

# **Romans**

## **Nature and Purpose of the Course**

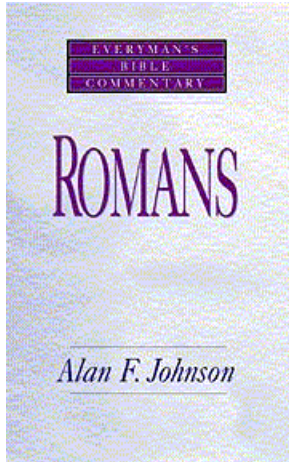
Paul's letter to the Romans is one of the most significant pieces of literature in the Western world, and deserving of study. You may be a busy student in a Bible college or university. Perhaps you work in an office or factory or operate your own business. You may be a competent homemaker, rearing a family. Whatever your circumstances, we trust that through this Bible study you will discover the relationship between Romans and your life situation. Theological principles such as Paul unfolds in Romans may not at first seem to apply to daily life. But God certainly intended that the careful analysis of this epistle would equip believers unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:17). This is our desire as well.

This course is a three-semester-hour college-level study on the book of Romans. The purpose of this course is to guide you into a firsthand acquaintance with this famous document and with the truths unfolded in it. The course material follows the book of Romans chapter by chapter and relates each section of Paul's letter to what precedes and follows it. Upon completion of this course you should be able to construct from memory an outline of the major sections of the book, complete with Scripture references. o identify the chapter in which any of the major topics of Romans are found. o discuss how the truth of a given chapter or section of Romans applies to contemporary society. o state the purpose and theme of the epistle.

## **Table of Contents**

- Lesson 1** *Background and Introductory Material*
- Lesson 2** *The Power of the Gospel and the Need of the Pagan World (Rom. 1:1-32)*
- Lesson 3** *The Predicament of All Humanity (Rom. 2:1-3:20)*
- Lesson 4** *The Provision of God's Righteousness (Rom. 3:21-4:25)*
- Lesson 5** *The Certainty of God's Righteousness (Rom. 5:1-21)*
- Lesson 6** *Our Union With Christ (Rom. 6:1-7:25)*
- Lesson 7** *Freedom in the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-39)*
- Lesson 8** *The Destiny of the People of Israel (Rom. 9:1-11:36)*
- Lesson 9** *The Implications of God's Righteousness (Rom. 12:1-13:14)*
- Lesson 10** *Practical Problems and Personal Plans (Rom. 14:1-16:27)*

## The Text Book



The following is the required textbook for this course. You should be able to purchase this book from a local bookstore, an online book store such as [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or [Christian Book Distributors](https://www.christianbookdistributors.com) or through [Moody Press](https://www.moodypress.com) (1-800-678-6928).

- Alan Johnson, *Romans: The Freedom Letter, volumes 1 and 2* (Chicago: Moody, 1985). ISBN # 0-8024-2127-X

Specific assignments related to the reading from this textbook are found in the Introduction to each lesson. In order to gain the most benefit from this course, you should read the assignment in the textbook first, then read through the Supplement for that lesson.

## Course Requirements

For this course you must successfully complete **two papers** and **two exams**, complete the reading of your **textbook** and participate in fifteen weeks of **threaded discussions**.

### Paper Option 1

#### **The Problem of the Person Who Has Never Heard the Gospel and the Justice of God.**

The basis of this paper is Romans 1:18-20, which states that everyone is without excuse before God. Suppose someone states that God is not fair in condemning people who have never heard the gospel. Answer this objection by using the Scripture passage above and any other Scripture passages that you feel are appropriate. Also feel free to use any commentaries or other helps available.

## **Paper Option 2**

### **The Doctrine of Justification in Romans.**

Justification must be defined, described, discussed, developed, and distinguished from other factors involved in the doctrine of salvation. The questions who? what? how? where? when? and why? are important for the student to answer in developing this paper.

## **Paper Option 3**

### **Israel's Future in the Program of God.**

Relate the truth of Romans 11:11-26 to other biblical passages that shed light upon Israel's future in the program of God. What distinctive role, if any, will Israel play in a coming day? You may wish to consult books on eschatology as part of your preparation for writing this paper.

## **Paper Option 4**

You will be given five case studies related to the tension that may arise concerning obedience to legal authorities and obedience to God. In light of Romans 13:1-7, indicate how you would answer the following problems. Give reasons (scriptural principles) to justify your conclusions. Each answer should be approximately one page (double-spaced) in length.

## **Reading**

You will be required to read the study guide as well as the textbook. Your comprehension of this material will be reflected by the exams. The Self-Check Tests and Review Questions will refer to material in both the study guide and textbook, and thus help prepare you for the exams. You will be required to submit a Reading Report, stating that you have completed reading of the textbook, and the lesson supplements.

## **Threaded Discussions**

The Threaded Discussion portion of this course will enable you to interact and dialogue in a collaborative setting with the instructor and your classmates. Each week your instructor will post a discussion topic or question. Usually these topics or questions will be taken directly from the Review or Study questions in the lesson. You will be required to post a response by the given deadline. Your responses will be evaluated based on the specifications your instructor posts with each new question. Some responses will be evaluated based on their length, others on the number of resources referred to and others on the quality of their content. Each response should be well thought out and contain no spelling or grammatical errors. You will also be required to read the responses of your "classmates" and respond.

## **Study Questions**

At the beginning and end of each lesson, you will find Review and Study Questions, which are designed to guide you in your understanding of the Supplement. You must select 20 of these questions (from a variety of lessons), write a response/answer and send them to your instructor via the Drop Box.