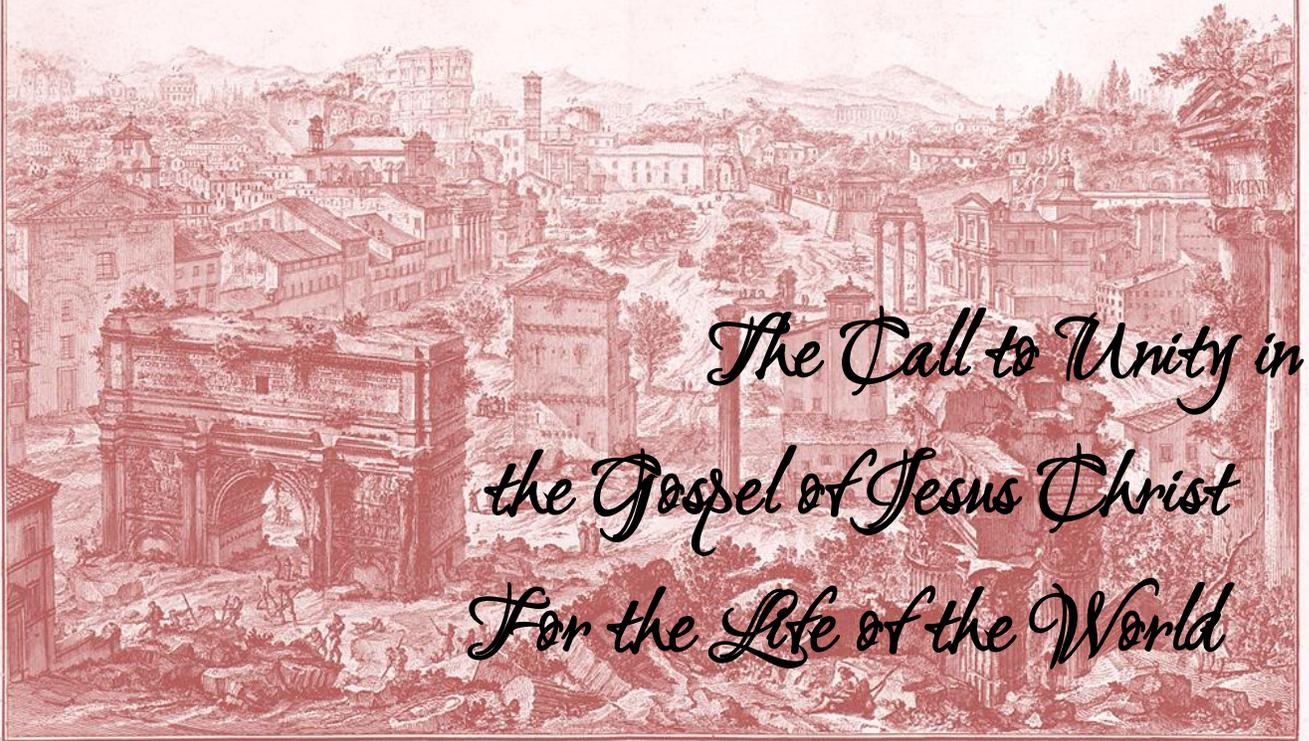


Paul's Letter to the Romans



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4. Vestigio di Mura di Adriano
5. Tempio di Antonino e Faustina
6. Tempio di Romolo e Remo, ora di S. Costanza e S. Costantino
7. S. Maria in Campo Vaccino
8. Arco di Tito
9. Vestigio del Palazzo de' Vecchi, nel Palazzo
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Giovanni Battista Piranesi's *Veduta di Campo Vaccino*, 1775



CHRIST COMMUNITY
CHURCH
Changed Hearts. Changed Lives. Changed Community.

Paul's Letter to the Romans

*The Call to Unity in
the Gospel of Jesus Christ
For the Life of the World*

Part 1: Romans 1-5

Introduction

Paul's Letter to the Romans is well known for its clear theological argument for salvation in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone. Martin Luther boldly declares:

This Epistle is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but occupy (themselves) with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much, and the more it is dealt with the more precious it becomes, and the better it tastes.¹

From the foundation of this clear theological argument, Romans offers a pastoral plea for this theology to unify God's people in how they live for the life of the world.² We make a critical mistake when we divorce theology from its intended purpose to shape our lives into the image of Christ. Unfortunately, this particular mistake tore apart the diverse Roman church from the inside out. Paul stepped into this rift and lovingly sought to mend their painful divisions with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Just as Paul provided the healing balm of the Gospel of Jesus to the Romans, we too are offered this same cure to our divisions. As a helpful reminder of what we mean when by the Gospel of Jesus, here's our working definition from our membership material:

The Gospel is the power of God for the total salvation of everyone who believes and the restoration of all things on a cosmic scale- as written in **Romans 8**. More fully, God the Creator has acted according to His will to deliver us, His created sons and daughters, from our sins and restore us to Him. He did this by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life on the cross for the sins of his people satisfying His wrath toward sin. Jesus

¹ Martin Luther, *Commentary on Romans*, trans. by J. Theodore Mueller (Grand Rapids: Kregel Classics, 1976), xiii.

² Remember, the phrase "for the life of the world" comes from **John 6:50-51** in which Jesus declares the redemptive purpose for which He has come into the world: to grant eternal life to those who believe in Him as Savior (or the Bread of Life). We, the Church, continue God's mission in Christ as we offer Jesus as the bread of life to each other and to our neighbors. This phrase that we use often serves to remind us of our humbling calling as ambassadors of reconciliation in union with Christ.

was then raised from the dead to grant us newness of life in the resurrection, ascended to heaven where he continues to intercede for us, and will return again to make all things new and glorious. In summary, you are not being saved FROM God, but you are being saved TO God! He has pursued you in Christ so that you may dwell in and be blessed by His presence for all of eternity!

Praise God for His unchanging truth and the finished work of Jesus that sets us free from all that divides us for His glory and for the life of the world!

