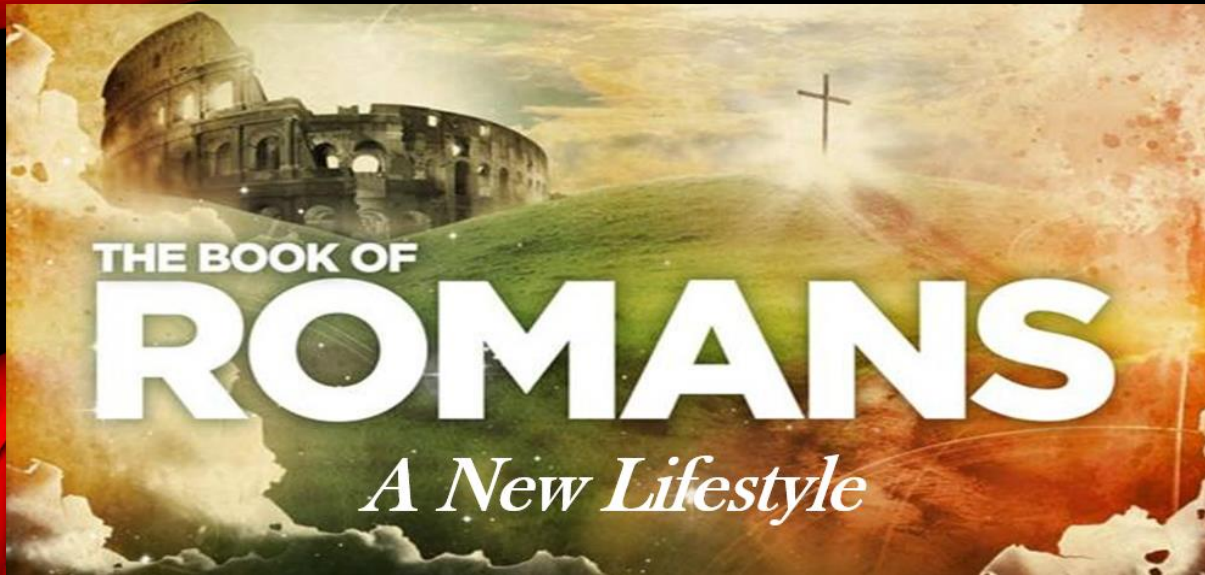


SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY



SRMBC OCTOBER BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Date	Lesson Title	Scripture
10/10/2018	To Eat or Not to Eat	Romans 14
10/17/2018	No Study - PBSC	N/A
10/24/2018	Unity Hope & Praise	Romans 15:1 - 13
10/31/2018	Sharing the Mission	Romans 15:14 - 33
11/7/2018	Keeping Friends	Romans 16

SRMBC FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Romans: A New Lifestyle

Lesson 20: Keeping Friends

Romans 16

The Apostle Paul – The Letter to the Romans

- **Author:** Romans 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Romans as the apostle Paul.
- **Date of Writing:** The Book of Romans was likely written A.D. 56-58.
- **Purpose of Writing:** His purpose in writing was to proclaim Jesus Christ by teaching doctrine and edify and encourage the believers.

The Book Of Romans Tells Us:

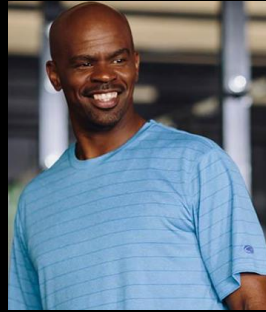
- About **God**, who He is and what He has done.
- It tells us of **Jesus Christ**, what His death and resurrection accomplished.
- It tells us **about ourselves**, what we were like without Christ and who we are after trusting in Christ.



Group Discussion:

War Room (Weight Room)

It's good to have a friend you can count on ... and it's good to be that friend for others. In this exclusive scene from **WAR ROOM**, Michael (played by comedian Michael Jr.) listens as Tony (T.C. Stallings) shares about his struggling marriage.



Michael

Tony

- How does Michael demonstrate his friendship with Tony?
- How does Michael's faith in Christ influence his reaction to Tony's marital issues?
- What have you appreciated most about your relationships with other Christians?



What Have You Appreciated Most About Your Relationships With Other Christians?

- I appreciate the encouragement I get during my times of need.
- The times we have when we worship together at church.
- The prayers of my friends for me and my family.
- Our working together in work of the Church and spread of the Gospel.



Romans 16:1 - 5 (NKJV)

1 I commend to you **Phoebe** our sister, who is a **servant of the church** in Cenchrea,

2 that you may **receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints**, and assist her in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed she has been a helper of many and of myself also.

