



Christ Redeemer Church
Grace. Truth. Community.

***The Hope of the Gospel:
The New Testament Letter to the Romans***

Sermon Series Study Guide
Winter 2026

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INTRODUCTION

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

~Romans 1:16-17 (ESV)

Starting this winter, we will begin a long trek through one of the most important books of the Bible. It's perhaps a bit strange to say, "most important books of the Bible", since *all* the books of the Bible are important. However, an argument can easily be made that no book has been so central to the life and renewal of the church as Paul's letter to the Romans.

It is not surprising that Romans is positioned first among the New Testament letters instructing the churches, for it is the longest and most thorough of the Apostle Paul's. Most commentators deem it his "magnum opus", for it lays out, systematically, the logic and comprehensive nature of the gospel.

The early church father John Chrysostom (c.347-407), one of the most eloquent expositors in all church history, was so taken by the book that he had read to him twice a week, feasting on it freshly and continually. William Tyndale (c.1494-1536), the father of the English Bible, wrote of Romans that it "is the principal and most excellent part of the New Testament. It is the light and way into the whole Scripture. No man can read it too often or study too well."

Martin Luther (1483-1546) begins his commentary on Romans with these words: "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 himself with it every day as the daily bread of the soul. It can never be read or pondered too much."

As you can see, we are in good company in pondering this book together. Likewise, since Romans is a systematic treatment of the faith, there's no better time to invite your friends to church. At our cultural moment, many are hungering for the very truth Romans presents.

How to Use the Study and Prayer Guide

Each week of the guide is keyed to the sermon for that upcoming Sunday. Since the guide is used not only by Christ Redeemer in Hanover but also Christ Restoration in New London and The Quechee Church, you'll need to check with your congregation to confirm the dates that apply for you. For example, CRC Hanover's first sermon is on January 25th. Thus, "Week One" for those that attend there begins the week of January 19th.

The Scripture passage listed under each heading is a suggested memory verse. Below that you will find a Scripture reference, followed by "*Reflection Instructions*." We estimate that each day's "lesson" should require no more than 10 minutes.

The point is to work through the Scripture passage prior to hearing the sermon. This will allow each of us some familiarity with the passage, as we begin to consider the implications of God's Word for your life. We hope this will facilitate our growth in the grace and knowledge of Christ, and so, lead us to greater growth in our love for Him and one another.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to the pastoral and administrative staff of our Hanover, New London, and Quechee congregations who have collaborated to craft this study guide for the benefit of our congregations...and beyond.

Don Willeman
January 2026
Hanover, NH

Romans 1:1-7

“...the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning his Son....”
~Romans 1:1-3 (ESV)

DAY 1:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Reflection Questions: Reflect on the passage and pray for understanding.

- List all the ways Paul describes himself in 1:1-7, try to give definitions for each, or state them in your own words.

Prayer:

- Ask God to teach you how you can learn from Paul’s example.

DAY 2:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:1-15

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- List all the ways Paul describes Jesus and try to state each of these in your own words.

Prayer:

- Pray that God would open your eyes to better understand who Jesus is.

DAY 3:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:1-15

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- How does Paul describe the Christians in Rome? What do you think he means by these words?

Prayer:

- Ask God to help you and our church to be faithful and fruitful in our time as the church in Rome was in its time.

Romans 1:8-17

"I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome."
~Romans 1:14-15 (ESV)

DAY 1:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:1-17

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What are 1-2 highlights from yesterday's sermon on 1:1-7 and one way you'd like to live differently as a result.

Prayer:

- Ask God for wisdom and strength to live out the change you listed above.

DAY 2:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:8-15

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- How would you describe Paul's attitude toward the Christians in Romans?
- What are some of the reasons Paul wants to visit the Romans?

Prayer:

- Pray that God would give you a passion for the gospel and for telling others about it.

DAY 3:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:8-17

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What do you think we can learn from the example of Paul as to how we should engage fellow Christians, as well as our unbelieving friends and neighbors.

Prayer:

- Spend some time praying for specific people in your neighborhood and workplace that they would grow in the knowledge of Christ.

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.”

~Romans 1:16-17 (ESV)

DAY 1:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:1-15

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What are 1-2 highlights from yesterday's sermon on 1:8-15 and one way you'd like to live differently as a result.

Prayer:

- Ask God for wisdom and strength to live out the change you listed above.

DAY 2:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:14-17

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- Make a list of some of the key words in this section.

- Paul repeatedly uses the word “faith”. How would you define “faith”?

Prayer:

- Pray that God would strengthen your faith in the gospel today.

DAY 3:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:14-17

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What do you think Paul means by “power of God for salvation”? Can you think of other places in the Bible that might shed light on this?
- Verse 17 is often understood as the thesis statement of the entire letter. Spend a moment trying to rewrite this verse in your own words.

Prayer:

- Ask God to grow your understanding of the breadth and depth of our salvation in Christ.

Romans 1:18-32

"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."

~Romans 1:19-20 (ESV)

DAY 1:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:18-23

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What are 1-2 highlights from yesterday's sermon on 1:16-17, and one way you'd like to live differently as a result.
- What does it look like for you to honor God and give Him thanks this week?

