

WEEK 13

**Romans 9-16 discussion and Philemon and Colossians background**

**Romans 9-16 discussion**

Theme

Ryrie: righteousness of God

Haley: not sure he'll get out of Jerusalem alive, so leaves in Rome a written explanation

of the nature of the gospel of Christ. Main point is that man's justification before God rests on the mercy of Christ, not the law of Moses.

Jensen: God's righteousness imparted to the sinner who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ

Bible discussion questions

What did you think was the theme of Romans 9-16 ?

What picture do you have of the church/believers after reading Romans 9-16 ?

How is that the same/ different from our experience today?

Which passages encouraged you?

Which passages challenged you?

ch 9— So what about Israel being God's chosen people?

What about all His promises to them? v. 30-32

Abraham is the father of all who believe, both the circumcised and the uncircumcised (4:11-12)

ch 10—what does this chapter say about the law vs. the heart?

didn't Israel hear the good news also? what happened?

didn't believe, made envious, made angry, were disobedient and obstinate

these sound like all the reactions we've been seeing in the cities Paul

has preached in

ch 11—so is Israel completely rejected by God? He always reserves a remnant for Himself

God is using their sin for His own good purposes—to save the Gentiles

How should the Gentile believers feel toward the Jews? v.18, 30-31

ch 12—What does he say our response to God’s mercy should be?

be a living (or life-giving) sacrifice, be transformed—how?

what do you think the “pattern of this world” is?

What does it say about how we should think about ourselves?

Remember the Greek mindset—pride in gifts, independence

What spiritual gifts are mentioned here?

prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, contributing to

needs of others, leading, showing mercy

How does 12:16 turn their Roman world/social structure upside-down?

about ½ of the population of Rome was slaves.

How was this “revolution” to take place? v. 21 is the “battle plan”

ch 13-- How do you think the Roman church may have responded to the message of 13:1-2,

when the authorities were often the ones persecuting and even killing them?

Why should they not try to overthrow the government? not the battle plan

How should governments operate? reward good, punish wrongdoing

How could you sum up the law in one rule? v. 9-10

What “clothing” should we take off? What should we put on?

ch 14—what are some principles for how to treat other believers?

v. 1, 4, 13, 15, 19

How does he define sin in these kinds of matters that are not clearly spelled

out in Scripture? v. 23

ch 15—What’s one of the reasons the Bible was written? v4

What words of encouragement does he give in this chapter?

What does Paul say in v. 26-27 is a practical way for the Gentiles to show

their appreciation for the blessings they received from the Jews?

If we are not called to go with a missionary, how can we share in their ministry? v. 30

ch 16-- What are some attributes or actions that are commended in this list of greetings?

What were some of the methods of the Judaizers? v. 17-18

Another reference to Greek/Roman regard for mysteries and wisdom 16:25-26

## **Philemon and Colossians background**

### **Philemon**

Timeline (Paul in Corinth)

(58) Paul heading toward Jerusalem

Timothy and Erastus sent to Macedonia, Paul stayed in province of Asia a little longer

Silversmith of Artemis in Ephesus causes unrest

Whole city in uproar in theatre, Paul's companions Gaius & Aristarchus seized

Disciples won't let Paul address crowd

Crowd dismissed by an official

Paul to Macedonia, meets Titus who came from Corinth, Luke joins Paul

then to Greece, stayed 3 months (Acts 20)

Jews plot against him

Back thru Macedonia, companions went ahead and waited at Troas

But we sailed from Philippi to Troas. Stayed 7 days

Eutychus raised from dead after fall from window

Paul walks to Assos, meets companions, and sails for Mitylene, then sails to Kios

Crossed over to Samos, then Miletus, in hurry to reach Jerusalem

Calls Ephesian elders to him in Miletus, says goodbye, charging them

Sailed to Cos, went to Rhodes then to Patara (Acts 21)

Ship to Phoenicia; past Cyprus to Syria, landed at Tyre, stayed 7 days

Sailed to Ptolemais

Reached Caesarea, stayed # of days

Agabus predicts Paul's imprisonment

Nero becomes Emperor

Paul goes to Jerusalem, gives \$ offering to Jewish church from Gentile believers

Paul purifies himself at Temple

Jews rise up against him, saying he defiled Temple

City in uproar, try to kill him

Commander arrests him, takes him to barracks

Paul asks to speak to crowd

Paul preaches, crowd angry (Acts 22)

