



MBSF

Book of Romans

2020-2021

Introduction - Romans 1:1-7

Open It

1. What are some of the normal ways people begin a letter or a phone call?
2. If you were writing the initial letter to a pen pal, how would you introduce yourself?

Explore It

1. How did Paul introduce and identify himself to the Romans? (1:1)
2. In what ways has God revealed His gospel to people? (1:2-4)
3. What did Paul and others receive as a calling for their lives? (1:5)
4. How did Paul describe the people who were receiving this letter? (1:6)
5. What kind of greeting did Paul send to his audience? (1:7)

Get It

1. In what way do you feel God has placed a special calling on your life?
2. What words do you use to describe yourself to others as a follower of Jesus Christ?

Apply It

To what friend could you explain God's love and your response to His plan of salvation? How?

Paul's Longing to Visit Rome - Romans 1:8-17

Open It

1. What trips to see friends or family members would you like take in the future?
2. How do people feel when circumstances force them to cancel a long-anticipated trip?

Explore It

1. For what was the church at Rome well-known? (1:8)
2. What kind of concern did Paul have for his audience? (1:9-10)
3. What happened to Paul's plans to visit the church in Rome? (1:10-13)
4. Who would benefit from Paul's visit? (1:12)
5. What does a person's faith accomplish? (1:17)

Get It

1. What are some of the positive reports you would want other people to hear about your faith in God?
2. How does remembering someone in prayer help him or her?

Apply It

What can you do to help a person for whom you are concerned?

God's Wrath Against Mankind - Romans 1:18-32

Open It

1. If God were to deliver a "state of the world" speech for all of us to hear, what do you think He would say?
2. Why do a high percentage of people today say they believe in God?

Explore It

1. What is God's response to the people who ignore and disobey Him? (1:18)
2. What makes all people accountable to God? (1:20)
3. What happens to the hearts and minds of people who reject God? (1:21-22)
4. How does God respond to people who ignore and deny Him? (1:24, 26)
5. Instead of fearing God, what attitude do people naturally have toward Him? (1:32)

Get It

1. How can God hold us responsible for breaking His laws?
2. What examples can you list of how we worship created things rather than the Creator?

Apply It

Who among your friends is caught in this trap of rejecting God and needs your prayers of intercession this week?

God's Righteous Judgment - Romans 2:1-16

Open It

1. How does a critical review of a movie or concert affect your decision about attending it?
2. On what basis do people often judge other people?

Explore It

1. When we judge others, what do we do to ourselves? (2:1)
2. If God is judging others for their sins, what will He do to us? (2:2-3)
3. On what basis will God render His judgments? (2:5-8)
4. How will those who know God's law be treated compared to those who never heard God's law? (2:12-15)
5. When will the Law judge people? (2:16)

Get It

1. When have you ever judged someone else and realized you were guilty of the same offense?
2. How should your anticipation of a coming judgment day affect your daily behavior?

Apply It

When have you ever judged someone else and realized you were guilty of the same offense?

The Jews and the Law - Romans 2:17-29

Open It

1. What advertisements do you have trouble believing?
2. What are some "wrong" reasons a person might have for going to church?

Explore It

1. What special relationship did the Jews have with God? (2:17-18)
2. Of what did Paul accuse the Jews? (2:21-24)
3. How did Paul redefine what it means to be a Jew? (2:28-29)
4. What is more important than knowing God's written law? (2:29)
5. Whose approval does a true Jew seek? (2:29)

Get It

1. How could a person be very religious and yet be lacking a real relationship with God?
2. What makes a person a true Christian?

Apply It

In which of your present situations should you be more concerned about pleasing God than pleasing other people?

God's Faithfulness - Romans 3:1-8

Open It

1. What could you learn about the character of a person by watching the behavior of his or her children?
2. How do you determine if a person is telling the truth?

Explore It

1. What is the advantage of being a Jew? (3:1-2) .
2. How does failure to be true to God reflect on the character of God? (3:3-4)
3. What was Paul's response to the charge that God is unjust in judging us? (3:5)
4. How is God's character affected by the level of our sinfulness? (3:7)
5. Who did Paul say deserves condemnation? (3:8)

Get It

1. What religious activities are we tempted to rely on as the basis of our justification before God?
2. What excuses do we use to explain away continuing sinful behavior in our lives?

Apply It

What step or action can you take this week to keep you from taking God's grace for granted?

No One Is Righteous - Romans 3:9-20

Open It

1. In what ways are all people the same?
2. How would baby-sitting a two-year-old for a week influence your opinion about the goodness or badness of humans in general?

