

October

Romans

- October 1.** Romans 1:1-7—Not Ashamed of the Gospel - What is “the Gospel”? Since Paul has not “met” these Christians (yet), how does he introduce this letter to them? (Note the repetition of “called” – why is this significant?)
- October 2.** Romans 1:8-17 – The Powerful Gospel - Why does Paul want to visit Rome? How are people of faith “mutually encouraged”? What is meant by “a harvest among you”? What does that mean for us today? Why might Paul be “ashamed of the Gospel”? Why might we be “ashamed of the Gospel”? Note: v.17 – better translation: “from faith to faith” – only faith can receive the righteousness from God and only by faith are we blessed by it. Read also Habakkuk 1 & 2, especially 2:4.
- October 3.** Romans 1:18-23—The Wrath of God - What a contrast with the preceding verses! From the righteousness from God to the wrath of God! Why this wrath of God? How is the truth being “suppressed” today? (v.18)
- October 4.** Romans 1:24-32 – God gave them over... - What does it mean “God gave them over...”? (v.24, 26, 28) How is this a most important warning also today? How do those who promote homosexuality understand “natural relations” in these verses / or do they? What does it say to those who know it’s a sin and continue to do it, even promoting it to others?
- October 5.** Romans 2:1-16—No Excuse - Why are we so quick to pass judgment on others? Why are we so blind to our own sins? How does God’s kindness (v.4) lead us to repentance? How does a person “store up wrath”? (v.6) How can a person “do good”? (v.10) What IF “God showed favoritism”? What is our conscience and why is it such a blessing from God? How is it misused?
- October 6.** Romans 2:17-29—True Jews - Insert “Lutheran” for “Jew” in these verses. What important message does this say to us today? How is “God’s name blasphemed among the unbelievers” because of we Lutherans today? What would be the equivalent to “circumcision” as far as these words of instruction for us Lutherans – today? What is “circumcision of the heart”?
- October 7.** Romans 3:1-8—God’s Faithfulness - What advantage is there to being a Jew? a “Lutheran”? Why do the human arguments fall apart when dealing with God’s judgments and His righteousness / faithfulness?
- October 8.** Romans 3:9-20 – No one righteous – What causes us to think that we are better than others? What “silences” every mouth? Why is the phrase “declared righteous” of such importance? Rather than being saved by observing the Law, what is the Law’s purpose?
- October 9.** Romans 3:21-31—Righteousness by Faith - How does “the righteousness from God come through faith”? In v.25 – what is “atonement” / “propitiation”? Why is it so important (and such good news!) to know that God is just and the One who justifies? How do we “uphold the law”? (v.31)
- October 10.** Romans 4:1-12—Example of Abraham - Abraham is the “father” of Jews and Muslim (Issac and Ishmael) – how can we share these verses with those who are Muslim? How would our relationship with God be totally different if it were “under obligation” rather than “credited as righteousness”? (v.4-5) What important principle (truth) is God’s Word teaching in “credited before circumcision”? (v.9-12)
- October 11.** Romans 4:13-25 – The Promise Comes by Faith - What is the relationship between “law” and “faith”? between “grace” and “guaranteed”? (v.16) between “hope” and “faith”? (v.18-21) How can Abraham be “the father of all”? How is this VERY different from Abraham being the father of the Muslims (through Ishmael) and the Jews (through Isaac)? What does it mean “credited it to him as righteousness”?
- October 12.** Romans 5:1-8—Peace with God - What is the “therefore”, there for? (v.1) Why and how do we live in joy? What reminders do we have when our life (the lives of our loved ones) seems to be without joy? After reading chapters 1-4, how is this such good news that “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”? (v.8)
- October 13.** Romans 5:9-21 - What is the “how much more”? (v.9) What is “reconciliation”? (v.11) Why is this so very necessary? Another “therefore” (v.12)! What is the importance of knowing about Adam and Christ? What is different about “the time of Adam to the time of Moses”? (v.14) How is “the gift” different from “the trespass”? (v.15-17) Why was “the law added”? (v.20) What is the benefit of this ? (v.20-21)

