

A person with long dark hair, wearing a light blue button-down shirt, is holding a rectangular chalkboard with a light-colored wooden frame. The chalkboard is dark and has white text written on it. The text is centered and reads: "GOD FOR US" in a large, bold, sans-serif font. Above "GOD" and below "FOR US" are horizontal lines. The quotation marks are placed at the beginning and end of the lines. Below the main text, in a smaller font, it says "ROMANS 7-12".

“  
GOD  
FOR US  
”

ROMANS 7-12

# Study Guide

Second term 2017

# Contents

#1 What about the Law?	Romans 7:7-25	p1
#2 The Spirit-Filled Life	Romans 8:1-17	p3
#3 Destination: Glory	Romans 8:18-27	p5
#4 Loved Forever	Romans 8:28-39	p7
#5 Let God Be God	Romans 9:1-29	p9
#6 The Open Invitation	Romans 9:30-10:21	p11
#7 God's Sovereign Wisdom	Romans 11:1-36	p13
#8 In View of God's Mercy	Romans 12:1-2	p15
#9 Beautiful People	Romans 12:3-21	p17

# #1 What about the Law?

---

## Romans 7:7-25

Romans 7 is not primarily about the Christian life. It is about the law. As Paul develops his case for the certainty of Christian hope, the overall topic of Romans 5-8, he pauses in chapters 6 and 7 to deal with two key threats to that hope: sin and the Mosaic law.

*(Douglas Moo, Encountering the Book of Romans, p120)*

1. Read Romans 3:20, 28; 5:20; 6:14; 7:6. What question might these verses raise in the mind of the reader of Romans?

## INVESTIGATE

Read 7:7-12

2. So is the Law sinful? What does Paul say about the law (v7, 10, 12, 14)?
3. What does the Law do then?
4. If the Law isn't the problem, what is the problem according to Paul (v8)?
5. What happens when sin and the Law come into contact (v9-11)?
6. Can you see a parallel between Romans 7:7-13 and Genesis 3:1-7?

## Read 7:13-25

Note: This section of Romans is one of the most hotly debated passages in the New Testament. As Paul now moves from the past to the present tense, who is he talking about? The two main options are a) Paul as a Jew before he found Christ or b) Paul as a Christian in the on-going struggle with sin. There are strong arguments both ways, but on balance, it seems as if the second makes better sense of the passage and of the Christian experience.

7. Paul raises a second question in v13 (see v7). What is he actually asking? What is his answer?
8. What indications are there to show that he is speaking about the Christian's experience of the law in this section?
9. How does Paul describe the true Christian life?
10. Why is it such a struggle? What causes it (7:21-23)?
11. So why is God's law not a threat to the Christian's salvation (v24-25)?

## IMPLICATIONS

12. How should Christians deal with sin in their lives?
13. How does that affect you? What specific areas of your own life do you need to bring before God in prayer?

# #2 The Spirit-Filled Life

---

## Romans 8:1-17

### INVESTIGATE

Read 8:1-17

1. Paul spent chapters 6 and 7 addressing the possible threats to our salvation of sin and suffering (ch. 6) and the law (ch. 7). What is his conclusion at the beginning of chapter 8?
2. Why is there no condemnation for those united with Christ Jesus (v1-4)? How have we been set free?
3. What are we taught about the unbeliever's mind in v6-8? Why is it impossible for them to please God (v8)?
4. What are the hallmarks of those who 'live according to the flesh' (v5-8)?
5. What are the hallmarks of those who 'live according to the Spirit' (v5 & 9-11)?
6. What does this passage teach us about the Spirit (who is He, what does He do, who has Him and who does not)? Do we think of Him in this way?

7. Why does having the Spirit guarantee our future bodily resurrection (v11)? Why is this verse such good news?
8. What obligation is there for those who have the Spirit (v12-13)?
9. What does the Spirit do in us and for us (v14-17)? What do you think this means for us?

## IMPLICATIONS

10. Look over v1-4. What different things can we thank Jesus for in these verses?
11. What are the implications of verses 5-11 for our non-Christian friends - for those who are 'nice' and those who have openly sinful lifestyles? What should/shouldn't we say to them? How should we pray for them?
12. What is involved in 'putting to death the misdeeds of the body' (v13)? Is this our attitude to sin?
13. How does this passage give assurance to the Christian who is struggling against sin?

# #3 Destination: Glory

---

## Romans 8:18-27

1. “Glory” is a difficult word to define. What do you think it means? What is meant by God’s glory?
2. Would you describe normal life in this world as glorious? Why/why not?

### INVESTIGATE

Read 8:18-27

3. Have a look at 8:17. Being “heirs with Christ” means we share two things with Jesus – what are they? Which comes first?
4. What kind of suffering does Paul probably have in mind here? (Think about the context of chapters 6-8.)
5. As we suffer, what are we waiting for (v18, see also v23)? Who else is waiting for it (v19-21)?
6. What image does Paul use to describe life here and now (v22)? Why is it so appropriate?
7. How should we live now as we wait for what lies ahead (v23-25)?