Explore It

1. How are Jews and Gentiles alike? (3:9)
2. What is human nature? (3:12)
3. What are the characteristics of people who stand condemned before God? (3:13-18)
4. What does God's law show us about ourselves? (3:19)
5. What reward does a person receive for observing the Law? (3:20)

Get It

1. What reasons would you give for describing people as either basically good or basically evil?
2. How would you explain this passage to a person who believes that he or she is good and not guilty of any serious sins?

Apply It

What "laws" do you need to put aside in your life in favor of the true righteousness God offers?

Righteousness Through Faith - Romans 3:21-31

Open It

1. What hero do you remember who always seemed to arrive at just the right moment to save the day?
2. When have you escaped a penalty you were sure you were going to have to pay?

Explore It

1. What new righteousness has been made known? (3:21)
2. How does a person obtain righteousness? (3:22)
3. What is the cost or price of justification with God? (3:24)
4. How does providing Christ Jesus as a sacrifice demonstrate the justice of God? (3:25-26)
5. What is the relationship between having faith and observing the Law? (3:29-31)

Get It

1. What makes it difficult for many of us to believe that we can gain God's forgiveness by faith in Christ alone?
2. Why would God offer His righteousness free to every person?

Apply It

In what areas are you still boasting about your own abilities? How can you submit those areas to God's control?

Abraham Justified by Faith - Romans 4:1-25

Open It

1. What are some of the many religious acts and practices people perform in an attempt to please God?
2. How much faith do you put in the promises people make to you?

Explore It

1. How was Abraham righteous before God? (4:3)
2. On what basis did Abraham receive the promise of inheriting the world? (4:13)
3. Why would God's promise be worthless if a person had to keep the Law perfectly to receive it? (4:14-15)
4. What did Abraham believe about God that convinced him God could keep His promise? (4:20-21)
5. Whom has God provided as a worthy object of our faith? (4:24-25)

Get It

1. What is righteousness?
2. What promise are you waiting for God to fulfill in your life?

Apply It

What promise of God do you need to trust in?

Peace and Joy - Romans 5:1-11

Open It

1. How do most people treat their enemies?

2. What results can difficult circumstances have in a person's life?

Explore It

1. What is the basis for our justification with God? (5:1)

2. What good things can result from suffering? (5:3-5)

3. What was our relationship to God when Christ came to die for us? (5:8)

4. What aspect of Christ's death justifies a person in God's sight? (5:9)

5. For what reasons can a Christian rejoice? (5:11)

Get It

1. What does it mean to be justified?

2. How were we formerly God's enemies?

Apply It

Who in your life needs to hear that through Jesus Christ they are no longer enemies with God?

Death Through Adam, Life Through Christ - Romans 5:12-21

Open It

1. What advantages and experiences have you had that many others in the world have not?
2. In what ways can the decisions of a few leaders change the lives of millions of people?

Explore It

1. What did Adam introduce into the world and pass on to his descendants? (5:12)
2. What came into the world through Jesus Christ? (5:15)
3. In what ways are the acts of Jesus and Adam similar? (5:18-19)
4. What effect did God's righteous law have on rebellious people? (5:20)
5. What does grace given by God to this world produce? (5:21)

Get It

1. How can God justly judge us for Adam's sin?
2. What makes Jesus' action more powerful than Adam's?

Apply It

What can you do this week for unsaved friends still suffering from the consequences of sin?

Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ - Romans 6:1-14

Open It

1. What would most people like to change about their lives?

2. What motivates people to make major changes in their lives?

Explore It

1. Why should a forgiven, justified person make a strong effort not to sin? (6:1-2)

2. What makes it possible for a person to live a new life? (6:4)

3. How will uniting with Christ in His death change the future of our lives? (6:8-10)

4. In a person's new relationship with God, what is his or her relationship to sin supposed to be? (6:11-12)

5. How does being under grace change a person? (6:14)

Get It

1. Why should a Christian stop sinning even though he or she knows God has forgiven and will forgive those sins?

2. How does God help a person discard old habits and tendencies?

Apply It

How can you offer yourself as an instrument of righteousness to God and to others?

Slaves to Righteousness - Romans 6:15-23

Open It

1. What bad habits can control and damage a person's life?
2. If you had to forfeit your personal freedom to become a slave, whom would you want to be your master?

Explore It

1. Why shouldn't a Christian continue to sin willingly? (6:15-18)
2. How does sin dominate a person's life? (6:16-18)
3. What results follow from being a slave to obedience to God? (6:16, 19, 22)
4. What is the result of being a slave to sin? (6:16, 21, 23)
5. What is the result of being a slave to righteousness? (6:19, 22)

Get It

1. What benefits and pleasures do people think they gain from sinful, selfish living?
2. What are the benefits and pleasures of righteous living?

