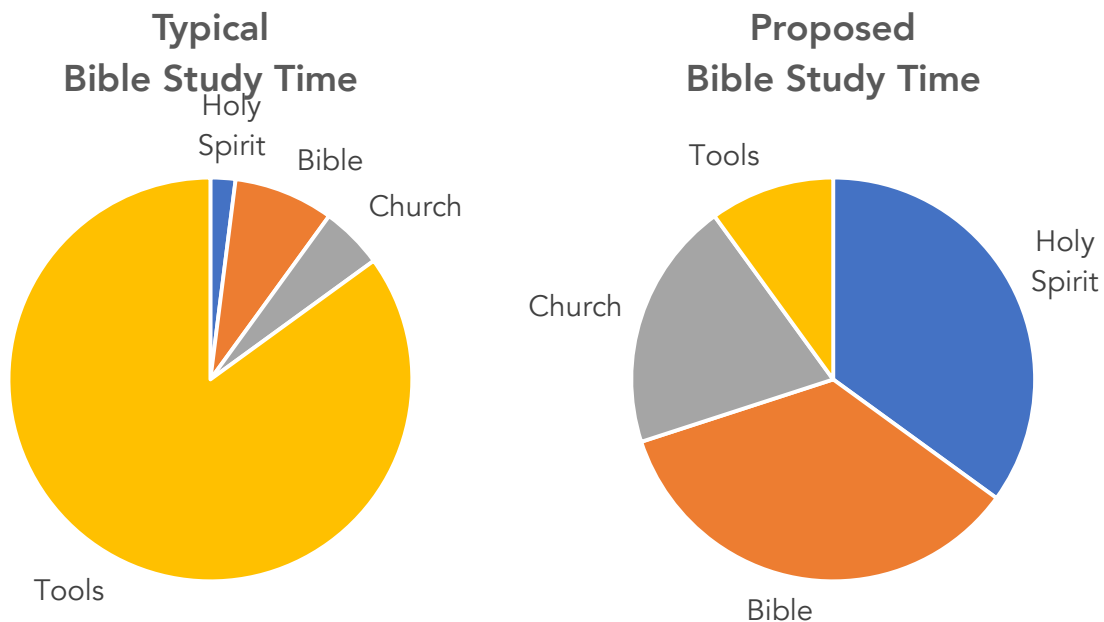


# Romans

The Law and Sin ([Romans 7:7-25](#))

## Introduction

A gentle review: **Did we do this?** Spend more time with God and His Word than with anyone and anything else.



Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

Here's our outline of the book of [Romans](#) (summarized from the ESV's outline):

- ✓ Paul's Introduction & Righteousness Introduced ([1:1-17](#)) (three weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Wrath ([1:18-3:20](#)) (six weeks)
- ✓ Saving Righteousness ([3:21-4:25](#)) (three weeks)
- 9. Righteous Freedom ([5:1-8:39](#)) (post-Easter to July 4) (11 weeks)
- 10. Righteousness → Jews ([9:1-11:36](#)) (post July 4 to Labor Day) (eight weeks)
- 11. Righteous Living ([12:1-15:13](#)) (post Labor Day to October) (nine weeks)
- 12. Paul's Closing ([15:14-16:23](#)) (November to early December) (five weeks)
- 13. Righteousness Summarized ([16:25-27](#)) (December & wrap up) (two weeks)

Today's text ([Romans 7:7-25](#)) is the sixth part of this major section.

## Peace with God through Faith

**1** Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. **2** Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. **3** Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, **4** and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, **5** and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

**6** For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. **7** For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— **8** but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. **10** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. **11** More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

## Death in Adam, Life in Christ

**12** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— **13** for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. **14** Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

**15** But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. **16** And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. **17** For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

**18** Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. **19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. **20** Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, **21** so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Dead to Sin, Alive to God

**1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? **2** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? **3** Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? **4** We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

**5** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For one who has died has been set free from sin. **8** Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

**12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. **13** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness. **14** For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

## Slaves to Righteousness

**15** What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! **16** Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. **19** I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

**20** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. **22** But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Released from the Law

**1** Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? **2** For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage. **3** Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.

**4** Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God. **5** For while we were living in the flesh, our sinful passions, aroused by the law, were at work in our members to bear fruit for death. **6** But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.