To begin our journey, let us consider the historical circumstances for Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul wrote this letter near the end of his third missionary journey around 57 A.D. At the time of writing, he was most likely in Corinth during his 3 month stay in Greece recorded in **Acts 20:2-3**.³ The Roman church was not planted by Paul nor had he yet visited them; however, he was planning to visit on his way to deliver aid to the suffering churches in Jerusalem.⁴ The most plausible explanation for the origin of the Roman church is that it was started by a group of Jews converted at Pentacost who returned to share their transformation in the Gospel of Jesus.⁵ The Lord abundantly blessed their efforts such that the Gentile converts quickly exceeded the number of Jewish Christians in the church. The Roman church served as a glorious picture of the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant along with God's other promises concerning the redemption of Gentiles. In **Ephesians 3:6**, Paul marvels at this reality when he refers to it as, "this mystery (of Christ) is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel."⁶

Unfortunately, this glorious witness to the power of the Gospel was soon marred by sinful divisions within the church. The seeds for these divisions were sown when Emperor Claudius scattered the Jewish Christians from Rome around 49 A.D.⁷ This opened the way for

³ D. A. Carson & Douglas J. Moo, *An Introduction to the New Testament, 2nd Ed.* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992, 2005), 394; Charles Hodge, *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1977 based on the Revised Ed., 1886), 9, further confirmed Paul's location based on several notable Corinthians being mentioned throughout Romans.

⁴ Hodge, 7. Hodge states, "History, therefore, has left us ignorant of the time when the church was founded, and the persons by whom the work was effected.", 7.; cf. **Romans 15:25** concerning Paul's plan to visit.

⁵ Carson & Moo, 395; This possibility casts a more sorrowful shadow over the eventual division in the Roman church given the unifying purpose of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentacost.

⁶ Paul alludes to this in his benediction to the letter in **Romans 16:25-27**.

⁷ cf. **Acts 18:1-2** for Biblical testimony to this event.

the converted Gentiles to step into church leadership. They interpreted this as evidence of God's particular favor on them as His newly chosen people.

This circumstance changed again as a result of political transition in Rome. The Jewish Christians were allowed to return in 54 A.D at the start of Emperor Nero's reign.⁸ Disagreement between the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians erupted immediately over who had the legitimate right to rule the Roman church as God's chosen people. This revealed their underlying disunity in how they viewed themselves, each other, and, ultimately, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.⁹ John Stott describes their disunity as primarily rooted in their distorted theology:

Even the most casual reading of Romans betrays the fact that the church in Rome was a mixed community consisting of both Jews and Gentiles, with Gentiles in the majority (1:5f., 13; 11:13), and that there was considerable conflict between these groups. It is further recognized that this conflict was primarily not ethnic (different races and cultures), but theological (different convictions about the status of God's covenant and law, and so about salvation).¹⁰

Hodge grants further insight into this division: "The Jews insisted, to a greater or lesser extent, on their peculiar privileges and customs; and the Gentiles disregarded, and at times despised the scruples and prejudices of their weaker brethren."¹¹ A church that had once served as a beautiful picture of the unifying power of the Gospel was being deformed by sinful divisions born of unbiblical theology.

Paul addressed this crippling division by reminding both the Jews and Gentiles of the fundamental theological ways in which they were unified for God's glory and redemptive mission in the world. According to Romans, they were unified in the following ways in their:¹²

-absolute need for Jesus as a result of their radical sinfulness and inability to save themselves (**Chap. 1-3**)

⁸ Carson & Moo, 395-6.

⁹ Ibid., 407.

¹⁰ John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World* (Downer's Grove: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 35, 34.

¹¹ Hodge, 7.

¹² There are a number of ways to break Romans into teachable units that remain true to Paul's teachings. It is beyond our scope to detail those here. However, most scholars agree to that Chap. 1-11 serve as the theological basis for the practical instructions given in Chap. 12-16. Our specific subdivision of those two main units can be found on **pages 9-10** of this devotional which are based on Paul's points of their unity listed above.

- justification (being relationally restored to God) in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone (**Chap. 4-5**)¹³
- sanctification (maturing further into the image of Christ) and glorification (completion of Christ's work in us) in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone in the Holy Spirit alone (**Chap. 6-8**)¹⁴
- formation into the undivided Church by God's predestined grace alone as opposed to any inherent quality within the two groups (**Chap. 9-11**)
- call to serve God's redemptive mission for the life of the world (**Chap 12-16**).

No earthly distinctions such as birthright or favorable (or unfavorable) circumstance should serve as a means of rending asunder what God had joined together in marital union in Christ. As Stott observes, "The most notable feature of these practical instructions is that Paul grounds them on his Christology, and in particular on the death, resurrection and parousia (second coming) of Jesus." He goes on to show how Paul's Christology formed their relationships with one another:

The weak are brothers and sisters for whom Christ died. Christ rose to be their Lord, and we have no right to interfere with his servants. He is also coming to be our judge; so we should not play the role of judge ourselves. We should also follow the example of Christ who did not please himself but became a servant – indeed a servant of both Jews and Gentiles. So, Paul leaves his readers with a beautiful vision of the weak and the strong, Jewish believers and Gentile believers, who are bound together by such a 'spirit of unity' that 'with one heart and mouth' they glorify God together (15:5-6).¹⁵

From the firm foundation of Jesus' Gospel and finished work, Paul calls for the Jewish and Gentile Christians to be reconciled in order to participate together in God's redemptive mission in the world.

In light of this, we must consider how destructive it was to the mission of the Roman church to have them fighting over who God loved more and had the right to claim control over the church. Satan's tactics proved masterful in getting them to turn on each other despite all their rich theology and redemptive experiences. We must also consider how destructive it is to the church's mission today for us to be fighting over who God loves more and has the right

¹³ Stott, 35. Stott makes the argument, as we will, that this theological declaration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ serves as the unifying truth for how then we should live together for God's glory and the life of the world.

¹⁴ Francis A. Schaeffer, *The Finished Work of Christ: The Truth of Romans 1 – 8* (Wheaton: Crossway Books, 1998), 19. Schaeffer recognizes the shift from justification to sanctification in **Romans 6**.

¹⁵ Stott, 43.

to claim control over the church. Satan's tactics continue to prove masterful in getting us to turn on each other despite all our rich theology and redemptive experiences. More glorious ought be Jesus' Gospel that sets us free from the bondage of division. How wonderful the grace of God to provide us (as He did the Roman church) with Paul's letter that re-weds theology to its formative outworking in our lives for the life of the world! As John Stott simply but powerfully declares, "Only loyalty to the gospel can secure unity in the church."¹⁶

Given the importance of Romans for our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how it unifies us as God's people for the life of the world, we will take two years to slowly navigate the rich contents of Paul's letter.¹⁷ Our hope is that the pace will afford us opportunities to:

1. bear the fruits of repentance of our divisions unto reconciliation in Christ
2. mature in our faith in Christ alone by God's grace alone displayed for the life of the world.

