<sup>10</sup>

Hodge grants further insight into this division: "The Jews insisted, to a greater or lesser extent, on their peculiar privileges and customs; and the Gentiles disregarded, and at times despised the scruples and prejudices of their weaker brethren."<sup>11</sup> A church that had once served as a beautiful picture of the unifying power of the Gospel was being deformed by sinful divisions born of unbiblical theology.

Paul addressed this crippling division by reminding both the Jews and Gentiles of the fundamental theological ways in which they were unified for God's glory and redemptive mission in the world. According to Romans, they were unified in the following ways in their:<sup>12</sup>

-absolute need for Jesus as a result of their radical sinfulness and inability to save themselves (**Chap. 1-3**)

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<sup>8</sup> Carson & Moo, 395-6.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 407.

<sup>10</sup> John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World* (Downer's Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 35, 34.

<sup>11</sup> Hodge, 7.

<sup>12</sup> There are a number of ways to break Romans into teachable units that remain true to Paul's teachings. It is beyond our scope to detail those here. However, most scholars agree to that Chap. 1-11 serve as the theological basis for the practical instructions given in Chap. 12-16. Our specific subdivision of those two main units can be found on **pages 9-10** of this devotional which are based on Paul's points of their unity listed above.

- justification (being relationally restored to God) in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone (**Chap. 4-5**)<sup>13</sup>
- sanctification (maturing further into the image of Christ) and glorification (completion of Christ's work in us) in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone in the Holy Spirit alone (**Chap. 6-8**)<sup>14</sup>
- formation into the undivided Church by God's predestined grace alone as opposed to any inherent quality within the two groups (**Chap. 9-11**)
- call to serve God's redemptive mission for the life of the world (**Chap 12-16**).

No earthly distinctions such as birthright or favorable (or unfavorable) circumstance should serve as a means of rending asunder what God had joined together in marital union in Christ. As Stott observes, "The most notable feature of these practical instructions is that Paul grounds them on his Christology, and in particular on the death, resurrection and parousia (second coming) of Jesus." He goes on to show how Paul's Christology formed their relationships with one another:

The weak are brothers and sisters for whom Christ died. Christ rose to be their Lord, and we have no right to interfere with his servants. He is also coming to be our judge; so we should not play the role of judge ourselves. We should also follow the example of Christ who did not please himself but became a servant – indeed a servant of both Jews and Gentiles. So, Paul leaves his readers with a beautiful vision of the weak and the strong, Jewish believers and Gentile believers, who are bound together by such a 'spirit of unity' that 'with one heart and mouth' they glorify God together (15:5-6).<sup>15</sup>

From the firm foundation of Jesus' Gospel and finished work, Paul calls for the Jewish and Gentile Christians to be reconciled in order to participate together in God's redemptive mission in the world.

In light of this, we must consider how destructive it was to the mission of the Roman church to have them fighting over who God loved more and had the right to claim control over the church. Satan's tactics proved masterful in getting them to turn on each other despite all their rich theology and redemptive experiences. We must also consider how destructive it is to the church's mission today for us to be fighting over who God loves more and has the right

<sup>13</sup> Stott, 35. Stott makes the argument, as we will, that this theological declaration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ serves as the unifying truth for how then we should live together for God's glory and the life of the world.

<sup>14</sup> Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Finished Work of Christ: The Truth of Romans 1 – 8* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1998), 19. Schaeffer recognizes the shift from justification to sanctification in **Romans 6**.

<sup>15</sup> Stott, 43.

to claim control over the church. Satan's tactics continue to prove masterful in getting us to turn on each other despite all our rich theology and redemptive experiences. More glorious ought be Jesus' Gospel that sets us free from the bondage of division. How wonderful the grace of God to provide us (as He did the Roman church) with Paul's letter that re-weds theology to its formative outworking in our lives for the life of the world! As John Stott simply but powerfully declares, "Only loyalty to the gospel can secure unity in the church."<sup>16</sup>

Given the importance of Romans for our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how it unifies us as God's people for the life of the world, we will take two years to slowly navigate the rich contents of Paul's letter.<sup>17</sup> Our hope is that the pace will afford us opportunities to:

1. bear the fruits of repentance of our divisions unto reconciliation in Christ
2. mature in our faith in Christ alone by God's grace alone displayed for the life of the world.