3 Greet **Priscilla and Aquila**, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

4 who **risked their own necks for my life**, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.

5 Likewise **greet the church** that is in their house. Greet my beloved **Epaenetus**, who is the firstfruits of Achaia to Christ.

Romans 16:6 - 10 (NKJV)

6 Greet **Mary**, who **labored much** for us.

7 Greet **Andronicus and Junia**, my countrymen and my fellow prisoners, **who are of note among the apostles**, who also were in Christ before me.

8 Greet **Amplias**, my beloved in the Lord.

9 Greet **Urbanus**, our **fellow worker in Christ**, and **Stachys**, my **beloved**.

10 Greet **Apelles**, approved in Christ. Greet those who are of the household of **Aristobulus**.

Romans 16:11 - 16 (NKJV)

11 Greet **Herodion**, my countryman. Greet those who are of the household of **Narcissus** who are **in the Lord**.

12 Greet **Tryphena** and **Tryphosa**, who have labored in the Lord. Greet the beloved **Persis**, who **labored much in the Lord**.

13 Greet **Rufus**, chosen **in the Lord**, and **his mother** and mine.

14 Greet **Asyncritus**, **Phlegon**, **Hermas**, **Patrobas**, **Hermes**, and **the brethren** who are with them.

15 Greet **Philologus** and **Julia**, **Nereus** and his sister, and **Olympas**, and **all the saints** who are with them.

16 Greet one another with a holy kiss. **The churches of Christ greet you**.

1. Study the list of twenty – six people in verses 1 – 16. What does the list reveal about the way Paul conducted his relationships?

- Paul was no respecter of persons – he had all kinds of people in relationship with him.
- Paul took time to get to know the people he was working and serving with.
- He valued women in the way that God does – equal to men and deserving of honor and dignity
- He took note of a person's faith and testimony in Christ.
- Although an Apostle he could relate to new believers – seeing the best in everyone.

1. Study the list of twenty – six people in verses 1 – 16. What does the list reveal about the way Paul conducted his relationships?

- He considered unity in Christ and the Gospel the principal thing
- He appreciated whatever people did for him – large or small
- He must have been a generally nice person to have so many friends

2. Notice the phrases Paul uses to describe his friends. What are some ways that he gives a sense of dignity to his friends even in a mere greeting?

Phrases	Description
Commend	This is a high praise from an important person - like the Apostle Paul
Greet	Be kind to a person – treat this person as special
My Co-Workers in Christ Jesus	Seeing them in the same status as himself in the work/family of Christ
My Dear Friend	A personal feeling – approval of the Apostle Paul
My Fellow Jews	A dignity of being in his people - we are family
Who Are In The Lord	Paul affirms the faith of his friends to the Roman Church
Women Who Work Hard In The Lord.	Paul affirms the dignity of women and their work in the Church – very important in a time when women were viewed a 2 nd class
And His Mother, Who Has Been A Mother To Me	Paul recognizes a women that treated him like a son and he loves as his own mom
The Lord's People	Paul sees all of his friends as the Lord's people in the honor of being God's sons and daughters
With A Holy Kiss	Paul's desire for all of the family of God to see each and treat each other with love and dignity

3. What indications do you see of diversity among the people Paul felt close to (If necessary do a little research about the names and backgrounds in this list.)

- **Gender Diversity** - In Paul's circle – we see men and women as people loved and commended by him
- **Racial Diversity** - We also see Jews and Gentiles – people of different races
- **Cultural Diversity** – Romans, Greeks Hebrews - different backgrounds and traditions
- **Age Diversity** - Paul commends the mother of one His friends – whom He sees as a mother as well.
- **Experience Diversity** - Paul commends those who are new to the faith as those who are even as or more experienced in Christ than himself.
- **Life Diversity** - Paul has befriended the single, those who are married (and their families), possibly even widows.
- **Positional Diversity** – Paul has people in leadership (ex. Phoebe) as well as laypeople as his friends.

4. What do you see in the relationships implied by Paul's greetings that you would like to incorporate in your own friendships?

- I would like to see more inclusivity of different types of people in my relationships
- Greater intimacy and fellowship with other believers
- Shared commitment in worship and cause of Christ
- I want to be a person and have friends in Christ that can be counted on
- I wish we all (myself included) could be nicer to one another



Romans 16:17 - 21 (NKJV)

17 Now I urge you, brethren, **note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine** which you learned, and **avoid them.**

18 For those who are such **do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ**, but their **own belly**, and by smooth words and flattering speech **deceive the hearts of the simple.**

19 For **your obedience** has become known to all. Therefore, I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to **be wise in what is good**, and simple concerning evil.