Luther captures this hope beautifully:

Faith is living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a (person) would stake (their) life on it a thousand times. This confidence in God's grace and knowledge of it makes (all) glad and bold and happy in dealing with God and all His creatures; and this is the work of the Holy (Spirit) in faith. Hence a (person) is ready and glad, without compulsion, to do good to everyone, to serve everyone, to suffer everything, in love and praise to God, who has shown him this grace; and thus it is impossible to separate works from faith, quite as impossible as to separate heat and light fires.¹⁸

Join us in praying that Paul's hope for the Roman church in **15:5-7** would be true in us as we grow in our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of the our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

To this we as God's people cry out, "Amen! May it be so, Lord, for Your glory!"

¹⁶ Stott, 25.

¹⁷ We will have a handful of Sundays throughout for one-off sermons and guest speakers as well as pause for Advent and Easter to focus specifically on the first coming of Jesus and His death, resurrection, and ascension.

¹⁸ Luther, xvii.

Through our weekly liturgy, we will continue to seek nourishment from our historic faith and the Old and New Testaments. The calls to worship will come from **the Psalms** that celebrate God's call for us to rejoice in His sovereign faithfulness to mature us further into His image. We will respond together each week by reciting the foundational theological truths from **Romans** that unify us as God's beloved children. The assurances of pardon will come from key reminders in **Romans** of our sure salvation in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone. We will respond with a prayer of thanksgiving from **Romans 8:38-39** to remind us of the eternal surety of God's love for us in the finished work of Jesus. Each week, our benedictory blessings will come from **Romans 5:1-5** to send us out reminded of our blessed freedom from condemnation and the gift of peace with God in Christ. The goal of these various elements is to form us further into the image of Christ as seek to serve as ambassadors of His reconciliation.

This devotional is designed to encourage daily meditation and prayer in personal devotions and/or family worship. You are encouraged to use it the week prior to the associated sermon so that you and your family are prepared for worship. In addition to the Scriptures and associated questions, there are opportunities to pray for the various aspects of the Church. On Wednesdays, we will pray for the various missionaries, church plants, and missional ministries that we support at CCC as well as local churches including our own. We also have the opportunity to pray on Saturday for the Holy Spirit to draw people to and prepare us for worship. On Sunday, the Lord's Day Sabbath, we will pray for the means of grace to help us live out the truths presented in the worship service. Our desire is to continue to facilitate and grow in our dependence on the Lord through prayer.

May God bless our time in personal devotion, family worship, and corporate worship as we seek for the Church to grow in the joy of salvation and unity in Christ for the sake of its mission in the world!

Soli Deo Gloria!

Structure of Paul's Letter to the Romans

Introduction:

- 1:1-7: *Paul's Greeting to the Church in Rome*
- 1:8-15: *Paul's Gratitude for All of God's People in the Church in Rome*
- 1:16-17: *Paul's Firm Foundation in the Gospel of Jesus Christ*

The Call to Unity in the Need for Jesus as Savior:

- 1:18-32: *The Gentiles' Need for Jesus*
- 2:1-11: *The Jew's Need for Jesus*
- 2:12-3:20: *The Universal Need for Jesus*
- 3:21-30: *The Righteousness of God for All Who Believe in Jesus*

The Call to Unity in Justification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone:

- 4:1-25: *Justification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone: Abraham's Example*
- 5:1-21: *Justification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone: Jesus' Finished Work*

The Call to Unity in Sanctification and Glorification by Faith Alone
in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone in the Holy Spirit Alone:

- 6:1-21: *Sanctification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone: Resurrected Newness of Life*
- 7:1-25: *Sanctification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone: The Weakness of the Flesh and the Law*
- 8:1-39: *Sanctification and Glorification by Faith Alone in Christ Alone by God's Grace Alone: The Power of Life in the Holy Spirit*

The Call to Unity in God's Gracious Mission to Form the Church:

- 9:1-33: *God's Predestined Grace and the Weakness of Jews*
- 10:1-21: *God's Predestined Mission to the Jews*
- 11:1-36: *God's Predestined Mission to the Gentiles*

The Call to Unity in the Mission of the Church for the Life of the World:

- 12:1-33: *The Call for All to Present Themselves as Living Sacrifices for the Life of the World*
- 13:1-14: *The Call for All to Limit Distractions from Outside the Church for the Life of the World*
- 14:1-15:33: *The Call for All to Limit Distractions from Inside the Church for the Life of the World*
- 16:1-23: *Paul's Closing Commendations*
- 16:25-27: *Paul's Benediction*

Sermon Schedule

Part 1: Romans 1-5

Date	Call to Worship	Assurance of Pardon	Benediction	Sacrament
<i>Sunday, 4/18:</i> Romans 1:1-7; 11:11-12; 15:5-7	Psalm 133	Romans 1:16-17	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 4/25:</i> Romans 1:8-15	Psalm 22:22-31	Romans 1:16-17	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 5/2:</i> Romans 1:16-17	Psalm 24	Romans 1:16-17	Romans 5:1-5	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 5/9:</i> Romans 1:18-23	Psalm 2	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 5/16:</i> Romans 1:24-25	Psalm 9:1-8	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 5/23:</i> Romans 1:26-27	Psalm 9:15-20	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 5/30:</i> Romans 1:28-32	Psalm 64	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 6/6:</i> Romans 2:1-5	Psalm 94:1-15	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 6/13:</i> Romans 2:6-11	Psalm 7:8-17	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 6/20:</i> Romans 2:12-16	Psalm 67	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	<i>Bread and Cup</i>

Date	Call to Worship	Assurance of Pardon	Benediction	Sacrament
<i>Sunday, 6/27:</i> Romans 2:17-24	Psalm 50:1-15	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 7/11:</i> Romans 2:25-29	Psalm 37:27-34	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 7/18:</i> Romans 3:1-4	Psalm 119:1-8	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 7/25:</i> Romans 3:5-8	Psalm 96	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 8/1:</i> Romans 3:9-18	Psalm 14	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 8/8:</i> Romans 3:19-20	Psalm 90	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 8/15:</i> Romans 3:21-26	Psalm 36	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 8/22:</i> Romans 3:27-31	Psalm 5	Romans 3:21-26	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 8/29:</i> Romans 4:1-8	Psalm 32	Romans 4:23-25	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 9/12:</i> Romans 4:9-12	Psalm 146	Romans 4:23-25	Romans 5:1-5	

