

'Unashamed'

Reading Paul's letter to the Romans

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans has been described as a 'masterpiece'. Each chapter is packed full of life-giving words that encourage and inspire us. It is also, in places, complex, which can, despite this letter being for everyone (as it was back when it was first written, and still is now) leave the reader scratching their head a bit.

Paul was writing to a church that he had not planted (Peter had planted the church in Rome), so his relationship with them was slightly different. The church had been through some significant changes in the years prior to the letter being written which were linked to a change in the emperor. The emperor Claudius was highly suspicious of the Jewish religion so had basically banished the Jews from the city. This meant that the church in Rome was mainly composed of non-Jewish converts. Claudius was succeeded by Nero, who was more sympathetic to the Jewish religion and allowed them back into the city, and subsequently the church had a mix of Jewish and non-Jewish converts. With this came some different ideas on what the practices of the church should be, particularly in how they related to the Law. Paul, carefully, but clearly, seeks to clarify some of these differences of practice and theology, and set the church on a unified path. Paul also wanted to use the church in Rome as a launchpad for his evangelistic endeavours into the western

Tom Wright has written two small commentaries on the letter to the Romans as part of his '... for everyone' series. You may find them helpful as you read through the letter. He says in the introduction that 'Romans is all about the God who, as Paul says, unveils His Grace and Power through the good news about Jesus.' He goes on to say that this 'grace and power' is available to all who would believe.

The Bible Project has put together two films giving an overview of the letter, which you may find helpful to watch before you embark on the reading plan - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ej_6dVdJSIU
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0SVTI4Xa5fY>



The passages each day are, on the whole, relatively short (they match the sections and have the same headings that are in Tom Wright's commentaries). You may want to find a comfortable place free from distractions to read. Start by inviting the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the passage. Read through the passage slowly and attentively, maybe read it a few times. Be aware of any particular words or phrases that you may be drawn to as you read – dwell on them, again, ask the Holy Spirit what He wants to reveal to you. Talk to God about what is stirring in you through the passage, but don't worry if nothing seems to happen – God is still there and is enjoying being with you.

Day	Passage	Heading
One	Romans 1:1-7	Good News about the New King
Two	Romans 1:8-13	Paul Longs to see the Roman Christians
Three	Romans 1:14-17	Good News, Salvation and the Justice of God
Four	Romans 1:18-23	Humans Reject God and Embrace Corruption
Five	Romans 1:24-27	Unclean Desires, Dishonoured Bodies
Six	Romans 1:28-32	Darkened Mind, Darkened Body
Seven	Romans 2:1-11	God's Coming Judgement will be Impartial, the Same for All
Eight	Romans 2:12-16	How God's Impartial Judgement will work
Nine	Romans 2:17-24	The Claim of the Jew – and its Problem
Ten	Romans 2:25-29	The Badge, the Name and the Meaning
Eleven	Romans 3:1-8	God's Determined Faithfulness
Twelve	Romans 3:9-20	Jews as well as Gentiles are Guilty of Sin
Thirteen	Romans 3:21-24	The Unveiling of God's Covenant Justice
Fourteen	Romans 3:25-26	Jesus' Death Reveals God's Covenant Justice
Fifteen	Romans 3:27-31	The God of Both the Jew and Gentile
Sixteen	Romans 4:1-8	God's Covenant with Abraham
Seventeen	Romans 4:9-12	Abraham the Father of both Uncircumcised and the Circumcised
Eighteen	Romans 4:13-17	Abraham is the Father of All Believers
Nineteen	Romans 4:18-25	Abraham's Faith - and Ours
Twenty	Romans 5:1-5	Peace and Hope
Twenty-one	Romans 5:6-11	Jesus's Death Reveals God's Love and Guarantees Final Salvation
Twenty-two	Romans 5:12-17	The Picture in Shorthand: Adam and the Messiah
Twenty-three	Romans 5:18-21	The Triumphant Reign of Grace
Twenty-four	Romans 6:1-5	Leaving the State of Sin Through Baptism
Twenty-five	Romans 6:6-11	Dead to Sin, Alive to God
Twenty-six	Romans 6:12-14	The Call to Holy Living
Twenty-seven	Romans 6:15-19	The Two Types of Slavery
Twenty-eight	Romans 6:20-23	Where the Two Roads Lead
Twenty-nine	Romans 7:1-6	Dying to the Law
Thirty	Romans 7:7-12	When the Law Arrived: Sinai Looked Back to the Fall
Thirty-one	Romans 7:13-20	Looking Back on Life Under the Law
Thirty-two	Romans 7:21-25	The Double 'Law' and the Miserable 'I'
Thirty-three	Romans 8:1-4	God's Action in Messiah and Spirit
Thirty-four	Romans 8:5-11	The Work of the Spirit

Day	Passage	Heading
Thirty-five	Romans 8:12-17	Children of God, Led by the Spirit
Thirty-six	Romans 8:18-25	Creation Renewed and Patient Hope
Thirty-seven	Romans 8:26-30	Prayer, Sonship and Sovereignty of God
Thirty-eight	Romans 8:31-39	Nothing Shall Separate us from God's Love
Thirty-nine	Romans 9:1-5	The Privileges and Tragedy of Israel
Forty	Romans 9:6-13	Abraham's Two Families
Forty-one	Romans 9:14-24	God's Purpose and Justice
Forty-two	Romans 9:25-29	God Calls a Remnant
Forty-three	Romans 9:30-10:4	Israel, the Nations and the Messiah
Forty-four	Romans 10:5-13	The Fulfilment of the Covenant
Forty-five	Romans 10:14-21	The Call to the World and Failure of Israel
Forty-six	Romans 11:1-6	The Remnant of Grace
Forty-seven	Romans 11:7-15	A Stumble with a Purpose
Forty-eight	Romans 11:16-24	The Two Olive Trees
Forty-nine	Romans 11:25-32	Mercy Upon All
Fifty	Romans 11:33-36	To God Be the Glory
Fifty-one	Romans 12:1-5	The Living Sacrifice
Fifty-two	Romans 12:6-13	Living Together in the Messiah
Fifty-three	Romans 12:14-21	Living Alongside the World
Fifty-four	Romans 13:1-7	The Divine Purpose, and Limited Role, of Ruling Authorities
Fifty-five	Romans 13:8-14	Love, the Law, and the Coming Day
Fifty-six	Romans 14:1-6	The Weak and the Strong
Fifty-seven	Romans 14:7-12	The Final Judgement is the Only One that Counts
Fifty-eight	Romans 14:13-23	The Way of Love and Peace
Fifty-nine	Romans 15:1-6	Unity: Modelled by the Messiah, Encouraged by Scripture
Sixty	Romans 15: 7-13	United Praise under the Messiah's Universal Rule
Sixty-one	Romans 15:14-24	Coming to Rome at Last
Sixty-two	Romans 15:25-33	Aid for Jerusalem
Sixty-three	Romans 16:1-16	Commending Phoebe, Greeting Friends
Sixty-four	Romans 16:17-23	Warning and Greetings
Sixty-five	Romans 16:25-27	Final Blessing

ROMANS

