

All Roads Lead to Rome

ROMANS 1:1-17

Sunday, September 14, 2025 | Wawasee Bible | Milford, Indiana | Pastor Josh Weiland

Introduction to Romans

We have been **SET APART** (1:1-7)

to belong to Jesus v. 6 | 1 Corinthians 3:23; Galatians 3:29; Romans 12:1-2

to live for Jesus v. 5, 7 | Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:9-12; Colossians 3:17

to help all people **FLOURISH** (1:8-15)

all people | Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8; 1 Timothy 2:3-6

barriers shattered | Ephesians 2:14-16; Galatians 3:28; Acts 10:34-35

through **FAITH** in Jesus Christ. (1:16-17)

power to save v. 16 | 1 Corinthians 1:18, 24; 2 Timothy 1:8-10

faith: start to finish v. 17 | Habakkuk 2:4; Hebrews 12:2; Ephesians 2:8-9

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.



As we begin our study through Romans, here's a few background facts that may be helpful to know:

Purpose: Paul is writing to introduce himself to the Roman Christians and to give a sample of his message before he arrives in Rome. He had never been to Rome, but through his journeys became friends with people from Rome (like Aquilla and Priscilla). Paul's dream was to bring the Gospel to Spain (the ends of the earth for him), and hoped to partner with the church in Rome toward that end.

Author: Paul

To Whom Written: The Christians in Rome and believers everywhere.

Date Written: About a.d. 57, from Corinth, as Paul was preparing for his visit to Jerusalem

Setting: Apparently Paul had finished his work in the east, and he planned to visit Rome on his way to Spain after first bringing a collection to Jerusalem for the poor Christians there (**15:23-28**). The Roman church had a majority of Gentiles with a strong Jewish minority.

Key Verse: "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (5:1 ESV).

Key People: Paul, Phoebe

Key Place: Rome

Special Features: Paul wrote Romans as an organized and carefully presented statement of his faith—not unlike a missionary's introductory letter and materials sent to a potential supporting church. It's the longest of his letters. At the end of the letter, Paul spends considerable time greeting people he knew in Rome.



Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, take some time to catch up with each other as you gather.

If it helps, here's a question to discuss and get you going. Have everyone answer:

Who's someone that has encouraged you in your faith when you didn't expect it?

Digging Deeper – A Bible Study

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. For the most impact in your life and in your group, *work through it on your own before you gather with your Life Group.* If your Life Group isn't gathering this week, use this guide for further study personally.

- As we begin our study in Romans, what are your thoughts on Romans? What have you heard about it before or assumed about it? What did you learn new this week? Do you have any hopes as we go forward?
- This weekend we were introduced to the book of Romans written by the apostle Paul. As we learn more about Paul we realize he's a man with a huge past but also someone through whom God has worked to do some pretty amazing things. Like Paul, many of us also have a story of what life was like before Jesus and what it's been like after. If someone were to ask you to bullet-point some of your **before** and **after** story, what would you say?

BEFORE:

AFTER:

How might the following verses help someone who struggles with moving forward from a troubled past?

2 Corinthians 5:17

Romans 6:4

Romans 8:11

- Paul says he's "**set apart**" in verse one... as you think about your story. What has God set *you* apart for? — We're not looking for "churchy" answers here. Think about your before and after story—and in your own words, as best you can articulate it today, what do you think God has set you apart for?

(Study Guide continues on back panel...)

At Wawasee, each of us is growing to increasingly live out these four roles as we follow Jesus together.



Secure Son/Daughter

I live each day increasingly confident in being a loved child of God—resting in grace, not striving to achieve approval.



Courageous Connector

I cultivate honest relationships that cross barriers and create belonging—even before belief.



Ready Storyteller

I live each day with a sense of sentness, ready to reveal my story and God's story.



Legacy Builder

Because of Jesus, I multiply what has been given to me by spiritually investing in others for kingdom impact.

Word Find in the **Word**

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find: Romans 1:1-6 (NIRV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

1 I, **Paul**, am writing this **letter**. I **serve Christ Jesus**. I have **been appointed to be an apostle**. God set me **apart** to tell **others** his **good news**. He **promised** the **good news long** ago. He **announced** it through his **prophets** in the **Holy Scriptures**. The **good news** is about God's Son. As a **human being**, the Son of God **belonged to King David's family line**. By the **power** of the **Holy Spirit**, he was **appointed to be the mighty** Son of God **because he rose** from the **dead**. He is **Jesus Christ** our **Lord**. I **received** God's grace **because** of what **Jesus** did so that I could bring glory to him. He made me an **apostle** to all those who aren't Jews. I must invite them to have faith in God and obey him. You also are among those who are **appointed to belong to Jesus Christ**.