Luther captures this hope beautifully:

Faith is living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a (person) would stake (their) life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God's grace and knowledge of it makes (all) glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures; and this is the work of the Holy (Spirit) in faith. Hence a (person) is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace; and thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate heat and light fires.<sup>18</sup>

Join us in praying that Paul's hope for the Roman church in **15:5-7** would be true in us as we grow in our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

To this we as God's people cry out, "Amen! May it be so, Lord, for Your glory!"

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<sup>16</sup> Stott, 25.

<sup>17</sup> We will have a handful of Sundays throughout for one-off sermons and guest speakers as well as pause for Advent and Easter to focus specifically on the first coming of Jesus and His death, resurrection, and ascension.

<sup>18</sup> Luther, xvii.



Through our weekly liturgy, we will continue to seek nourishment from our historic faith and the Old and New Testaments. The calls to worship will come from **the Psalms** that celebrate God's call for us to rejoice in His sovereign faithfulness to mature us further into His image. We will respond together each week by reciting the foundational theological truths from **Romans** that unify us as God's beloved children. The assurances of pardon will come from key reminders in **Romans** of our sure salvation in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone. Each week, our benedictory blessings will come from **Romans 16:25-27** to send us out reminded of our blessed freedom from condemnation and the gift of peace with God in Christ. The goal of these various elements is to form us further into the image of Christ as seek to serve as ambassadors of His reconciliation.

This devotional is designed to encourage daily meditation and prayer in personal devotions and/or family worship. You are encouraged to use it the week prior to the associated sermon so that you and your family are prepared for worship. In addition to the Scriptures and associated questions, there are opportunities to pray for those we support through Faith Promise. On Wednesdays, we will pray for the various missionaries, church plants, and missional ministries that we support at CCC. We also have the opportunity to pray on Saturday for the Holy Spirit to draw people to and prepare us for worship. On Sunday, the Lord's Day Sabbath, we will pray for the means of grace to help us live out the truths presented in the worship service. Our desire is to continue to facilitate and grow in our dependence on the Lord through prayer.

May God bless our time in personal devotion, family worship, and corporate worship as we seek for the Church to grow in the joy of salvation and unity in Christ for the sake of its mission in the world!

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

# Structure of Paul's Letter to the Romans

## Introduction:

- 1:1-7: *Paul's Greeting to the Church in Rome*
- 1:8-15: *Paul's Gratitude for All of God's People in the Church in Rome*
- 1:16-17: *Paul's Firm Foundation in the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

## The Call to Unity in the Need for Jesus as Savior:

- 1:18-32: *The Gentiles' Need for Jesus*
- 2:1-11: *The Jew's Need for Jesus*
- 2:12-3:20: *The Universal Need for Jesus*
- 3:21-30: *The Righteousness of God for All Who Believe in Jesus*

## The Call to Unity in Justification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone:

- 4:1-25: *Justification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone: Abraham's Example*
- 5:1-21: *Justification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone: Jesus' Finished Work*

The Call to Unity in Sanctification and Glorification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone in the Holy Spirit Alone:

- 6:1-21: *Sanctification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone: Resurrected Newness of Life*
- 7:1-25: *Sanctification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone: The Weakness of the Flesh and the Law*
- 8:1-39: *Sanctification and Glorification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone: The Power of Life in the Holy Spirit*

The Call to Unity in God's Gracious Mission to Form the Church:

- 9:1-33: *God's Predestined Grace and the Weakness of Jews*
- 10:1-21: *God's Predestined Mission to the Jews*
- 11:1-36: *God's Predestined Mission to the Gentiles*

The Call to Unity in the Mission of the Church for the Life of the World:

- 12:1-33: *The Call for All to Present Themselves as Living Sacrifices for the Life of the World*
- 13:1-14: *The Call for All to Limit Distractions from Outside the Church for the Life of the World*
- 14:1-15:33: *The Call for All to Limit Distractions from Inside the Church for the Life of the World*
- 16:1-23: *Paul's Closing Commendations*
- 16:25-27: *Paul's Benediction*

# Sermon Schedule

## Part 5: Romans 14-16

Date	Call to Worship	Assurance of Pardon	Benediction	Sacrament
<i>Sunday, 5/7:</i> Romans 14:1-4	Psalm 75:1-7	Romans 6:1-4	Romans 16:25-27	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 5/14:</i> Romans 14:5-9	Psalm 118:26-29	Romans 6:5-7	Romans 16:25-27	
<i>Sunday, 5/21:</i> Romans 14:10-12	Psalm 138	Romans 6:8-11	Romans 16:25-27	
<i>Sunday, 5/28:</i> Romans 14:13-19	Psalm 51:14-17	Romans 6:12-14	Romans 16:25-27	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 6/4:</i> Romans 14:20-23	Psalm 25:8-10	Romans 6:17-19	Romans 16:25-27	<i>Baptism</i>
<i>Sunday, 6/11:</i> Romans 15:1-7	Psalm 15	Romans 6:20-23	Romans 16:25-27	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 6/18:</i> Romans 15:8-13	Psalm 22:27-31	Romans 7:4-6	Romans 16:25-27	
<i>Sunday, 6/25:</i> Romans 15:14-21	Psalm 19	Romans 7:24-25	Romans 16:25-27	
<i>Sunday, 7/2:</i> Romans 15:22-33	Psalm 144:9-15	Romans 8:1-4	Romans 16:25-27	

Date	Call to Worship	Assurance of Pardon	Benediction	Sacrament
<i>Sunday, 7/9:</i> Romans 16:1-16	Psalm 145:4-7	Romans 8:15-17	Romans 16:25-27	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 7/16:</i> Romans 16:17-24	Psalm 94:16-24	Romans 8:28-30	Romans 16:25-27	
<i>Sunday, 7/23:</i> Romans 16:25-27	Psalm 147:12-20	Romans 8:37-39	Romans 16:25-27	<i>Bread and Cup</i>

# Weekly Congregational Response

## *to God's Call to Worship*

Abba Father,

As You are present with us in worship, remind us of these things through Your Word:

- Our unity in being sinful and separated from You without Christ.
- Our unity in possessing nothing deserving of salvation apart from Your gracious love.
- Our unity in justification in Christ alone by faith through Your grace alone.
- Our unity in sanctification in Christ alone by faith alone through Your grace alone in the power of the Holy Spirit alone.
- Our unity in our calling to serve and love one another without partiality.
- Our unity in Your redemptive mission in Christ for the life of the world.
- Our unity in glorification when all things will be made new at the return of Jesus when we will all dwell together with You in joy for eternity.

Amen and Amen.

# Romans 14:1-4

## The Week of May 7<sup>th</sup>

Monday, 5/1: Psalm 75:1-7: What wondrous deeds of the Lord are worthy for you to give thanks? Share this with someone this week.

Tuesday, 5/2: Romans 6:1-4: Meditate on the meaning of your baptism in Christ. What are some ways in which you are growing in walking in newness of life?

Wednesday, 5/3: Pray for the Sawyers with Straight Up Missions in Kenya to welcome and disciple those who are weak in faith to mature further into Christ's image.

Thursday, 5/4: Romans 14:1-4: Pray for the Holy Spirit to use this series to help you mature in your faith to be able to share the Gospel with joy.

Friday, 5/5: Romans 16:25-27: How has God strengthened you in the Gospel over the last few months?

Saturday, 5/6: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Table. Give thanks for Jesus dying for us while we were too weak to save ourselves.

Sunday, 5/7: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup*: Pray for the means of grace to knit us further together in unity in Christ despite our various theological weaknesses.

# Romans 14:5-9

## The Week of May 14<sup>th</sup>

Monday, 5/8: Psalm 118:26-29: Consider the various people that the Lord has brought into your life to help you grow in understanding God's character and love for you.