## Read: The Law and Sin (7:7-25)

**7** What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." **8** But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. **9** I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. **10** The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. **11** For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. **12** So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

**13** Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. **14** For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. **15** For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. **16** Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. **17** So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. **18** For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. **19** For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. **20** Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

**21** So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. **22** For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, **23** but I see in my members another law

waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

## Explain: The Law and Sin (7:7-25)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some questions.

### Are there any literary/structural observations?

Paul again asks a lot of questions in this section—four in English.

### What do the words mean?

7 **What then shall we say** [future active indicative]? **That the law** [*nomos*] **is sin** [offense, sin]? **By no means** [second aorist active optative (possibility (more remotely possible than subjunctive)); to become, to come into existence, begin to be, receive being; same phrase used in [Romans 3:4, 6, 31; 6:2, 15; 7:7, 13; 9:14; 11:1, 11](#)]; **Yet if it had not been for** [*dia*] **the law** [*nomos*], **I would not have known** [*ginosko*; second aorist active indicative; allow, be aware of, feel, known, perceive, be resolved, speak, be sure, understand] **sin** [offense, sin]. **For I would not have known** [*eido*; pluperfect active indicative; to know, be aware, behold, consider, look, perceive, be sure, understand] **what it is to covet** [longing, concupiscence, desire, lust] **if the law** [*nomos*] **had not said** [imperfect active indicative], **"You shall not covet** [future active indicative; set the heart upon, long for, covet, desire, lust after]." 8 **But sin** [offense, sin], **seizing** [second aorist active participle; accepting, attaining, bringing, catching, having, holding, obtaining, receiving, taking] **an opportunity** [starting point, an opportunity, occasion] **through** [*dia*] **the commandment** [commandment, precept], **produced** [aorist active indicative; worked fully, accomplished, finished, fashioned, caused, performed, worked out] **in me all kinds of covetousness** [longing, concupiscence, desire, lust; same word used in [Romans 7:7](#)]. **For apart** [at a space from, separately, apart, beside, by itself, without] **from the law** [*nomos*], **sin** [offense, sin] **lies dead**. 9 **I was once alive** [imperfect active indicative] **apart from the law** [*nomos*], **but when the commandment** [commandment, precept; same word used in [Romans 7:8](#)] **came** [second aorist active participle], **sin** [offense, sin] **came alive** [aorist active indicative; recovered life, lived again, revived] **and I died** [second aorist active indicative; has died off, is dead, died, lies a-dying, is slain; same word used in [Romans 6:2, 7, 8, 9, 10](#) (twice), [7:2, 3, 6](#)]. 10 **The very commandment** [commandment, precept; same word used in [Romans 7:8, 9](#)] **that promised life proved** [aorist middle indicative; found, got, obtained, perceived, saw] **to be death to me**. 11 **For sin** [offense, sin], **seizing** [second aorist active participle; accepting, attaining, bringing, catching, having, holding, obtaining, receiving, taking;

same word used in **Romans 7:7** **an opportunity** [starting point, an opportunity, occasion; same word used in **Romans 7:8** **through** [*dia*] **the commandment** [commandment, precept; same word used in **Romans 7:8, 9, 10**], **deceived** [seduced wholly, beguiled, deceived] **me and through** [*dia*] **it killed** [aorist active indicative; put to death, killed, slayed] **me**. **12 So** [so too, thus therefore, insomuch, so then] **the law** [*nomos*] **is holy** [sacred, pure, consecrated, holy, saint], **and the commandment** [commandment, precept; same word used in **Romans 7:8, 9, 10, 11**] **is holy** [sacred, pure, consecrated, holy, saint; same word used earlier in **Romans 7:12**] **and righteous** [equitable, innocent, holy, just, meet, righteous] **and good** [benefit, good, well].

