

Romans L32 – Lessons 25-31 Study Summary

Lesson 25 – Romans 10:1-13 Zeal Without Knowledge

- Q1-3 – Jews have a zeal for God - an intensity and passion - but without knowledge. They seek salvation by good works instead of faith, and in so doing stumble over the 'stumbling stone,' Jesus Christ. Nobody gets to heaven "their own way" -- and the Jews deliberately refuse to follow God's Way.
- Q4 – It is the righteousness of Jesus that will get us into heaven. By faith, His righteousness replaces our inadequate self-righteousness. Jesus is the END of the LAW of Righteousness (good works).
- Q6,7 – Believers can be confident in salvation because our deliverance relies on the promises of God. We must believe in our hearts that Jesus is Lord, and we must confess with our mouths that God raised Him from the dead.

Lesson 26 – Romans 10:14-21 Faith Comes by Hearing God's Word

- Q1 – The main question of the rhetorical verses (14-15) is, "What do people need to hear?" The answer is the Gospel --- the Good News story of Jesus coming into our world to save us (sinners).
- Q3 – The question of, "Who has believed our report?" comes from Isaiah 53, the chapter describing the suffering Messiah, by whose wounds we are healed. The Jews reject Him as of no value...!
- Q4 – FAITH COMES BY HEARING THE WORD OF GOD. Our role in this world is to be God's ambassadors - to faithfully share the Gospel and testify of Jesus - so people can make their own decisions to accept or reject Him.
- Q6 – The Jews suffer from unfaithfulness, generation after generation, which God considers adultery against Himself. They keep embracing the false gods and values of other peoples and cultures. So, now we live in an age where God brings Gentiles into The Faith, and He intentionally does this to provoke the Jews to jealousy --- and maybe repentance --- by showing Gentiles kindness.

Lesson 27 – Romans 11:1-12 Gentile Believers Join the Jewish Remnant

- Q1 – To the question of, "Has God rejected His people?" the answer is NO! God has not rejected His Chosen People. He keeps His covenants.
- Q2-4 – In the account of Elijah, God introduces the concept that Israel has a 'remnant,' a small number of people in the generations who remain faithful to Him. Many don't, but a few always do! The same concept can be applied to Christians today. Jesus taught that at the final judgment, many who believed they were part of the saved church will be rejected. Apparently, they had no real relationship with Him, never doing any of His good works, and He will say He never knew them.
- Q5 – The Jews are God's "chosen." Christians are God's "elect." Separate now, they will be united in God's heaven, for in Jesus there is no Jew and Gentile...just one believer (Galatians 3:28).
- Q6, 7 – The Jews are experiencing a partial hardening towards God during this 'time of the Gentiles.' In their stupor they don't grasp what God wants them to know. They continue to strive to earn a salvation that God has provided for them freely through Jesus Christ.... In so doing, they stand outside of God's grace! Gentiles benefit from God's mercy because of their stumbling.

Lesson 28 – Romans 11:13-24 God's Grafted Olive Tree of Salvation

- Q3 – Paul uses the analogy of an olive tree to describe what is happening. The Jews were 'cultivated' by God into this tree, but, by disobedience, many of them have been removed. Gentiles who come to God by faith, considered 'wild' branches, are then grafted into this same tree. Gentiles are cautioned to be humble about this exchange process and avoid gloating or pride. In this analogy, we see both the kindness and severity of God....
- Q4 – Similarly, Jesus used the analogy of a grapevine and its branches to describe Christian fruitfulness. Abiding in the vine, we are productive, and we may yet be pruned for greater productivity. If we don't abide, we will be removed by the Father (and burned).

- Q5 – For Christians to become part of God’s cultivated olive tree, we must stand fast in faith. The proper Christian response should be one of tremendous gratitude and humble submission.
- Q6, 7 – Understanding the kindness and severity of God, Christians should have a healthy fear of God, i.e., a reverential awe. There is no room for human pride in gaining salvation; God has done all the work. And no one should look forward to falling into the hands of the Living God; there is only great dread at the thought of facing a wrathful God in judgment! (Hebrews 10:31)

Lesson 29 – Romans 11:25-36 “All” Israel is to Be Saved

- Q1, 2 – Paul reveals a ‘mystery,’ a new revelation from God: Israel is experiencing a ‘partial hardening’ until the ‘fullness of the Gentiles’ occurs. They are to ‘come in’, i.e., to receive eternal life in God’s Kingdom as non-Jews. When the fullness is accomplished, the Jewish hardening will end.
- Q3 – Although Abraham had several sons, only a ‘remnant’ of descendants through Isaac are considered true Jews of Promise. Like Abraham -- and believing Gentiles ---they are his “faith descendants.” When the promise is given that ALL ISRAEL will be saved, it follows the infusion of Gentiles into the body of faith. ALL ISRAEL = believing remnant Jews + Gentiles from across the years...it does not appear to mean the physical lineage descendants of Abraham!
- Q4 – Referring back to Daniel 9, many Bible scholars refer to the time between Jesus’ 1st advent and the prophesied Tribulation period as the ‘times (fullness) of the Gentiles.’
- Q5 – Judaism, and most orthodox Jews, reject Jesus as Messiah to this day and are considered enemies of the Gospel. Though Jesus was a descendant of David, Jewish leaders pushed for His crucifixion.
- Q6 – However, God’s calling and gifts are irrevocable. He will keep all His promises and the covenants He made with the Jewish patriarchs; the Jews are His Chosen People. Christians cherish this truth!

Lesson 30 – Romans 12:1-8 Christians: Living Sacrifices!

- Q1-5 – Christian worship contains two dynamics: offering holy, ‘living’ sacrifices of one’s body, and being transformed in one’s mind. The challenge for believers is to live a life dead to sin, offering one’s body to righteous actions instead of sinful ones. Mind transformation requires renewal by the Holy Spirit, being born again, and the goal is two-fold: to understand the perfect and good Will of God; and to stop conforming to the world in how we live. We are to be changed people!!
- Q6 – Understanding right from wrong, we embrace what is right! We are to walk humbly with God and others, following Jesus’ example, and to make sober self-assessments that banish our self-pride.
- Q7, 8 – God has a purpose --- and place of service --- for every believer, and humility leads to unity. He has gifted people to serve in the churches, some in leadership roles, and others for ministry.
- Q9 – Individual gifts are given for a Church congregation’s common good (1 Corinthians), to unify faith and mature our knowledge of God (Ephesians), and to be done in loving service for each other as good stewards --- so that God may be glorified (1 Peter)!

Lesson 31 – Romans 12:9-21 The Marks of True Christians

- Q1, 2 – Christians must not be fake or insincere. Several sentence commands for behavior are offered: Don’t be lazy; hold on to hope and patience; be enthusiastic in God’s service, and generously help others; bless those who trouble your life; and be supportive of people in pain or joy!
- Q3-6 – Willingly associate with ‘unimportant’ people; as much as it depends on you, be at peace and live in harmony with others. Don’t try to make things right when wronged; let God do this for you! And if you consider anyone your enemy, do good to them when they do you wrong. God knows best whether He will put them under conviction or subject them to discipline.
- Q7 – OVERCOME evil...with good!