



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Romans 1-16
- Acts 20-28

## PAUL'S MAGNUM OPUS

- Overview of Romans
- The Power of Questions

## SEED:

*[writing Romans from Corinth on his third missionary journey Spring 58ad]* “Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, **he came to Greece and stayed three months...**” Acts 20:2-3 NKJV

“So, as much as is in me, **I am ready to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome** also.” Romans 1:15 NKJV

“And we know that **all things work together for good** to those who **love God**, to those who are the called according to His **purpose.**” Romans 8:28 NKJV

“What then shall we say to these things? **If God is for us, who can be against us?**” Romans 8:31 NKJV

“But now no longer having a place in these parts, and **having a great desire these many years to come to you**, whenever I journey to Spain, **I shall come to you.** For **I hope to see you on my journey,**

and to be helped on my way there by you, **if first I may enjoy your company for a while.**" Romans 15:23-24 NKJV

## FRUIT:

*[on trial in Jerusalem Summer 58ad around Pentecost]* "But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, "Be of good cheer, Paul; **for as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.**" Acts 23:11 NKJV

*[caught in a storm sailing to Rome 60ad]* "**Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.**' Therefore take heart, men, for **I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.**" Acts 27:24-25 NKJV

*[in Rome Spring 61ad]* "**For this reason** therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because **for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.**" Acts 28:20 NKJV

## INTRODUCTION:

*Over the years, I have learned that using questions is a powerful way to engage with people on a deeper level. When I was younger, I thought arguing was an effective form of communication. I was very wrong. But, as I've grown older, and my hair has become dusted with silver, I've come to realize there's a much better way.*

*Asking questions is significantly more effective if your desire is to advance a conversation, discern someone's position, determine current understanding, impart knowledge, influence thought, and challenge disagreement. And the quality of your questions and how you present them not only determines their effectiveness, but also directly influences the quality of your relationships.*

*Paul asked many questions, as any good teacher should, and his questions have stirred the imagination of Christians for two thousand years. Look at a few examples extracted from just one chapter in one of Paul's letters (1 Corinthians 9):*

- *Would you ever go to war at your own expense?*
- *Would you plant a vineyard and not eat of its fruit?*
- *Do you believe when I speak that I'm teaching as a mere man?*
- *Does not the law say the same as what I am presenting?*

*A quick review of Romans, Paul's greatest "theological treatise," and you will discover that 92 times he asks a question (depending on your preferred translation). Here are a mouthful of them to chew on:*

- *"What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision? Much in every way!"*
- *"Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law."*

- *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”*
- *“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!”*
- *“What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not!”*
- *“O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God Jesus Christ our Lord did!”*

*Thinking about questions reminded me of two things. The first was that asking questions is what I’ve done for many years as I’ve helped disciple many young people in the faith. It has been quite effective. And the second was a poem that my wife Andrea wrote (added below), at the request of my son Cyrus, to be included in one of his poetry books. Its title speaks of one of the most powerful questions we could ever ask, “Why?” It poses the question, “Why don’t we seek answers from all the grey-haired wisdom keepers who are still alive today, instead of always asking Siri, Google and ChatGPT?”*

*In his letter to the Romans, Paul often asked why...*

- *“Why do you judge and show contempt for your brother?”*
- *“For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, why am I also still judged as a sinner?”*
- *“Why not say, “Let us do evil that good may come”?”*

- *“For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?”*
- *“Why does God still find fault?”*
- *“Why have you made me like this?”*

*As we venture into Paul’s letter to the Romans, let’s all answer and ask: who, what, when, where, how & why?*

### **WHY?**

**By Dr. Andrea Hazim**

Questions, questions, so many questions rumble around my mind.  
These “?” marks have the potential to lead a master class on mischief of the mind,  
wreak havoc in my heart and expose the dips in my emotional quotient.

Why?

Why is the chasm between  
knowing and doing so vast?

Why?

Why does there seem to be a delay,  
when my Italian grandma advised me about the way she starts her day...

Why?

Why don’t I heed Angelina’s wisdom?  
I can hear her say, “If I donna spend-a my morning with-a God, my day, it-a go-a  
haywire.”

Why?

Why miss out on learning from the wise?  
Now that I ponder Grandma Angelina’s words of wisdom,  
she shed light on many a “Why?” not knowing she was answering future questions on  
many a topic.

