

SAMPLE

FOUNDATIONS in ROMANS

A Romans Bible Study

Grades 7–12

Foundations In Romans is . . .

- **Biblical**
Encourages your student to read the Bible and narrate what it says.
- **Historical**
Ties Paul's letter, written to the Roman believers, to the culture of Ancient Rome.
- **Inductive**
Teaches your student to perform a Bible book study accurately.
- **Effective**
Introduces the components of an inductive study in a gradual and conversational way.
- **Recommended**
Listed as a suggested resource in the SCM Curriculum Guide.
- **Versatile**
Use in conjunction with a study of Ancient Rome or as a stand-alone Bible study.

Thank you for your interest in studying God's Word! This document contains the complete Contents page and How to Use section, plus the first two lessons of *Foundations in Romans: A Romans Bible Study*. The optional study notes from those two lessons are also included. Feel free to duplicate and share this file with your friends.

We hope you will enjoy this sample.
Visit www.SimplyCharlotteMason.com
to order the complete *Foundations in Romans* today!

Foundations in Romans

A Romans Bible Study
for Grades 7–12

by
Sonya Shafer

Foundations in Romans: A Romans Bible Study

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How to Use this Bible Study

Resources Needed

- Bible
You choose which version you want to use.
- *Strong's Concordance*
Strong's Concordance is available for many versions of the Bible, and as a printed book or software.
- Commentary
Find a good commentary of Romans that your parents and pastor recommend.
- Map of Holy Land and Paul's Journeys
Near the end of the study you will be locating cities on a map of Paul's Missionary Journeys. If you don't have one in the back of your Bible, you can probably find one online.

How It Works

This is an inductive Bible study. You will be focusing on finding main ideas, narrating what the words say, and defining what they mean. For each chapter in Romans you will look at . . .

- *Chapter Themes*

Read the chapter through and determine its main theme or topic.

- *Paragraph by Paragraph*

Break down the chapter into sections and make sure you understand what each paragraph says by studying the words. Then put the paragraph into your own words to make sure you know what it means.

At the beginning of this book you'll see lots of examples and much of the studying will already be done for you. As the book goes on, and you get familiar with inductive study methods, you will do more of the study for yourself.

- *Chapter As a Whole*

Once you have studied the sections, put the chapter back together and look at how the paragraphs fit together. Read a commentary on the chapter and record your personal observations.

Your Schedule

If you plan on two weeks for each chapter, you will be able to complete this study in one school year. It might work well to follow a schedule something like this:

- Day One: Chapter Themes
- Days Two through Six: One paragraph each day (approximately)
- Day Seven: Commentary
- Day Eight: Personal Observations

How to Use a Strong's Concordance

A *Strong's Concordance* is a great tool for discovering the original meaning of the words of the Bible in their original languages. Here's how to use one.

1. Find the English word in the alphabetical listing.
2. In that word's listing, find the Bible reference that you are studying (for example, Romans 1:16).
3. Note the number to the right beside your selected reference.
4. Look up that number in the back of the *Strong's Concordance* to see your word's original definition. Be sure to use the Greek word dictionary in the back; Romans was originally written in Greek.

My Study Notes

This study does not have an answer key. I have, however, included my own study notes as I worked through the same inductive process that you will be doing. If you are uncertain about something or just want to read another student's findings, feel free to read my study notes in the back of this book. (Keep in mind that I used the King James Version for my study, so the exact words that I have listed may be different from the words in your Bible if you are using a different translation.)

Discovering Doctrine

Throughout this study you will see notes about recording truths from verses in Romans in your *Discovering Doctrine* book. The *Discovering Doctrine* notebook is a multi-year project. As you read through the Bible—whether for school work, church, or personal times—watch for truths about the ten major doctrines. (The ten doctrines are The Bible, God, Jesus Christ, Holy Spirit, church, sin, salvation, man, angels, and future events.) Jot down the truth and the Scripture reference under that doctrine's section. After you've read through the whole Bible, you'll be able to summarize the truths you found for each doctrine and formulate your personal doctrinal statement.

You can create a doctrine notebook or use our professionally printed one available at <http://SimplyCharlotteMason.com/books/discovering-doctrine>

“This letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel. It is well worth a Christian’s while not only to memorize it word for word but also to occupy himself with it daily, as though it were the daily bread of the soul. It is impossible to read or to meditate on this letter too much or too well. The more one deals with it, the more precious it becomes and the better it tastes.”

