

SLOW FOOD BIBLE STUDIES: Romans 5-8 (34 studies)

For an introduction to Romans, see Slow Food: Romans 1-4.

Lead-in. Read Romans 1-4 in a version that isn't your normal one. Why is Habakkuk 2:4 such a key text for Paul (1:17)?

5:1-2 How can I be completely sure that God welcomes me with open arms into his kingdom and presence? *Isa 54:4-13; Rom 15:13; Heb 10:19-23.*

5:3-4 If I or my fellow-Christians are experiencing times of acute pressure, is it a sign that something is not quite right with my or their faith? *Matt 5:11-12; 2 Cor 4:7-12; Eph 6:13.*

5:5 How does the Holy Spirit help in times of doubt or difficulty? *Gal 4:6; Tit 3:4-7; 1 Jn 4:9-10, 13, 16.*

5:6-8 Am I so familiar with the cross of Christ that I find it hard to appreciate the wonder of what happened there? *Deut 9:6-7; 1 Pet 3:18; Rev 5:9-14.*

5:9-11 In describing the future we face once we are 'justified', Paul uses deeply personal language. Why? *Gen 3:9; Hos 14.4-8; 1 Tim 1:12-17.*

5:12-14 What is the penalty for sin? Why? *Gen 2:17; Ezek 18:20; Rom 6:23; 1 Cor 15:55-57.*

5:15-17 What does 'receiving grace' mean in practice? *Job 33:23-28; 2 Cor 12:9-10; 2 Pet 3:18.*

5:18-21 Continuing to think about 'grace', how can it deal with sin in my daily experience? *Isa 1:18; Acts 20:32; Rom 6:14; Heb 4:16.*

6:1-4 How does baptism into Christ (or conversion) make me a new person? *Ezek 36:25-28; 2 Cor 5:14-17; Gal 2:20.*

6:5-7 In what sense have I 'died with Christ'? *Col 2:6-3:3.*

6:8-11 Why do we continue to have such trouble with sin and what should we do about it? *Eph 4:22-24; Phil 3:12-16.*

6:12-14 'Faith is letting go and letting God.' How far is this true? *Prov 3:5-6; Jn 15:4-5; 1 Cor 15:10; Phil 2:12-13.*

6:15-21 'Whose service is perfect freedom' (BCP Collect). Have I found this? *Mt 11:29-30; Jn 8:31-36; Gal 5:1, 13.*

6:22-23 Is 'holiness' an impossible ideal? *Gen 17:1; Eph 1:4; Heb 12:14; 1 Pet 1:14-17.*

7:1-6 What does Paul mean by saying that we are 'released from the law by the death of Christ'? *Zech 9:11-12; Col 2:13-14; Heb 9:11-14.*

7:7-11 How does the original temptation in the Garden of Eden mirror my experience today? *Gen 3:6; Jos 7:20-21; Mt 5:28; Jas 1:12-15; 1 Jn 2:15-17.*

7:12-13 Have I discovered sin's capacity for twisting what is good into what is evil? *Mt 4:1-11; Mt 16:16-17, 22-23; Jn 8:39-47.*

7:14-17 Paul seems to be describing fallen human nature apart from Christ. What does he mean by calling it 'unspiritual' (NIV), 'of the flesh' (NRSV, ESV), 'carnal' (KJV, RSV)? *Gen 5:1-3; Isa 64:6; Jn 6:63; Gal 3:21-24.*

7:18-23 Why can't everybody consistently be good and do good? *Ps 14:2-3; Hos 6:1-4; Mk 14:38b.*

7:24-25 So what is the dual enslavement from which Christ rescues me? *Isa 53:5-6; Gal 3:10-14; Eph 2:1-5.*

8:1-4 'No more in condemnation.' How has this been achieved?

See vv 1 and 3. Ps 51:1; Isa 44:22; Rom 3:24; 1 Jn 2:2.

8:1-4 How much of God's rescue plan depends on my cooperation?

See vv 2 and 4. Jn 8:36; 2 Cor 3:17; Gal 5:1; Jas 1:25.

8:5-8 How does the mindset of the Spirit differ from the mindset of the 'flesh'?

Zech 4:6; 1 Cor 2:12-13; Gal 5:19-25.

8:9-10 If I find myself losing out to the self-life time and again, can I really be a Christian?

Mt 14:28-31; Lk 22:31-34; 1 Jn 1:9, 2:2. Gal 5

8:11 How does the Spirit transform my present and future existence?

Ps 18:28-29; Rom 5:5; 1 Cor 15:49-50; Phil 3:20-21.

8:12-13 Does the fact that I have 'died with Christ' mean that I can't sin any more? *Gal 2:19-21; 5:16-17; 6:7-8.*

8:14-16 Am I afraid of the Holy Spirit? *Isa 32:15; Mt 14:26-27; Jn 14:16-17; Gal 4:4-6.*

8:17 What does it mean to be a 'co-heir with Christ'? *Lk 15:31; Jn 17:24; 1 Cor 3:21-23; Heb 2:11.*

8:18-21 In what sense do we live in an imperfect world? *Isa 65:17; Amos 9:11-15; 1 Cor 2:9.*

8:22-25 If we have already been redeemed through Christ, how come we are still waiting for redemption?

Lk 1:68-79; 21:28; Eph 1:13-14; 4:30.

8:26-27 How does the Spirit help us to pray? *Ps 80:18b; Zech 12:10a; Eph 6:18.*

8:28-30 How does God use even apparent disasters for the greater ends he has in view?

Jer 29:11-14; 31:15-18; 2 Cor 2:12-14; 2 Tim 2:10.

8:31-32 Unanswered prayers, unfulfilled longings, unpleasant experiences - do I still secretly think God has got it in for me? *Jn 15:4-11; 1 Jn 3:16-24; 5:13-15.*

8:33-34 How can I be absolutely certain that God holds nothing against me?

Zech 3:1-5; Heb 7:25-26; 9:11-14; 10:19-23.

8:35-37 Have I won yet? *Ps 44.*

8:38-39 'I am convinced.' Why? Why not? *Deut 33:26-29; Jer 31:1-14.*