- October 14.** Romans 6:1-14—Dead and Alive - How do we answer the statement: “God loves to forgive, I love to sin – what a great relationship!”? What resurrection is Paul referring to in v.5? How does a person “offer the parts of their body to sin”? What does life look like when “sin is your master”?
- October 15.** Romans 6:15-23—Wages and Gifts - How are we “set free” to become a “slave”? What is a “slave to righteousness”? Is this good or bad? What excuses do people use to justify their sinful life, habits, decisions? What “benefits” do they reap? How is sin still our master if we live under Law rather than grace? Why does Paul write about “wages” and “gift”?
- October 16.** Romans 7:1-6—Illustrations from marriage - How does this illustration of marriage further emphasize the dying and new life through our baptism into Christ? Before faith, who were we “married” to? Now, through faith, what has changed? What is the point being made with the example of marriage?
- October 17.** Romans 7:7-25 – Struggling with sin - Why would someone ask, “Is the law sin”? How is sin “dead” apart from the Law? What struggles do all Christians experience? What if they are not experiencing this struggle? What rescue do we have? How are the Law and Commandments that condemn us “holy, righteous and good”? How do these verses give a most important message to those who say “just try harder”? How does this also describe the spiritual warfare constantly going on in a Christian’s life?
- October 18.** Romans 8:1-27—The Mind Controlled By? - We are guilty, but why is there “no longer any condemnation”? What makes the law “powerless”? How is Jesus always the answer? How does a person live “according to the Spirit”? What is “the spirit of sonship”? (v.15) How wide-spread was the Fall into sin? What is “hope”? What comfort can we share with someone who says, “I don’t know how to pray!”? Why does the Spirit “intercede for us with groans that words cannot express”?
- October 19.** Romans 8:28-39 – God is for us – How can we “know” this? What does it mean to be “foreknown; predestined; conformed”? What is the answer to “who shall separate us from the love of Christ”? (look back at v.13) How is it that we are “more than conquerors”? Why are so many people “separated from the love of God”?
- October 20.** Romans 9:1-18 —God’s Sovereign Choice - What advantage did the Jewish people have over the Gentiles? What is the difference between “natural children” and “children of promise”? Who are “Abraham’s offspring”? Why is this important? What does it mean “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated”? What do these verses teach us about God’s “choosing” / election? Does v. 18 teach “double predestination”? (answer – no, keep reading!)
- October 21.** Romans 9:19-33 – The potter and the clay – What is the answer to “who can resist God’s will”? How exclusive was God’s call to the Jewish nation? How is “righteousness” to be pursued? Who is the “stumbling stone”? Why is this?
- October 22.** Romans 10:1-13 —Mouth and Heart - How is Christ “the end of the law”? What is “the righteousness of the law”? What is the “righteousness by faith”? How is a person saved? What is the natural response to being saved? What does it mean to “call on the name of the Lord”?
- October 23.** Romans 10:14-21 – Hear and believe – What makes “beautiful feet”? Why is it that all who hear the Word don’t accept it? Whose fault is it, when some refuse to believe and trust in Jesus?
- October 24.** Romans 11:1-21—Jews and Gentiles - Who are “the remnant chosen by grace”? When is “grace” no longer “grace”? (v.6) With v.7-8, this is NOT “God saves some and hardens others” – read the context of this quote in Deut. 29! What good news is this for the Gentiles? How does Paul use this for the benefit of “his people”, the Jews? Branches grafted on can also be broken off again – what is Paul’s warning?
- October 25.** Romans 11:22-36 – All Israel will be saved - What is the purpose of God’s kindness? His sternness? How do we receive mercy? What does it mean “God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable”? What does disobedience have to do with mercy? What is the answer to the questions in this beautiful doxology (v.33-36)?
- October 26.** Romans 12:1-8 —Living Sacrifices - Why are we to “offer our bodies as living sacrifices”? What is a “living sacrifice”? How are we “living sacrifices”? What “gifts” has God given to you?
- October 27.** Romans 12:9-21 – Live at Peace - Wow, what a list of imperatives (v.9-21) – what a blessing to be led by God to live them!
- October 28.** Romans 13:1-14—Submit in Love - The government in Paul’s day was anti-Christian – yet what is God’s Word to us? How does this apply to us today? Do you believe what v.4 says? What is it that we “owe”? (v.7) And then the “continuing debt” (v.8)! How are we to “wake up”? (v.11-12) What is “the armor of light”? (see v.13-14)

- October 29.** Romans 14:1-23—Stop Passing Judgment - What is our responsibility to those whose faith is weak? In v.4, who is the servant, who is the Master? What does it mean to do these things “to the Lord”? (v.6-8) What are some “stumbling blocks” that may be in our “brother’s way”? On the other hand, what are some things that may prevent “peace and mutual edification”? (v.19) What is meant: “everything that does not come from faith is sin”? (v.23)
- October 30.** Romans 15:1-33—Overflow with Hope - Who are strong? Who are weak? How has Christ accepted the Jews? Gentiles? Why does the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace? (v.15) Why is Paul finally planning to come to Rome? (v.17-23) How would the Roman Christians “assist Paul on his journey”? (v.24) What was Paul’s prayer request? (v.30-32)
- October 31.** Romans 16:1-27—Wise and Innocent - Why this list of personal names and requests? Since Paul had not yet been to Rome, how would he know so many people to send his greetings? See v.22 – who was Paul’s “secretary”? We had the beautiful benediction in 11:33-36 and another in v.25-27!