Date	Call to Worship	Assurance of Pardon	Benediction	Sacrament
<i>Sunday, 9/19:</i> Romans 4:13-15	Psalm 105:1-6	Romans 4:23-25	Romans 5:1-5	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 9/26:</i> Romans 4:16-17	Psalm 105:7-11	Romans 4:23-25	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 10/3:</i> Romans 4:18-25	Psalm 33:18-22	Romans 4:23-25	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 10/10:</i> Romans 5:1-5	Psalm 130	Romans 4:23-25	Romans 5:1-5	<i>Bread and Cup</i>
<i>Sunday, 10/17:</i> Romans 5:6-11	Psalm 51:1-12	Romans 5:18-21	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 10/24:</i> Romans 5:12-14	Psalm 18:1-6	Romans 5:18-21	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 10/31:</i> Romans 5:15-17	Psalm 16	Romans 5:18-21	Romans 5:1-5	
<i>Sunday, 11/7:</i> Romans 5:18-21	Psalm 51:14-17	Romans 5:18-21	Romans 5:1-5	<i>Bread and Cup</i>

Weekly Congregational Response to God's Call to Worship

Abba Father,

As You are present with us in worship, remind us of these things through Your Word:

- Our unity in being sinful and separated from You without Christ.
- Our unity in possessing nothing deserving of salvation apart from Your gracious love.
- Our unity in justification in Christ alone by faith through Your grace alone.
- Our unity in sanctification in Christ alone by faith alone through Your grace alone in the power of the Holy Spirit alone.
- Our unity in our calling to serve and love one another without partiality.
- Our unity in Your redemptive mission in Christ for the life of the world.
- Our unity in glorification when all things will be made new at the return of Jesus when we will all dwell together with You in joy for eternity.

Amen and Amen.

Weekly Prayer in Response to the Assurance of Pardon

Abba Father,
Assure us that neither death nor life,
nor angels nor rulers,
nor things present nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from Your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Adapted from Romans 8:38-39

Romans 1:1-7; 11:11-12; 15:5-7

The Week of April 18th

Monday, 4/12: Psalm 133: How have various displays of unity within our church served to refresh you? How does disunity affected you?

Tuesday, 4/13: Romans 1:16-17: Give thanks for those who weren't ashamed to share the Gospel with you in word and deed. Take time this week to let them know in some way.

Wednesday, 4/14: Pray for Jim Whittle serving with Equipping Leaders International in India to bear eternal fruit through the churches that are being planted across that nation.

Thursday, 4/15: Romans 1:1-7; 11:11-12; 15:5-7: Pray for the Holy Spirit to use this series from Romans to mature us in our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus and its unifying power for God's glory and the life of the world.

Friday, 4/16: Romans 5:1-5: Meditate on your justification in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone. Write a brief prayer asking God to help you to grow in gratitude for your reconciliation with Him in Christ. Keep it where you can look back over it along the way as we journey through Romans.

Saturday, 4/17: Pray for the Lord to open your eyes, ears, heart, and mind to the beauty of the Gospel of Jesus as revealed through Paul's words penned in the power of the Holy Spirit in Romans.

Sunday, 4/18: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to help unify us in the Gospel of Jesus for our joy and God's missional calling for us in the world.

Romans 1:8-15

The Week of April 25th

Monday, 4/19: *Psalm 22:22-31:* How is our gathering together for worship affecting the next generation? How are our words and deeds outside of worship affecting the next generation?

Tuesday, 4/20: *Romans 1:16-17:* Write a brief prayer asking God to help you trust in the Gospel as His power for salvation to everyone who believes. Keep it where you can look back over it along the way as we journey through Romans.

Wednesday, 4/21: Pray for the Mills serving with MTW in Thailand to live out their faith as the sweet, attractive aroma of Christ to their neighbors in Bangkok.

Thursday, 4/22: *Romans 1:8-15:* Who do you give thanks for because of the way they faithfully live out the Gospel in the world? Share this with them in some way this week.

Friday, 4/23: *Romans 5:1-5:* How has God blessed you in and through your justification in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone?

Saturday, 4/24: Pray for the Holy Spirit to use your faith lived out in word and deed to be a nourishing gift to someone in your spheres of influence.

Sunday, 4/25: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to grow your eagerness to share the Gospel with those who God has sovereignly placed in your spheres of influence.

Romans 1:16-17

The Week of May 2nd

Monday, 4/26: *Psalm 24:* Pray this Psalm interspersed with personal pleas to cultivate reverence and awe (or fear) of the Lord.

Tuesday, 4/27: *Romans 1:16-17:* What makes you ashamed of the Gospel and sharing it with others? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to mortify this shame and vivify your love for the Gospel.

Wednesday, 4/28: Pray for Mwamba Johnson with Vision Collegiate Ministries to boldly proclaim the Gospel in humility on the campuses of the HBC's in the AAU.

Thursday, 4/29: *Romans 1:16-17:* In what areas of your life are you struggling to live by faith? What idols might be causing these struggles?

Friday, 4/30: *Romans 5:1-5:* Reflect on how your justification in Christ serves as a blessing on an ordinary Wednesday afternoon or on a hectic Monday morning.

Saturday, 5/1: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ not being ashamed to save you.

Sunday, 5/2: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup:* Pray for the means of grace to equip you in righteousness in Christ to live by faith.

Romans 1:18-23

The Week of May 9th

Monday, 5/3: *Psalm 2:* How does Christ's reign as King affect the expectancy with which you come to worship? How does it affect how you view the events in the world?

Tuesday, 5/4: *Romans 3:21-26:* Give thanks to God for His righteousness having been graciously gifted to you through faith in Jesus Christ despite your sinfulness.

Wednesday, 5/5: Pray for First Care Women's Clinic to share the fullness of the Gospel in patience and longsuffering with those who God sovereignly draws to their clinic.

Thursday, 5/6: *Romans 1:18-23:* What are some ways that you have exchanged the clear glory of the immortal God for blurry depictions from the created world? Why is this so dangerous for us?

Friday, 5/7: *Romans 5:1-5:* How has being at peace with God blessed you?

Saturday, 5/8: Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict you of where you may be suppressing the truth of God and His love for you.

Sunday, 5/9: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to open our eyes more fully to behold God's invisible attributes as incarnated in Jesus.

Romans 1:24-25

The Week of May 16th

Monday, 5/10: *Psalm 9:1-8:* What makes you glad and causes you to exult (or rejoice) in the Lord?

