

Acts 1 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson Twelve: Romans, Part 2 – Romans 9-16

Read Romans 9-11. In these chapters, Paul affirms continuity between the promises of God to the Jewish people in the Old Testament and God's promises to all people in the New Testament with regard to salvation by faith.

- 1) With regard to Romans 9:6:
 - a) What promise ("word") had Israel received from God (see Deuteronomy 7:6-9)?

 - b) What does the phrase "not all Israel descended from Israel" mean (see Romans 2:28-29, 9:8)?

- 2) Paul says that God's justice in electing some (and not all) for salvation is not ours to question (9:19-23) and results from His mercy (9:16, 23). Explain how God's justice in election is ultimately a result of God's mercy (recall what you learned in the previous lesson on Romans 1-8 and review Romans 3:9, 5:8, 9:10-16, 22-23).

- 3) List a few specific ways in which you have personally experienced God's mercy. How do these experiences give you hope regarding your loved ones who have not yet acknowledged their sin and God's merciful provision in Jesus (see Titus 3:5)? With God's mercy in mind, write out a brief prayer for these people (see Romans 9:16 and Titus 3:5).

From Romans 9-11

- 4) What explanation does Paul give in Romans 9:32-33 and 10:3 for the small number of Jewish converts to Christianity, despite Jesus' Jewish identity and the fact that Christ's teachings are rooted in the Jewish Scriptures (the Old Testament)?

- 5) In Romans 10:14-17, we learn that “faith comes from hearing the message.” According to Romans 10:18-11:10, why is it that some people who “hear” do not really hear (see also 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)?

- 6) What is the “mystery” (11:25) Paul reveals, the mystery that reconciles God’s “promise” (see Question #1) with its present lack of fulfillment (see Romans 11:25-32)?

- 7) Explain how Paul’s doxology in Romans 11:33-36 is a fitting response to the doctrinal portion of his letter (Romans 1-11). Over which personal situation will you pronounce this doxology today?

Romans 12:1 bridges the doctrinal portion of the letter (chapters 1-11) with the practical application of Romans 12-16 (“Therefore... in view of God’s mercy...”). Read Romans 12.

- 8) Based upon all you have learned in the *Acts 1* study, how does one “renew [their] mind” (Romans 12:2)?

- 9) Try to recall recent illustrations from your life about how the renewing of your mind resulted in transformed patterns of behavior and/or the ability to understand God’s will in a situation.

- 10) With which behaviors discussed in the remainder of Romans 12 (verses 3-21) do you especially need to ask God for help today? Explain why.

Read Romans 13.

- 11)** Think about the ways in which you sometimes see Christians respond to authority figures, both inside and outside the church. Which commands in Romans 13:1-7 particularly challenge the Christian culture in which you live?
- 12)** Since loving our neighbor as our self fulfills the Law (Romans 13:8), how could you demonstrate a more loving attitude toward those in authority over you this week? (Consider anyone whose authority you are under for which this has been either a recent or ongoing struggle. It may not be appropriate for you to name individuals in your discussion.)

Read Romans 14-16.

- 13)** List some of the “disputable matters” (Romans 14:1) for which believers in this age and in your culture tend to judge one another.
- 14)** In light of the teaching of Romans 14-15, of whom could you be more accepting? Conversely, for whom should you set aside certain personal liberties in order to keep them from stumbling?
- 15)** As you consider all you have learned about Paul and his ministry in the *Acts 1* study, which qualities of Paul or aspects of his ministry, seen in Romans 15:14-16:27, do you particularly want to emulate?