Apply It

How can you show your wholehearted obedience to God this week?

An Illustration From Marriage - Romans 7:1-6

Open It

1. What were some of the basic rules of behavior you were taught as a child?
2. How do your present values differ from the ones you were taught as a child?

Explore It

1. What illustration did Paul use to explain a Christian's relationship to the written law? (7:1-3)
2. To what did Paul compare the death of a woman's husband? (7:2-5) Why?
3. What are the primary differences between the old life under the Law and the new life in the way of the Spirit? (7:4-6)
4. How is a person released from being bound by the Law? (7:6)
5. How does the Christian's new life compare with the old life? (7:6)

Get It

1. What does it mean to be a new person in Christ?
2. What is the difference between keeping religious laws and following the Spirit of Christ?

Apply It

What old ideas about pleasing God through religious activity do you need to discard this week?

Struggling With Sin - Romans 7:7-25

Open It

1. How do you tend to respond to authority?
2. What sort of bad habits are hardest to break?

Explore It

1. What is the purpose of the Law? (7:7-8)
2. How does knowing the Law bring the possibility of death to a person? (7:9-11)
3. What did Paul share about his own attempts to follow the Law? (7:14-16)
4. What did Paul blame for his continuing failure to do good? (7:17-20)
5. What division did Paul acknowledge in his own mind and nature? (7:24)

Get It

1. How have you experienced a struggle with sin similar to what Paul describes?
2. What hope do we have of deliverance from sin here on earth?

Apply It

How can you remind yourself each day this week of God's victory over sin?

Life Through the Spirit - Romans 8:1-17

Open It

1. If you were released from a three-year captivity as a hostage, what would you do during your first week of freedom?
2. What impact can a good father or a bad father have on a person's life?

Explore It

1. How is a person set free from the law of sin and death? (8:2)
2. How can a person know if he or she is controlled by the sinful nature or by the Spirit? (8:9)
3. What kind of obligation do Christians have? (8:12-14)
4. By what means can a person find life? (8:13)
5. What are the benefits of being a child of God? (8:15-17)

Get It

1. In what ways does knowing Christ set us free?
2. What does unchecked sin and selfishness produce in a person's life?

Apply It

What changes have you been resisting in your life that you are now willing to allow your loving heavenly Father to complete?

Future Glory - Romans 8:18-27

Open It

1. What type of sacrifices do people commonly make for the sake of a future reward?
2. What makes it hard for some people to pray?

Explore It

1. How did Paul describe the difference between his present and his future? (8:18)
2. To what human experience did Paul compare his waiting? (8:22-23)
3. What is and is not genuine hope? (8:24-25)
4. How does the Spirit help us in our weakness? (8:26)
5. What is the relationship between God and the Spirit? (8:27)

Get It

1. What does God promise to us that can make any suffering bearable?
2. What is real hope?

Apply It

In what circumstances of your life do you need to wait patiently for God to act?

More Than Conquerors - Romans 8:28-39

Open It

1. How do you explain why bad things happen to nice people?

2. What causes people to lose their faith in God?

Explore It

1. How does God work in all the situations and events of a person's life? (8:28)

2. What does God want each person to become? (8:29)

3. Why should we feel confident that God is not against us or condemning us? (8:31-34)

4. What possible tragedies or hardships are unable to separate us from the love of Christ? (8:35-39)

5. What gives God's people the ability to respond in triumph to persecution? (8:37)

Get It

1. How can God produce good results out of bad situations?

2. What gives Christians confidence as they go through hard times?

Apply It

How can you commit your difficult circumstances to God this week?

God's Sovereign Choice - Romans 9:1-29

Open It

1. When have you felt that you were judged unfairly in a contest?
2. How do you react when someone brags that God is on his or her side?

Explore It

1. What strong emotion was Paul feeling? (9:2)
2. What did Paul say to people who claim to be children of God merely because they are descendants of Abraham? (9:8-9)
3. How did Paul defend the accusation that God is unjust in His treatment of people? (9:14-15)
4. What determines how God bestows favor on people? (9:16)
5. What did the prophets Isaiah and Hosea tell us about God's patience and justice? (9:25-29)

Get It

1. How could a person come from a very religious background and still not have a personal faith in God?
2. On what basis does God choose people to inherit His promises?

Apply It

What sacrifices or efforts can you make this week to help a friend come to faith in Christ?

Israel's Unbelief - Romans 9:30-10:21

Open It

1. When have you known someone who refused to listen to any advice or instruction?
2. How carefully do you follow the instruction sheet in a ready-to-assemble product?

