

Survey of Romans

A 22-Lesson Study · Keith Blades · Enjoy The Bible Ministries®

Bird's Eye View — Four Cornerstones of Edification

Complete Overview & Layered Outline

Four Cornerstones — 22 Lessons — the Full Framework for Edification

INTRODUCTION · L1–L6 · Setting the Foundation · Romans 1:1–15 · 6 lessons			
FIRST CORNERSTONE · L7–L10	SECOND CORNERSTONE · L11–L14	THIRD CORNERSTONE · L15–L18	FOURTH CORNERSTONE · L19–L22
<p>Justification by Grace Through Faith <i>Romans 1:15–5:21</i></p> <hr/> <p>L7 Wrath Consciousness <i>Romans 1:15–32 — sin's universal guilt established</i></p> <p>L8 Refuting Relative Righteousness <i>Romans 2–3 — no self-defense before God</i></p> <p>L9 Justification by Grace Through Faith <i>Romans 3:21–4:25 — the heart of Romans</i></p> <p>L10 Results of Justification <i>Romans 5 — peace, access, eternal security</i></p> <p>★ Foundation cornerstone</p>	<p>Sanctification — Living Under Grace <i>Romans 6–8</i></p> <hr/> <p>L11 The Gospel of Sanctification <i>Romans 6:1–13 — baptism into Christ's death</i></p> <p>L12 Not Under Law But Under Grace <i>Romans 6:14–7:25 — the operating system</i></p> <p>L13 Walking After the Spirit <i>Romans 8:1–17 — led by the Spirit as sons</i></p> <p>L14 Sufferings, Glory & Eternal Security <i>Romans 8:18–39 — nothing can separate us</i></p>	<p>Israel & This Dispensation of Gentile Grace <i>Romans 9–11</i></p> <hr/> <p>L15 The Doctrine of Israel <i>Romans 9:1–13 — election and the remnant</i></p> <p>L16 God's Righteousness in Setting Israel Aside <i>Romans 9:14–33 — no unrighteousness with God</i></p> <p>L17 Israel's Stumbling <i>Romans 10 — ignorant of God's righteousness</i></p> <p>L18 Israel's Future & National Salvation <i>Romans 11 — the fullness of the Gentiles; all Israel saved</i></p>	<p>Walking Worthy as Sons of God <i>Romans 12–16</i></p> <hr/> <p>L19 The Reasonable Service <i>Romans 12 — present your bodies; renew your mind</i></p> <p>L20 Human Government & Armor of Light <i>Romans 13 — civil submission; urgency of the hour</i></p> <p>L21 Strong and Weak in Faith <i>Romans 14–15:7 — edification over liberty</i></p> <p>L22 Completing the Survey <i>Romans 15:8–16:27 — mystery revealed; doxology</i></p>
4 lessons	4 lessons	4 lessons	4 lessons



Scan to visit www.enjoythebible.org

Introduction · Lessons 1–6

Setting the Foundation · Romans 1:1–15

1

Romans as the Foundational Epistle

L1 · Introduction to the Survey

- This survey is governed by right division (2 Timothy 2:15) and designed for the full edification of members of the Body of Christ — rightly dividing which scriptures are written to us today.
- Romans is the foundational epistle in the doctrinal order for edification — not because it was written first, but because it establishes the first-things-first truths upon which all further doctrine is built.
- Paul uses two key analogies: the building/house analogy (foundation + superstructure) and the body/growth analogy — both point to Romans as the starting point for full edification.
- The four cornerstones of Romans are previewed: justification, sanctification, Israel and this dispensation, and walking worthy — the complete framework for a fully edified believer.

2

The Divine Design for Edification

L2 · Ephesians 1–2 as the Context for Romans

- Keith begins not in Romans 1 but with Ephesians 1–2 to establish the doctrinal context and show that Romans contains first-level truths designed to build upon each other.
- Ephesians 2:20–22: saints are built upon the foundation with Christ as the chief cornerstone — the edification process is God's design for every member of the Body of Christ.
- The Ephesian saints are commended as 'faithful' (Eph. 1:1) — a doctrinal status indicating advanced edification, the goal Paul has for all believers through this survey.
- Paul's prayer for 'the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him' (Eph. 1:17) points directly to Romans as the doctrinal content that produces this knowledge.

