

Studies in Romans - Outline

Aim

The ultimate aim of this study in Romans is to provide you with as complete an understanding of the Gospel as presented in this letter to the Romans. The document that you develop should be seen as a continued 'work in progress' that you can add to or make modifications as your understanding continues to grow and develop during the course as well as into the future.

This study is to be completed within one year but can be extended if required.

There are 4 Reviews to be presented at the end of each interval as listed below with monthly mini reviews to assist progress during the major Review 3 & 4 sections.

Review 1 - Month 2

Review 2 - Month 4

Review 3 - Month 8

Review 4 - Month 12

Review 1 - Month 2

In an essay format detail the following:

- Who wrote Romans and when?
- From where did the author write it and in what circumstances did the author find themselves in?
- Who did the author write it for and why?
- What have been some of the things that have particularly impressed you that others have said about the letter to the Romans both past and present? Use direct quotes where appropriate.

Review 2 - Month 4

Read through Romans on a number of occasions between Review 1 and 2 and develop your own outline of the flow of the letter from the author's viewpoint of who he wrote it to and why. This outline should be approached from a macro or high level perspective and should be memorable as well as easy to remember.

Review 3 - Month 8

Produce your own commentary (or comments) on chapters 1 -8 using the outline that you developed in Review 2. This should be as detailed as you believe it needs to be. It can be verse by verse or can cover a number of verses at a time depending on how you logically see the author's train of thought develop or how deep you wish to expound certain words or themes.

It would be helpful to format your commentary by showing the verse or verses in bold font and then your comments directly below in a un-bolded font as per the example below.

5:1

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here Paul is linking chapter 5:1 back to the discussion on Abraham being justified by faith and that we too are justified by faith through believing that God raised Jesus from the dead.

Because we have been justified by faith the hostility (or absence of peace) that was present between us and God because of our own sinfulness has been absorbed and removed through the death of Jesus - who has become our peace mediator between the father and us.

5:2-5

2 Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 More than that, we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance,

4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,

5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

It is also through Jesus that our access by faith has been obtained into this grace (or favor) from God that we can lay no claim on and can never earn or deserve. Because of this great favor we can stand firm as it depends on the only one that can be depended upon.

Psalm 18:2

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

In this we rejoice because all the glory is God's and for the genuine believer bringing glory to God for this great gift will always be forefront of their minds and hearts.

Paul then goes on to show us that we can rejoice in our sufferings knowing that endurance, character and ultimately hope will be built into our lives so that we will not be put to shame for putting our trust in him. He doesn't leave us alone as we grow in his grace as he has poured out his love to us by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Review 4 - Month 12

Continuing on from Review 3 produce your own commentary on chapters 9-16 using the outline that you developed in Review 2 and continuing with the format from Review 3

Notes:

- For a project of this size it is best to do everything you can to get information down on paper first rather than getting stuck trying to get your exact thoughts, wording or grammar correct. From there you can come back and re-read and refine the document as required.
- It is almost impossible when studying the Bible to work in isolation without referencing other people's work, however it is always a good discipline to try and gather as much information from the text itself under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit before confirming your own thoughts with those from commentaries, study Bibles, theologians and sermons etc.
- If you find that your view is one that is not shared with others then it could mean either that you are on the wrong track or you are seeing something that is yet to be discovered by others. The second option could be true but would need to be backed up by other 'clear sections' of the scriptures. Scripture should always interpret scripture and we should always work from the plain or direct scripture references to the more obscure references.
- It would be a good idea to begin Review 2 as early as you can so that you can begin Reviews 3 & 4 before Review 2 is due as these two are by far the most demanding and will take up quite a large amount of time.
- Reviews 1 & 2 should be quite achievable within the time frame but Reviews 3 & 4 could slip quite quickly if not enough time is devoted to these. To help with this a monthly review of the work in progress will be done to help maintain focus.
- If for any reason the review dates are in danger of slipping it is still good to do as much as possible and the Review dates can be re-set.