Money or marinara,  
family life or being a wife,  
overcoming hard times or teaching grandchildren nursery rhymes,

*Angelina was prolific with pearls of wisdom.*

*Why?*

*Why should we miss out on gleaning from the wise elders in our lives?*

*Grandma Angelia advised*

*"Why don't-a you-a wear this-a girdle?*

*It will-a make-a you stomach-a flat after you have-a the baby."*

*Why?*

*Why don't we care to seek out the true wisdom keepers?*

*Why not take advantage before the sands seep and time runs out?*

*The time is NOW to identify them, interview them, and share their nuggets of gold!*

*Why?*

*Why ask Siri or other online search engines when grey is the original google?*

## **NARRATIVE FOR TODAY'S SCRIPTURES: ROMANS 1-16**

Toward the end of his third missionary journey in the Spring of 58ad, Paul wrote a letter to the Romans. Shortly after that in the summer of the same year, his third missionary journey complete, Paul was arrested and held captive in Jerusalem. The Lord appeared to him while he was being detained and told him that the persecution he was dealing with was all by grand design. The ultimate purpose was for him to bring his testimony to Rome! (See: [Great Purpose](#))

Two years later in 60ad, when finally Paul was on his way to Rome, the ship on which he was a prisoner was caught in a massive storm. The sailors and prisoners were shrouded in darkness, as the sun could not penetrate the clouds for days on end. They all became hopeless, but Paul was able to assure them. *"No one will*

*die if you listen to me. I am on this ship because I MUST appear in Rome, and all those with me will survive too.”*

Paul then got to live his dream, a chance to minister in Rome around 61ad. Multiple of his writing display his earnest desire to be in Rome! When he got there, he met with the local Jewish leaders to bring them up to speed about why he was in Rome. He summarized his entire testimony and journey and more importantly presented them with the hope that was in him. *“The reason I am in chains is because I have been preaching about Y’shua. He’s the one our people have been hoping for over many generations.”* Paul stayed incarcerated for two years under house arrest, thankfully not in a prison cell. He was permitted to receive visitors as he wished, those who could provide for his needs, but more importantly those to whom he could teach about salvation in Y’shua and the kingdom of God. (See: [Influence the Influencers](#))

What we will study this year, in the next yearly Biblical Feast Cycle, is the letter Paul wrote to the Church in Rome a few years before he arrived there. Arguably it is his most important work and has become his Magnum Opus, his most detailed theological treatise—The Book Romans (really a letter).

How did we arrive here? For the first three years at Kingdom Embassy Ministries we used the weekly Torah Portion readings and the Biblical Feast Cycle (from Fall to Fall) to guide our calendar and

the subject matter of each sermon. We used that schedule of reading the five Books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) as the foundation and then created sermons to explicate using the words of the prophets and other Old Testament writings, and of course most importantly what Y'shua, Paul, Peter, and all the other New Testament writings had to say about the words of Moses. Using that schedule was certainly mandated by God and how we knew that is a story for another time, but I assure you it is detailed and filled with Holy Spirit confirmations!

But then something happened! As the third year was coming to an end in the Fall of 2022, God spoke loud and clear about a change in our calendar—the details of which you can see in [The End of the Beginning](#). The following is the introduction to that message (including links within it for further revelation). Suffice it to say, it was not an easy change to make after all God had done to place us on the Torah Portion Cycle years earlier. It took a real shaking to the core, but God's an expert in the business of shaking!

*[early fall 2022; Sept. 29] "It's time to go over the wall." Those were his words after I explained what had transpired over the past six weeks. The whole thing seemed to climax on the previous Friday night [Sept. 23] after I presented "[Scorched Earth](#)." And when I woke on Saturday morning it felt like the first day of Summer*



*vacation. The pressure was off and I was relaxed for the first time in more than a month. I instantly had a vision of a sprinter running through the finish line, breaking the tape. "You run through the tape, not to the tape," I heard. And then the thought settled in, "Now I can slowly glide to a stop over the next few weeks as we complete this year's cycle, like a sprinter who slows down gently, so he does not hit the wall." Run through the tape, not to the tape, and then ease up slowly. This is what I thought would happen, until I woke up on Sunday morning. Summer vacation was over.*

*"It's time to go over the wall." My dear brother's words at dinner that night, just five days after my vision of the sprinter, had vibrated my eardrums, but not instantly reached my brain. I shook loose from my momentary vacant stare. "Maybe you have to climb the wall, not stop at the wall." His clarifying words testified to what I already knew to be true. Between those two moments, the vision Saturday [Sept. 24] morning and dinner the following Thursday night [Sept. 29], I had already composed the first of the final two messages, and there was no indication that anything was slowing down. Naturally, the only possibilities would be to climb over or break through, but stopping at the wall was clearly not an option. Something new was coming!*

*Friday evening [Sept. 30] I delivered "[Post Mortem Imperative](#)." Then, Saturday morning [Oct. 1] God gave me yet*

another vision, this one was for the young adult study that morning — [W. A. R. \(Warring Against Repentance\)](#). It's about the internal war against our own repentance, the craving we have to erase our repentant hearts, just so we can cycle back to our lustful sins. Cycle back? I woke again Sunday morning [Oct. 2] to begin preparation, this time for the final chapter in the saga, this very message [[The End of the Beginning](#) for Oct. 7]. As usual, I had great anticipation that the Lord would speak. Although, I have to admit, what He was about to reveal far exceeded anything I could ever imagine.