Explore It

1. What kept Israel from obtaining righteousness? (9:31-32)
2. What had the Israelites done instead of submitting to God's righteousness? (10:3-4)
3. What distinctions did Paul note in the way that Jews and Gentiles obtain their salvation? (10:12-13)
4. How did Paul answer the argument that the Jews have not had adequate opportunity to hear God's message? (10:18-21)
5. How had the response of the Gentiles to the message of God differed from the response of the Jews? (10:18-21)

Get It

1. How can a person have great zeal for God or religious activities and yet be misguided?
2. What groups of people in our society resemble the unbelieving Jews of Paul's time?

Apply It

When could you spend extended time in prayer to bring before God those groups or peoples who have shown little interest in the gospel?

The Remnant of Israel - Romans 11:1-10

Open It

1. What might a person do to get another person to love him or her?

2. When in your experience has a large project been saved by the efforts of a few people?

Explore It

1. How did God answer Elijah's call to destroy Israel? (11:2-4)

2. What has God chosen by grace? (11:5)

3. Who are the elect? (11:7)

4. What prevented Israel from responding to God as the elect had responded? (11:7-9)

5. What results from God's decision to harden people's hearts? (11:9-10)

Get It

1. What characteristics separated the remnant of Israel from the rest of Israel?

2. In what ways do you see a remnant at work in your community?

Apply It

What can you do this week to encourage a Christian who feels outnumbered or overwhelmed?

Ingrafted Branches - Romans 11:11-24

Open It

1. What is your favorite fruit? Why?
2. What success have you had with gardening?

Explore It

1. What hope do the Jews ever have of recovering their relationship with God? (11:11)
2. What did Paul imagine the response of the Jews to God could bring to the world? (11:15)
3. What long illustration did Paul use to describe the situation of the Jews and Gentiles? (11:16-24)
4. To what did Paul liken the Gentiles? (11:17)
5. What is promised to Jews who do not persist in unbelief? (11:23)

Get It

1. What lessons can we draw from Paul's analogy of the olive tree?
2. What attitude should we have toward the fact that God has chosen to reach out to us?

Apply It

What can you do this week to acknowledge that you depend on God's kindness?

All Israel Will Be Saved - Romans 11:25-32

Open It

1. What would it take to get you to knowingly break an important promise you made?
2. How can a bad situation bring good results?

Explore It

1. To what mystery did Paul refer? (11:25)
2. When would Israel's period of hardening end? (11:25)
3. What promise has God made to Israel? (11:26-27)
4. What has been the good result of the disobedience and unbelief of the Jews? (11:30)
5. For what reason has God allowed all people to be disobedient? (11:32)

Get It

1. What does this passage reveal about God's character?
2. How does our commitment to God affect His dependability and trustworthiness?

Apply It

Which of God's promises do you need to focus on and memorize this week?

Doxology - Romans 11:33-36

Open It

1. What was your idea of God when you were a child?

2. How has your idea of God changed as you have grown up?

Explore It

1. How did Paul describe God's judgments? (11:33)

2. How did Paul describe the mind of God? (11:33-34)

3. What does God owe? (11:35)

4. What is God's place in the universe? (11:36)

5. How did Paul summarize his doxology? (11:36)

Get It

1. In what ways do we underestimate God?

2. What reasons do we have to worship God?

Apply It

How can you worship and praise God with enthusiasm and devotion this week?

Living Sacrifices - Romans 12:1-8

Open It

1. What skills or qualities are necessary to play a team sport well?
2. What influences have significantly shaped your life?

Explore It

1. How is the Christian to be different from unbelieving people? (12:2)
2. What must happen in order for a person to discern and agree with the will of God? (12:2)
3. What did Paul use the human body to illustrate? (12:4-5)
4. In what way are all Christians alike? (12:4-6)
6. How should each person use his or her gifts? (12:6-8)

Get It

1. What makes offering our bodies as living sacrifices an act of worship?
2. How can the gifts God bestows on Christians help others in the church or community?

Apply It

How can you put a spiritual gift to work for others this week?

Love - Romans 12:9-21

Open It

1. What might a friend do to you that you would have trouble forgiving?
2. What advice would you give to someone who wanted some practical wisdom on how to get along with others?

Explore It

1. What should we hate? (12:9)
2. What down-to-earth advice did Paul give? (12:9-21)
3. In what ways ought we to treat others as more important than ourselves? (12:10, 13, 16, 20)
4. With whom does God want us to live at peace? (12:18)
5. What is the purpose of showing kindness to an enemy? (12:20)

Get It

1. How can a Christian learn to love others as God loves them?
2. How does doing good to an enemy overcome evil?

Apply It

In what ways can you honor someone above yourself? Who?

