

NT Reading Plan 2020

Living Hope Fellowship
Romans 1-2

Beginning & End

Take some time to read the first paragraph of Romans (1:1-7) and the last paragraph (16:25-27) side by side. It's helpful to have two Bibles of the same translation so you can flip back and forth. When coming to a new book, it's helpful to know what the author is trying to communicate by looking at his introduction and conclusion (remember they wrote for a purpose).

1. What similarities can you find between these paragraphs?

The Gospel

Romans is Paul's most systematic treatment of what the gospel is, possibly because he had never been to this church before to teach them personally.

2. What does God use to save people in 1:16?

3. Who promised the gospel long ago (1:1-2)?

4. What is the gospel?

The Scriptures

Note how the gospel was promised by God, through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son, Jesus (1:1-3).

5. What Scriptures does Paul refer to where God made these promises in the past?

6. What does that tell you about how you should read the Old Testament?

The Obedience of Faith

Paul uses this unusual turn of phrase in the opening and closing of this letter. He is clear in Romans that obedience (works) does not save us.

7. What is the relationship between obedience and faith?

Creator & Creation

Paul highlights man's essential problem: He knows God but does not want God (1:21). Man exchanges God the Creator for something God has created. This is not simply a Gentile problem but a universal problem for all peoples.

8. What is it called when we worship something God has created?

Unrighteousness & Wrath

Paul exposes the universal sinfulness of mankind in the first two and half chapters of Romans. The reality is that everyone, because we are sinners, naturally loves the opposite of godliness and practices the opposite of righteousness, therefore mankind deserves the wrath of God (1:18).

9. Is there anywhere/anyone else God has determined to pour out his wrath on except for

sinful humanity?

Truth

Sinful man knows many things about God through nature but still wants to suppress that truth about God in order to pursue the evil passions of his life. Romans will make it clear that the revelation of God through nature makes all men accountable to God and their rejection of that truth is enough to warrant condemnation from God. But that revelation is not enough to save sinners.

10. If truth about God can be found in nature but still not save, where do we find the revelation of God which *can* save sinners (see 1:1-2; 10:8-17)?

Law

While chapter 1 tells us that everyone has the testimony of God in nature, chapter 2 instructs us that everyone everywhere has the Law of God, whether on stone tablets or the tablet of the human heart. Therefore, there's no excuse for people in their sin. They are guilty of breaking God's law.

11. How can a lawbreaker be made righteous before God?

The Nations

Paul shares a passion of his in this letter to the Roman church: the desire to proclaim Jesus in far reaching places around the world. Paul had never been to Rome when he writes this letter (see 1:12-13), yet he desired to get there so he could go on to Spain where Jesus hadn't been preached before (see 15:24, 28). The gospel is good news to both Jew and Gentile and Romans emphasizes this global mission.

12. What is one way you see Paul develop the relationship between Jews and Gentiles in these first two chapters?