This short introduction will not suffice; you will need to listen to the message in its entirety. However, I will say this; the plan of cycling through the Torah portions, year-after-year, ending with Deuteronomy 34 and beginning immediately again with Genesis 1, is a double-edged sword. On one edge, by repeating the cycle we learn to recognize and rehearse the amazing patterns from the Torah that inspire New Testament teachings again and again. And, on the other edge, it seems to have engrained something ominous into mankind's psyche. Why? Because just when it's time to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land, we learn to STOP! Go back to the beginning and start all over again.

And isn't that precisely what all of mankind has done, repeatedly? It's the story of man: command, fail, repent, forgiven... repeat. What are the possibilities if we just keep going? Instead of

*Deuteronomy and back to Genesis, let's march straight ahead into Joshua. Let's go over the wall! Let's break free of this earth's gravitational pull. Gravity is a natural phenomenon by which all things with mass are brought toward one another, the force of attraction between any two masses. One mass is mankind, the other is sin! In other words, we are strongly attracted to the gravitational pull of being sinful humans; but what if we just went forward? What if we accepted that we are no longer just human? What if we brought an end to the beginning? Let's dare to cross the finish line, accelerate a little, and scale that wall. What's on the other side? I think it's what we've all been looking for. Dare we believe? Might we look in the mirror one day and see the glory of the Lord staring back at us? Dare we believe?"*

We were not going back to Genesis. We were going forward into Joshua and the Promised Land. Then God again spoke clearly that we would also venture into Matthew and finish the year with Acts. And that is what we did. God downloaded the schedule for the entire year to me in just a few minutes. After the Fall Feasts of 2022, we began with Joshua on October 28, 2022 and we finished Acts on September 8, 2023. Interspersed were the Spring Feast teachings and the last four weeks leading up to this teaching we explored the details of the Fall Feasts. Towards the end of teaching Acts God spoke again. Next up...Romans.

Leading up to this giant shift at the end of the third year in 2022, as I related the message privately to those who would counsel me, a friend looked at me like it was all so simple. It all lined up with Leviticus 19:23-25. “***When you come into the land, and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as uncircumcised. Three years it shall be as uncircumcised to you. It shall not be eaten. But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, a praise to the Lord. And in the fifth year you may eat its fruit, that it may yield to you its increase: I am the Lord your God.***”

It had been three years of Torah Portion teachings (Fall 2019 to Fall 2022) and we were not going back to Genesis. We had three years behind us “in the land.” The next year’s fruit, year four (Fall 2022 to Fall 2023) would be our year of holiness for Yahweh (and every sermon in Joshua, Matthew and Acts delivered that message)! The following year (which is now this year beginning today) we will eat the increase of that fruit of holiness. What is that going to look like—let us go on to perfection as exclaimed by Y’shua in the last verse of Matthew’s fifth chapter! “***Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.***” And as written so brilliantly in the first three verses in the sixth chapter of Hebrews: “***Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance***

*from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. **And this we will do if God permits.***” And what better way to do that than to dive deep into the Book of Romans.

## OVERVIEW OF ROMANS

### 1. Introduction to Paul’s Letter to the Romans

#### A. Details

##### (1) Author

- (a) The Apostle Paul (Shaul)

##### (2) Date and Place of Writing

- (a) Written from the Greek city of Corinth on his third missionary journey circa 58ad.

##### (3) History and Background

- (a) Paul was the first to formally formulate in writing, the key doctrines that define Christianity today.
- (b) He spent years pressing into Yahweh through the Spirit and working out what had transpired when he was encountered by Y’shua in Acts 9.
- (c) The Holy Spirit had revealed how everything he previously learned as an expert in the law related to him now that he was a believer in Christ (and thereby how it relates to all of us).

#### (4) Recipients and Key People

- (a) This letter was addressed to both Jews and Gentiles.
- (b) It was not written to a specific church, but rather to groups of people whom he was preparing for his visit.
- (c) It would seem that he felt they were ready to receive the intensity of this letter as he testifies of the fame of the faith and obedience of those in Rome:
  - 1) “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, **that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.**” Romans 1:8 NKJV
  - 2) “For **your obedience has become known to all.**” Romans 16:19 NKJV
- (d) Tertius penned it for Paul; Gaius hosted Tertius while it was written, and Phoebe carried the letter to Rome.

#### (5) Purpose

- (a) To extol the Righteousness of God!
- (b) The most important New Testament book on doctrine and theology.
- (c) It was written to prepare Christians for his visit:
  - 1) **instruct** them in basic and advanced doctrine
  - 2) **correct** false teachers
  - 3) **explain** the relationship of Israel and the church

- 4) **teach** duties toward government, authorities, and each other
  - 5) **answer** slander about himself.
- (d) Romans is one of two of Paul's letters that refers to Habakkuk 2:4; **"The Just shall live by faith."** (Romans 1:17) Galatians 3:1 does as well. We also see it referenced in Hebrews 10:38 (unlikely written by Paul).
- (e) All Scripture is inspired by God as Paul writes in 2 Timothy 3:16, and it is useful for: **doctrine**, as seen in Romans; for **reproof**, as seen in 1-2 Corinthians; as **correction**, as seen in Galatians; and for **instruction**, as seen in Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians.
- (6) Key Concepts
- (a) Rebellion, God's invisible attributes, Righteousness, Faith, Doing the Law vs. Works of Law, Son's of God, Sin, Flesh, Obedience, Transformation, Grace, Law, Salvation, Justification
  - (b) Three Eternal Destinies
    - 1) Three crosses of Calvary depict three eternal destinies.
    - 2) Romans elaborates on each: rebels against God's kingdom; rulers in God's kingdom; and citizens of God's kingdom.

