

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

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"Mosaic Series"**



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

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No condemnation! (Continued)

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

Flesh	Spirit
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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Christ and the True Israel (9:1 – 11:36)

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Objectives

1. Understand St. Paul's view of the relationship between Israel and the Gentiles
2. Understand St. Paul's view of the relationship between Israel and the Church
3. Gain a working knowledge of how St. Paul understands the concepts of God's election and predestination

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Ch 9–11 Not just a "parenthesis!"

1. Paul's declaration of God's grace drives the question: What about Israel?
2. God does not forget His promises
3. God's Word has not failed

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The True Israel (9:6 – 13)

1. Fleshly lineage does not define Israel
 - A. Being Abraham's descendent does not make a child of God
 - B. The True Israel are the children of the promise "so that it might depend on faith" (cf Ch 4)
 - C. Fleshly lineage vs faith (9:8)

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The True Israel (9:6 – 13)

2. Israel and God's mercy (9:14 – 24)

- A. All are fully reliant on God's mercy
- B. The remnant preserved by grace

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The True Israel (9:6 – 13), cont'd

1. In Christ, Gentiles are now part of the true Israel (9:24 – 33)

- A. "Physical" Israel has stumbled, pursuing righteousness by the law
- B. Israel obtains righteousness by faith in Christ, the True Israel


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Question 1

How does the physical nation of Israel, especially as described in the Old Testament scriptures, help reveal God's grace?



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"The Cross of Theologians"

- "Why are some saved, and others not?"
 - Potential answer #1: God
 - Double predestination
 - "To the glory of God"
 - Historical examples: The Reformed branch of the Reformation (Presbyterian, Reformed Baptist)

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"The Cross of Theologians"

- "Why are some saved, and others not?"
 - Potential answer #2: Man
 - Synergism (2 efficient causes in conversion)
 - Historical examples: Church bodies focused on the power of fallen man's will in conversion

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"Crux Theologorum," cont'd

- "Why are some saved, and not others?"
 - Correct answer: It's actually 2 separate questions!
 - Why are some saved? God
 - Why are some not saved? Man
 - Mystery and paradox
 - Formula of Concord, Article XI: "Hidden" vs "Revealed" God


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Question 2

Does God's election give you comfort?



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True Israel trusts in Christ

1. Read: (10:1–11:10)
2. Righteousness by the law vs righteousness of faith (10:5 – 11)

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True Israel trusts in Christ

3. No distinction between Jew and Greek (10:12-17)
4. Physical Israel's rejection of the Christ (10:21-11:10)
 - A. The remnant
 - B. "The rest were hardened" (11:7)

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Israel's Restoration in Christ

1. Read: 11:11 – 36
2. Israel's rejection of th Christ has led to salvation for the world (11:11, 15)
3. Paul's ministry to the Gentiles and Israel's jealousy

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Israel's Restoration in Christ

4. Natural branches and the "wild olive shoot" (11:17 – 24)
 - A. Natural branches broken off due to unbelief (Note: Not just by God's abstract/arbitrary predestining)
 - B. Natural branches can be grafted in again by faith in Christ
5. "God has consigned all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all" (11:32)


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Question 3

Does this section of Romans expand your understanding of Israel and the Church? If so, how?




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Christians in the Church and World (Ch 12 – 14)

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Objectives

1. Understand how Christians interact with one another
2. Understand how Christians interact with the world

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Imperatives: Christian in Community

1. Read 12:1-21
2. 3rd Use of the Law: Revisited
3. Our bodies to be presented as living sacrifices (12:1)

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Imperatives: Christian in Community

4. Our minds to be renewed (12:2)
5. Gifts given to persons by the grace of God are to be utilized as "members to a body"


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Question 1

What are some ways in which we present our bodies as living sacrifices?



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God's authority Exercised (by man)

1. Read Romans 13:1-7
2. First Principle: All authority derives from THE authority (God)
 - A. Adam and Eve in the garden
 - B. Christ's own exalted and glorified human nature given authority in time (Matthew 28:18) (the communication of attributes)

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God's authority Exercised (by man)

2. First Principle: All authority derives from THE authority (God)

C. Human government institutions

- God sees fit to maintain order in the world through human gov't
- Resisting authorities (who are acting morally) is resisting God's authority

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God's authority Exercised (by man)

3. Human authority must conform to and promote the good (13:3, 4)

A. Implication: Immoral gov't action can be challenged within reason

B. The Christian cannot cooperate with the gov't in evil (i.e., acts that harm the good)

C. Submission is not "blind," nor lazy


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Question 2

How do you receive Paul's instructions about Christians and human government?



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Causing one another to stumble

1. Read Romans 14:1-23
2. Food, drink, days
3. Passing judgment
4. Christianity is not an independent, individualistic pursuit
5. "Whatever does not proceed from faith is sin" (14:23)


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Question 3

How can we help one another to ensure we aren't causing other Christians to stumble?



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