8. What help are we given as God's people? How are we helped?

9. What difference does this make in times of suffering?

## IMPLICATIONS

10. What do these verses tell us about the sufferings that we face in the present? How is our perspective usually different from this?

11. How might this passage speak to the whole topic of environmentalism and conservation? Should Christians devote all our time & resources to conservation? Should we disregard conservation altogether?

12. In what practical ways can we help one another as we experience suffering in this world?

13. What sufferings are we, as a group, facing at the moment? How can we encourage one another to wait with patient endurance under pressure? How can we pray for each other in light of this passage?

# #4 Loved Forever

---

## Romans 8:28-39

1. Recap: Remind yourself of the main ideas from last week's passage (8:18-27). What did we learn about the nature of the Christian life in the present? Why is this important to know?
2. Think over your most difficult times of suffering. What were some of the questions and issues you battled with as a Christian?

## INVESTIGATE

Read 8:28-39

3. What is God always doing, even (especially!) in our times of suffering (v28)?
4. What does Paul mean by our 'good' in v28? What can he not mean? How does the rest of v28 help us?
5. What is God's great aim in all that he does for us (v29)?
6. What are the five stages by which God fulfils his great aim in Christians (v28-30)?

7. In chapters 5-8 Paul has been unpacking what the Christian life looks like in all its ups and downs. What is his grand conclusion to all of “this” (v31)?
8. How can we be so sure that no-one and nothing can ultimately stand against us (v32-34)?
9. In v36 Paul quotes from Psalm 44. Quickly read the Psalm and complete the following:
  - a. God is (v1-8) ...
  - b. But in reality (v9-16) ...
  - c. Despite the fact that (v17-22) ...
  - d. So then Lord (v 23-26) ...
10. How does Psalm 44 match your own experience in the Christian life? How does Romans 8 answer the concern voiced in Psalm 44:23-27?
11. What do you think Paul means when he says we are “more than conquerors” (v37)? What does he not mean?

## IMPLICATIONS

12. Does God love you? How do you know?
13. From this passage, what should always be the basis of our Christian assurance? What will happen if we look at ourselves or our present circumstances?

# #5 Let God Be God

---

## Romans 9:1-29

Romans 9 begins a new section in Romans that runs until the end of chapter 11. These chapters raise some important, but difficult ideas. Three things are important as we begin. Firstly, the more biblical background we have, the better we will understand the argument. Before you grapple with Romans 9, for example, it'll help to read a few of the Old Testament passages quoted or alluded to e.g. Genesis 17-18, 24-25 and Exodus 1-12. Secondly, we've always got to let God have the last word on topics that are difficult or truths that we don't like. These are test cases of whether we really believe that the Bible is God's good and perfect word. God is infinitely wiser than we are and his ways are always better than ours. Lastly, let's remember to always be godly in our discussions, especially in areas of disagreement.

1. Part of being in a family is that you can be entitled to certain privileges, an inheritance, a title or a certain level of respect in the community. What privileges do your family have, if any?

## INVESTIGATE

Read 9:1-29

2. 9:1 seems to be one of the biggest mood swings in the Bible! Paul has just said that nothing can ever separate us from God's love, but now he is filled with "unceasing anguish". Why? What is he upset about?
3. What privileges did the people of Israel have (v4-5)?
4. Why might someone suggest that God's word had failed (v6)?

5. Paul responds to this accusation in a number of ways. What does he say about how we become part of God's people?
6. What part do we play in the process? Why is this good news?
7. What is the natural question that people ask when they hear about the distinction God makes (v14)? How does Paul respond? What do we learn about God's mercy in v14-18?
8. Think back to Romans 1:18-32. How does understanding human sinfulness change the way we think about the question of fairness?
9. What other common objection does Paul address in v19-22? What is Paul's response?
10. What is God's ultimate motivation in all that he does (see v23)? Why is this good for us?
11. If we know our bibles, why should Israel's story not surprise us (v25-29)?

## IMPLICATIONS

12. The Bible emphasises both God's sovereignty and our responsibility in the process of salvation. Why is it essential to hold on to both as we grapple with this issue?

# #6 The Open Invitation

---

## Romans 9:30-10:21

1. When someone becomes a Christian, whose work is that – ours or God's? When someone rejects the gospel, whose fault is that – ours or God's?

### INVESTIGATE

Read 9:30-10:21

2. What is surprising about the scenario that Paul mentions in 9:30-31?
3. Why did Israel fail to obtain righteousness, while many Gentiles seem to have found salvation (9:30-32)?
4. What do you think Paul means by the Stumbling Stone (v33)? Read Isaiah 8:13-14 and 28:16.
5. So what is it that the Jews had missed? (also see 10:1-4)
6. In what way is Christ "the end of the Law" (10:4)?
7. What does Paul say (v6-9) about the righteousness that is by faith?