## (7) Themes

- (a) This is the book of righteousness and radical grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience!
- (b) The word righteousness appears forty times for different reasons:
  - 1) Righteousness Needed (for sin)
  - 2) Righteousness Imputed (for salvation)
  - 3) Righteousness Imparted (for sanctification)
  - 4) Righteousness Rejected (for God's sovereignty)
  - 5) Righteousness Practiced (for service to God & man).

## B. Overview

### (1) Chapter 1

- (a) Paul acknowledges the great faith of believers in Rome and his sincere desire to see them.
- (b) He sets the stage for his theological Magnum Opus;
  - 1) "For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from **faith to faith**; as it is written, "**The just shall live by faith.**"
- (c) God's wrath is the destiny for all unrighteousness and Paul makes a long list of what that behavior looks like.
- (d) The invisible qualities of God were made visible when He extracted Eve from Adam and presented her to him.



1) *“For since the creation of the world His **invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made**, even His eternal power and **Godhead**, so that they are without excuse.”*

(2) Chapters 2-3

(a) There is an infinite distance separating **faith-based obedience**; *“for **not the hearers** of the law are just in the sight of God, but **the doers** of the law will be justified;”* and **legalism**, *“By the **works of the law** no flesh will be justified in God’s sight.”*

(b) All of mankind is guilty and all of mankind is redeemed the same way, by faith, no matter Jew or Gentile.

1) **“Do we then make void the law through faith?”**

Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.”

(c) That is the advantage for those raised with the Word of God, they know the law.

(d) All they need to do is add faith.

(3) Chapters 4-5

(a) We are all justified by faith, not a list of laws, and all the promises of God are available through faith.

(b) Faith then gives us continuous access to God’s grace and that is what empowers our righteous living, which shows up as obeying God’s laws.

- (c) One man ruined the whole process and introduced death (Adam) and one man corrected it and brought life (Y'shua).

#### (4) Chapter 6-8

- (a) We are freed from sin as we identify with the death burial and resurrection of Y'shua.
- (b) Because we are released from the marriage bond to Satan, we free to become the bride of Christ.
- (c) But that does not mean the journey will be without struggles.
- (d) The most important thing to remember in the midst of trials is that we have been delivered from death to life in Christ.
- (e) And that we are also free from condemnation as long as we walk in the Spirit and not according to the lusts of the flesh.
- (f) All of creation is still waiting to be restored when God's people mature into the stature of Christ (the firstborn son's of God are revealed at the final Passover).
- (g) On our journey, all things work out perfectly for God's children who walk in His purpose and nothing will ever separate us from God's love.

#### (5) Chapters 9-11

- (a) It was necessary that Israel would reject Y'shua so that there could be a season for the Gentiles to come to faith.
  - (b) And just as that rejection was orchestrated by God, so will be the opening of their eyes to Y'shua.
  - (c) Paul identified the chief parameter of their rejection—dependence on their own righteousness, instead of God's righteousness, which can only found in Y'shua.
  - (d) We learn that the very confession of our faith as Christians is founded in Moses' words and that what was missing when Moses wrote them is what we have available to us now: grace-empowered-faith-based-obedience to God.
  - (e) Our confession is the result of the gift of faith, not the cause of it.
  - (f) And obedience is the result of faith not the cause of it.
  - (g) We confess and believe that with faith through grace that we can be radically obedient to God.
  - (h) Yes, Israel is in a current state of rejection, but their restoration is coming and when it does it will be glorious.
- (6) Romans 12-16
- (a) There is only one way to live—all in for God!

- (b) There is only one way to get there—renew your mind daily!
- (c) Access the spiritual gifts God gave you, so you can become a productive member of the Body of Christ.
- (d) It simply looks like this...
  - 1) Behave like a Christian should.
  - 2) Live like a Christian should, without hypocrisy.
  - 3) Let God be God!
  - 4) Be obedient to God and to your leaders who follow God.
  - 5) Put the needs of others above your own.
- (e) What does that look like?
  - 1) It looks like you look like Christ.
  - 2) Do not use the liberty you have in the Lord and in the knowledge of His Word to cause others to stumble.
  - 3) Love demands you consider others FIRST in all your actions. That includes bearing their burdens.
  - 4) In the end you and they will glorify God together by treating one another like Christ would.
- (f) Paul is supremely happy he was able to fulfill the ministry he was given. All the glory belongs to God.