**13 Did that which is good** [benefit, good, well; same word used in **Romans 7:12**], **then, bring** [second aorist active indicative] **death to me? By no means** [second aorist active optative (possibility (more remotely possible than subjunctive)); to become, to come into existence, begin to be, receive being; same phrase used in **Romans 3:4, 6, 31; 6:2, 15; 7:7, 13; 9:14; 11:1, 11**]! **It was sin** [offense, sin], **producing** [present middle participle; working fully, accomplishing, finishing, fashioning, causing, doing, performing, working out; worked fully, accomplished, finished, fashioned, caused, done, performed, worked out; same word used in **Romans 7:8**] **death in me through** [*dia*] **what is good** [benefit, good, well; same word used in **Romans 7:12** and earlier in **Romans 7:13**], **in order that sin** [offense, sin] **might be shown** [second aorist middle subjunctive; shown, appeared, seemed, shined] **to be sin** [offense, sin], **and through** [*dia*] **the commandment** [commandment, precept; same word used in **Romans 7:8, 9, 10, 11, 12**] **might become** [second aorist active subjunctive] **sinful beyond measure** [throwing beyond others, supereminence, abundance, far more exceeding, excellency, more excellent, beyond measure]. **14 For we know** [*eido*; perfect active indicative; to know, be aware, behold, consider, look, perceive, be sure, understand; same word used in **Romans 7:7**] **that the law** [*nomos*] **is** [present middle indicative] **spiritual** [non-carnal, ethereal, supernatural, spiritual; same word used in **Romans 1:11**], **but I am** [present middle indicative] **of the flesh** [fleshly, flesh], **sold** [perfect middle participle; trafficked, disposed as merchandise into slavery, sold] **under sin** [offense, sin]. **15 For I do** [present middle indicative; work fully, accomplish, finish, fashion, cause, do, perform, work out; same word used in **Romans 7:8, 13**] **not understand** [*ginosko*; present active indicative; allow, be aware of, feel, known, perceive, be resolved, speak, be sure, understand] **my own actions. For I do not do** [present active indicative; perform repeatedly, habitually, execute, accomplish, collect, fare, commit, deeds, do, exact, keep, require, use arts] **what I want** [present active indicative; determine, choose, prefer, wish, inclined, be about, delight in, desire, intend, list, love, mean, please, will], **but I do** [present active indicative] **the very thing I hate** [present active indicative; detest, love less, hate]. **16 Now if I do** [present active indicative] **what I do not want** [present active indicative; determine, choose, prefer, wish, inclined, be about, delight

in, desire, intend, list, love, mean, please, will; same word used in [Romans 7:15](#)], I **agree** [present middle indicative; say jointly, assent to, consent to] **with the law** [*nomos*], **that it is good** [beautiful, good, valuable, virtuous, better, fair, good, honest, meet, well, worthy]. **17 So now** [just now, now] **it is no longer I who do** [present middle indicative; work fully, accomplish, finish, fashion, cause, do, perform, work out; same word used in [Romans 7:8, 13, 15](#)] **it, but sin** [offense, sin] **that dwells** [occupies a house, resides, cohabits] **within me**. **18 For I know** [*eido*; perfect active indicative; to know, be aware, behold, consider, look, perceive, be sure, understand; same word used in [Romans 7:7, 14](#)] **that nothing good** [benefit, good, well; same word used in [Romans 7:12, 13](#) (twice)] **dwells** [present active indicative; occupies a house, resides, cohabits; same word used in [Romans 7:17](#)] **in me, that is** [present middle indicative], **in my flesh**. **For I have** [present middle indicative; lies near, be at hand, be present] **the desire** [present active infinitive; determine, choose, prefer, wish, inclined, be about, delight in, desire, intend, list, love, mean, please, will; same word used in [Romans 7:15, 16](#)] **to do what is right** [beautiful, good, valuable, virtuous, better, fair, good, honest, meet, well, worthy; same word used in [Romans 7:16](#)], **but not the ability** [present middle infinitive; work fully, accomplish, finish, fashion, cause, do, perform, work out; same word used in [Romans 7:8, 13, 15, 17](#)] **to carry it out**. **19 For I do not do** [present active indicative] **the good** [benefit, good, well; same word used in [Romans 7:12, 13](#) (twice), [18](#)] **I want** [present active indicative; determine, choose, prefer, wish, inclined, be about, delight in, desire, intend, list, love, mean, please, will; same word used in [Romans 7:15, 16, 18](#)], **but the evil** [worthless, depraved, bad, evil, harm, ill, noisome, wicked] **I do not want** [present active indicative; determine, choose, prefer, wish, inclined, be about, delight in, desire, intend, list, love, mean, please, will; same word used in [Romans 7:15, 16, 18, 19](#) (twice), earlier in [19](#)] **is what I keep on doing** [present active indicative; perform repeatedly, habitually, execute, accomplish, collect, fare, commit, deeds, do, exact, keep, require, use arts; same word used in [Romans 7:15](#)]. **20 Now if I do** [present active indicative] **what I do not want** [present active indicative; determine, choose, prefer, wish, inclined, be about, delight in, desire, intend, list, love, mean, please, will; same word used in [Romans 7:15, 16, 18, 19](#) (twice)], **it is no longer I who do** [present middle indicative; work fully, accomplish, finish, fashion, cause, do, perform, work out; same word used in [Romans 7:8, 13, 15, 17, 18](#)] **it, but sin** [offense, sin] **that dwells** [present active participle; occupies a house, resides, cohabits; same word used in [Romans 7:17, 18](#)] **within me**.