—Martin Luther

Lesson 1

Romans 1

People have a problem. And not just people in general—you have a problem. Your sinful heart and actions have separated you from God. And no matter how much you try to be good or to do right, God cannot accept your righteousness. It will never be good enough to measure up to His perfection.

But God, in His love, has provided a solution to your problem. He will give you His righteousness as a gift if you will believe in His Son Jesus.

That is the message of Romans. That is the gospel, the good news! You can be right with God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Come learn more about the gospel and the righteousness that God gives. Come study Paul's letter to the Romans.

Chapter Themes

As you work your way through Romans, you'll be able to remember it better if you insert mental bookmarks along the way. Since Romans is already divided into chapters, you can easily use the chapters as natural divisions.

When you first come to a chapter, read it through in one sitting and try to look for the main topic (or two) that Paul wrote about. Think of that topic as a bookmark.

Go ahead and read Romans 1 now and try to think of a main topic or two it discusses. Then take a look at these bookmark ideas for Romans 1.

Paul started the chapter by talking about himself, being an apostle, and all that entailed (verses 1–17). So one theme could be Paul's Apostleship.

The rest of the chapter (verses 18–32) deals with how sinful mankind is, giving specific examples. Since Paul used the word "unrighteous" rather than "sinful," we could call the second main theme Man's Unrighteousness.

You will have lots of practice with mental bookmarks throughout your study and it will become easier as you go along. For now, keep those two main topics in mind—Paul's Apostleship and Man's Unrighteousness—as you study the specifics of Romans 1.

Paragraph by Paragraph

Once you read the chapter and find its main topic, you can go through it

paragraph by paragraph and look at more detail. For each paragraph you will (1) determine the main idea, (2) examine the parts, and then (3) narrate the paragraph in your own words.

A lot of the work is already done for you in this chapter to help you get a feel for this type of study. As you proceed through the chapters, you'll start doing more of the work for yourself.

Romans 1:1–7

1. Determine the main idea.

Read through Romans 1:1–7 and determine the main idea of the paragraph. Here is a main idea statement for this paragraph.

Paul the apostle wrote this letter to the church at Rome.

2. Examine the parts.

After you have the main idea of the paragraph, it's time to look closer at the passage. One of the ways to look closer is to find words that are repeated in the verses. Of course, you're not looking for short, common words like "a" or "in." You're looking for words that were repeated for emphasis.

- ***Repeated words***

In Romans 1:1–7 two words were repeated for emphasis. Here are those words and their original meanings. (You'll learn how to look up original meanings later in this chapter.)

"Apostle" (verses 1, 5): a delegate, messenger, one sent forth
with orders

"Called" (verses 1, 6, 7): invited; divinely selected and appointed

3. Narrate the paragraph.

The last step is to read the paragraph again and narrate it. Try to include as much detail as you can. Here is a narration of Romans 1:1–7.

Paul was called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, whose holiness
and resurrection showed He is the Son of God. Paul preached the
gospel of Jesus Christ to many Gentiles and nations. The Roman

Verses 3 and 4 contain some great truths about Jesus Christ. Be sure to record them in your Discovering Doctrine notebook (under Christology).

Depending on what translation you're using, your repeated words might be different from those listed here but they will most likely be similar.

believers had believed this gospel and were called to be saints.

Romans 1:8–15

1. Determine the main idea.

Now you try it. Read through Romans 1:8–15 and determine the main idea of the paragraph. Try to state the main idea in one sentence.

Different versions of the Bible divide the verses into paragraphs at various places. For this study just take the chapters in reasonably-sized chunks as outlined in this book.

2. Examine the parts.

After you have the main idea of the paragraph, it's time to look closer at the passage. In the previous paragraph you learned about looking for words that were repeated for emphasis. In Romans 1:8–15 you'll find another "part" to look for: contrast.

- *Repeated words*

(verses 9 and 15): glad tidings

- *Contrast*

Verse 14 gives two pairs of contrasts. Here they are with their original meanings. These meanings will help you think about what exactly Paul was contrasting by using those word pairs.

"Greeks" v. "Barbarians" (verse 14): either a Greek national or, in a broader sense, a Gentile v. a Barbarian was any foreigner who spoke a strange language; i.e., didn't know the Greek language

"Wise" v. "unwise" (verse 14): skilled and learned; i.e., Greek philosophers v. unwise refers to not understood, unintelligible

3. Narrate the paragraph.

Now read Romans 1:8–15 again and think how you would narrate it. Here is one way to narrate that paragraph.

