

Victoria Fellowship Church
International & Interdenominational
Bible Study Worksheet – September 24, 2023

Theme: The power of God at work in us **Topic:** Review of the Book of Romans.

Main Texts: Romans 1:16-17

Key verse: Romans 1:17 *‘For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”* (NIV)

INTRODUCTION: Several Bible scholars have attempted to describe the book of Romans. Some have called it “The Constitution of Christianity,” “The Christian Manifesto.” It is undoubtedly the most complete compilation of Christian doctrine. It is noteworthy to see how the book starts and ends with the gospel of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:5, 16; 16:25). This gospel of Jesus Christ is God’s saving power to anyone who trusts in Christ. And it is not limited by geography, class, ethnicity, or education level. It is for everyone who is prepared to acknowledge their sin and rebellion and turn in trusting faith to Christ. So, the gospel of Jesus Christ is the first key message of the book of Romans.

1. **(a) Romans 3:23 points to sin as man’s greatest problem. Let participants identify the words used to describe this problem in Romans 1:18-24. What do these words tell you about the nature of man’s problem? (b) Apart from causing us occasionally to make bad decisions or other mistakes, sin infects all that we are and do - mind, heart, and will. How does this help you see the nature of the needed cure for sin? (c) According to Romans 6:6, how does Jesus’ work on the cross constitute God’s power to solve man’s greatest problem? See also Colossians 2:11-13.**

The letter to the Romans tells us about the greatest solution (Christ) to the greatest problem (sin) ever, in the world. The book also shows us how this remedy is available to the greatest diversity of people the world could ever produce, everyone! And as Romans 6:23 puts it, this Solution is God’s gift of grace to whosoever. Strangely though, there are more people in the world today who have not received this vital cure than at any other time in human history. Meanwhile, God simplified matters such that faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ is all that one needs, both for salvation and for the Christian life. This is another point Romans emphasizes repeatedly.

2. **(a) According to Romans 10:3, what is the major obstacle preventing many from accessing God’s gift of grace in Christ? (b) How does this obstacle in (a) align with God’s provision according to Romans 1:17 & 3:22? (c) Romans 1:17 & Habakkuk 2:4 say that ‘... the righteous will live by faith...’ How relevant is this for salvation and for the Christian life? See also Galatians 2:20.**

So, God the Father solves the human dilemma by sending God the Son and applying the benefits of the Son’s achievement by God the Holy Spirit. Despite this comprehensive solution to the world’s greatest problem, Christians all over the world still wrestle with political, social, economic, and other problems. Since God doesn’t whisk every believer off to heaven upon saving faith, He calls us to faithfully engage our world, courageously representing Christ and the gospel in all the various arenas of life. An example of this is the admonition to believers to submit to the government that God has placed over them (Romans 13:1–7). It is important to note that the admonition to believers in the book of Romans does not address the fundamental political or social problems. Rather, it highlights the very human heart that makes such political or social problems arise. This realization, as Apostle Paul would say, ‘knowing this ...’ will prepare us to gladly surrender our lives as living sacrifices in heartfelt appreciation of the grace of God and our God of grace (Romans 12:1). In making obedience a lifestyle, we give the world a chance to see the new life which God is creating in us through His Holy Spirit.

3. **(a) Romans 1-3 clearly show us that our (im)morality does not earn God’s favor to accomplish the salvation that our sinfulness needs. According to Romans 6:1-7; 12:1-2, why then does God require believers to live obedient lives? (b) According to Romans 5:1-5, what benefits are there for us in the challenges we face living in a fallen world? (c) Let a few participants share one key highlight from Romans and how it is changing their attitudes and lives.**

Prayer: *Our dear heavenly Father, we thank You for Jesus Christ through whom You revealed Your righteousness and made it available to us. Help us to daily hold on to Your grace to us in Christ as we seek to represent Him faithfully to the world around us through our lives and message. Amen.*