Take time to encourage one of them this week in some way.

Tuesday, 5/9: Romans 6:5-7: What are some ways in which you have been set free from sin in Christ's resurrection power?

Wednesday, 5/10: Pray for the Johnsons with Vision 938 to help train up missionaries that will live to the Lord alone and die to the Lord alone.

Thursday, 5/11: Romans 14:5-9: What governs how you live? What do you want your death to reveal and exalt to those in your spheres of influence?

Friday, 5/12: Romans 16:25-27: Give thanks to the Lord for blessing you with opportunities to grow stronger in the Gospel through the faithfulness of others.

Saturday, 5/13: Ask the Holy Spirit to bring those to worship who are living for what can't grant eternal life and dying for what can't save them.

Sunday, 5/14: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to help us live to the Lord alone and die to the Lord alone.



# Romans 14:10-12

## The Week of May 21<sup>st</sup>

**Monday, 5/15:** Psalm 138: Are you growing in gratitude because of God's ongoing faithfulness in your life and in the lives of those around you? Do you have a regular practice for recounting God's goodness and expressing your gratitude?

**Tuesday, 5/16:** Romans 6:8-11: In what ways are you more alive in Christ now than before you came to know Him as Savior?

**Wednesday, 5/17:** Pray for the Robertsons with MTW South America to prepare leaders to help others be ready to give an account of themselves in Christ to God.

**Thursday, 5/18:** Romans 14:10-12: What tempts you to judge or despise another Christian? How have you been judged or despised by another Christian?

**Friday, 5/19:** Romans 16:25-27: Confess some areas of your life where you feel weak (or weaker) in the Gospel. Ask the Holy Spirit to convict you to bear fruits in repentance and to guide you to grow stronger to the exaltation of Christ.

**Saturday, 5/20:** Ask the Holy Spirit to bring those who need to repent of judging or despising other Christians as well as those who need healing from having been judged or despised by other Christians.

**Sunday, 5/21:** *The Lord's Day Sabbath.* Pray for the means of grace to equip us to live with a greater awareness that we will each give an account of ourselves to God one day.

# Romans 14:13-19

## The Week of May 20<sup>th</sup>

Monday, 5/22: Psalm 51:14-17: What leads you to display a broken spirit and a contrite heart in repentance? When you sin, which way do you run: to the throne of grace or away from it?

Tuesday, 5/23: Romans 6:12-14: Meditate on which sins you regularly battle with. How might you be more proactive in mortifying them in Christ's finished work?

Wednesday, 5/24: Pray for the Blackmans with RUF at KSU to equip the students to pursue what makes for peace and mutual upbuilding in union with Christ and each other.

Thursday, 5/25: Romans 14:13-19: Are you more concerned about being right and exercising your freedom or making peace and mutual upbuilding in your church family?

Friday, 5/26: Romans 16:25-27: Give thanks for the Lord's provision of faithful people who didn't place stumbling blocks or hinderances in your way as you were growing in Christ.

Saturday, 5/27: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Table. Ask the Holy Spirit to nourish you in your service to Christ.

Sunday, 5/28: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup*: Pray for the means of grace to guide us in pursuing peace and mutual upbuilding in God's family.

# Romans 14:20-23

## The Week of June 4<sup>th</sup>

Monday, 5/29: Psalm 25:8-10: Give praise to the Lord for all of His paths being directed by steadfast love and faithfulness toward His people.

Tuesday, 5/30: Romans 6:17-19: In what ways are you more free in Christ than when you were enslaved to sin? Share this with someone this week.

Wednesday, 5/31: Pray for First Care Women's Clinic to continue in faith to graciously serve those struggling with the gravity of sin.

Thursday, 6/1: Romans 14:20-23: What role should our freedom play in edifying and building up God's work in others? Which is more important: what God is doing or what we have the liberty to do?

Friday, 6/2: Romans 16:25-27: Give thanks for those who have helped you to grow stronger in your understanding of your liberty in Christ and how to use it for God's glory.