Here is the complete list of "parts" that you will be looking for during your study of Romans. You've already learned how to do several of them.

- *Repeated words*
 - *Unknown words*
 - *Key words*
 - *Contrast or comparison*
 - *Cause and effect*
 - *Series or List*
 - *Proper names*
-

Paul had heard of their faith and prayed constantly for them. He had been hoping to come for quite a while but had been prevented from coming to Rome. He wanted to encourage them in their faith by imparting to them a spiritual gift and would gain encouragement from them also, just as he had from other believers, whether Greeks or those of a strange language, those considered wise or unwise.

Romans 1:16 and 17

1. Determine the main idea.

Read through Romans 1:16 and 17 and determine the main idea of the paragraph. Try to state the main idea in one sentence.

2. Examine the parts.

After you have the main idea of the paragraph, it's time to look closer at the passage. You'll find a repeated word emphasized in verse 17. Record it below. The definition is already given for you.

• *Repeated words*

_____ (repeated in verse 17): **assurance, belief,**
_____ conviction of the truth, trust

3. Narrate the paragraph.

Now read Romans 1:16 and 17 again and narrate them below. Try to include as much detail as you can.

Verses 16 and 17 contain some great truths about salvation. Be sure to record them in your Discovering Doctrine notebook (under Soteriology).

The "just shall live by faith" is taken from Habakkuk 2:4. Paul had been trained as a Pharisee and knew the Old Testament well.

Romans 1:18–23

1. Determine the main idea.

Read through Romans 1:18–23 and think about the main idea of the paragraph. Here's one way to state the main idea in one sentence.

Mankind rejected God and chose to worship creatures rather
than the Creator.

Verse 20 contains some great truths about God. Be sure to record them in your Discovering Doctrine notebook (under Theology Proper).

2. Examine the parts.

Time to look closer at the parts of the passage. These verses contain two repeated words for emphasis. Fill in the one that's missing below. This paragraph also contains two sets of contrasts. Can you spot them? Add the second set below.

- *Repeated words*

"Foolish, fools" (verses 21, 22): without understanding, stupid

(repeated within verse 18): iniquity, unjust,
wrong; violating law and justice

- *Contrast*

"Wise" v. "fools" (verse 22): skilled experts v. to act foolishly

v. (verse 23): immortal; not liable
to decay v. perishing

- *Series or List*

These verses also contain a series, or list. That's another "part" to look for as you study a passage. Look for the list in verse 23 and record it below.

List Title: They made images that looked like

The ancient Romans worshiped more than sixty gods.

3. Narrate the paragraph.

Now read Romans 1:18–23 again and narrate it below. Try to include as much detail as you can.

Psalm 19 states the same thing as Romans 1:20: God’s creation displays His power.

Romans 1:24–27

1. Determine the main idea.

Read through Romans 1:24–27 and think how you would state the main idea in one sentence. Here is a possibility.

Mankind traded God’s truth for a lie in their physical
relationships with each other.

2. Examine the parts.

In looking closer at the passage, you’ll notice a phrase that was repeated for emphasis. Write that phrase below. Its original meaning is given for you.

- *Repeated words*

(verses 24, 26): deliver, betray, give into the hands
of another, permit, allow

- *Cause and effect*

You’ve already learned about three “parts” to look for as you study a passage closely (Repeated words, Contrast, and a Series or List). Here’s another: cause and effect. Usually you can spot a cause-and-effect scenario by looking for the words “therefore” or “wherefore.” You’ll find one of those cause-and-effect words in verse 24. Record the word and summarize the cause and its resulting effect.

(verse 24):

Cause:

Effect:

Many Roman emperors in Paul's day were committing homosexual acts; for example, Tiberius, Caligula, and Nero.

3. Narrate the paragraph.

Now read Romans 1:24–27 again think how you would narrate it. Here is a sample narration of this paragraph.

Because mankind refuses to acknowledge God and exchanges His truth for a lie, He allows them to follow their sinful desires of uncleanness and dishonor of their bodies. They have abandoned His plan for sexuality and turned to homosexuality instead.

Romans 1:28–32

1. Determine the main idea.

Read through Romans 1:28–32 and state the main idea in one sentence.

2. Examine the parts.

Did you spot that long list? Title it and record it below and on the next page.

