

QT Questions — for Romans

While the gospels communicate the good news of Jesus Christ through stories about His life and ministry, the book of Romans articulates the message in a more technical and philosophical way. It teaches us how a person is redeemed, transformed, sealed and sanctified for That Day when we will all stand before the Lord. Reading Romans helped Martin Luther to discover that faith alone justifies, a truth that helped bring about the Reformation.

Starting tomorrow, we will be receiving letters from the Apostles, who lovingly addressed issues-difficulties-conflicts-struggles God's church suffered during the NT days. As you can see, no church on earth, even during the NT days, was perfect. They all had issues. But, the issues turned into blessings, because our dear Apostles used them to teach us more of our God's goodness, stirring our souls to love and to grow more like our Redeemer.

Rom 1 (11/6)

1. According to 1:4-5, what did Jesus' resurrection from the dead prove; what was the call for the Gentiles; and what should this mean for you?
2. According to 1:16-17, can you explain how God uses the gospel?
 - The heart of the gospel is a twofold message about Christ—that He died for our sins, and that He was raised on the third day (1Cor 15:3-4).
 - So, when people ask us, what exactly is the gospel?—Our answer should be, Christ died for our sins, and He was raised on the third day, proving that He is the Son of God who came to save us (see Ro 1:4, question #1).
3. What does wickedness suppress; how do you think that is?
4. According to 1:24-32, what happens to the people who exchange the truth about God for a lie; will you choose a few of the shameful acts that hits close to your heart and reflect?

Rom 2 (11/8)

1. In 2:4, where is God's kindness intended to lead us; how do you think that happens; have you had that experience?
2. According to 2:12-13, can you explain the standard under a sinner is judged, and the standard under a person is declared righteous?
 - These bullet points are my comments for you to read my understanding of God's word; therefore, they are not meant for you to answer.
 - Under 2:12, can you see how a people living and dying, who have not heard the gospel yet, are still judged properly?; they are not simply condemned without the right reason.
 - However, for the people who heard the gospel (Jesus' cross and resurrection for us), and do not obey, are without excuse for their condemnation. The gospel is God's key to opening heaven's gate to sinners who truly deserve nothing but hell.
3. In 2:17-24, as we teach and share God's truth with others, what must happen in our lives first; can you identify an area in your life where this is not happening?—If you do, please spend some time to repent.

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4. What is the meaning of circumcision; what does Paul mean that circumcision has value if we obey the law but not if we break them; how is this applicable to you?

Rom 3 (11/9)

1. In 3:7, the argument is presented, that “if my falsehood enhances God’s truthfulness and so increases His glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?”—will you explain what’s wrong with this reasoning; which do you think displays God’s glory better, when we live in sin or when we obey God’s truth, please explain?
2. In 3:9-18, who is righteous; why is that; and how do they display their condition?
3. In 3:20, Paul teaches that the law (that is, to obey the good deeds the law teaches) makes us conscious of our sin—how is that; how have you seen it in your life?
4. How is Jesus, just and the One who justifies; how is this truth applied to your life?

Rom 4 (11/10)

1. In 4:1-8, how did Abraham receive righteousness; how does God justify the ungodly; how can God never count our sins against us, when we have clearly committed them—can you answer all the above questions with the same one word and explain how that is so?
2. In 4:16, it reads, “the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace,”—why is it by grace when it comes by faith; can you explain what faith and grace is, to a person who is not a Christian to make sense of what Paul is saying here?
3. Abraham believed, “the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not. Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed” (isn’t this amazing!)—can you describe how Abraham lived out what he believed here; and how can this belief apply to your life?
4. Please memorize 4:25—what did Jesus’ death specifically do for us, and what did Jesus’ resurrection accomplish for us?

Rom 5 (11/11)

1. How is it possible that a sinner can have peace with God when we have been hostile to Him; can you explain how faith works in our justification and access into God’s grace?
2. Is Paul out of his mind to say that we can “glory in our suffering,” or is there a true glorious blessing in our suffering—if so, what is it and how can we taste it?
3. In 5:6, 8, 10, God’s word says, that while we were still powerless, still sinners, when we were His enemies—what did our God choose to do for such undeserving people; why would He do that for you; what does this say about His relationship with you?
4. In 5:16, I picture one of the most blessed imagery in God’s word through the word “followed,” where I see someone running—so, what was the result when it followed sin, and what did it bring when it followed God’s gift?
 - What I picture is God’s gift (His grace) running after me, everywhere I go, especially when I am entering into sin, He is running hard to cover me with His grace. He does not tire to run after me and my sins, so that He can cover me with His gift. Though I have regrets over my sins because I am so stupid; however, there’s now no condemnation for my sins anymore.
 - Can you picture your God running after you?

