

ROMANS

Becoming New in Christ

19 STUDIES FOR INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS



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IVP Connect

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1

Good News from God

Romans 1:1-17

“I’m engaged!”

“I got a raise!”

“My wife’s having a baby!”

What is our immediate response to good news? We tell others! We feel we will burst unless we share our joy with those around us. According to tradition, when the great mathematician Archimedes discovered his principle of hydrostatics, he jumped out of the public bath and ran through the streets naked, shouting, “I found it! I found it!”

GROUP DISCUSSION. Why is it so difficult to keep good news to ourselves?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. Think of some good news you’ve heard recently. How did you respond when you heard it, and why?

Paul felt excited about the gospel, the good news about Jesus Christ. As we read these opening verses in his letter to the Romans, we find his excitement is contagious. *Read Romans 1:1-17.*

1. Imagine that verses 1 and 5 are the only information you possess about Paul. Describe everything you would know about him.

2. In verses 1-5 Paul gives a summary of the gospel for which he had been set apart. What do we learn about the gospel from these verses?

3. What do verses 8-13 reveal about Paul's attitude toward the Romans?

Why do you think he was so encouraged and motivated?

4. Because he was an apostle ("one who is sent"), Paul felt obligated to preach the gospel to everyone (v. 14). Whom do you have the greatest opportunity of reaching with the gospel?

5. What steps can you take to reach them?

6. Paul says we can be eager to preach the gospel or be ashamed of it (vv. 15-16). What might lead us to adopt one attitude or the other?

7. In verse 16 Paul describes the gospel as "the power of God" for salvation. How have you seen this power demonstrated in your life or the lives of others?

8. Martin Luther wrote that verse 17 became to him “a gateway to heaven.” What’s so significant about the ideas in this verse?

9. What do you think it means to “live by faith” (v. 17)?

10. In what areas do you struggle to live by faith?

Pray that God will use Romans to give you Paul’s attitude toward the gospel and toward those who need its message.

Now or Later

Many excellent commentaries have been written on Romans. Two I would highly recommend are F. F. Bruce’s *The Letter of Paul to the Romans*, in the Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1963), and John Stott’s preliminary essay to his commentary *Romans: God’s Good News for the World* (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1994). They both are clearly written and full of insights. Take time this week to visit a local Christian bookstore or library and consider using one of these commentaries as you seek to study Romans in the next few weeks. It’s best to do each study on your own first, and then compare what you discovered with what other writers have found.

What should we study next?

We have LifeGuides for . . .



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I Am
Abiding in Christ
Jesus' Final Week
The Jesus Paul Knew
(Spring 2018)

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God's Comfort
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The 23rd Psalm
Miracles
Questions God Asks
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Spiritual Gifts
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Images of the Spirit

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The Lord's Prayer
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Sabbath
Worship

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