Tuesday, 5/11: *Romans 3:21-26:* Write a brief prayer asking the Holy Spirit to help you grow in your assurance of your pardon because of God's grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. Keep it where you can look back over it along the way as we journey through Romans

Wednesday, 5/12: Pray for the Sawyers serving in Kenya to help set people free from having exchanged the truth of God's love for them for the lie of their self sufficiency.

Thursday, 5/13: *Romans 1:24-25:* How does sin affect our bodies? How does redemption in Christ address sin's embodied impact?

Friday, 5/14: *Romans 5:1-5:* What does peace with God look like on a leisurely Saturday or in the wee hours of the night on a Thursday?

Saturday, 5/15: Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the lies that you may have presently exchanged for the truth of God.

Sunday, 5/16: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to remind us clearly of who and Whose we are according to the Creator-creature distinction.

Romans 1:26-27

The Week of May 23rd

Monday, 5/17: *Psalm 9:15-20:* Consider God's just judgment. Why is this an important aspect of the Gospel truly being good news?

Tuesday, 5/18: *Romans 3:21-26:* How does God's righteousness manifested in Jesus apart from the law help assure us of our eternal pardon?

Wednesday, 5/19: Pray for the Larsens serving with NEXT to help equip missionaries to share a healthy Biblical sexual ethic as part of union with Christ with the coming generations.

Thursday, 5/20: *Romans 1:26-27:* What does it look like in your life for the Gospel to govern your bodily passions? Why should this matter if it doesn't seem to be directly hurting someone else?

Friday, 5/21: *Romans 5:1-5:* Reflect on what it means for Jesus Christ to be Lord. Why should His Lordship be a blessing to you?

Saturday, 5/22: Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict you of where your passions are not being governed by the Gospel.

Sunday, 5/23: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to guide you in submitting your crippling passions to the freeing power of the Gospel.

Romans 1:28-32

The Week of May 30th

Monday, 5/24: *Psalm 64:* What impact does injustice have on your hope in God? What impact does His discipline and judgment in history have on your hope in Him?

Tuesday, 5/25: *Romans 3:21-26:* Why is the lack of distinction in who is worthy of the Gospel a comforting truth?

Wednesday, 5/26: Pray for the Women's Extension to persevere in sharing the Gospel without distinction with those who have committed all manner of sins.

Thursday, 5/27: *Romans 1:28-32:* What does it look like in your life for the Gospel to govern your thinking and resulting actions? Why does this matter if it's primarily talking about my inner life?

Friday, 5/28: *Romans 5:1-5:* Consider how access to God through Christ is a blessing to you. Where and when are you making use of this gift?

Saturday, 5/29: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ's transformation of your thinking through His redemption.

Sunday, 5/30: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup:* Pray for the means of grace to further transform your thinking and associated actions into the image of Christ.

Romans 2:1-5

The Week of June 6th

Monday, 5/31: *Psalm 94:1-15:* Who does God primarily rise up against in vengeance? How should this affect your posture in worship?

Tuesday, 6/1: *Romans 3:21-26:* What is it about Jesus serving as our payment for the fullness of our sins that gives us confidence in the completeness of our salvation?

Wednesday, 6/2: Pray for the Stocks serving with MTW in SE Asia to faithfully call those who judge others to repent in humility and be set free to love God and their neighbors in Jesus.

Thursday, 6/3: *Romans 2:1-5:* Who are you tempted to judge for their thinking and actions? From what foundation do you judge them?

Friday, 6/4: *Romans 5:1-5:* What impact does access to God through Christ have on how you handle relational difficulties, struggles at school or work, political and cultural issues, personal struggles and the like?

Saturday, 6/5: Pray for the Holy Spirit to expose where you are tempted to or guilty of judging others of what you're guilty of in your thoughts and actions.

Sunday, 6/6: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to tender your heart towards those you've previously judged and to grow in your hope in the power of the Gospel to transform them into family in Christ.

Romans 2:6-11

The Week of June 13th

Monday, 6/7: *Psalm 7:8-17:* Contemplate what your sinful actions have cost you in the past. Come hopeful to worship because of the righteousness of God that eliminates the power

of those sinful actions and resultant death.

Tuesday, 6/8: *Romans 3:21-26:* What hope would you have if God had not passed over your former sins as a result of Jesus' blood being applied on your account?

Wednesday, 6/9: Pray for Mike Kennamer with MNA Disaster Response to serve without partiality in the name of Christ those who've been devastated by local disasters.

Thursday, 6/10: *Romans 2:6-11:* What grants you the ability to be patient in well-doing for the glory, honor, and eternal life of your neighbors? What tempts you to be self-seeking

and disobedient to God's Word?

Friday, 6/11: *Romans 5:1-5:* Meditate on how being able to stand before God in His grace blesses you daily.

Saturday, 6/12: Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring to light the ways in which you are self-serving and disobedient in evil thoughts and deeds.

Sunday, 6/13: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to support you in being patient in well-doing for the glory, honor, and eternal life of your neighbors.

Romans 2:12-16

The Week of June 20th

Monday, 6/14: *Psalm 67:* Why does God bless us with His presence and provision? How does this affect your purpose for coming to worship?

Tuesday, 6/15: *Romans 3:21-26:* Ponder the ways in which God is displaying His righteousness in and through your life. Be encouraged by His work in your life!

Wednesday, 6/16: Pray for Dave Lindberg and Immanuel Church in NJ to persevere in sharing the Gospel with their neighbors and applying it as healing balm where it reveals the secret sins of their hearts.

Thursday, 6/17: *Romans 2:12-16:* Do we have a knowledge problem when it comes to obedience? If not, then what is the problem? More importantly, what can actually cure that problem?

Friday, 6/18: *Romans 5:1-5:* Share with someone in your spheres of influence some recent examples of how standing in God's grace has blessed you.

Saturday, 6/19: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ dying for your secret sins that you thought were hidden in darkness never to see the light of day.

Sunday, 6/20: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup:* Pray for the means of grace to remind you of the depths of your forgiveness in Christ for your sins past, present, and future.

Romans 2:17-24

The Week of June 27th

Monday, 6/22: *Psalm 50:1-15:* What thanksgivings do you have to offer God? What vows have you made in God's name that you need to keep for His glory? Are you calling on Him in your days of trouble to be delivered so as to be able to freely glorify Him?

Tuesday, 6/23: *Romans 3:21-26:* Reflect on how God's unchanging justness as well as His being the eternal means of justification grants you greater surety in your reconciliation with Him.