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5. In 5:20, what does Paul mean, “where sin increased, grace increased all the more”; can you describe how this is true in your life?

Rom 6 (11/12)

1. From 5:20-6:2, if increasing sin means increasing grace, what’s wrong with sinning and expecting God to forgive?
2. In 6:3-7, what does baptism have to do with death?
3. What does it mean to count yourself dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus; in what ways are you learning to do this?
4. Words like slaves instinctively cause us to cringe, so why is it good to be a slave to God; if a non-Christian should ask you why you believe being God’s slave is a true blessing, how will you answer?
 - Please memorize Rom 6:23—may I encourage you to spend the day meditating on this verse—the truthfulness of it, the power of it, and the frightening divide of it.

Rom 7 (11/13)

1. In 7:4-6, we are taught that we died to the law—how did we die; then, to whom do we now belong; what should this new life look like?
2. In 7:7-12, can you explain, if God’s law (word) is holy, righteous and good, how could it actually bring death; have you had such an experience?
3. In 7:15, 19, Paul’s struggle with his sinfulness is frightening—have you found this struggle to also be true in you; how are you wrestling with your sinfulness?
4. In 7:17, 20, is Paul saying that he was not ultimately responsible for his sin?
 - Will you stay a while with 7:21-24, as you meditate on Paul’s struggle on how utterly helpless he felt in his struggle against his own sinfulness?
 - As you know, the struggle against our own sinfulness is really hard; PLEASE, do not let this difficult struggle make you ignore this fight, because if you do, then there’s only one practical outcome—we will be Christians by name only, but by practice, our lives will display more of the devil’s character than our Redeemer.
 - Only after lingering there a while, then please read your triumph on 7:25.

Rom 8 (11/15)

Romans 8 is one of the most amazing chapters in God’s word, though all of God’s word is truly amazing. Think of this chapter as a thick juicy steak. Though you cut in bite-size, still you will have to chew longer, in order to digest well. So, let me encourage you, though you are familiar with many of the verses, please stop often in your reading, and meditate slowly and deliberately. Pray that our God will open and deepen your understanding of His word. Pray that His word will be nutritious and delicious for your mind, heart and soul.

1. In 8:1, how can there be no condemnation, when Paul himself confessed that he really did the evil he shouldn’t in 7:19; how can there be no condemnation for you, when you do the evil you shouldn’t?
2. In 8:1-17, if we are living according to God’s Spirit, what are some of the wonderful fruits of such lives?
3. How does the Holy Spirit help us in our weakness; what does this mean for our daily lives, especially on days we know we don’t have it?

4. In 8:28, we are told that God works for the good of those who love Him—will you interpret “our good” in light of verses 29 and 30?
5. In 8:31-39, why can God’s people feel secure, when the world can be so against us; will you use a specific verse or verses that speak to you and explain?
 - Will you memorize the verse and meditate on it, all through the day?
 - Rom 8:32 is one of God’s word that I have memorized and meditate often.

Rom 9 (11/16)

1. In 9:6-9, what is the significance of distinguishing Abraham’s children; aren’t all of his children, including Isaac, born through him physically?
2. In 9:10-18, in God’s purpose of election, what separates the two classes of people, the saved and the unsaved; why did God loved Jacob, but Esau hate; why does God love you and not hate you?
3. In 9:25, Why does God turn the world upside down, calling “My people” who are not His people, calling “My loved one” who is not His loved one; what does this mean for you; and how does this bring hope to the people we love?
4. In 9:30-33, what unlocked righteousness for the Gentiles; and what locked righteousness from the Jews; how does this apply to you?

Rom 10 (11/17)

1. From 10:3-4, to the people who will not submit to God’s way of righteousness, what do they do; will you share some of the ways you have seen their way, perhaps in your own lives as well?
2. From 10:5-8, how is Christ brought up and down (please read Deut 30:11-14, to understand these words)?
3. We clearly know that our confession with our words does not save us, so what is the connection of the belief in our hearts to our words in 10:9-10; will you make such confession with your mouth to another person sometime today or this week?
4. What makes the feet beautiful; have you ever had beautiful feet; in what ways have you blessed the people with beautiful feet; how can we bless them more?
5. What is the means God uses to bless our faith; like all good things, it is natural to take it for granted and not to eat it so deliciously, so can many of you share how you do it, so the rest of us can learn from each other and do better?

Rom 11 (11/18)

1. In 11:5, what does God mean when He says that “there is a remnant chosen by grace”?
2. In 11:8, we know that God never causes anyone to sin, so how are we to understand verse 8?
3. In 11:22, we are told to consider the kindness and sternness of God—so what are they; why is it important for us?
4. In 11:28, can you explain, “for God’s gifts and His call are irrevocable”; how is this applicable to you?