Taken to barracks, but not flogged because a Roman citizen

Commander assembles Sanhedrin, Paul

Violent disagreement between Pharisees and Sadducees (Acts 23), Paul back to barracks

Jews plot to kill him

Paul escorted to Governor Felix at Caesarea

Paul kept under guard at Herod's palace

5 days later, high priest to Caesarea (Acts 24)

Paul's defense before Felix

Felix and wife listen to Paul privately, over 2 years

59 Portius Festus relieves Felix; Paul left in jail as favor to Jews

Festus to Jerusalem, hears charge against Paul (Acts 25)

Returns to Caesarea, trial with Paul, who appeals to Caesar

King Agrippa visits Festus, case discussed, Paul preaches

Paul's defense (Acts 26)

Paul sails with guards from Adramyttium to Sidon (Acts 27)

Sail past Cyprus, Cilicia, Pamphylia, landed at Myra in Lycia

Sailed to Cnidus, then Crete to town called Fair Havens (near Lasea)

Sailed along shore of Crete, heading for Phoenix

Violent storm for many days; shipwrecked on Malta

Paul survives viper bite (Acts 28)

Stays 3 months, then sails to Syracuse, then Rhegium, then Puteoli, then Rome

59 In Rome, Paul allowed to live by himself with soldier to guard him

Jews come to hear about "the Way" — "people everywhere are talking against this sect"

Paul stayed 2 years, boldly preaching.

Onesimus flees slavery, goes to Rome (1,500,000 population) and seeks out Paul

61 Philemon Onesimus sent back with letter

61 Colossians ; sent by Tychicus and Onesimus?

Epaphras visits Paul in Rome, imprisoned

Who wrote it? Paul

About the epistle

Written while imprisoned in Rome (a "prison epistle")

Most personal of all Paul's letters

Onesimus, a slave, had stolen from his master, Philemon, and run away from Colossae

Philemon was a very rich believer; in Colossae; a church met in his house

Apphia probably his wife; Archippus probably his son

He and Paul were good friends

Onesimus may have been very talented; the Roman army often took the brightest and best and brought them into the empire as slaves.

“Onesimus” means profitable or useful.

Eventually comes to Rome, where he meets/ seeks out Paul and comes to faith

May have known Paul from his master’s house; probably sought him out in Rome—it was a city of 1,500,000 people, it’s unlikely they would meet otherwise, especially since Paul was under house arrest, chained to a guard 24/7

Now his Christian duty to return to his master, because he stole from him

His punishment would usually been death, so Paul writes this letter of intercession.

Paul offered to personally pay what Onesimus owed

## **Colossians background**

Who wrote it? Paul

About the epistle

A “prison epistle”, written while Paul imprisoned in Rome

Sent with Tychicus and possibly Onesimus

About the church

Colossae was an ancient but declining commercial center, about 100 miles east of Ephesus

Churches met in houses, one met in Philemon’s house.

Epaphras played a major role in the planting and growth of the church

Paul not acquainted with believers there, but in prison with Epaphras

Epaphras had come to Rome with news of a dangerous heresy making headway in the church.

Some at Colossae were trying to mix Jewish legalism, Greek philosophy, and

Oriental mysticism, with a focus on Jewish dietary laws and Sabbath observances and circumcision, worship of angels, and a form of asceticism.

Angels were believed to be intermediaries between God and men

Asceticism is a belief in the body being inherently evil. So anything having to do with the body is sinful or evil, and only things having to do with the spirit are good.

Self-denial is good, self-mortification is good (sometimes even whipping yourself with a whip or stick)

Releases the soul from bondage with the body, so it can attain higher spiritual levels

True meaning is only non-physical, so you should abstain from all pleasures

Often meat, alcohol, sex, and comfortable clothing are given up

Remind you of any modern religious practices? (no meat on Friday)

These believers took GREAT PRIDE in their superiority because they followed this philosophy.

### Other info

Colossae was part of a triangle of 3 cities (like Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton)

These were Laodicea, Colossae, and Hieropolis

Colossae was at foot of large snow-capped mountain, known for cold water from the mountain streams all year long. Famous for its refreshing, invigorating cold water.

Hieropolis was known for its hot mineral springs. People came for its hot baths for healing and to drink the mineral water from the natural hot springs for cures for diseases

Laodicea had terrible water, tepid and filled with minerals.

But they were rich and powerful had a banking center and a gold exchange

Also known for very soft black wool used for expensive clothing, and a mineral used to make eye salve

see Rev.3:14- 18