Wednesday, 6/24: Pray for Byron Johnson with Vision 9:38 to prepare missionaries to share the Gospel not only in word but through how they live their lives in various contexts.

Thursday, 6/25: *Romans 2:17-24:* What impact has the hypocrisy of other Christians had on your faith and commitment to a local church? What impact might your hypocrisy be having on those in your spheres of influence?

Friday, 6/26: *Romans 5:1-5:* What has recently caused you to rejoice in the hope of God's glory?

Saturday, 6/27: Pray for the Holy Spirit to convict you of where you are guilty of hypocrisy.

Sunday, 6/28: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to help prevent you from taking God's name in vain.

Romans 2:25-29

The Week of July 11th

Monday, 7/5: *Psalm 37:27-34:* Consider what the Lord loves from v. 28. What kind of person is worship forming you into (remember the formative goal of Proverbs¹⁹)?

Tuesday, 7/6: *Romans 3:21-26:* What Old Testament passages help you to grow in your understanding of God's righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ?

Wednesday, 7/7: Pray for the Caltons serving with RUF at KSU to remain faithful to the Gospel of Jesus as the only way for hearts to be transformed by God's mercy and grace.

Thursday, 7/8: *Romans 2:25-29:* What is the purpose of outward religious practices? What are they to reflect?

Friday, 7/9: *Romans 5:1-5:* How has God blessed you with the opportunity to mature in rejoicing in you union with Christ through suffering?

Saturday, 7/10: Pray for the Holy Spirit to show you where your outward religious practices fail to reflect your true inward spiritual condition.

Sunday, 7/11: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to tender your heart to grow in your love for God and for your neighbors as yourself.

¹⁹ The goal of Proverbs was to shape its students into righteous, just, and equitable people who fear (or humbly revere in awe) the Lord; cf. **Proverbs 1:1-7.**

Romans 3:1-4

The Week of July 18th

Monday, 7/12: *Psalm 119:1-8:* Reflect on the technical Biblical definition of “blessed.”²⁰ How does worship facilitate this in your life?

Tuesday, 7/13: *Romans 3:21-26:* Pray for the righteousness of God to be manifested apart from the law through your faith in Jesus in your spheres of influence.

Wednesday, 7/14: Pray for Tom Myers and First Pres Villa Rica to be unified in their dependence on and submission to God’s Word for the life of the world.

Thursday, 7/15: *Romans 3:1-4:* Why is it important that your faithlessness doesn’t dictate the power of God’s faithfulness? What impact should this have on your obedience to God and His Word?

Friday, 7/16: *Romans 5:1-5:* Pray for those that you know to be suffering to be able to rejoice in their eternal union with Christ.

Saturday, 7/17: Pray for the Holy Spirit to make plain where you are faithless to God’s Word.

Sunday, 7/18: *The Lord’s Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to vivify God’s faithfulness in your life and in your spheres of influence.

²⁰ The technical Biblical definition of blessed is to experience God’s presence along with His grace and mercy through Christ.

Romans 3:5-8

The Week of July 25th

Monday, 7/19: *Psalm 96:* What is to be declared by your worship and your life?

Tuesday, 7/20: *Romans 3:21-26:* Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you clearly share how the Old Testament bears witness to the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus with those

in your spheres of influence.

Wednesday, 7/21: Pray for David Gilbert and Grace Pres in Douglasville to remain unified in God's just condemnation of sin and wise redemption in Christ.

Thursday, 7/22: *Romans 3:5-8:* Do you struggle with God being just in His condemnation of sin? If so, why? What are you doing to address this struggle?

Friday, 7/23: *Romans 5:1-5:* How has suffering blessed you with growth in endurance to the glory of God?

Saturday, 7/24: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ's satisfaction of God's just wrath toward your sins that separated you from Him.

Sunday, 7/25: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup:* Pray for the means of grace to nourish your appreciation for Christ's sacrificial atoning work on your behalf.

Romans 3:9-18

The Week of August 1st

Monday, 7/26: *Psalm 14:* Who does this Psalm not apply to? How does the answer to this question affect your posture as you attend worship?

Tuesday, 7/27: *Romans 3:21-26:* Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you focus on the universal need for justification by grace for those who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God in your spheres of influence.

Wednesday, 7/28: Pray for Robbie Hembree and Grace Church in Canton to proclaim humanity's universal unity in their sinful brokenness, inability to save themselves, and need for Christ as Savior.

Thursday, 7/29: *Romans 3:9-18:* What unifies us all universally across history? How does this affect how you engage with your neighbors?

Friday, 7/30: *Romans 5:1-5:* Pray for those that you know are suffering to grow as a result of union with Christ in endurance to the glory of God.

Saturday, 7/31: Pray for the Holy Spirit to remind you of who you were without Christ. Give thanks for God's redemption from your previous condition as described in **Psalm 14** and **Romans 3:9-18**.

Sunday, 8/1: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to improve the joy of your salvation given what Jesus has delivered you from.

Romans 3:19-20

The Week of August 8th

Monday, 8/2: *Psalm 90:* Pray through this Psalm giving thanks for God's faithfulness and asking Him to help you think more eternally about your time so as to establish the work of your hands for the sake of eternal things.

Tuesday, 8/3: *Romans 3:21-26:* Pray for God to use you to clearly communicate how Jesus' blood alone serves as the total payment offered to set free those laboring under the weight of their sin.

Wednesday, 8/4: Pray for David Donovan and Grace Covenant in Dallas to faithfully proclaim that no one can be saved by their good works or keeping of the law.

Thursday, 8/5: *Romans 3:19-20:* What was the law of God never intended to do? What is its purpose? How should this affect your view of the role that obedience plays in your life?

Friday, 8/6: *Romans 5:1-5:* How has endurance in suffering blessed you with further character formation into the image of Christ?

Saturday, 8/7: Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you mortify where you are trying to earn God's love through your obedience.

Sunday, 8/8: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to help you submit to God's Word in Christ alone by faith alone through His grace alone instead of in your own strength and wisdom.

Romans 3:21-26

The Week of August 15th

Monday, 8/9: *Psalm 36:* What are the characteristics of the wicked in v. 1-4? Repent of the where you are guilty of these things and expectantly look forward to the declaration of God's steadfast love in worship this coming Sunday.

Tuesday, 8/10: *Romans 3:21-26:* Are you saved to or from God through faith in Jesus? How does this affect which you run when you sin or are sinned against?