3

Overview of the Four Cornerstones

L3 · The Structure of Edification Established

- Romans is first in doctrinal order because it contains the first-things-first foundational doctrines — without these cornerstones in place, no further edification can be properly built.
- The four cornerstones: (1) Justification by grace through faith (Rom. 1:15–5:21), (2) Sanctification — living under grace (Rom. 6–8), (3) Israel and this dispensation (Rom. 9–11), (4) Walking worthy as sons of God (Rom. 12–16).
- Paul's gospel reveals three aspects of the believer's position in Christ: justification unto life, sanctification (dead to sin/alive to God), and the coming glorification.
- The survey is not a verse-by-verse commentary but a doctrinal overview — designed to give the student a strategic grasp of Romans' entire doctrinal architecture.

4

Paul's Special Apostleship to the Gentiles

L4 · The Introduction to Romans, Part One (Romans 1:1–7)

- The introduction to Romans (1:1–15) has three sections: (A) Paul's unique apostleship (vv.1–7), (B) the doctrinal framework of the epistle, (C) Paul's desire to come to Rome.
- Paul is 'separated unto the gospel of God' (v.1) — his apostleship is specifically to the Gentiles, a unique commission from the ascended and glorified Christ.
- The gospel was 'promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures' (v.2) — it fulfills OT promises but reveals far more than those promises ever disclosed.
- Paul's call 'to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery' (Eph. 3:9) undergirds the entire introduction: Romans is the content of that unique apostolic commission.

5

The Mystery of Christ and Paul's Two-Fold Distinctiveness

L5 · *The Introduction to Romans, Continued (Romans 1:1–5)*

- Paul's separation unto the gospel has two dimensions: (1) the gospel was 'promised afore' (v.2 — connection to OT promises) and (2) it concerns 'the mystery of Christ' hidden in God.
- 'My Gospel' (Romans 16:25) and 'The Mystery' (Ephesians 3) are distinct: My Gospel = the salvation message to every creature; The Mystery = the dispensational revelation to saved believers.
- Conflating these two messages is the source of most doctrinal confusion about Paul's epistles — right division keeps them properly distinct in audience and purpose.
- The mystery reveals that Gentiles are now 'fellow heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel' (Eph. 3:6) — a truth hidden from ages past.

6

Paul's Gospel Versus Israel's Future Message

L6 · *Completing the Introduction (Romans 1:1–15)*

- Without Paul's special apostleship, Gentiles would have heard Israel's program message — judgment, wrath, and the coming Kingdom under Messiah — not grace and peace.
- Paul's gospel brings grace, peace, and justification by faith — a completely different basis of relationship with God than Israel's covenant-based prophetic programme.
- The introduction is completed: Romans 1:16–17 introduces the great theme — 'the gospel of Christ... is the power of God unto salvation... therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith.'
- The survey now turns to the body of Romans — beginning with the First Cornerstone, which opens in Romans 1:15 with the proclamation of the gospel and the establishment of wrath consciousness.

First Cornerstone · Lessons 7–10

Justification by Grace Through Faith · Romans 1:15–5:21

7

The Gospel and Wrath Consciousness

L7 · First Cornerstone Begins (Romans 1:15–32)

- The First Cornerstone opens in Romans 1:15: establishment in the doctrine of our justification — the foundation stone upon which all further edification is built.
- Romans 1:18–32: God's wrath revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness — wrath consciousness establishes the urgent need for the gospel by demonstrating universal guilt.
- Three stages of God's 'giving over': vile affections (v.24), vile passions (v.26), reprobate mind (v.28) — the downward spiral that results from rejecting the knowledge of God.
- Wrath consciousness is the necessary first step: understanding God's righteous standard and our utter failure to meet it is the prerequisite to grasping the grace that justifies the ungodly.

8

Refuting Relative Righteousness

L8 · Part Two of the Gospel (Romans 2)

- Romans 2 addresses the self-defense tactics the fleshly mind uses to argue against deserving God's wrath: the moralist claiming superiority and the religious Jew claiming covenant standing.
- The moralist (2:1–16): judging others while doing the same things — Paul shows this self-defense collapses under God's impartial judgment that shows no respect of persons.
- The Jew (2:17–29): possessing the law and the covenant — Paul shows that having the law and breaking it brings greater condemnation, not immunity from judgment.
- Romans 3:9–20 concludes Part Two: 'There is none righteous, no not one... all the world may become guilty before God' — the universal case for guilt is complete and unanswerable.

9

Justification by Grace Through Faith

L9 · Part Three of the Gospel (Romans 3:21–4:25)

- Romans 3:21–26 is the heart of the First Cornerstone: the glorious good news of how God can justly justify the ungodly — redemption, propitiation, and justification through Christ's blood.
- Three great doctrinal transactions: (1) Redemption — bought out of slavery to sin (v.24), (2) Propitiation — God's wrath fully satisfied by Christ's sacrifice (v.25), (3) Justification — declared righteous (v.26).
- Romans 4 confirms justification by faith through Abraham and David — both justified apart from works, before and outside the Mosaic law, proving faith has always been God's basis.
- Romans 4:25: Christ 'was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification' — the resurrection is the receipt confirming our justified status before God.