Saturday, 6/3: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare to bear witness to Jacob Wilson's baptism. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you improve upon your baptism in your understanding of the purpose of your freedom in Christ.

Sunday, 6/4: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Baptism*: Pray for the means of grace to mature us in how we use or restrain our freedom in Christ for God's greater work in the lives of others.

# Romans 15:1-7

## The Week of June 11<sup>th</sup>

Monday, 6/5: Psalm 15: Consider the characteristics of those who are welcome in the presence of the Lord. How is the Spirit helping you to grow in these in Christ?

Tuesday, 6/6: Romans 6:20-23: In what ways is the fruit of your life helping you to mature further into the image of Christ?

Wednesday, 6/7: Pray for the Johnsons with Vision Collegiate Ministries to guide those strong in the faith to be hospitable to and encourage those weak in the faith.

Thursday, 6/8: Romans 15:1-7: What is to be the focus of our love for our neighbors? How does Jesus' example help instruct us in this?

Friday, 6/9: Romans 16:25-27: Give thanks for how the Lord has blessed you with those who preach Jesus Christ to you for your greater good.

Saturday, 6/10: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Table. Ask the Holy Spirit to nourish us to better bear with one another's weaknesses.

Sunday, 6/11: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup*: Pray for the means of grace to grant us the ability to live in harmony and hospitality with one another in Christ Jesus.

# Romans 15:8-13

## The Week of June 18<sup>th</sup>

Monday, 6/12: Psalm 22:27-31: How is your life sharing the glory of God and His works to the next generation?

Tuesday, 6/13: Romans 7:4-6: Meditate on how you've been freed to serve in a new way in the Spirit as opposed to bearing the overwhelming burden of the law.

Wednesday, 6/14: Pray for Jim Whittle with ELI in India to equip servants who exalt Christ and help others glorify God for His mercy in forgiving their sins in Jesus.

Thursday, 6/15: Romans 15:8-13: Who ought we share the Gospel with? Is there anyone or people group that you think don't deserve to hear the Gospel?

Friday, 6/16: Romans 16:25-27: How are you strengthening others by consistently pointing them to Jesus? How have you been blessed by serving others this way?

Saturday, 6/17: Ask the Holy Spirit to bring those to worship who need to hear of God's mercy in the forgiveness of sins in Jesus.

Sunday, 6/18: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope.

# Romans 15:14-21

## The Week of June 25<sup>th</sup>

Monday, 6/19: Psalm 19: In what ways has God's call for you to love Him and your neighbor as you have been loved served to revive your soul?

Tuesday, 6/20: Romans 7:24-25: Give thanks to the Lord for Christ Jesus delivering you from your body of death. Share this story with someone this week.

Wednesday, 6/21: Pray for the Mills with MTW in Thailand to continue in the priestly service of the Gospel of God to their neighbors for their eternal good.

Thursday, 6/22: Romans 15:14-21: Are you able to instruct others in the Gospel through your goodness and knowledge? If not, what would help you mature to be able to?

Friday, 6/23: Romans 16:25-27: Do you have opportunities to help others behold the wonderous mystery of salvation in Christ? How are you engaging opportunities for God's glory, your joy, and their eternal good?

Saturday, 6/24: Ask the Holy Spirit to bring those to worship who have not previously heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sunday, 6/25: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to make us bold and priestly in our sharing of the Gospel with those in our spheres of influence.

# Romans 15:22-33

## The Week of July 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Monday, 6/26:** Psalm 144:9-15: God's word commands us to sing to and of Him in worship. Are you engaging in this means of grace with humility and hospitality for those around you?

**Tuesday, 6/27:** Romans 8:1-4: Consider the benefits in Christ of no longer struggling under the fear and weight of condemnation. Share this with someone this week.

**Wednesday, 6/28:** Pray for the Webbs with MTW in Bulgaria to be refreshed by their relationships with more mature believers around the world.

**Thursday, 6/29:** Romans 15:22-29: Who are you striving together with in prayer who's currently serving in ministry? How might you serve them as a help and refreshment?

