

**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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**Romans Bible Study**

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
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The law and sin in the Christian life (7:1-25)

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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"

1. "Why are some saved, and others not?"
  - A. 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

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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

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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

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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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### Romans

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

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



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