- *Series or List*

List Title:

Chapter As a Whole

4. Outline the chapter.

Once you've determined the main idea of each paragraph, you can outline the chapter quite easily. We'll walk through the steps together, and by the end of your study of Romans you'll be outlining like a pro.

Step One: Chapter Themes as Main Points

Do you remember the two main themes of Romans 1? Write them on the outline's main points below (I. and II.). (Look back at page 9 for a reminder if you need to.)

Step Two: Paragraph Ideas as Subpoints

To complete the outline, add each paragraph's main idea below those two themes as a subpoint. The subpoints don't have to be complete sentences; you can shorten them if you want to.

- I. Paul's _____
 - A. Wrote this letter to the Romans (vv. 1–7)
 - B. _____
 - C. Not ashamed of the gospel (vv. 16, 17)
- II. Man's _____
 - A. Rejected God and worshiped His creation (vv. 18–23)
 - B. Perverted physical relationships (vv. 24–27)
 - C. _____

When Paul wrote this letter to the Romans, he did not write it in chapters, of course. But determining the themes of the various chapters is a good way to insert mental bookmarks that will help you remember what the letter is about and where to find certain ideas.

5. Read another Bible student's comments.

Read the notes on Romans 1 from a trustworthy commentary. Ask your pastor and parents to recommend a good one. Record below any new findings or information mentioned in those comments.

Lesson 2

Romans 2

After reading Romans 1, it's easy to think, "Well, I certainly don't do things like that. I can see why they would be considered unrighteous, but not me." In chapter 2 Paul answers just such an argument.

Chapter Themes

Review the chapter themes in the book of Romans that you have studied so far.

Romans 1: _____

Read Romans 2 and look for the main topic of that chapter.

Paragraph by Paragraph

Romans 2:1–4

1. Determine the main idea.

Read through Romans 2:1–4 and think about the main idea of the paragraph. Here is a possible main-idea statement.

____ Those who self-righteously pass judgment on others fail to realize _____
____ that they are sinners themselves. _____

Verses 1–11 contain some great truths about God. Be sure to record them in your Discovering Doctrine notebook (under Theology Proper).

2. Examine the parts.

In Romans 2:1–4 a word (and another form of that same word) is repeated. Record the word(s) and look up its original Greek meaning in *Strong's Concordance*. (If you need a reminder of how to find original meanings, see page 6 or 16.)

- *Repeated words*

____ (verses 1, 2, 3): _____

3. Narrate the paragraph.

Now read Romans 2:1–4 again and narrate it below. Try to include as much detail as you can.

Romans 2:5–11

1. Determine the main idea.

Read through Romans 2:5–11 and think about the main idea of the paragraph. Here is one possible way to state the main idea.

God's judgment does not show favoritism between Jew or Gentile.

2. Examine the parts.

• *Contrast*

Romans 2:5–10 contrasts two types of people. Use the chart below to record that contrast. The first row is done for you. Look through the paragraph and place the rest of the descriptive phrases and words in the remaining rows of the chart. Be sure to keep the two types of people in separate columns.

Heart Attitude	Seek for glory, honor, immortality	Hard, impenitent heart
Deeds		
Result		

Verse 6 is taken from Psalm 62:12.

3. Narrate the paragraph.

Now read Romans 2:5–11 again, look over your chart, and narrate the paragraph below. Try to include as much detail as you can.

Romans 2:12–16

1. Determine the main idea.

Read through Romans 2:12–16 and think about the main idea of the paragraph. Here is one possible way to state the main idea.

Possessing the law does not make a person right in God's eyes.

2. Examine the parts.

- *Repeated words*

Two different Greek words are translated in these verses as “law.” One is a negative and one is a positive. Look up their original meanings. Also look for another repeated word in verse 12.

“Law” [*Strong's* 460] (verse 12):

“Law” [*Strong's* 3551] (verses 12, 13, 14, 15):

(repeated within v. 12):

- *Unknown word*

Look for an important word in verse 13 and look up its original meaning.

(verse 13):

3. Narrate the paragraph.

Now read Romans 2:12–16 again and narrate it below. Try to include as much detail as you can.

Romans 2:17–24

1. Determine the main idea.

Read through Romans 2:17–24 and determine the main idea of the paragraph. Try to state it in one sentence.

2. Examine the parts.

Did you notice the list in verses 19 and 20?