- (g) Paul is still trying to get to Rome and, at least for now, he was able to send this letter with the help of some dear faithful friends!
- (h) The bottom line...Paul acknowledges their obedience and he encourages them all to let that obedience keep them from engaging with divisive people.
- (i) “To God, alone wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.”

## THE POWER OF QUESTIONS

### 2. Romans: Question Central

#### A. Question Metrics

- (1) Eighty-five times Paul asks his reader a question in his letter to the Romans (NKJV version). And if you consider that some verses contain more than one question within the same sentence, there are actually ninety-two (i.e. Romans 3:1 has two and Romans 8:35 has seven).

#### (a) The First and Last Question

- 1. The first question in the letter is about the judgment of God:
  - a) “Do you think that you who judge those practicing such things [unrighteous acts deserving of death from Romans 1:28-32], and doing the same, **that**

**you will escape the judgment of God?” Romans  
2:3**

2. And the last question in the letter is about the  
judgment of God:

a) “But **why do you judge your brother? Or why do  
you show contempt for your brother?** For we shall  
all stand before **the judgment seat of Christ.**”

(Romans 14:10) ...“So then each of us shall give  
account of himself to God.” Romans 14:12

(b) Other interesting facts...

1. There are six questions taken directly from Old Testament Scriptures.
2. Many questions are asked and answered by Paul.
3. There are leading questions that suggest particular answers and contain information Paul is looking to have confirmed.
4. Sometimes the questions rhetorical, asked by Paul in order to create a dramatic effect or to make a point rather than to get an answer.

(c) Nine times a leading question is asked for a dramatic effect to make a point and then Paul answers it for us with an emphatic, **“Certainly not!”**

1. **"Is God unjust** who inflicts wrath? (I speak as a man.)  
**Certainly not!**" Romans 3:5 NKJV
2. **"Do we then make void the law through faith?**  
**Certainly not!** On the contrary, we establish the law."  
Romans 3:31 NKJV
3. **"Shall we continue in sin** that grace may abound?  
**Certainly not!**" Romans 6:1 NKJV
4. **"Shall we sin** because we are not under law but  
under grace? **Certainly not!**" Romans 6:15 NKJV
5. **"What shall we say then?** Is the law sin? **Certainly**  
**not!**" Romans 7:7 NKJV
6. **"Has then what is good** become death to me?  
**Certainly not!**" Romans 7:13 NKJV
7. **"What shall we say then?** Is there unrighteousness  
with God? **Certainly not!**" Romans 9:14 NKJV
8. "I say then, **has God cast away His people?** **Certainly**  
**not!**" Romans 11:1 NKJV
9. "I say then, **have they stumbled that they should fall?**  
**Certainly not!**" Romans 11:11 NKJV

**B. Every Question Asked in Romans**

- (1) "And do you think this, O man, you who judge those  
practicing such things, and doing the same, **that you will**  
**escape the judgment of God?**" Romans 2:3 NKJV

- (2) “Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, **not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?**” Romans 2:4 NKJV
- (3) “You, therefore, who teach another, **do you not teach yourself?** You who preach that a man should not steal, **do you steal?** You who say, “Do not commit adultery,” **do you commit adultery?** You who abhor idols, **do you rob temples?** You who make your boast in the law, **do you dishonor God through breaking the law?**” Romans 2:21-23 NKJV
- (4) “Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, **will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?** And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, **are a transgressor of the law?**” Romans 2:26-27 NKJV
- (5) “**What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?**” Romans 3:1 NKJV
- (6) “**For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?**” Romans 3:3 NKJV



- (7) “But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, **what shall we say?** Is God unjust **who inflicts wrath?** (I speak as a man.) Certainly not! For then **how will God judge the world?** For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, **why am I also still judged as a sinner?** And why not say, “**Let us do evil that good may come**”?—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just. **What then? Are we better than they?** Not at all. For we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.” Romans 3:5-9 NKJV
- (8) “**Where is boasting then?** It is excluded. **By what law? Of works?** No, but by the law of faith.” Romans 3:27 NKJV
- (9) “**Or is He the God of the Jews only?** Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also,” Romans 3:29 NKJV
- (10) “**Do we then make void the law through faith?** Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.” Romans 3:31 NKJV
- (11) “What then shall we say **that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?**” Romans 4:1 NKJV

- (12)“**For what does the Scripture say?** “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.””  
Romans 4:3 NKJV
- (13)“Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, **or upon the uncircumcised also?** For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. **How then was it accounted?** While he was circumcised, **or uncircumcised?** Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised.” Romans 4:9-10 NKJV
- (14)“**What shall we say then?** Shall we continue in sin **that grace may abound?** Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin **live any longer in it?** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus **were baptized into His death?**” Romans 6:1-3 NKJV
- (15)“**What then?** Shall we sin because we **are not under law but under grace?** Certainly not! Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?” Romans 6:15-16 NKJV
- (16)“What fruit did you have then in the things of **which you are now ashamed?** For the end of those things is death.”  
Romans 6:21 NKJV