Rom 12 (11/19)

1. In 12:1-2, what are we urged to do and not do; how is this happening in your life?

2. In 12:3-8, we are taught that we all belong to each other—so, how are the different gifts that each of us have belong to each other; what gift has God gifted you with and how have you seen it used for each other?
3. From 12:9-13, will you choose one sentence or phrase that ministers to you most and one that rebukes you most, and share why they do what they do?
4. In 12:14-21, what does heaping burning coals on the enemy's head mean (and it is not literal, of course); why must we repay those who do evil to us with kindness; how is this possible; what's most difficult obeying this; have you had an experience yourself doing this?

Rom 13 (11/20)

1. Why is God calling all His people to subject ourselves to the governing authorities?
2. Many times in our lives, our focus is to remember what others owe us, but in 13:7, God is calling His people to give to everyone what we owe them—will you examine the people around you and see what you owe them (rather than remember what they owe you)?
 - This truly is one way to learn to live by faith and not by sight.
3. In 13:8, we are told there is a continuing debt to love one another—will you examine who are the one another in your life, and how can you pay that debt of love to them, as Christ loved you?
4. In 13:14, we are told what to do and what not to do—what are they; and how do we do that?

Rom 14 (11/22)

1. In Matt 18:15-17, God's word clearly teaches that when we see our brothers and sisters sinning, we are to go to them and lovingly rebuke them so they can repent, so how is it different than not judging here in Rom 14:1-13?
2. In 14:13, we are commanded to not put any stumbling blocks or obstacles before our brothers and sisters—will you prayerfully seek God's grace to know whom you have caused to stumble; and will you examine in what ways you cause them to stumble?
 - And when the Lord opens your eyes, please be sure to repent, ask for forgiveness, both to God and the person, and seek God's grace to bless and not to stumble the person again.
 - Though our gracious God has already forgiven our sins in Christ, still when we realized that we have sinned, it is right to ask for forgiveness, not necessarily to receive the forgiveness but to acknowledge our sins and rejoice in His forgiveness.
3. In 14:15-16, God words says, "Do not by your eating destroy someone for whom Christ died. Therefore do not let what you know is good be spoken of as evil."—please explain what Paul was instructing about; how is this applicable to our lives?
4. In 14:19-21, will you reflect on God's words here and share your thoughts?

Rom 15 (11/23)

1. In 15:1-4, what are the Biblical accounts of the past meant to do for the people who read God's word?
2. In 15:5, how is Christ meant to impact us, and what is it meant to ultimately do in our lives according to 15:6?

3. In 15:20, do you see how God gave Paul a heart that aligned with his calling in Acts 9:15; in what ways does this happen; how is this applicable to our lives?
4. In 15:30-33, Paul is asking God's people to pray for him—what were Paul's prayer requests for himself; what are the fruits of answered prayers that he anticipates; what does this mean for you?

Rom 16 (11/24)

1. Why is Phoebe called a deacon; what is the meaning of the word; and how does God desire for people like her to be treated?
2. Remember Priscilla and Aquila—where and what were they doing in the book of Acts; how does Paul describe them here in Romans 16?
 - We don't always see both the husband and the wife serving together as they; what a beautiful sight.
3. In 16:13, we are introduced to Rufus—how does God's word introduce him; and how is he connected to Jesus' crucifixion (search for his father)?
4. God chose to record 35 people's names in this chapter—will you highlight one person who ministers to you; and will you also find another person you are not familiar with, and learn more and share how is that person a blessing?
5. At the very beginning and the very end of Romans, we find a phrase that is repeated—what is it; and why should that matter to us (Ro 16:26; 1:5)?

Dear lovers of God and lovers of His word,

- Praise His holy name and thank you for sitting at the feet of our Savior and Lord, Christ Jesus, each day, to drink from His fountain of truth. May our Lord truly capture us, as we walk with Him, burning our hearts and causing us to always return to His church, to serve and to obey together because of the faith He has deposited unto us. We are so thankful that our God stirs our souls to delight to do His will over ours. And when we should fall, and it happens more often than we would like to confess, we are so thankful that our God never rejects us, never forsakes us, is never disappointed that we have sinned again and are crying out to Him again. In fact, I believe He is pleased that despite the many repeated times we have fallen, that we will continue to rise again in faith, and go to Him humbly in faith, because we know, no one will accept us like our Redeemer, when we have failed so miserably. Our God is a great God, a good God, a kind God, a merciful God, a most compassionate, tender, caring, and gentle God. Praise His holy name! Thank You, heavenly Father, for loving us like You do! Your mercy and grace are truly eternity changers.