- *Series or List*

List Title: **What the Jews Called Themselves**

- *Contrast*

Verses 21–23 contain several contrasts between what those Jews said and what they actually did.

In A.D. 49 Emperor Claudius had banished all Jews from Rome, including Christian Jews. When he died in A.D. 54, many Jews returned. Now, in A.D. 57, about 50,000 Jews lived in Rome, a city of almost one million people.

Verse	What They Said	What They Did
21	Teach others	Don't teach themselves
21	Don't steal	Steal
22		
22		
23		

3. Narrate the paragraph.

*Verse 24 is from
Isaiah 52:5.*

Now read Romans 2:17–24 again and narrate it below. Try to include as much detail as you can.

Romans 2:25–29

1. Determine the main idea.

Read through Romans 2:12–16 and think about the main idea of the paragraph. Here is one possible way to state the main idea.

A physical outward action, like circumcision, does not guarantee
that a person is right with God.

2. Examine the parts.

• *Unknown word*

Look up the definition of this word in an English dictionary.

“Circumcision” (verses 25, 26, 27, 28, 29):

3. Narrate the paragraph.

Now read Romans 2:25–29 again and narrate it below. Try to include as much detail as you can.

One thing that set apart the Jews from everybody else was their practice of circumcision. God had originally given that law to Moses, and since then every Jewish boy baby had been circumcised. But some Jews trusted in their circumcision to make them right with God. They assumed that anyone who was uncircumcised was not approved by God.

Chapter As a Whole

4. Outline the chapter.

Once you’ve determined the main idea of each paragraph, you can outline the chapter quite easily. Look back at page 00 and copy the main theme of Romans 2 on the outline’s main point below (I.). Then add the paragraphs’ main ideas as subpoints. Remember, they don’t have to be complete sentences.

- I. _____
 - A. Judging others though sinning themselves (vv. 1–4)
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
 - E. _____

Technically it’s not good outlining protocol to have a Roman number I. with no II. But for our purposes here, don’t worry about that detail.

My Study Notes

Since this type of Bible study may be new to you, I've included notes from my own study of Romans. These notes are not here for an answer key; your answers do not have to match mine exactly. My study is included only to give you an idea of possible findings, precise word definitions, and other such things as you might like a little help with along the way.

I have used the King James Version for this study. You may use whatever version you or your parents choose. Just keep in mind that if you are using a different translation, the exact words you find in a verse may not match the words I list below. That's okay; they will probably be similar.

My Study of Romans 1

Chapter Themes: Paul's Apostleship; Man's Unrighteousness

Paragraph by Paragraph

1:1-7

1. Main Idea: Paul the apostle wrote this letter to the church at Rome.

2. Parts

- Repeated words

“Apostle/apostleship” (vv. 1, 5): a delegate, messenger, one sent forth with orders

“Called” (vv. 1, 6, 7): invited; divinely selected and appointed

3. Paul was called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, Whose holiness and resurrection showed He is the Son of God. Paul had preached the gospel of Jesus Christ to many Gentiles and nations. The Roman believers had believed this gospel and were called to be saints.

1:8-15

1. Main Idea: Paul prayed for the Roman believers and wanted to visit them.

2. Parts

- Repeated words

“Gospel” (vv. 9, 15): glad tidings

- Contrast

“Greeks” v. “Barbarians” (v. 14): either a Greek national or, in a broader sense, a

Gentile v. a Barbarian was any foreigner who spoke a strange language; i.e., didn't know the Greek language

“Wise” v. “unwise” (v. 14): skilled and learned; i.e., Greek philosophers v. unwise refers to not understood, unintelligible

3. Paul had heard of their faith and prayed constantly for them. He had been hoping to come for quite a while but had been prevented from coming to Rome. He wanted to encourage them in their faith by imparting to them a spiritual gift and would gain encouragement from them also, just as he had from other believers, whether Greeks or those of a strange language, those considered wise or unwise.

1:16, 17

1. Main Idea: The gospel reveals a righteousness that is from God through faith.

2. Parts

- Repeated words

“Faith” (repeated in verse 17): assurance, belief, conviction of the truth, trust

3. Paul was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ because it reveals a righteousness that is available from God and is based entirely on faith. Salvation through faith in the gospel is available for both the Jews and the Gentiles.

