

1. The word “freedom” is one of the key words of the Book of Romans.
  
2. How will we use that freedom?
  - 1) Antinomianism (see Romans 3:6 ff and 6:1 and 15)
  
  - 2) Responsible use of our freedom to glorify God and build up the body of Christ
  
3. The Central Thought of Romans 14 and 15: “Accept one another just as Christ accepted you in order to bring praise to God.” (Romans 15:7)
  - 1) There are “gray” areas, things upon which Christians disagree.
  
  - 2) Two disputed areas in Paul’s day:
    - a) The eating of meat
  
    - b) The observance of Jewish feast days
  
  - 3) Practice the virtue of charity
    - a) Voluntary abstention even when you have freedom of conscience to do something
  
    - b) Obey your own convictions about a behavior without passing judgment on others who feel differently
  
  - 4) “Cultural” versus “Biblical” standards

4. Four mindsets with regards to “gray” areas:

1) Participating Mature Brother

2) Non-participating Mature Brother

3) Susceptible Weaker Brother

4) Professional Weaker Brother

1. Romans is a life-transforming book.
2. Paul is a theologian who never loses sight of the fact the Christianity is about real people.
3. Paul does not know many of his readers in Rome, but he does know the people listed below:
  - 5) Aquila and Priscilla - powerful advocates and friends of Paul
  - 6) Epaenetus - the first convert in the Province of Asia
  - 7) Mary - labored with Paul somewhere
  - 8) Andronicus, Junias, Herodian - Either relatives or just fellow Jews of Paul
  - 9) Phoebe
4. Andronicus and Junias are listed as apostles.
5. The church in Rome was really a group of house churches meeting in different homes throughout the city.
6. Woman had significant positions in the early church.
  - 1) Phoebe
  - 2) Priscilla
  - 3) Mary
  - 4) Tryphena
  - 5) Tryphosa
7. Remembering the Book of Romans:
  - 1) Chapter 1: All men began with a knowledge of God, but sin corrupts.
  - 2) Chapter 2: Just having special revelation is not sufficient to save.
  - 3) Chapter 3: Justification, redemption, propitiation
  - 4) Chapter 4: Justification illustrated by Abraham's life
  - 5) Chapter 5: Comparison of the "2 Adams"

6) Chapter 6: Freedom from sin

7) Chapter 7: Freedom from law

8) Chapter 8: Freedom from death

9) Chapter 9: Doctrine of Election

10) Chapter 10: Missions

11) Chapter 11: What will happen to the Jewish people?

12) Chapter 13: The Christian's relationship to civil authority

13) Chapters 14 and 15: Stronger and weaker brothers/acceptance

14) Chapter 16: Paul's personal greetings

8. The Romans Road - a valuable tool for understanding and for witnessing

1) Romans 3:23 - We are all personally guilty of sinning.

2) Romans 5:8 - God took the initiative.

3) Romans 6:37 - The free gift of eternal life

4) Romans 10:9 - Confess and believe.

1. These Psalms (5, 14, 15, 36, 53, 58) focus on the attributes and actions of men, rather than God.
  
2. Why did we read these Psalms together?
  - 1) Psalms 5, 14, 36 and 53 are all quoted in Romans 3 by Paul.
  
  - 2) Psalm 15 stands as a contrast to Psalm 14.
  
  - 3) Psalm 58 contains a seed thought to help us understand the nature of man.
  
3. All human beings are sinners.
  
4. Psalm 5: The marked contrast between corrupt man and a faithful God
  
5. Evildoers are ‘thoroughly corrupt’.
  
6. Psalm 58 contains an “imprecatory” passage.
  - 1) The wicked are born with a sin nature.
  
  - 2) It hints that sin is a universal problem.
  
7. Psalms 14 and 53: “There is no one who does good...”
  
8. Summary of what both the Psalmist and the Apostle say about sin:

- 1) Totally pervasive
- 2) Completely extensive
- 3) Degenerative
- 4) Innate
- 5) Terminal

9. How serious is sin in human society?

10. Psalms 14 and 15 contrast the man in sin (14) and the righteous man (15).

11. David and Paul agree that no one can ever keep the law.

12. If anyone is to be justified before God, it will be on the basis of an “imputed” righteousness, not his or her own.

13. Psalm 58:3 - Babies are born with a sin nature.

- 1) We have Biblical grounds for great confidence with regard to our children who die very young.
  - a) David and Bathsheba’s baby (2 Samuel 12:23)
  - b) John 9:41
  - c) I Corinthians 7
- 2) We have great incentives for bringing them early to personal faith in Christ

1. Judges 1:1-3:6 is the prologue of the book.

2. The Six Major judges:

- 4) Othniel
- 5) Ehud
- 6) Deborah
- 7) Gideon
- 8) Jephthah
- 9) Samson

3. Judges were deliverers raised up by the Spirit of God to accomplish redemption for God's covenant people.

4. The Hebrew Bible is divided into three sections: The Law, The Prophets and the Writings. The Book of Judges is in The Prophets.

5. Introduction to the Book of Judges

- 1) The tribes of Israel failed to completely drive out the inhabitants of Canaan.
  - a) It was disobedience, not inability, that caused the failure.
    - i. They enslaved them instead.
    - ii. They allowed them to resettle.
    - iii. God never requires of us what he does not then give us the ability to do.
    - iv. They thought they had improved upon God's plan.
    - v. Their problems during this long period of the judges was due to incomplete obedience.

- 2) The Lord is The Sovereign Lord of history.
  - a) He is controlling what is happening due to their disobedience.
  - b) When a nation stops acknowledging God, He allows them to get into trouble to get their attention.
- 3) The encounter with the angel at Bokim
  - a) The angel may have been a preincarnate appearance of Christ.
  - b) He confronts them with their sinfulness.
  - c) They weep and sacrifice but they do not change.

#### 6. Remember!

- 1) Parents, teach and children, listen to what God has done.
- 2) Failure to intentionally remember:
  - a) We forget.
  - b) We stop giving God thanks.
  - c) We do evil.
  - d) We fall into idolatry.

#### 7. The cycle portrayed in the introduction and played out many times in the Book of Judges:

Israel forgets God >>> Israel forsakes God >>> Israel worships other gods >>> God sends judgment upon Israel >>> Israel cries out to God >>> God raises up a deliverer >>> God saves Israel >>> Israel pledges to serve God >>> Israel forgets God >>>...

#### 8. If we are on that same treadmill, studying the Book of Judges may help to get us off it!



1. Judges 3, 4 and 5 - Othniel, Ehud, Shamgar, Barak and Deborah
2. The writing of this book is traditionally attributed to Samuel.
3. The pattern is established very quickly:
  - 1) "Israel did evil in the eyes of the Lord..."
  - 2) Judgment followed
  - 3) Israel cried out to God
  - 4) God raised up a deliverer
  - 5) The land had peace for a period of time
  - 6) "Israel did evil in the eyes of the Lord..."

This pattern does not only apply to Israel before 1000 B.C.

4. Ehud's left-handedness
5. God's first priority in times of spiritual decline is to raise up godly leaders.
  - 1) The church is only as godly as its leaders.
  - 2) God chooses the leaders.
  - 3) God makes leaders.
    - a) Leaders are people who want to influence others by the power of the lives they lead, by example.
    - b) They have a passion for the glory of God.
    - c) They are willing to take great risks.
      - i. They have understood the mind of God.
      - ii. They know God will act on behalf of His people.
  - 4) Leaders in the church today:
    - a) You need to know what God's plan for you and your church is.
    - b) You need to believe God will do it.
    - c) You need to risk whatever you have to in order to act on the promises God.