**21 So I find** [present active indicative; find, get, obtain, perceive, see] **it to be a law** [*nomos*] **that when I want** [present active participle; determine, choose, prefer, wish, inclined, be about, delight in, desire, intend, list, love, mean, please, will; same word used in [Romans 7:15, 16, 18, 19](#) (twice), [20](#)] **to do** [present active infinitive] **right** [beautiful, good, valuable, virtuous, better, fair, good, honest, meet, well, worthy; same

word used in **Romans 7:16, 18**, **evil** [worthless, depraved, bad, evil, harm, ill, noisome, wicked; same word used in **Romans 7:19**] **lies close** [present middle indicative; lies near, be at hand, be present; same word used in **Romans 7:18**] **at hand. 22 For I delight** [present middle indicative; rejoice within oneself, feel satisfaction concerning, delight] **in the law** [nomos] **of God, in my inner** [inside, inward, inner] **being, 23 but I see** [present active indicative; look, behold, beware, lie, look on, perceive, regard, see, take heed] **in my members** [limbs, members] **another** [other, different] **law** [nomos] **waging war** [present middle participle; attacking, destroying, warring against] **against the law** [nomos] **of my mind** [intellect, mind, understanding] **and making me captive** [present active participle; leading away captive, making captive, bringing into captivity] **to the law** [nomos] **of sin** [offense, sin] **that dwells in** [present middle participle] **my members** [limbs, members]. **24 Wretched** [enduring trials, miserable, wretched] **man that I am! Who will deliver** [future active indicative; rescue, deliver (through the idea of a current)] **me from this body of death? 25 Thanks** [charis; graciousness, acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, gracious, grace, joy, liberality, pleasure, thanks, thankworthy; same word used multiple times in **Romans**] **be to God through** [dia] **Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve** [douleuo; present active indicative; be a slave, be in bondage, do service] **the law** [nomos] **of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law** [nomos] **of sin** [offense, sin].

### Are there any repeated words?

Law (15x), sin (15x), commandment (6x), Jesus, God,

### Are there any repeated topics?

Next week we will do observations, applications, and personalizations of this same text.

### What are some observations of the text?

**7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. 9 I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. 10 The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. 11 For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. 12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.**

**13 Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and**



through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. 15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. 17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, 23 but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

### Apply (What is the point?)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Personalize (What do we do with that?)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Next week: The Law and Sin (7:7-25) (2/2)

7 What then shall we say? That the law is sin? By no means! Yet if it had not been for the law, I would not have known sin. For I would not have known what it is to covet if the law had not said, "You shall not covet." 8 But sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, produced in me all kinds of covetousness. For apart from the law, sin lies dead. 9 I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died. 10 The very commandment that promised life proved to be death to me. 11 For sin, seizing an opportunity through the commandment, deceived me and through it killed me. 12 So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good.

**13** Did that which is good, then, bring death to me? By no means! It was sin, producing death in me through what is good, in order that sin might be shown to be sin, and through the commandment might become sinful beyond measure. **14** For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold under sin. **15** For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. **16** Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. **17** So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. **18** For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. **19** For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. **20** Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

**21** So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. **22** For I delight in the law of God, in my inner being, **23** but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. **24** Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25** Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin.

## Homework

Resources (our helps—order matters)

- Holy Spirit
- Bible: [Romans](#) (ESV)
- Church: [bit.ly/FlemingSS](http://bit.ly/FlemingSS)
- Tools: [bit.ly/romans2017](http://bit.ly/romans2017)

Our process

- Ask (the Holy Spirit for help)
- Read ([Romans](#))
- Talk (about [Romans](#)—[bit.ly/romans2017group](http://bit.ly/romans2017group))
- Send (feedback to [jim314@yahoo.com](mailto:jim314@yahoo.com) by Wed)