

2020 NT Reading Plan

Living Hope Fellowship
Romans 10-16

What about Israel?

Has God rejected his people Israel (11:1)? Paul anticipates the question many would ask in light of the emphatic teaching of chapter 8, namely that in Christ, there is no condemnation before God nor will there be any separation. But what about the Jews who continue to reject Christ? What would God do with his people whom he chose? Chapters 9-11 reveal God's ongoing plan for Israel. Paul himself is an Israelite whom God saved, illustrating God has not rejected his people, though they have come under a partial hardening of heart.

1. How is God using the Gentiles to reach Israel?
2. Are Gentiles included in the people of God? How?

Gospel Application

Chapter 12 marks a transition in Romans from doctrinal teaching (the first 11 chapters) to the application of doctrine for the remaining 5 chapters. 12:1-2 stand at the head of this section as a summary of the many commands that follow. Paul tells you how to give yourself as a living sacrifice to God and discern his will in chapters 12-16.

3. What is the motivation for applying the gospel, not just learning about it (you can find it in 12:1)?

Eating & Drinking

The New Covenant inaugurated through the blood (sacrifice) of Jesus Christ changed everyone's relationship to the Law of Moses. Food that was "unclean" was once expressly forbidden in former times but was now perfectly acceptable to eat. Still, some would have consciences which did not permit them to eat once forbidden foods. Similarly, some may still have assign a special place for the Sabbath above other days. Note that the groups in chapter 14 are

4. If the kingdom isn't about what foods you eat or don't eat, if it's not about whether you drink alcohol or abstain, then what is it about? What should you be pursuing?

Others First

By nature, we are selfish people. In Christ, we become new creations and the sin of selfishness begins to be whittled away. If you are not actively rooting this out in your life, you are not paying attention to these chapters!

5. How many commands can you find in these chapters that call Christians to put others above themselves?

Missions

6. Why had Paul been hindered from getting to Rome (see 15:22 in context)?
7. Where did Paul want to go after Rome? Why?

Greetings

Remember that Paul had never been to Rome so he had not personally visited the church there (or more likely the multiple house churches). But how is it that Paul knew so many people from the Roman church? 37 individuals are listed in Romans 16 (many from the church in Rome) as well as multiple families and churches. These people were traveling around the Mediterranean remembered one another.

8. What do these many greetings tell us about fellowship among Christians in the first century?