



KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Romans 1-16
- Acts 20-28

Title:

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 (I 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?

THE POWER OF QUESTIONS

1. Romans: Question Central

A. Question Metrics

- (1) Eighty-five times Paul asks his reader a question in his letter to the Romans (NKJV version).
 - (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) 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!**” Rom. 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!**” Rom. 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:

(1) Closed questions

(a) **"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

(b) **"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) **"What advantage then has the Jew, or what is the profit of circumcision?"** Romans 3:1

(b) "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) "But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, **what shall we say?** Romans 3:5a

(b) Is God unjust **who inflicts wrath?** (I speak as a man.) Certainly not! For then **how will God judge the world?**" Romans 3:5b-6

(4) Leading questions

(a) **"Do we then make void the law through faith?** Certainly not! On the contrary, we establish the law." Romans 3:31

(b) "Does this blessedness then come upon the circumcised only, **or upon the uncircumcised also?**" Romans 4:9

(5) Recall and process questions

- (a) "What then shall we say **that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh?**" (Romans 4:1)
- (b) "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) "**What then?** Shall we sin because we **are not under law but under grace?**" Romans 6:15
- (b) "**Do we then make void the law through faith?**" Romans 3:31 NKJV
- (c) "**Shall we continue in sin** that grace may abound?" Romans 6:1 NKJV
- (d) "How shall we who died to sin **live any longer in it?**" Romans 6:2
- (e) "**Shall we sin** because we are not under law but under grace?" Romans 6:15 NKJV
- (f) "**What shall we say then?** Is the law sin?" Romans 7:7 NKJV
- (g) "**What shall we say then?** Is there unrighteousness with God?" Romans 9:14

(7) Divergent questions

- (a) "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
- (b) "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) Types of Probing questions include:

1. **Clarifying questions:**

- 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:**

- a) "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) "**What shall we say then?** Shall we continue in sin **that grace may abound?** Certainly not!" Romans 6:1

3. **Refocusing questions:**

- a) "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for **you are not under law but under grace.** **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?**" 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:**

- 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:**

- 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, 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 10:16-19

(9) Evaluation questions

- (a) **“What then shall we say to these things?** If God is for us, **who can be against us?** Romans 8:31
 (b) “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) Inductive: **using specific, known facts.**
 1. 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)
 (b) Deductive: **assume something to be true.**
 1. **“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) “You will say to me then, **“Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?”**” Rom. 9:19
 (b) “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) **“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
 (b) “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

(13) Problem-solving questions

- (a) **"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
- (b) **"What then?** Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded." Romans 11:7
- (c) **"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) "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
- (b) **"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
- (c) "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) "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
- (b) **"What shall we say then? Is the law sin?"** Romans 7:7a
- (c) **"What then shall we say to these things?"** Romans 8:31A
- (d) **"What shall we say then?"** Romans 9:14; 9:30
- (e) **"But what does it say?"** Romans 10:8
- (f) **"What then?"** Romans 11:7
- (g) "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