

Timothy Keller

Romans 1–7

The Gift of God



 7-Session Bible Study

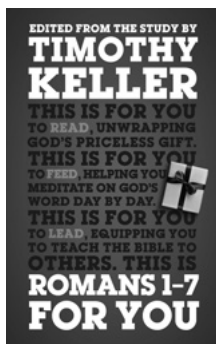
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📖 7-Session Bible Study



Romans For You

These studies are adapted from *Romans 1–7 For You*. If you are reading *Romans 1–7 For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Romans 1–7 For You*:

Study 1 > Ch 1	Study 5 > Ch 8-9
Study 2 > Ch 2-4	Study 6 > Ch 10-11
Study 3 > Ch 5-6	Study 7 > Ch 12
Study 4 > Ch 7	

Find out more about *Romans 1–7 For You* at:
www.thegoodbook.com/for-you

Romans 1–7: The Gift of God

A Good Book Guide

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This edition printed 2025.

Published by The Good Book Company

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A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Design by André Parker and Drew McCall

ISBN: 9781802541908 | JOB-008230 | Printed in India

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Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God's word as "a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we've discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They're perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let's take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you're invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you've seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven't got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you'll find a **Leader's Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God's light-giving word.

Why Study Romans 1 – 7?

Everyone wants to be all right—to be in right standing, or “righteous.”

We want to be right in the eyes of the law of our land—so we stay out of trouble. We want to be righteous in the eyes of those we respect and those we live among—so we act, speak, and dress in ways which are expected and acceptable. We want to be righteous in the eyes of our loved ones—so we seek, and then seek to keep, a partner, or partners. We want to be righteous in the eyes of those we work with—so we work hard, and work long.

But there is another, far better righteousness—the righteousness that Paul’s letter to the church in Rome is all about. It is a righteousness which we all need, which all those other righteousnesses are pointers to, which changes and liberates every aspect of our lives.

It is to be right with God—to enjoy knowing him now, and to be able to look forward to enjoying knowing him forever. And this is a righteousness which, the apostle Paul told these Christians living in the capital of the known world, no one can earn or maintain themselves. No amount of effort or achievement can secure it.

Paul wanted them and us to realize something of eternal importance and life-changing liberation: that God *gives* people a right relationship with him. “The *gift of God*,” he told them, “is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).

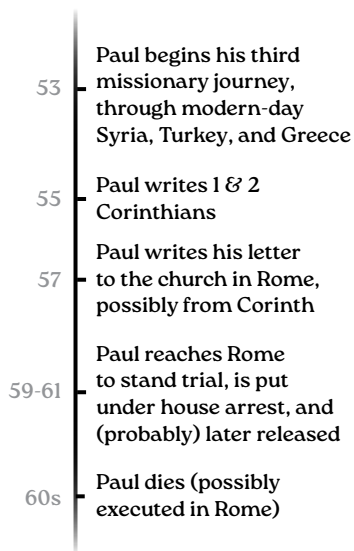
In these seven studies, you’ll see Paul teaching us about this gift of being right with God. You’ll discover why, however religious we may be, we are not naturally righteous; how it is that, in Christ, God makes the unrighteous righteous; and what being righteous means for our future and our present.

And, as you unwrap this gift of God—as Paul challenges, teaches, and thrills you—you’ll find that your lives, identities, and perspectives are transformed.

Carl Laferton
Editor



Romans 57 AD



1

Introducing Righteousness

Romans 1:1-17

Talkabout

1. How would you sum up the message of Christianity in one sentence?

Investigate

 Read Romans 1:1-13

DICTIONARY

Apostle (v 1): a man who had seen the risen Jesus and was chosen by him to teach his word.

Gospel (v 1): announcement (often of good news).

Holiness (v 4): set-apart-ness.

Grace (v 5): unmerited favor.

Saints (v 7): holy people.

2. How did Paul view himself and his life (v 1, 5)?

3. What do the first six verses tell us about "the gospel"?

4. What does true faith result in (v 5)?

- Why is this, do you think?

5. Who is Paul writing to (v 7)? How does he describe them?

- How is he praying for them (v 8-10)?
- Why does he want to visit them (v 11-13)?

Apply

6. How can we mutually encourage each other as Christians today?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

God has declared that Jesus is his Son, raised with power to rule in power; and under his rule, we enjoy grace from and peace with him. When we spend time with other believers, we are spending time with those who say “This is true” and “This is wonderful” to that declaration.

How does this both encourage and challenge your attitude to your church services?

How are you relying on other Christians’ gifts, and serving them with yours? Do you need to do more of one or the other (or both)?

Investigate

 **Read Romans 1:14-17**

DICTIONARY

Obligated or **bound** (v 14): in debt.

Greeks (v 14): the people who had produced the wisest philosophers.

Ashamed (v 16): the Greek word also means “offended.”

Righteousness (v 17): right standing with God.

From God or **of God** (v 17): this phrase can be translated either way.

7. How does Paul feel about the gospel (v 15)? How does he not feel (v 16)?

- Why might people have a view of the gospel that is opposite from Paul's view?

8. Why is Paul *not* ashamed (v 14, 16)?

9. Put Paul's nutshell summary of the Christian message from verse 17a into your own words.

Explore More | OPTIONAL

- Who is the gospel for (v 14, 16)? Why does Paul underline this truth, do you think?
- Who does the gospel save (v 16-17)?
- What happens if we forget...
 - the unlimited nature of the gospel message?
 - that people are not saved if they do not believe that message?
- Which are you more likely to forget?

10. What does the end of verse 17 remind us about the Christian life?

Apply

11. What have verses 14-17 taught us about...

- the debt of the gospel?
- the power of the gospel?
- the content of the gospel?
- Why would forgetting any of these lead us to keep quiet about the gospel?

12. In what ways can we forget that "the righteous will live by faith" in the gospel?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

The gospel will always cause offense. So we will always be tempted to be ashamed of it. And the opposite of being ashamed is not willingness; it is eagerness (v 15).

Think of a time in your life when you have been eager to share the gospel. Why were you so eager?

When are you ashamed of the gospel? How will you remember verses 16-17 next time you are in that situation, and what difference will that make?

Pray

Thank God...

- *for your church, and how it encourages you in your faith and obedience.*
- *for the truth that God has both shown and offered his righteousness in the gospel.*
- *that righteousness is always about faith, not performance.*

Ask God...

- *to give you boldness in sharing the gospel, and to show you if or when you are ashamed.*