Prayer:

- Ask that God reveal the foolishness of your heart and lead you to greater thanksgiving of Him.

DAY 2:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:24-27

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What do you think Paul means by "they exchanged the truth about God for a lie"?
- How do you see yourself serving the creature instead of the Creator, as it says in verse 25?

Prayer:

- Ask that God may save you from the lust of your heart and lead you to His truth.

DAY 3:

Scripture Reading: Romans 1:28-32

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What does this passage reveal about how our hearts and minds are shaped by what we choose to value or ignore?
- How does this passage prepare us for our need for grace in Christ?

Prayer:

- Pray that God's righteous grace direct you to acknowledge Him in all that you do.

Romans 2:1-16

"Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things. Do you suppose, O man—you who judge those who practice such things and yet do them yourself—that you will escape the judgment of God?"

~Romans 2:1-3 (ESV)

DAY 1:

Scripture Reading: Romans 2:1-5

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What are 1-2 highlights from yesterday's sermon on 1:18-32, and one way you'd like to live differently as a result.
- Why is recognizing our own need for repentance essential to understanding grace?

Prayer:

- "God, my sin is more real to me than you are. Please help."

DAY 2:

Scripture Reading: Romans 2:6-11

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What repeated words or ideas help you understand what Paul is emphasizing?
- How should knowing that God judges impartially shape the way we live and treat others?

Prayer:

- "God, I am weak in my sin, help me see that your grace is more."

DAY 3:

Scripture Reading: Romans 2:12-16

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- Why do these verses show that everyone is in need of the gospel?
- How does Christ fulfill what the law and conscience cannot?

Prayer:

- “Lord, help me be a doer of your word, write your law onto my heart.”

Romans 2:17-29

“But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.”
~Romans 2:29 (ESV)

DAY 1:

Scripture Reading: Romans 2:17-29

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What are one or two highlights from yesterday's sermon on Romans 2?
- What did God prompt you to repent of? To trust Him with?

Prayer:

- “Lord, I humble myself before you, and I rejoice in your judgment of all things.”

DAY 2:

Scripture Reading: Romans 2:17-24

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What is wrong with boasting in your own morality and religious observance?
- How does this dishonor God?
- Why can't we rely on our obedience to God's law?

Prayer:

- “Lord, search me and know me, reveal my pride and self-righteousness, so that I might turn away and be humble before you.”

DAY 3:

Scripture Reading: Romans 2:25-29

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What value is there for keeping the sign of God's law while breaking it?
- What value does God place on mere outward conformity?

Prayer:

- Lord, keep me from mere performance; renew my heart so that I might joyfully and genuinely obey and worship you."

Romans 3:1-8

"Let God be true though everyone were a liar, as it is written, "That you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged."
~ Romans 3:4 (ESV)

DAY 1:

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:1-8

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What are one or two highlights from yesterday's sermon on Romans 2, and one way you'd like to live differently as a result?
- How are you tempted to putting on a religious façade?
- What did God prompt you to repent of? To trust Him with?

Prayer:

- "Lord, keep me and our church faithful to you in all things. Be glorified in us!"

DAY 2:

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:1-4

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What was the primary advantage the Jewish people had, compared to the rest of the nations?
- How useful was this to them if they did not also believe?

Prayer:

- "God, thank you for the Scriptures, for the blessing of knowing Your Word!"

DAY 3:

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:5–8

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- Why is it good for God to judge the world?
- When do we tend to object to God's judgment?
- What happens when we ignore or pervert His judgment?

Prayer:

- “Heavenly Father, forgive me for taking your grace for granted. I ask that you give me grace to lead me away from sin and into righteousness.”

Romans 3:9-20

“Now we know that whatever the law says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.”

~Romans 3:19-20 (ESV)

DAY 1:

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:9-12

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What are 1-2 highlights from yesterday's sermon on 3:1-8, and one way you'd like to live differently as a result.

Prayer:

- “Lord use your preached word to turn my heart towards you.”

DAY 2:

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:9-18

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- In what ways can the knowledge of these difficult truths be helpful to us?

Prayer:

- “God, please allow Your love to break through in my life today so that I might truly seek You and know You.”

DAY 3:

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:19-20

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- In what ways does the law assist us? In what ways does it not assist us?

Prayer:

- “Thank You God, that through the righteous works of Jesus, I am justified in Your sight and invited to speak freely with You as Your child!”

Romans 3:21-31

“But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

~Romans 3:21-24 (NIV)

DAY 1:

Scripture Reading: Romans 3

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What are 1-2 highlights from yesterday's sermon on Romans 3, and one way you'd like to live differently as a result.
- In what ways does Jesus make the God of righteousness known to us?

Prayer:

- “God, would You make Yourself known to me in increasing measure, and through me, would You make Yourself known to others.”

DAY 2:

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:25-26

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What does it mean for Jesus to be our “sacrifice of atonement,” or as the ESV renders it, our “propitiation”?

Prayer:

- “Thank You God, that because of the works of Jesus, You pass over all of my sins!”

DAY 3:

Scripture Reading: Romans 3:27-31

Reflection Questions: Read the passage and pray for understanding.

- What does it mean to be “justified by faith?” Justified how? Faith in what?

Prayer:

- “Oh God, may You be the only thing that I truly boast in!”