8. What needs to happen in order to be saved (v9-10)?
9. What does this mean for Jews, who might feel that God has neglected them (v11-13)?
10. If salvation is going to come to people, what is needed (14-15, 17)?
11. Did Israel then not hear the message to trust in God or not understand what God wanted from them (v18-21)?

## IMPLICATIONS

12. What is the warning for us from Israel's story?
13. After reading Romans 9, some might think that God is a ruthless dictator and we are helpless robots. How does Romans 10 show that nothing could be further from the truth?

# #7 God's Sovereign Wisdom

---

## Romans 11:1-36

1. A common accusation against Christianity is that it is anti-Semitic (anti-Jewish)? Is it? Explain...

### INVESTIGATE

Read 11:1-36

2. What question does Paul raise in v1? What is his immediate answer?
3. What proof does he give to support his answer (v2-6)?
4. How does Paul's teaching about a remnant of Jewish believers fit in with his overall argument in Romans 9-11?
5. In v7-10, Paul quotes from three Old Testament passages. Quickly read through Deuteronomy 29:4, Isaiah 29:10-15 and Psalm 69:19-23. How do these passages show what happens when God's word is rejected?
6. From v11-16, plot out the four stages in God's salvation plan as well as the role Paul sees himself playing in this.

7. In v17–24 Paul warns the Gentiles not to boast. What 3 reasons does he give? How does this keep us humble?
8. How are we to understand w. 25–27? Hint: Paul is probably using the word “Israel” in two ways (see 9:6). Also “and so” (v26) is better translated as “in this manner.”
9. From v28–32, how are Jews and Gentiles similar? How are they different?

## IMPLICATIONS

10. Romans 11:33-36 is Paul’s summary of all that has preceded it. What does he praise God for?
11. How does this song of praise both humble and comfort us?

# #8 In View of God's Mercy

---

## Romans 12:1-2

1. What comes to mind when you think of worship? How would you define worship?

2. *"The reason Christians go to church is to worship God"* Discuss...

## INVESTIGATE

Read 12:1-2

3. What clues are there in v1 that Paul is basing what he says here on what he's said before?

4. What has Paul taught about the kindness and mercy of God earlier in the letter (see 3:21-26; 5:1-11; 9:6-29; 11:30-32)?

5. What must happen "in view of God's mercy"?

6. Where do you think Paul is getting the language of "sacrifice" from? "Living sacrifices" seems like a contradiction in terms – what do you think he means?

7. What does Paul call this response to God's mercy? Back to the first question ... how would you define worship now (see v1)?

8. What does worship look like practically?
9. What is the relationship between our thinking (mind) and our doing (behaviour) – see v2?
10. How do these verses compare with the distortion of worship that we saw back in 1:21-25?

## IMPLICATIONS

11. According to v1, what should motivate us to live for God? How does this help us to avoid legalism?
12. In what ways are we encouraged by the world around us to conform? What will it mean to avoid conforming in the area of a) relationships, b) how we spend our time, c) the goals we set for ourselves?
13. How can we make sure that we are being transformed by the renewing of our minds? When faced with a moral choice, what will be the benefit of having new minds?

# #9 Beautiful People

---

## Romans 12:3-21

1. Which of these words do you think best describe people in our western culture?

- |  |  |                                       |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family orientated | <input type="checkbox"/> Unselfish               | <input type="checkbox"/> Generous     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Self-sacrificing  | <input type="checkbox"/> Caring                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Considerate  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> "Me first"        | <input type="checkbox"/> Individualistic         | <input type="checkbox"/> Self-centred |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Independent       | <input type="checkbox"/> "Looking out for no. 1" | <input type="checkbox"/> Private      |

2. How do some of these attitudes spill over into how people think about church?

## INVESTIGATE

Read 12:3-21

3. A quick reminder – from v1-2, what does true worship look like?

4. Why does Paul say that we shouldn't think more highly of ourselves than we ought (v3)?

5. Explain the image that Paul uses to describe Christians in v4-8. What things does it imply about relationships within the church?

6. “Gifts ... according to ... grace given” (v6) – what does this tell us about the skills and abilities we may have?

NOTE: Paul lists seven “gifts” that may be used in the church by way of example. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list. There is also a sense in which all Christians should practice these “gifts” to some degree.

7. Which three relationships does Paul seem to be addressing in this passage?

8. What should our relationship with God (v11, 12) look like?

9. What does this passage say about how we should relate to people we don't like; to our enemies? What will the result be?

10. Of the many instructions in v9-21 for how we relate to God, each other and the world, pick out a few that stand out to you and talk about what it might look like to put them into practice.

11. Which ones do you think we, as a church, need to work harder at? How could we go about improving in these areas?

## IMPLICATIONS

12. Read Acts 2:42-47. What happens when the church becomes an authentic community of love and service (see v47 and 1 Peter 2:9-12)?

13. Is there anyone in this world you would consider an enemy. Why? What should you do in response to this passage?