- (17)“Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), **that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?**”Romans 7:1 NKJV
- (18)“**What shall we say then? Is the law sin?** Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”” Romans 7:7 NKJV
- (19)“Has then what is good **become death to me?** Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful.”  
Romans 7:13 NKJV
- (20)“O wretched man that I am! **Who will deliver me from this body of death?**” Romans 7:24 NKJV
- (21)“For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for **why does one still hope for what he sees?**”  
Romans 8:24 NKJV
- (22)“**What then shall we say to these things?** If God is for us, **who can be against us?** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?** Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. **Who is he who condemns?** It is Christ who died, and furthermore

is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. **Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?"**

Romans 8:31-35 NKJV

(23) **"What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not!"** Romans 9:14 NKJV

(24) **"You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?"** But indeed, O man, **who are you to reply against God?** Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, **"Why have you made me like this?" Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? What if God,** wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, even us whom He called, **not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?"** Romans 9:19-24 NKJV

(25) **"What shall we say then?** That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of

righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.

**Why?** Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.” Romans 9:30-32 NKJV

(26)“But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘**Who will ascend into heaven?**’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down from above) or, “ ‘**Who will descend into the abyss?**’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). **But what does it say?** “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach):” Romans 10:6-8 NKJV

(27)“How then shall they call on Him in **whom they have not believed?** And how shall they believe in Him of **whom they have not heard?** And how shall they hear **without a preacher?** And how shall they preach **unless they are sent?** As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, **who has believed our report?**” So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say, **have they not heard?** Yes indeed: “Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.” But I say, **did Israel not know?** First Moses

says: "I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation.""

Romans 10:14-19 NKJV

(28)"I say then, **has God cast away His people?** Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. **Or do you not know what the Scripture says** of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, "Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, **and they seek my life**"? But **what does the divine response say to him?** "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."" Romans 11:1-4 NKJV

(29)"**What then?** Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded." Romans 11:7 NKJV

(30)"I say then, **have they stumbled that they should fall?** Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles." Romans 11:11 NKJV

(31)"For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, **what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?**" Romans 11:15 NKJV

(32)“For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, **be grafted into their own olive tree?**”  
Romans 11:24 NKJV

(33)““For **who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?**” “Or **who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?**”” Romans 11:34-35 NKJV

(34)“For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. **Do you want to be unafraid of the authority?** Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.” Romans 13:3 NKJV

(35)“**Who are you to judge another’s servant?** To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.” Romans 14:4 NKJV

(36)“But **why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother?** For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” Romans 14:10 NKJV

**C. 15 Types of Questions with Examples:** The framework for these questions was borrowed from an article posted on [indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com). The explanations were edited and sample questions were removed and replaced by questions taken from the letter to the Romans.

## (1) Closed questions

- (a) Closed questions have two possible answers depending on how they are phrased: yes or no; or true or false.

Closed questions measure direct information or gauge someone's knowledge on a topic. Examples:

1. “**Or is He the God of the Jews only?** Is He not also the God of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also,” Romans 3:29
2. “**What then?** Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.” Romans 11:7

## (2) Open questions

- (a) Open questions are the opposite of closed questions in that they facilitate lengthier, more thoughtful answers and discussions among groups. These questions don't invite “yes” or “no” responses and instead encourage the listener to respond with detail. Examples:

1. “**What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?**” Romans 3:1
2. “For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, **why am I also still judged as a sinner?**” Romans 3:7

## (3) Funnel questions



(a) Unlike other types, funnel questions are always a series of questions. Their sequence mimics a funnel structure in that they start broadly with open questions, then segue to closed questions. The sequence can also take the opposite form, such as starting narrowly with straightforward closed questions and broadening into subjective open questions. Consider this sequence as examples:

1. {Open} “But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, **what shall we say?** Romans 3:5a
2. {Closed} Is God unjust **who inflicts wrath?** (I speak as a man.) Certainly not!” Romans 3:5b-6a

#### (4) Leading questions

(a) Leading questions encourage the listener to provide a specific response. Often, speakers phrase these questions to encourage the listener to agree with them. They might be considered manipulative if used too often, in the wrong context, or in a way that belittles others. Examples:

1. “**Do we then make void the law through faith?** Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law.” Romans 3:31

2. “Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, **or upon the uncircumcised also?**”

Romans 4:9

(5) Recall and process questions

- (a) While these are two different types of questions, they both relate to gauging the listener’s knowledge. A recall question asks the listener to recall a specific fact, such as...

1. {Recall} “What then shall we say **that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?**” (Romans 4:1)

- (b) A process question allows the speaker to evaluate the listener’s knowledge in more detail.