20 And the **God of peace will crush Satan under your feet shortly.** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

21 **Timothy**, my **fellow worker**, and **Lucius**, **Jason**, and **Sosipater**, my countrymen, greet you.

Romans 16:22 - 27 (NKJV)

22 I, **Tertius**, who **wrote this epistle**, greet you **in the Lord.**

23 **Gaius**, my **host and the host of the whole church**, greets you. Erastus, the treasurer of the city, greets you, and **Quartus**, a brother.

24 The grace of **our Lord Jesus Christ** be with you all. Amen.

25 Now **to Him who is able** to establish you **according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ**, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began

26 but now **made manifest**, and by **the prophetic Scriptures** made known to all nations, according to the **commandment of the everlasting God**, for obedience to the faith

27 **to God**, alone wise, be glory through **Jesus Christ forever.** Amen.

5. What last-minute warnings did Paul write in verses 17 – 19?

Warnings	Description
Note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned	Paul warns then that there will be folks who cause strife – mark them (know who they are)
And avoid them	Have nothing to do with them. Disgruntled people lose power when they don't have an audience
For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly	Watch out for people who only care about themselves and not the mission or glory of Christ
And by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple [innocent]	Watch out for folks that “have game” – using the babes in Christ for their own ends
Your obedience has become known to all	Stay obedient to the Word of God . Don't comprise just to please people.
Be wise in what is good, and simple [innocence] concerning evil	Don't try to be “deep” follow the Bible truth of what is right and wrong.

6. In practical terms, what does it mean to be wise about what is good and innocent about what is evil? (How can we go about achieving that wisdom and innocence)?

- First, we need to have a sincere desire to be obedient to the Lord and to the work He has called us to do.
- Second, we need to desire the simple, undiluted and pure teaching of the Word of God.
- Third, we need to recognize the simplicity of God's commands – whatever God's Word says it's true – anything else is false.
- Finally, we need to walk in the realization the God will in His own time and way will deal with the enemies of the Church and Satan himself.

The word for “innocent” is akeraious, “unmixed, simple, pure.” In Greek it was used of wine that was not diluted and of metal that was not weakened in any way. Christians should be innocent about evil, not following the ways of the world (Rom. 12:2).

7. What additional information do you gain here about Paul's circle of friends (vv. 21 – 23)?

- Paul does not work alone as with Timothy – Paul recognizes the efforts of others.
- Paul can work his own people (Lucius, Jason and Sosipater) – His fellows Jews (no “Crab Mentality”)
- Paul trusts others (Tertius) to do what was not able to do Himself
- Paul is humble enough to acknowledge and receive help from others (Gaius)
- Paul can work people in government (Erastus) and considers others as (Quartus) brothers

8. Study Paul's closing prayer of praise in verses 25 – 27. What words and phrases here echo previous segments of Paul's letter?

Words/Phrases	Previous Segments of Paul's Letter
Him Who Is Able to Establish You	By Faith in Christ, God is able to ground us in His kingdom and His family. (Rom 8:3 – 5; 9:11; 11:29)
According to My Gospel And The Preaching Of Jesus Christ	The preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is what God has ordained to save people from sins (Rom. 1:16; 10:14 – 16)
But Now Made Manifest, And by The Prophetic Scriptures	God has ordained and proclaimed through the OT Scriptures that Jesus was sent to save us from sin. (Rom 3:21 – 22)
Made Known to All Nations	God in His great love and mercy has Salvation in Christ for everyone - Jew and Gentile (Rom 9:22 – 24; 11:17)
According to The Commandment Of The Everlasting God	God has decreed the wages of is Death – but Jesus is the sacrifice for sin (Rom. 3:23 – 26)
For Obedience to The Faith	We are not justified by our works, but by faith in the Person and Work of Christ (Rom. 1:17; 5:1 – 2).
To God, Alone Wise, Be Glory Through Jesus Christ Forever	God alone is the righteous judge and Jesus His Son is Lord of All (Rom. 2:16, 14:9 – 10)

KEYS FOR LIVING

- *Jesus has constructed the Church in such a way that we are all inter – connected. We need each other in order for the Body of Christ to function correctly.*
- *Even though conflicts and offenses may occur in the fellowship of believers, we should never be a part of making things worse. God will bring correction to those who cause division in His Church.*
- *No matter what our personal differences may be, the Gospel and the Word of God is the unchanging point of unity for all believers/disciples in the Church.*



QUESTIONS

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