1:18–23

1. Main Idea: Mankind rejected God and chose to worship creatures rather than the Creator.

2. Parts

- Repeated words

“Foolish, fools” (vv. 21, 22): without understanding, stupid

“Unrighteousness” (repeated in v. 18): iniquity, unjust, wrong; violating law and justice

- Contrast

“Wise” v. “fools” (v. 22): skilled experts v. act foolishly

“Uncorruptible” (God) v. “corruptible” (man) (v. 23): immortal; not liable to decay v. perishing

- Series or List

Title: They made images that looked like (v. 23)

man

birds

beasts

creeping things.

3. God has revealed His power and deity through creation, but mankind has refused to acknowledge Him as God or glorify Him. Instead their hearts and minds have foolishly turned to worshiping the creation itself. They have rejected the

uncorruptible God in favor of images they made of corruptible man, of birds, beasts, and creeping things.

1:24–27

1. Main Idea: Mankind traded God's truth for a lie in their physical relationships with each other.

2. Parts

- Repeated words

“Gave them up/over” (vv. 24, 26): deliver, betray, give into the hands of another, permit, allow

- Cause and effect

“Wherefore” (v. 24): Cause—because they refused to acknowledge God as Creator; Effect—He gave them up to follow their sinful inclinations.

3. Because mankind refuses to acknowledge God and exchanges His truth for a lie, He allows them to follow their sinful desires of uncleanness and dishonor of their bodies. They have abandoned His plan for sexuality and turned to homosexuality instead.

1:28–32

1. Main Idea: Mankind pushed God out of their minds and practiced all kinds of unrighteousness.

2. Parts

- Series or List

Title: Those with a reprobate mind practiced (vv. 29–32)

all unrighteousness

fornication

wickedness

covetousness

maliciousness

full of envy

murder

debate

deceit

malignity

whisperers

backbiters

haters of God

despiteful

proud

boasters

inventors of evil things
disobedient to parents
without understanding
covenant-breakers
without natural affection
implacable
unmerciful

- Unknown words

reprobate (v. 28): “castaway, rejected, not standing the test, unfit”

malignity (v. 29): “bad character, malicious craftiness”

despiteful (v. 30): “injurious, insolent, insulting to others”

implacable (v. 31): “trucebreakers, cannot be persuaded to enter into a covenant”

3. Since mankind did not want to think about God, He gave them over to an unfit mind that thinks of all kinds of unrighteous actions and attitudes. (See list.) They know that those things deserve God’s judgment of death, but they continue to do them. In fact, they not only do those things themselves but take pleasure in other people doing them also.

Chapter As a Whole

4. Outline the chapter.

I. Paul’s Apostleship

A. Wrote this letter to the Romans (v. 1–7)

B. Longed to visit them in Rome (vv. 8–15)

C. Not ashamed of the gospel (vv. 16, 17)

II. Man’s Unrighteousness

A. Rejected God and worshiped His creation (vv. 18–23)

B. Perverted physical relationships (vv. 24–27)

C. Practiced all kinds of sinful actions and attitudes (vv. 28–32)

5. Notes from commentary reading.

- Paul wrote this letter at the close of his third missionary journey while he was in Corinth, Greece, around A.D. 57 or 58.

- “Unwise” in verse 14 has the significance of “uncultured.”

- “To the Jew first” in verse 16 denotes how Paul would preach to the Jews first in any city he entered. If they rejected the gospel, he would go to the Gentiles.

- To fully understand the gospel of Christ, one must first understand why man is under God’s condemnation.

Personal Observations

1:16—Paul was not ashamed of the gospel even though others rejected it. In what situations am I ashamed of the gospel of Christ?

1:20—Creation shows God’s “eternal power and Godhead.” Nature study will reinforce my faith in God. I should be careful not to worship nature itself but God Who created it and sustains it.

1:26, 27—Homosexuality is plainly described as against God’s plan.

1:30—We often think of disobedience to parents as a minor fault that we need to work on gently without hurting anyone’s feelings; yet “disobedient to parents” is listed along with terrible sins that are to be shunned, in fact, run away from. It is listed along with “haters of God”!

My Study of Romans 2

Chapter Theme: Self-Righteous People

Paragraph by Paragraph

2:1–4

1. Main Idea: Those who self-righteously pass judgment on others fail to realize that they are sinners themselves.

2. Parts

- Repeated words

“Judge/Judgment” (vv. 1, 2, 3): determine; condemn; pronounce an opinion concerning right and wrong

3. Those who pass judgment on others also pass judgment on themselves, for they do the same things they are condemning. God judges according to truth. Those who are self-righteous cannot assume that His kindness and patience excuses them. He is graciously waiting for them to repent.