Submission to the Authorities - Romans 13:1-7

Open It

1. What irritates you most about our government?

2. How do you feel when you have to prepare your income tax forms?

Explore It

1. How is the establishment of any government related to God? (13:1)

2. What attitude is a Christian showing toward God when he or she rebels against the government? (13:2)

3. What should a Christian do to maintain a good relationship with the government? (13:3-4)

4. For what reason are government officials in power? (13:4)

5. How should a Christian respond to the tax laws and requirements of the government? (13:6-7)

Get It

1. Under what circumstances should Christians disobey the clear commands of government authorities?

2. What is the Christian's responsibility for maintaining a good government?

Apply It

How and when could you set aside time to pray for national, state, and local public officials?

Love, for the Day Is Near - Romans 13:8-14

Open It

1. What sort of actions communicate love to you?
2. What are some of the evil activities tolerated and even promoted by our society?

Explore It

1. In what area of life is a Christian to maintain a continuing debt? (13:8)
2. What one command sums up all the other commands? (13:9)
3. What "hour" had arrived for the Roman Christians? (13:11)
4. What kind of behavior contrasts with what God wants of us? (13:13)
5. What should a Christian be thinking about each day? (13:14)

Get It

1. What does it mean that love is the fulfillment of the Law?
2. What personal relationship do you want to improve by earnestly loving that person as yourself?

Apply It

What specific gesture of love or kindness can you use to build a relationship?

The Weak and the Strong - Romans 14:1-15:13

Open It

1. What do you do when a homeless person asks you for money?
2. When have you refused to eat something that was put before you?

Explore It

1. What reasons did Paul give for not judging people on disputable matters? (14:1-12)
2. What should be the primary motivation for a person's decision to eat meat or celebrate a sacred day? (13:6-8)
3. What was Paul's personal belief about unclean foods? (14:14)
4. What is a Christian's responsibility for building peace among the other believers? (14:19-21)
6. What does God want to give each believer to guide his or her Christian life? (15:5-6)

Get It

1. What life-style rules and issues do Christians argue about today?
2. When Scripture is not explicit on an issue, how should a person decide what is right and wrong?

Apply It

What can you do this week to spread peace and mutual edification among Christians?

Paul, the Minister to the Gentiles - Romans 15:14-22

Open It

1. What foreign culture interests you most? Why?
2. What factors influence a person's calling or vocation in life?

Explore It

1. How did Paul describe the Christians at Rome? (15:14)
2. Why did Paul preach to the Gentiles? (15:16)
3. What was the only thing that Paul was willing to speak of? (15:18-19)
4. What was Paul's ambition? (15:20)
5. What had hindered Paul from coming to see the people in the church at Rome? (15:22)

Get It

1. What has God given you to use in serving Him?
2. How can you tell if your work for God is motivated by selfish pride or selfless devotion to God?

Apply It

At this point in your life, what could you do to determine whether your vocation is in line with God's desires for your life?

Paul's Plan to Visit Rome - Romans 15:23-33

Open It

1. How do you react when your travel plans are delayed or canceled?
2. If a friend had \$10,000 to donate to charity and asked you for advice, what worthy causes would you recommend?

Explore It

1. Where was Paul planning to travel? (15:23-24) Why?
2. How did Paul want the Roman Christians to help him? (15:24, 30-32)
3. What was Paul taking to Jerusalem? (15:26)
4. How did Paul explain why Gentiles should give financial assistance to Jews in Jerusalem? (15:27)
5. With what benediction did Paul close his request? (15:33)

Get It

1. How can we help fellow believers and missionaries?
2. How should we show sensitivity when giving someone a gift?

Apply It

What sacrifice can you make this week to help another believer who is struggling with a burden?

Personal Greetings - Romans 16:1-27

Open It

1. What do you do to thank people who help you with a project?

2. How valuable is a letter of thanks and appreciation?

Explore It

1. Why did Paul praise Priscilla and Aquila? (16:3-4)

2. For what did Paul commend Mary? (16:6)

3. Why did Paul praise Tryphena, Tryphosa, and Persis? (16:12)

4. What encouragement did Paul give the people in their struggle with evil in the world? (16:19-20)

5. What did Paul say about God? (16:25-27)

Get It

1. What is a meaningful compliment a Christian could give to another believer?

2. In what areas of life should Christians take risks for God, as Priscilla and Aquila did?

Apply It

To what fellow workers in the Lord's service do you want to express your appreciation? How?

