

Romans Bible Study

*Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Discipleship Training*

How to participate in the "Romans Bible Study":


1. Live Stream: <https://www.emmanuelc.org>
2. Facebook Live
3. Zoom:
 - Meeting ID: 828 593 5649
 - Passcode: 45440

Mosaic Series - Emmanuel Lutheran Church Discipleship Date: 11/12/2020 Slide: #8

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Romans Bible Study

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Romans

Week 8 – United to Christ by Baptism (5:18-6:23)

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Romans Bible Study

Objectives

1. Grow in our understanding of, and appreciation for, how Holy Baptism unites us to Christ
2. Let our union with Christ strengthen us in our battle against sin

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Mankind Restored (5:18-21)

3. Chapters 5 and 6 demonstrate God cares about physical "stuff"
 - A. We are not Gnostics
 - B. Incarnation: The "en-fleshing" of the Word ("we touched with our hands" - 1 Jn 1:1)
 - C. Corruption: The decaying of tangible material
 - D. Resurrection: Real tomb, true body and soul
 - E. Baptism: Real water; sensible

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Mankind Restored (5:18-21)

Q2:

Do you sometimes see, in the world and even in Christianity, a denial that physical "stuff" matters? How can Romans help you respond?



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United to Christ by Baptism (6:1-23)

1. In baptism, you are made one with Christ
 - A. His death is yours (6:3, 4)
 - B. His Resurrection is yours (6:4)
2. Our union with Christ and His Resurrection necessarily mean we now walk "in newness of life" (6:4)

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United to Christ by Baptism (6:1-23)

3. The union of faith (Christ present in faith)
4. The mystical union (Christ in us, we in Christ)
5. Baptism is Paul's reason for why we should no longer "live in sin" (6:2)

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United to Christ by Baptism (6:1-23)

6. The physical reality of baptism reflects the true, physical reality of our union with Christ (6:5-14)
 - A. Luther: The drowning of our "old man" is a daily reality
 - B. Christ's real, bodily resurrection means death no longer has dominion over our bodies

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United to Christ by Baptism (6:1 – 23)

7. Freedom from accusation of the law (6:14)
 - A. No longer slaves to sin, but slaves to righteousness
 - B. Eternal life in Christ is a free gift

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United to Christ by Baptism (6:1 – 23)

Q3:

Does your baptism give you comfort in your daily life?

Do you think about it?




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Week 8 – The law and sin in the Christian life (7:1-25)

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Objectives

1. Grow in our understanding of how God's law impacts us
2. Grow in appreciation for the helps we have in the fight against sin

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The 3 uses/functions of the law

1. First use: Curb
2. Second use: Accusation (7:7)
3. Third use: Guide (7:14, 15, 19, 22)
4. The 3 uses of the law are a reality in the Christian life


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Romans Bible Study

The 3 uses/functions of the law

Q1:
How do you see the 3 uses of the law playing out practically in the Christian life?



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The law, the flesh, and sin

1. For those in the flesh, sinful passions are exacerbated by the law (7:5)
 - A. Natural law: Revisited (cf Ch 1)
 - B. The flesh/body weakened due to the fall
 - Sarx-soma distinction
 - Death and corruption a reality

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The law, the flesh, and sin

2. The law is *not* sin (7:7, 12)
 - A. The problem lies not in the law, but in fallen man
 - B. The law is holy and good (reflects God's being)
 - C. The problem of antinomianism

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The law, the flesh, and sin

Q2:

How can we work against the pitfall of antinomianism, but also avoid legalism?

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The Christian fight against sin

1. Romans 7:15-25
2. The law of the mind (7:23, 25)
 - A. The mind transformed by Christ
 - B. Knowledge of the will of God
 - C. Serving God in the "new way of the Holy Spirit" (7:6)

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The Christian fight against sin

3. The law of sin in our members (7:23, 25)
4. Union with Christ effects a real change in the mind, will, and body

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Practical implications:

1. Assistance in the fight
2. The Divine Service
 - A. Confession and Absolution
 - B. Increased knowledge of God's will (Old-Testament and Epistle lessons, Gospel, sermon)
 - C. Holy Communion: What better aid in the fight against sinful flesh than the body of Christ Himself?

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Practical implications:

3. Real interaction in the Christian community: Mutual conversation/consolation of the brethren

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Practical implications:

Q3:

What are some other practical considerations you've gained from experience?




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Week 8 – Walking in Newness of Life (8:1 - 39)

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Objectives

1. Understand how and why we are no longer condemned
2. Gain a working knowledge of St. Paul's flesh-Spirit distinction

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No condemnation!

1. In Christ (8:1)
2. The limitations of the law (8:3)
 - A. Weakened through our flesh (Again: the problem is not with the law; it's with us)
 - B. Cannot give new life

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No condemnation!

3. Christ: The solution to the law's limitations (8:3)
 - A. Christ sent "in the likeness of sinful flesh" (8:3)
 - Christ Himself is sinless
 - Christ took our sins into Himself, in the flesh (cf. Peter: "He bore our sins in His body on the tree" (1 Pt 2:24))
 - B. Sin condemned in Christ's flesh

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Righteous requirement of the law

1. Flesh vs Spirit: The realm of the mind

<u>Flesh</u>	<u>Spirit</u>
Condemned by law	Fulfill law
Death	Life and Peace
Hostile to God	Pleasing to God

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Righteous requirement of the law

2. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ (8:9)
 - A. "Filioque" - "And the son" (Nicene Creed)
 - B. Synonymous with "Spirit of God" (8:9)
 - C. Union with Christ means Christ and His Spirit are in us (8:9-11)
 - The Holy Spirit connects Christ's Resurrection to our resurrection
 - The Holy Spirit gives life to our mortal bodies (8:11)

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Adoption makes us heirs (8:12-17)

1. "Abba! Father" (8:15)
2. The life of suffering
 - A. In the present
 - All of creation waits to be released from corruption (cf Ch 1)
 - We have the firstfruits
 - B. Awaiting the redemption of our bodies
 - The resurrection of our bodies will be real
 - The resurrection gives us hope

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Predestining gives comfort in suffering

1. St. Paul does not deal with predestination in the abstract
 - A. Always with regard to Christ (e.g., predestined "in Christ," "to be conformed to Christ," etc)
 - B. Always as pastoral encouragement to churches dealing with real issues
 - C. Context is key: Here, the context regards suffering

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Predestining gives comfort in suffering

2. Predestination connected to God's election (cf Ch 9-11)
3. The Christian should not despair in suffering! God reigns (8:31-39)

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