Wednesday, 8/11: Pray for Matthew Rabe and Grace Presbyterian in Cedartown to humbly use the means of grace to offer God's grace in the finished work of Christ to their neighbors.

Thursday, 8/12: *Romans 3:21-26:* What else universally unites across history those who have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God? Take time to pray for those in your spheres of influence who don't yet know Jesus Christ as redeemer.

Friday, 8/13: *Romans 5:1-5:* Pray for those that you know are suffering to grow as a result of union with Christ in further character formation into Christ's image.

Saturday, 8/14: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ's propitiation (or payment) by His blood for your redemption.

Sunday, 8/15: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup:* Pray for the means of grace to humble you in God's love for His gift of righteousness to you through your faith in Christ.

Romans 3:27-31

The Week of August 22nd

Monday, 8/16: *Psalm 5:* Give thanks to the Lord for the many times that He has listened to and responded to your prayers. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring **v. 7-12** to fruition in you in worship this Sunday.

Tuesday, 8/17: *Romans 3:21-26:* Reflect on how the repetition of these words has helped further ground you in God's righteousness through faith in Jesus' payment for your sins.

Wednesday, 8/18: Pray for Martin Hawley and Hope Presbyterian Church in Marietta to boast in Christ alone by faith alone through God's grace alone in their service to the community.

Thursday, 8/19: *Romans 3:27-31:* What have you done that is worthy of boasting of to others? What has God done that is worthy of you boasting of to others?

Friday, 8/20: *Romans 5:1-5:* How has the painful process of being formed into the image of Christ blessed you with hope?

Saturday, 8/21: Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal the places where you arrogantly boast in your own strength or accomplishments.

Sunday, 8/22: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to guide you to rightly understand the role of God's law in your relationship with Him and your neighbors.

Romans 4:1-8

The Week of August 29th

Monday, 8/23: *Psalm 32:* Pray through this Psalm in light of your own redemption in Christ. Take some time to dwell in v. 10-11 in preparation for worship on Sunday.

Tuesday, 8/24: *Romans 4:23-25:* Write a brief prayer based on this passage. Keep it where you can reflect on it at the end of this series.

Wednesday, 8/25: Pray for David Hall and Midway Presbyterian Church to proclaim the historic call to justification by faith as opposed to earned by works.

Thursday, 8/26: *Romans 4:1-8:* How were saints in the Old Testament saved according to Abraham and David's examples?

Friday, 8/27: *Romans 5:1-5:* Pray for those that you know are suffering to grow as a result of union with Christ in hope in God's love and grace.

Saturday, 8/28: Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you in your areas of unbelief in God's sovereignty and goodness.

Sunday, 8/29: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to strengthen your hopeful belief in God's sovereignty and goodness across history.

Romans 4:9-12

The Week of September 12th

Monday, 9/6: *Psalm 146:* What most influences how you praise the Lord in worship? How might you grow in being able to Biblically reflect and express your joy in worship?

Tuesday, 9/7: *Romans 4:23-25:* What is required for righteousness to be counted to us? Why is this a comforting truth?

Wednesday, 9/8: Pray for Joel Smit and Smyrna Presbyterian Church in Smyrna to practice the good works prepared for them as a result of salvation in Christ.

Thursday, 9/9: *Romans 4:9-12:* Which comes first: faith in God's grace or faithful practice for God's grace? Does this vary depending on who you are or where your from?

Friday, 9/10: *Romans 5:1-5:* How has hope born of suffering blessed you with freedom from shame?

Saturday, 9/11: Pray for the Holy Spirit to expose where you walk by personal sight as opposed to faith in God's grace and love.

Sunday, 9/12: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to guide your footsteps in faith in God's grace and love as revealed in Christ.

Romans 4:13-15

The Week of September 19th

Monday, 9/13: *Psalm 105:1-6:* What deeds of the Lord compel you to share them with others? How does worship help prepare and encourage you to do this?

Tuesday, 9/14: *Romans 4:23-25:* Meditate on how Jesus' resurrection assures your pardon from your sin. Discuss this with someone this week.

Wednesday, 9/15: Pray for Bryan Pierce and Seven Hills Fellowship in Rome to profess Christ alone as the fulfillment of God's redemptive promises.

Thursday, 9/16: *Romans 4:13-15:* Read **Genesis 12** and **15**. What did Abraham receive from God: the law or the promise? When is the law introduced to God's people? What does

this pattern teach us about the nature of God's covenant relationship with us as His people?

Friday, 9/17: *Romans 5:1-5:* Pray for those that you know are suffering to grow as a result of union with Christ in freedom from the shame that results from their pain.

Saturday, 9/18: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for God's law revealing your need for Christ alone as savior.

Sunday, 9/19: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup:* Pray for the means of grace to encourage you with God's promises which find their fulfillment in Christ.

Romans 4:16-17

The Week of September 26th

Monday, 9/20: *Psalm 105:7-11:* Reflect on God's faithfulness to His covenant with His children. Do you recognize that you are unified in His covenant and to His people through these key historical events across the ages?²¹

Tuesday, 9/21: *Romans 4:23-25:* What does Christ's resurrection gift to you first in God's grace? Why is this important to be established first for you?

Wednesday, 9/22: Pray for a local area church where you have a connection to rest in God's promised grace in Christ as they seek to shine the light of the Gospel in the darkness of this world.

Thursday, 9/23: *Romans 4:16-17:* According to the Abrahamic Covenant, what's God's mission in the world? What should be the Church's mission in the world?

Friday, 9/24: *Romans 5:1-5:* How has God's love become more real to you through suffering and the resulting sanctification process?

Saturday, 9/25: Pray for the Holy Spirit to remind you of the various gifts that result from being a daughter or son of God in Christ. Give thanks for each of these gifts.

Sunday, 9/26: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to nourish your faith in Christ as a true heir of Abraham.

²¹ Remember, Genesis to Revelation is OUR story as the children of God in Christ. We're God's children now through God's redeeming work historically manifested in Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Israel.

Romans 4:18-25

The Week of October 3rd

Monday, 9/27: Psalm 33:18-22: Consider the ways in which God has protected and preserved your life. Share this with someone this week.

Tuesday, 9/28: Romans 4:23-25: Pray for those in your spheres of influence who don't yet know this Scripture as eternally true.

Wednesday, 9/29: Pray for Cherokee Presbyterian Church in Canton to display their hope in the forgiveness of sins in their willingness to forgive.

Thursday, 9/30: Romans 4:18-25: Give thanks for God's redemptive work throughout history to sovereignly draw you to Himself in Christ.