1. {Process} “For we say that faith was accounted to Abraham for righteousness. **How then was it accounted? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised?**” (Romans 4:9b-10a)

(6) Rhetorical questions

- (a) Rhetorical questions illustrate a point, or focus attention on an idea or principle. Because speakers use rhetorical questions to persuade others, these questions typically don’t require a response. You’re less likely to use rhetorical questions in everyday conversations, but you

may use them in formal presentations, speeches or teachings. Examples:

1. **“What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace?”** Romans 6:15
2. **“Do we then make void the law through faith?”**  
Romans 3:31 NKJV
3. **“Shall we continue in sin** that grace may abound?”  
Romans 6:1 NKJV
4. **“How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?”**  
Romans 6:2
5. **“Shall we sin** because we are not under law but under grace?” Romans 6:15 NKJV
6. **“What shall we say then? Is the law sin?”** Romans 7:7  
NKJV
7. **“What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God?”** Romans 9:14

(7) Divergent questions

- (a) Divergent questions have no right or wrong answers but rather encourage open discussion. While they are similar to open questions, divergent questions differ in that they invite the listener to share an opinion, especially one that relates to future possibilities.

Examples:

1. “For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for **why does one still hope for what he sees?**” Romans 8:24
2. “But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? **Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?”**” Romans 9:20

(8) Probing questions

- (a) Probing questions are follow-up responses to the listener’s answer to a previous question. Probing questions help speakers understand a listener's perspective, decipher their meaning and encourage more in-depth reasoning. Probing questions include:

1. **Clarifying questions:** Clarifying questions help teachers or leaders ensure group members understand the current material. They also help teachers understand what a student is trying to convey through a statement or question, such as asking...
  - a) **“What shall we say then?** Shall we continue in sin **that grace may abound?** Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin **live any longer in it?** Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized

into Christ Jesus **were baptized into His death?**"

Romans 6:1-3

2. **Critical awareness questions:** Critical awareness questions require listeners to understand and apply information analytically to reach a conclusion. For example, a teacher can ask...
  - a) {the information} "Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more,** so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 5:20-21
  - b) {the conclusion} "**What shall we say then?** Shall we continue in sin **that grace may abound?** Certainly not!" Romans 6:1
3. **Refocusing questions:** Group leaders or managers may use refocusing questions to help members return to the point of the discussion if answers are becoming unrelated or incorrect. For instance, you could ask...
  - a) "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for **you are not under law but under grace.** {Refocus} **What then?** Shall we sin because we **are not**

**under law but under grace? Certainly not!"**

Romans 6:14-15

- b) "Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. **You will say** to me then, "**Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?**" {Refocus} But indeed, O man, **who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"**" Romans 9:18-20 NKJV

4. **Prompting questions:** Prompting refers to helping learners reach the right answer with additional clues or context. For instance...

- a) "**Do you not know** that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, **whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?**"

Romans 6:16

5. **Redirection questions:** Teachers can involve more participants and help others think critically about information by **allowing other** group members to add to, object to or clarify another member's answer. For instance...

- a) **“But they have not all obeyed the gospel.** For **Isaiah says**, “Lord, who has believed our report?” So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. **But I say**, [Paul quotes Ps. 19:4] have they not heard? Yes indeed: “Their sound has gone out to all the earth, And their words to the ends of the world.” **But I say**, did Israel not know? First **Moses says**: “I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation. “But **Isaiah is very bold and says**: “I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me.” But **to Israel he says**: “All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.”” Romans 10:16-21

(9) Evaluation questions

- (a) Teachers or supervisors use evaluation questions to help students use their knowledge to make value judgments or anticipate future events or outcomes when leaders do not provide this information. These questions require information organization and analysis. Examples:

1. **“What then shall we say to these things?** If God is for us, **who can be against us?** Romans 8:31

2. “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**” Romans 8:32

(10) Inference questions

- (a) Inference questions require learners to use inductive or deductive reasoning. These are close cousins, both characterized by the inference. Inductive uses facts and deductive uses assumptions to arrive at a generalization.
- (b) Inductive reasoning is the process by which you arrive at a generalization **using specific, known facts**. You use what you know to make a broader statement that could be true based on the **facts**. For instance...
  1. {Facts} If God is for us, **who can be against us?** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, **how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?**” (Romans 8:31-32)
- (c) Deductive reasoning occurs when you make predictions based on generalizations that you **assume to be true**. For instance...
  1. {Assumptions} **“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?** Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” (Romans 8:35) **“For I am persuaded that**



neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities  
nor powers, nor things present nor things to come,  
nor height nor depth, **nor any other created thing,**  
**shall be able to separate us from the love of God**  
**which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”** (Romans 8:38-39)

#### (11) Comparison questions

- (a) Comparison questions are higher-order questions that ask listeners to compare two things, such as objects, people, ideas, stories or theories. They require a thorough understanding of the learning material and the ability to identify and describe similarities and differences. You’re likely to use comparison questions in an education or training situation. Examples:

1. “You will say to me then, **“Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?”**” Romans 9:19
2. “But indeed, O man, **who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?” Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?”** Romans 9:20-21

#### (12) Application questions

(a) Application questions ask students to apply an idea or principle in a new context to demonstrate higher-level learning. Examples:

1. **“What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why?”** Romans 9:30-32a
2. **“But the righteousness of faith speaks in this way, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’”** *{new context to demonstrate higher-level learning}* **(that is, to bring Christ down from above)** or, **“ ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ”** *{new context to demonstrate higher-level learning}* **(that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart”** *{new context to demonstrate higher-level learning}* **(that is, the word of faith which we preach):”** Romans 10:6-8

(13) Problem-solving questions

(a) Problem-solving questions present students with a scenario or problem and require them to develop a solution. Examples:

1. **“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent?”** Romans 10:14-15a
2. **“What then?** Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.” Romans 11:7
3. **““For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?” “Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?””** Romans 11:34-35

#### (14)Affective questions

(a) Affective questions seek to learn how others **feel** about the information they’re learning. These responses can help the speaker affirm the listener’s feelings or clarify information. Examples:

1. **“What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed?** For the end of those things is death.” Romans 6:21

2. **Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?"** Rom. 6:16
3. "For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. **Do you want to be unafraid of the authority?"**

Romans 13:3

#### (15) Structuring questions

- (a) Structuring questions ensure group members understand the information you are presenting to them. They allow learners **an opportunity to clarify material or ask follow-up questions.** For instance, after a presentation, you may ask...

1. "But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, **what shall we say?** Is God unjust **who inflicts wrath?** (I speak as a man.) Certainly not! For then **how will God judge the world?** For if the truth of God has increased through my lie to His glory, **why am I also still judged as a sinner?** And why not say, **"Let us do evil that good may come"?**—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just. **What then? Are we better than they?** Not at all. For

we have previously charged both Jews and Greeks that they are all under sin.” Romans 3:5-9

2. “**What shall we say then? Is the law sin?**” Rom. 7:7a
3. “**What then shall we say to these things?** Rom. 8:31A
4. “**What shall we say then?** Romans 9:14; 9:30
5. “**But what does it say?**” Romans 10:8
6. “**What then?**” Romans 11:7

(b) The opportunity to **clarify material or ask follow-up questions...**

1. In his letter to Romans, Paul asked so many questions. Today I say, as we venture into Romans, don’t be afraid **to be asked...** who, what, when, where, how and why?

(c) And maybe even more critical than that, don’t be afraid **to ask...** who, what, when, where, how and why?

1. *“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the **revealing of the sons of God**. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the **creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**” Romans 8:19-21 NKJV*

a) **Who** are the sons of God?

- b) **Who** subjected creation and **why**?
- c) **What** is the hope we are waiting for?
- d) **What** does it mean for the sons to be revealed?
- e) **When** will that happen?
- f) **When** will creation be delivered from bondage?
- g) **Why** hasn't that happened yet?
- h) **How** will creation be delivered and **who** will do it?
- i) **What** is the glorious liberty of the children of God?
- j) **How** does it finally remedy creation's corruption?
- k) **Where** will I be when it takes place?
- l) **How** will I know it has happened?
- m) **What** is my role in any of it?
- n) **Why** is no one in the church taking about it?

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### 1. Assignment: Read the entire Book of Romans

- A. Review and contemplate the introduction details from sermon notes pages 13-16.
- B. Write a short one paragraph summary of each chapter. (You may refer to the overview in the sermon notes pages 16-21 for help, but don't plagiarize!)

**2. Review the Question Metrics in the sermons notes pages 21-24...**

- A. How many questions does Paul ask in Romans?
- B. What is the first and last question he poses?
- C. How many questions does Paul extract from the Old Testament?
- D. How many leading question does Paul ask in Romans for a dramatic effect to make a point that he then answers for us with an emphatic, "Certainly not!"?

**3. Refer to the 15 types of questions with examples in the sermon notes pages 32-46. Paul uses every type of question in his letter to the Roman Church.**

- A. Describe each type of question and why the verses included are good examples.
  - 1) Closed question
  - 2) Open question
  - 3) Funnel question
  - 4) Leading question
  - 5) Recall and process questions
  - 6) Rhetorical question
  - 7) Divergent question
  - 8) The five types of Probing questions
  - 9) Evaluation question

- 10) Inference questions (inductive and deductive)
- 11) Comparison question
- 12) Application question
- 13) Problem-solving question
- 14) Affective question
- 15) Structuring question

**4. Contemplation Romans 8:19-21 using structuring questions:**

A. *“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for **the revealing of the sons of God**. For the **creation** was **subjected to futility**, not willingly, but **because of Him who subjected it in hope**; because the **creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God**.”*

- 1) **Who** are the sons of God?
- 2) **Who** subjected creation and **why**?
- 3) **What** is the hope we are waiting for?
- 4) **What** does it mean for the sons to be revealed?
- 5) **When** will that happen?
- 6) **When** will creation be delivered from bondage?
- 7) **Why** hasn't that happened yet?
- 8) **How** will creation be delivered and **who** will do it?
- 9) **What** is the glorious liberty of the children of God?
- 10) **How** does it finally remedy creation's corruption?



- 11) **Where** will I be when it takes place?
- 12) **How** will I know it has happened?
- 13) **What** is my role in any of it?
- 14) **Why** is no one in the church taking about it?