10

The Results of Justification and Eternal Security

L10 · Completing the First Cornerstone (Romans 5)

- Romans 5:1–2 sets forth the three primary possessions of the justified believer: (1) peace with God (v.1), (2) access into this grace wherein we stand (v.2a), (3) hope of the glory of God (v.2b).
- Romans 5:3–5: tribulations produce patience, experience, and hope — the believer's joyful response to suffering is possible because of the love of God poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.
- Romans 5:8–9: God's love demonstrated at the cross — 'much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him' — eternal security grounded in Christ's work.
- Romans 5:12–21: the Adam-Christ contrast — as death reigned through one man, so grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Second Cornerstone · Lessons 11–14

Sanctification — Living Under Grace · Romans 6–8

11

The Gospel of Sanctification

L11 · *Second Cornerstone Begins (Romans 6:1–13)*

- The Second Cornerstone (Romans 6–8) establishes the doctrine of sanctification — the other great transaction that occurred at the moment of salvation, positionally linking us to Christ's death and resurrection.
- Holy Spirit baptism (Romans 6:3–4): every believer has been baptized into Christ's death, burial, and resurrection — a positional reality established at salvation, not a subsequent experience.
- Romans 6:11–13: the practical application — 'reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord; yield your members as instruments of righteousness.'
- Sanctification is not an achievement but a position that produces practice: yielding to God who has already made us positionally holy is the operating logic of the Second Cornerstone.

12

Not Under Law But Under Grace

L12 · *The Law-Grace Operating System (Romans 6:14–7:25)*

- Romans 6:14: 'For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace' — this is the governing operating principle of sanctified living in this dispensation.
- Being 'under law' gives the flesh a legal handhold — the commandment produces lust (Romans 7:8). Under grace, that handhold is removed and a new basis for holy living is established.
- Romans 7:1–6: the law-death-remarriage analogy — the believer has died to the law through the body of Christ and is now 'married to another,' bringing forth fruit unto God.
- Romans 7:15–25: the internal conflict between flesh and the new man is real — but the resolution is in Romans 8: not suppression by willpower but walking after the Spirit.

13

Walking After the Spirit

L13 · *Putting Sanctification Into Practice (Romans 8:1–17)*

- Romans 8:1: 'There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit' — the opening declaration of practical sanctification.
- The Spirit of life in Christ Jesus (v.2) has made us free from the law of sin and death — the indwelling Holy Spirit is God's provision for victorious, Spirit-led Christian living.
- Romans 8:14–16: all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God — the Spirit of adoption witnesses with our spirit that we are children of God, confirming our sonship status.
- Sonship status is received at salvation (v.15 — 'have received,' past tense, completed); sonship living is progressively learned through doctrine and walking in the Spirit's leading.

14

Sufferings, Glory, and Eternal Security

L14 · *Completing the Second Cornerstone (Romans 8:18–39)*

- Romans 8:18: 'The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us' — the eternal perspective that reframes all present trials.
- Three categories of suffering are distinguished: (1) sufferings of this present time (bondage of creation's corruption), (2) sufferings of Christ (for the gospel), (3) self-inflicted (opposing ourselves).
- Romans 8:28–30: the unbreakable chain — foreknown, predestinated, called, justified, glorified. God's sovereign purpose for every believer cannot be interrupted or reversed.
- Romans 8:35–39: 'Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?' — the triumphant climax: nothing in all creation can separate the justified, sanctified believer from God's love.

Third Cornerstone · Lessons 15–18

Israel & This Dispensation of Gentile Grace · Romans 9–11

15

The Doctrine of Israel Begins

L15 · Third Cornerstone Begins (Romans 9:1–13)

- The Third Cornerstone (Romans 9–11) addresses the doctrine of Israel and this dispensation of Gentile grace — without this cornerstone, the mystery programme is fundamentally misunderstood.
- Romans 9:1–5: Paul's grief for Israel — they possess the adoption, the covenants, the law, the promises, and the Messiah by human lineage. Their temporary setting aside is not abandonment.
- Romans 9:6–13: 'They are not all Israel, which are of Israel' — God's sovereign election operates within physical Israel to produce spiritual Israel according to the promise, not the flesh.
- The doctrine of election is established through Isaac vs. Ishmael and Jacob vs. Esau — God's purposes are not based on works or merit but on His sovereign calling and grace.