D P R O P H E T S B Y R G
H O L Y D D K T C E A E O
O W H L E T T E R I J C O
O E U E A P P O I N T E D
F R M F D G T ' P G B I N
A O A C H R I S T J E V S
M S N S A N N O U N C E D
I P N A P A R T R D A D P
L I P R O M I S E D U A A
Y R R O S E J E S U S V U
M I G H T Y Y I B L E I L
V T B E L O N G E O R D O
M O T H E R S L E N V ' R
L I N E W S K I N G E S D

- Compare **Romans 1:16–17** with **Habakkuk 2:4**, **Galatians 2:16**, and **Hebrews 10:38**. What does it mean that “the righteous shall live by faith”?
 - What does it mean for salvation?
 - What does it mean for following Jesus in everyday life?
- Paul emphasizes that the Gospel is for everyone—Jew and Gentile alike (**v. 14–16**). Most Jews believed that most Gentiles were beyond God's reach. With that in mind, who might be the “Gentiles” in your life—people you're tempted to think are outside God's reach?
 - How does this passage challenge our biases and widen our perspective on God's mission?
 - If you fast-forward in **Romans** to **Chapter 2**, Paul writes this: “... *God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.*” — God uses kindness to lead us to repent... do you use kindness to lead others to repent? (See **Joel 2:13**, **2 Peter 3:9**, **Luke 15:17-20**)
- A common theme in the writings of Paul is his reminder of God's grace for us. As we learn more about God's grace, we come to understand it wasn't meant to just be received. How do the following verses paint a picture of God's bigger purpose for giving us grace?

1 Timothy 1:12-17 **Ephesians 2:4-10** **1 Peter 4:10**

After reading the above verses, can you think of any ways or times you've experienced grace in your own life?

Taking it Home

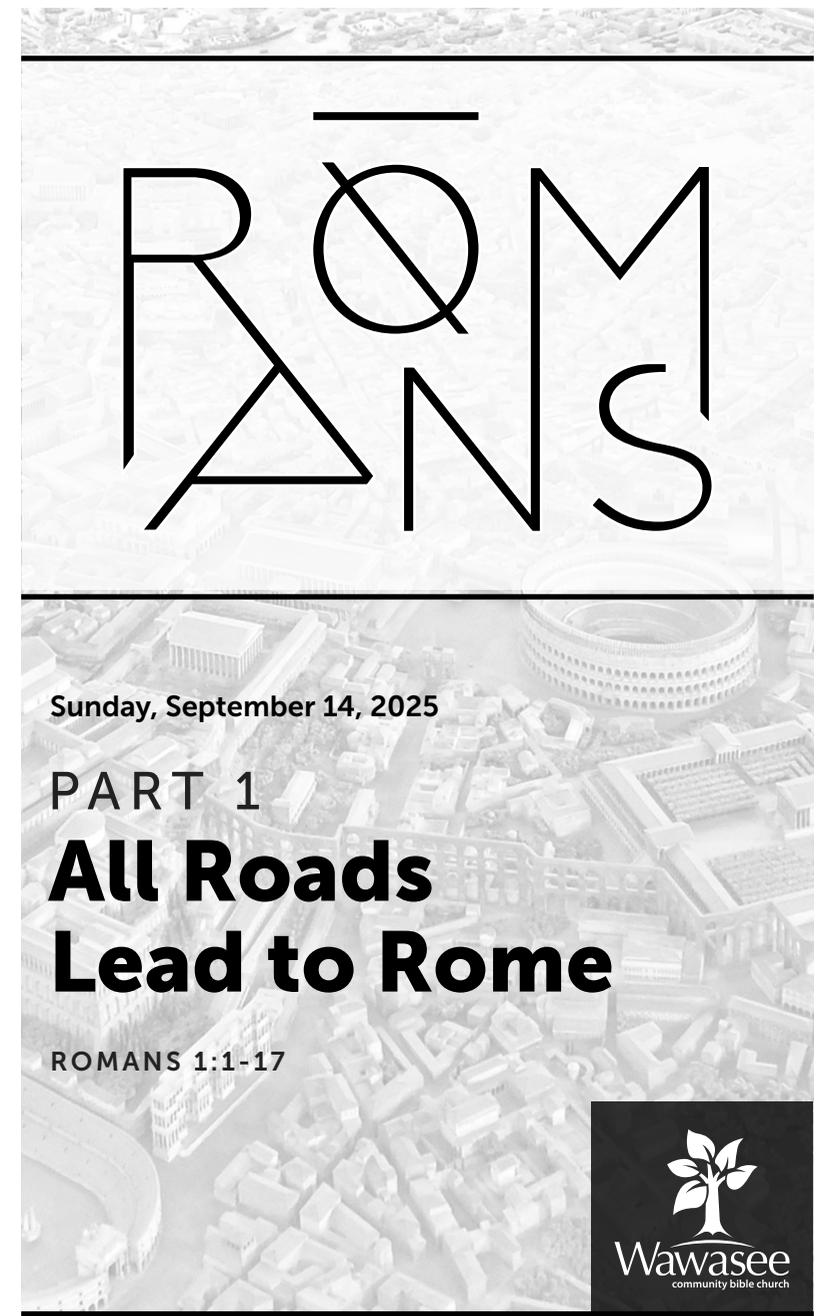
- How does **Hebrews 10:24-25** reinforce Paul's words in **Romans 1:11-12** about mutual encouragement? What steps could your group take this year to “stir up one another to love and good works” and be “mutually encouraged by each other's faith”?

As you close, take time to pray for each other.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

Wawasee Community Bible Church
2035 East 1300 North | Milford, Indiana 46542 | 574-658-9161 | wawaseebible.com

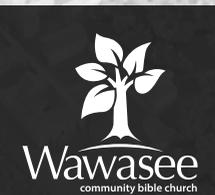


Sunday, September 14, 2025

PART 1

All Roads Lead to Rome

ROMANS 1:1-17




We're Glad You're Here Today!

Scan QR code for our **App** with **Bulletin, Connect Card, & more.**

<https://wawasee.today>