2:5–11

1. Main Idea: God’s judgment does not show favoritism between Jew or Gentile.

2. Parts

- Contrast

Heart Attitude	Seek for glory, honor, immortality	Hard, impenitent heart
Deeds	Patient continuance in well-doing; doeth good	Contentious; do not obey the truth; obey unrighteousness; doeth evil
Result	Eternal life; glory, honor, peace	Indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish

3. God judges according to a person's heart attitude and resulting actions. Those who stubbornly disregard truth will reap tribulation and anguish. Those who seek for honorable things and think about the life to come, and show that attitude in patiently continuing to do good, will reap honor, glory, peace, and eternal life. God's judgment does not show favoritism between Jew or Gentile.

2:12-16

1. Main Idea: Possessing the law does not make a person right in God's eyes.

2. Parts

- Repeated words

“Law” [Strong's 460] (v. 12): without the law; lawlessly

“Law” [Strong's 3551] (vv. 12, 13, 14, 15): anything established; anything received by usage or custom, a command

“Sinned” (repeated within v. 12): trespass; offend; miss the mark; err

- Unknown words

“Justified” (v. 13): to render righteous such as he ought to be

3. Those who have God's law will be judged by that law. Those who do not have God's law still have a form of law written on their consciences. Both need to obey the law. Those who simply hear the law are not declared righteous before God. God will judge the secrets of men.

2:17-24

1. Main Idea: The Jews possessed God's law and judged people who didn't obey it, but disobeyed it themselves.

2. Parts

- Series or List

Title: What the Jews Called Themselves

Guide of the blind

Light of them in darkness

Instructor of the foolish

Teacher of babes

- Contrast

Verse	What They Said	What They Did
21	Teach others	Don't teach themselves
21	Don't steal	Steal
22	Don't commit adultery	Commit adultery
22	Abhor idols	Commit sacrilege
23	Boast about the law	Break the law and dishonor God

3. The Jews Paul mentioned felt secure that they had the law of God and boasted about possessing it and all it involved. They considered themselves teachers of those who didn't have the law. However, they were more concerned with talking about it than obeying it. They judged others who didn't obey it, but dishonored God themselves by their sin. Therefore, God's name was blasphemed among non-Jews because of those attitudes and behavior.

2:25–29

1. Main Idea: A physical outward action, like circumcision, does not guarantee that a person is right with God.

2. Parts

- Unknown words

“Circumcision” (vv. 25, 26, 27, 28, 29): removal of some or all of the foreskin from the penis

3. Circumcision does not automatically make a person right with God. Even if you have been circumcised, if you disobey the law you are still guilty. And those who keep the law, even if they are not circumcised, are innocent. Being a Jew is not just about outward actions but about the heart. Those whose hearts are right with God, whether circumcised or not, will be praised by God.

Chapter As a Whole

4. Outline the chapter.

I. Self-Righteous People

- A. Judging others though sinning themselves (vv. 1–4)
- B. God's impartiality in judging Jew and Gentile (vv. 5–11)
- C. Possessing the law does not make one right (vv. 12–16)
- D. Judging others though breaking the law (vv. 17–24)
- E. Outward actions do not make one right with God (vv. 25–29)

5. Notes from commentary reading.

- Reading chapter 1 may cause a person to think self-righteously, “Well, I don't do those kinds of things.” That's why Paul addressed this mind-set in chapter 2.
- God judgment is based on three standards: truth (vv. 2–4), impartiality (vv. 5–11), and Jesus Christ the perfect One (vv. 12–16).
- People despise God's kindness and patience because of their stubbornness (vv. 4, 5).
- Conscience is a good guide but not an infallible one (v. 15).

Personal Observations

2:1, 21, 22—I need to be careful about criticizing others, because I probably do or think the same thing.

2:4—I shouldn't take advantage of God's kindness, but value and appreciate it.

2:1-11—God judges rightly and fairly. I can trust Him to reward or punish correctly. He is not deceived by fakers.

2:11—If God does not show favoritism, I shouldn't either. I should show respect for all persons.

2:23, 24—It's easy to think that my sin is a personal affair. But my sin is a reflection upon my God. I don't want my life to make others think poorly of God.

2:29—My heart attitude is more important than my actions. I need to focus on having my heart right with God and my behavior will follow.

FOUNDATIONS in ROMANS

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