16

God's Righteousness in Setting Aside Israel

L16 · Romans 9:14–33

- Romans 9:14: 'Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid' — Paul directly addresses the charge that God is unjust in temporarily setting aside Israel during this dispensation of Gentile grace.
- God's sovereignty in mercy is demonstrated: 'I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy' (v.15) — grace is never obligated and is never owed to any creature on the basis of merit.
- Israel stumbled at the stumbling stone (v.32–33) — pursuing righteousness by works rather than by faith, they missed the righteousness that is by faith that Paul's gospel provides.
- The Gentiles' inclusion was prophesied: Hosea's 'not my people' passage and Isaiah's remnant doctrine both pointed forward to this current dispensation of grace to the Gentiles.

17

Israel's Stumbling and Paul's Heart for Them

L17 · Romans 10

- Romans 10:1: 'Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved' — Paul's compassion for Israel is genuine, passionate, and doctrinally grounded.
- Israel's fundamental failure: 'being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God' (v.3).
- Romans 10:9–13: the accessible word of faith Paul preaches — confession and belief in the Lord Jesus Christ brings salvation; 'there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek.'
- Romans 10:17: 'So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God' — the indispensable role of the preached gospel in producing saving faith for both Jew and Gentile.

18

Israel's Future: Blindness, the Remnant, and National Salvation

L18 · Completing the Third Cornerstone (Romans 11)

- Romans 11:1: 'Hath God cast away his people? God forbid' — Israel is not permanently rejected; the current setting aside is partial, temporary, and purposefully orchestrated by God.
- The remnant principle (v.5): 'At this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace' — individual Israelites are being saved today through Paul's gospel.
- Romans 11:25–27: the mystery of Israel's partial blindness — 'blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in' — then all Israel shall be saved.
- The Deliverer shall come out of Zion (v.26–27): Israel's national salvation is covenantally guaranteed — the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants will be fulfilled to the letter.

Fourth Cornerstone · Lessons 19–22

Walking Worthy as Sons of God · Romans 12–16

19

The Reasonable Service

L19 · Fourth Cornerstone Begins (Romans 12:1–21)

- The Fourth Cornerstone (Romans 12–16) establishes the doctrine of walking worthy — the practical outworking of everything established doctrinally in Romans 1–11.
- Romans 12:1–2: 'I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice' — the reasonable service as the proper response to all of grace.
- The renewing of the mind (v.2): transformation comes through the doctrinal renewal of the mind, not external conformity to religious standards — the mind renewed by truth produces transformed living.
- Romans 12:3–21: practical body life — using gifts, fervent in spirit, patient in tribulation, distributing to the necessity of saints, overcoming evil with good.

20

Human Government and the Armor of Light

L20 · Romans 13

- Romans 13:1–7: the believer's relationship to human government — God has ordained governing authorities as His servants for the restraint of evil and the maintenance of civil order.
- Civil submission is a grace-doctrine application: the justified, sanctified son of God honours government not out of fear but as part of his reasonable service to God.
- Romans 13:8–10: the debt of love — 'owe no man anything, but to love one another; for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law' — love is the fulfillment of the law's relational intent.
- Romans 13:11–14: the armor of light — 'it is high time to awake out of sleep'; the nearness of the Day of the Lord on Israel's horizon motivates urgent, holy living today.

21

Strong and Weak in Faith

L21 · Receiving the Weaker Brother (Romans 14–15:7)

- Romans 14 addresses the practical dynamics between believers strong in the faith (doctrinally mature, fully established in grace) and those weak in the faith (not yet fully established).
- The strong are not to despise the weak; the weak are not to judge the strong — both are accepted by God as Lord and are accountable to Him for their own standing (v.4–12).
- Romans 14:13–23: edification as the governing principle — 'Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify one another.'
- Romans 15:1–7: the strong bear the infirmities of the weak and please not themselves — Christ is the model: receiving one another as God for Christ's sake has received us.

22

Completing the Survey

L22 · The Dispensational Change and Paul's Apostleship (Romans 15:8–16:27)

- Romans 15:8–13 underscores the great dispensational change: Christ was made a minister to the circumcision to confirm the promises to the fathers — but Gentiles now glorify God for His mercy.
- Paul's priestly ambition (v.16): 'that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost' — his apostleship to the Gentiles is a priestly ministry of the gospel.
- Romans 16:25–27: the closing doxology — established according to 'my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery which was kept secret since the world began.'
- The survey is complete: the four cornerstones — justification, sanctification, Israel and this dispensation, and walking worthy — provide the complete doctrinal framework for full edification.

For further study visit www.enjoythebible.org

