

Romans

Chad Harrington, HIM Publications Courses Online

Main Goal

Romans can be hard to understand, but through a literary analysis by way of completing a “book study,” you will be able to better understand the main point in light of the parts and the parts in light of the main point.

Primary Objectives

This class exists to help you:

- Understand Paul’s background and calling.
- Grasp the historical context of Paul’s letter to the Romans.
- See the main point of Romans.
- Rightly divide Romans into logical sections and subsections.
- Apply God’s message in Romans to your life and those you disciple.

Core Competencies

1. Complete a book study of Romans, which includes:
 - a. Do a theme study: pick out the main theme and the main point of the book (and be able to back up your reasoning by connecting it with specific passages in Romans).
 - b. Do a structural analysis complete with sections and subsections listed by verse references (and labels for each).
 - c. Do a word study of your chosen word.
 - d. Do a focused study on a subsection from your structural analysis.
 - e. Do exegesis and application on 1–3 verses that come from your focused study of one subsection.
2. Understand key terms and what Paul means in Romans: works, faith/fulness, justification/righteousness, flesh vs. body, Jew vs. Gentile, grace vs. mercy, covenant justice, imputed vs. imparted.
3. Know Paul’s background as a Jew.
4. Understand the historical context of Paul’s letter to the Romans.
5. Have some fun enjoying deep theology!

Activities

- Attend six class sessions in person, if possible (in-person required for those taking it for credit)
- Certification candidates:
 - Read class texts (see below).
 - Memorize ten memory verse (see below).

Main Class Texts

1. [What Saint Paul Really Said](#) by N.T. Wright (read only through Chapter 8 for credit)
2. [The Future of Justification](#) by John Piper (read only through Chapter 10 for credit)

Recommended Books

- Matthew Bates, *Gospel Allegiance: What Faith in Jesus Misses for Salvation in Christ* (Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2019).
- John Scottus Eriugena, *Treatise on Divine Predestination*, trans. Mary Brennan (Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1998).
- Mark Moore, *Faithful Faith: Reclaiming Faith from Culture and Tradition* (Nashville: Renew, 2021).
- John Piper, *God Is the Gospel: Meditations on God's Love as the Gift of Himself* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2005).
- E. P. Sanders, *Paul and Palestinian Judaism* (London: SCM Press, 1977).
- N. T. Wright, *Justification: God's Plan & Paul's Vision* (Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2009).
- Tom Right, *Romans* (Part 1 and 2), "For Everyone Series" (Westminster John Knox Press, 2023).
- N. T. Wright, Romans in *The New Interpreter's Bible Commentary*, Vol. IX: Acts, Introduction to Epistolary Literature, Romans, 1&2 Corinthians, Galatians (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002)

Memory Passages

- Romans 3:21–24 (*I recommend memorizing NRSV for this passage)
- Romans 7:24–25
- Romans 8:1–2
- Romans 12:1–2

Class Schedule and Assignments

Due before Class 1: Theme study (Steps 1–2 in “How to Do a Book Study”)

Class 1: Romans 1:1–17

Due before Class 2:

- Read Romans 1:18–4:25
- Read Wright: Preface – Chapter 2 (36 pages)
- [Book Study]: Make Major Section Divisions (*Step 3a in “How to Do a Book Study”*)

Class 2: Romans 1:18–4:25

Due before Class 3:

- Read Romans 5:1–8:39
- Read Wright: Chapters 3–4 (48 pages)
- [Book Study]: Make Subsection Divisions (*Step 3b in “How to Do a Book Study”*)

Class 3: 5:1–8:39

Due before Class 4: Two weeks of work, so you may want to budget more time to do these.

- Read Romans 9:1–11:36
- Read Wright: Chapters 5–8 (95 pages)
- [Book Study]: Do a detailed question and observation of your subsection (*Step 3c in “How to Do a Book Study”*)
- [Book Study]: Do an analysis about how your sections and subsections relate (*Step 3d in “How to Do a Book Study”*)

Class 4: Romans 9:1–11:36

Due before Class 5:

- Read Romans 12:1–15:6
- Read Piper: Introduction–Chapter 2 (56 pages)
- [Book Study]: Do a detailed question and observation of your 1–3 verses (*Step 3e in “How to Do a Book Study”*)

Class 5: Romans 12:1–15:6

Due before Class 6:

- Read Romans 15:7–16:27
- Read Piper Chapters 3–7 (60 pages)
- [Book Study]: Do a word study from your 1–3 verses (*Step 4 in “How to Do a Book Study”*)

Class 6: Romans 15:7–16:27

Due before exam:

- Read Piper Chapters 8–10 (46 pages)
- [Book Study]: Exegete and apply your 1–3 verses (*Step 5 in “How to Do a Book Study”*)

Final Knowledge Inventory: your completed project, writing your memory verses, and reporting on what percentage of your reading you completed