Friday, 10/1: Romans 5:1-5: Pray for those that you know are suffering to grow as a result of union with Christ in more tangibly experiencing God's love for them despite their hurt.

Saturday, 10/2: Pray for the Holy Spirit to use your faith just as He has Abraham's to draw others to Himself in Christ.

Sunday, 10/3: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to animate your belief in Jesus who was raised from dead for your justification after being delivered up to be crucified for your trespasses.

Romans 5:1-5

The Week of October 10th

Monday, 10/4: *Psalm 130:* What should motivate you to patiently wait for the Lord and hope in His word? What would it look like for you to attend worship as someone keeping watch for evidences of God's steadfast love?

Tuesday, 10/5: *Romans 4:23-25:* Reflect on how these words have helped you to mature in your surety in Christ's work applied to you unto eternal life.

Wednesday, 10/6: Pray for a potential church plant in Acworth or Marietta that would declare boldly the opportunity for peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thursday, 10/7: *Romans 5:1-5:* Pray for those in your spheres of influence who don't yet know peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. What could you invite them into to witness how this peace with God in Christ is transforming your life?

Friday, 10/8: *Romans 5:1-5:* How has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit blessed you amid suffering?

Saturday, 10/9: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for Christ's granting you access to stand before God at peace in His grace.

Sunday, 10/10: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup:* Pray for the means of grace to nourish you in suffering that produces endurance, character, and hope in God's love.

Romans 5:6-11

The Week of October 17th

Monday, 10/11: *Psalm 51:1-12:* Pray this Psalm giving thanks for God's merciful forgiveness and ask the Holy Spirit to graciously vivify your joy in your salvation.

Tuesday, 10/12: *Romans 5:18-21:* Write a brief prayer based on this passage. Keep it where you can reflect on it at the end of this series.

Wednesday, 10/13: Pray for our children's and youth ministries to come to know that Christ died for them in their ungodly weakness as a display of His love for them.

Thursday, 10/14: *Romans 5:6-11:* What was your condition when Christ died for you? How should this affect how we engage our not yet believing neighbors?

Friday, 10/15: *Romans 5:1-5:* Pray for those that you know are suffering to grow as a result of union with Christ to benefit from the Holy Spirit's indwelling.

Saturday, 10/16: Pray for the Holy Spirit to admonish you where you are failing to love your enemies as Christ has loved you when you were God's enemy.

Sunday, 10/17: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to cultivate your love and desire for God's enemies to be redeemed in Christ.

Romans 5:12-14

The Week of October 24th

Monday, 10/18: *Psalm 18:1-6:* Meditate on how the Lord has answered you in your distress over the years. Share this with someone this week that needs encouragement.

Tuesday, 10/19: *Romans 5:18-21:* Give thanks for Jesus making eternal life possible for you in your condemnation. Share this with someone this week.

Wednesday, 10/20: Pray for our small groups to help us remember what we've been saved from so as to increase our gratitude for what we've been saved to in Christ.

Thursday, 10/21: *Romans 5:12-14:* Where does sin originate; death? How did it spread to all humankind? How does this affect God's just condemnation of sin?

Friday, 10/22: *Romans 5:1-5:* Read **John 14** and **16** concerning the Holy Spirit. How do these descriptions of the Holy Spirit's person and work help you to recognize the blessing of His indwelling as a result of Christ's finished work on your behalf?

Saturday, 10/23: Pray for the Holy Spirit to unveil where you are living in the deadly sinful lineage of Adam as opposed to newness of life in Christ.

Sunday, 10/24: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to prepare you further for the resurrection at Christ's return.

Romans 5:15-17

The Week of October 31st

Monday, 10/25: *Psalm 16:* What good do you have apart from God? How long will it last?

Tuesday, 10/26: *Romans 5:18-21:* Reflect back over your time as a Christian. What are some gracious evidences of your transformation from death to eternal life in Christ?

Wednesday, 10/27: Pray for local missional opportunities to offer the free gift of God's grace in Jesus in word and deed so that our family would get bigger.

Thursday, 10/28: *Romans 5:15-17:* What does it look like for you to live according to the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness in Jesus Christ? What does this look like on a Thursday amid a disastrous week or on a Sunday night with a long week ahead?

Friday, 10/29: *Romans 5:1-5:* Read **Romans 8** paying particular attention to its emphasis on the Holy Spirit. Give thanks for the indwelling of the Spirit for your benefit.

Saturday, 10/30: Pray for the Holy Spirit to further alleviate the weight of condemnation born of sin and death through God's free gift of grace in Christ.

Sunday, 10/31: *The Lord's Day Sabbath:* Pray for the means of grace to enrich your ability to live according to the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness in Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:18-21

The Week of November 7th

Monday, 11/1: *Psalm 51:14-17:* What does the Lord desire from you in worship and in life? Ask the Holy Spirit to further form a broken and contrite heart in you.

Tuesday, 11/2: *Romans 5:18-21:* What are some ways in which Jesus' perfect obedience in His humanity assures you of your eternal pardon in Him?

Wednesday, 11/3: Pray for conversions and baptisms in our church as a result of our not being ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our worship and in our lives.

Thursday, 11/4: *Romans 5:18-21:* Meditate on the power of God's sovereignty in His grace abounding even though sin has increased throughout history. Give thanks for His preservation and growth of His family to which you belong.

Friday, 11/5: *Romans 5:1-5:* How have you grown in being blessed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ applied to your life as revealed through **Romans 1-5**?

Saturday, 11/6: Take time to read the preparatory letter and pray to prepare for the Lord's Supper. Give thanks for God's unwavering grace in Christ to bring you eternal life in Him.

Sunday, 11/7: *The Lord's Day Sabbath with Bread and Cup:* Pray for the means of grace to improve your gratitude for God's persistent grace in Jesus on your behalf.

Suggested Resources

Devotional:

John Calvin, *Romans*

Timothy Keller, *Romans 1-7 and 8-16 For You*

Martin Luther, *Commentary on Romans*

Francis Schaeffer, *The Finished Work of Christ: The Truth of Romans 1-8*

RC Sproul, *Romans: The Righteous Shall Live by Faith*

Intermediate:

Douglas J. Moo, *Romans: The NIV Application Commentary*

John Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World*

Advanced:

Charles Hodge, *Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans*

Collin G. Kruse, *Paul's Letter to the Romans: Pillar New Testament Commentary*

John Murray, *The Epistle to the Romans*