**Friday, 6/30:** Romans 16:25-27: Give thanks for the blessing of those who shared and continue to share the mystery of the Gospel with you. Encourage one of them to not grow weary in doing this good.

**Saturday, 7/1:** Ask the Holy Spirit to refresh you in your relationship with Christ.

**Sunday, 7/2:** *The Lord's Day Sabbath* Pray for the means of grace to empower us to serve as refreshment to one another as we seek to live out and share the Gospel.

# Romans 16:1-16

## The Week of July 9<sup>th</sup>

Monday, 7/3: Psalm 145:4-7: Give thanks for those who from a previous generation were faithful to commend God's works and love to you. How can you serve the next generation in this way?

Tuesday, 7/4: Romans 8:15-17: What role ought suffering play in your maturation in your relationship with Christ?

Wednesday, 7/5: Pray for the Larsens with NEXT that they would be hospitably supported in the various countries and circumstances in which they serve for God's glory.

Thursday, 7/6: Romans 16:1-16: What role does hospitality play in your support of those who are faithfully serving Jesus and His people?

Friday, 7/7: Romans 16:25-27: In what ways have others been hospitable to you in helping to build you up in and reveal the Gospel to you?

Saturday, 7/8: Ask the Holy Spirit to bring those to worship who needed to be warmly greeted and included in God's family.

Sunday, 7/9: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to grow us in our hospitable support of those who serve in Christ's name both near and far.



# Romans 16:17-24

## The Week of July 16<sup>th</sup>

Monday, 7/10: Psalm 94:16-24: How has the Lord served you as a stronghold and a rock of refuge against the evil and darkness of this world?

Tuesday, 7/11: Romans 8:28-30: In what ways has God worked difficult things for your greater good evidencing His redeeming love for you?

Wednesday, 7/12: Pray for the Women's Extension to be protected from various divisions that can arise that affect the recovery of those they serve.

Thursday, 7/13: Romans 16:17-24: Who should you avoid that may be causing division and creating contrary doctrines to those taught at our church? This may include famous writers, speakers, preachers, tweeters, and such.

Friday, 7/14: Romans 16:25-27: How are you growing in the obedience of faith in Christ?

Saturday, 7/15: Ask the Holy Spirit to bring those to worship who need to grow in wisdom and discernment in the Gospel of Christ.

Sunday, 7/16: *The Lord's Day Sabbath*: Pray for the means of grace to help us discern who helps us best grow in becoming more Christ-like and who to avoid that causes division and confusion.

# Romans 16:25-27

## The Week of July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Monday, 7/17: Psalm 147:12-20: Give thanks for the power of God's word to accomplish what He sends it forth to accomplish for His glory, our joy, and the life of the world.

Tuesday, 7/18: Romans 8:37-39: Who could you share this passage with this week to encourage them in who and Whose they are?

Wednesday, 7/19: Pray for the Stocks with MTW in Malaysia to strengthen others in the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thursday, 7/20: Romans 16:25-27: Reflect on how the Spirit has strengthened you through the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in this Romans series. Share this with someone this week.

Friday, 7/21: Romans 16:25-27: How are you helping others to grow in the obedience of faith in Christ?

Saturday, 7/22: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Table. Ask the Holy Spirit to glorify God through your witness in word and deed.

Sunday, 7/23: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup*: Pray for the means of grace to grow us in obedience to faith in Jesus through God's grace.

# Suggested Resources

## *Devotional:*

John Calvin, *Romans*

Timothy Keller, *Romans 1-7 and 8-16 For You*

Martin Luther, *Commentary on Romans*

Francis Schaeffer, *The Finished Work of Christ: The Truth of Romans 1-8*

RC Sproul, *Romans: The Righteous Shall Live by Faith*

## *Intermediate:*

Douglas J. Moo, *Romans: The NIV Application Commentary*

John Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World*

## *Advanced:*

Charles Hodge, *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*

Collin G. Kruse, *Paul's Letter to the Romans: Pillar New Testament Commentary*

John Murray, *The Epistle to the Romans*