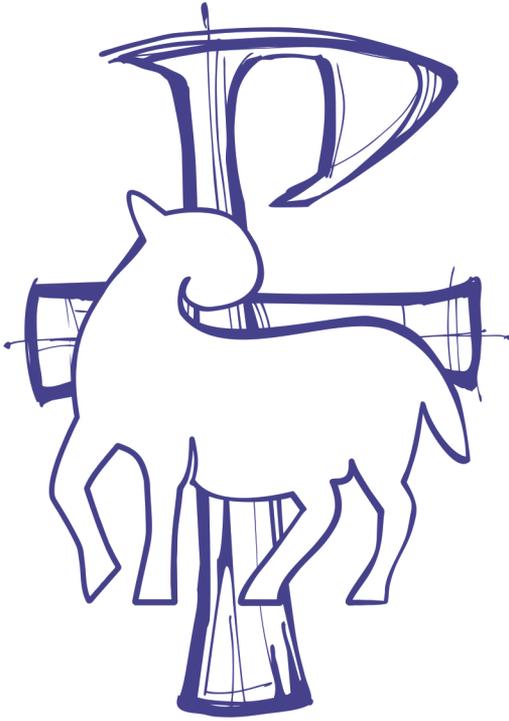


Romans



Study on the Book of Romans
English / Kachin

**DEEPER DISCIPLINE BRINGS
DEEPER DISCIPLESHIP IN CHRIST**

Rev. Irene Beatrice Humphries
Rev. Dr. James Paul Humphries

TITLE: NEW TESTAMENT BOOK STUDY - ROMANS

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PREFACE

It has been a number of years now since Irene's home going in March of 2005. Irene was a teacher and a very gifted one by God. She had a gentleness and compassion that encouraged people to walk deeper and more forward in their faith for Jesus Christ. It wasn't until she took a course with Dr. David Johnson at Providence that I had approached her about writing a course for Project L.A.M.B.S. on the book of Romans. At first she was hesitant but God had been doing a strong work in her heart for a number of year's concern "law righteousness" verse "grace righteousness". She told me that there was a long period of time when she saw the book of Romans as a confusing hard book to understand and how to relate the righteousness of God in her life. But after she had gone through some very deep valleys, her eyes became open and her heart filled up with this very special truth, that she wanted to tell everyone that this truth needed to be the foundation for all believers life. In the end it became the book and the course she was most fond of.

I would like to take you back to a time when she was teaching this course in Jamaica and the power of God fell on all the students of the class. For two hours people wept and repented because God had open their eyes to the understanding of "grace righteousness" that comes through faith in the blood and work of Jesus Christ. It was a marvelous time and many lives were touched for Christ in Jamaica.

This is also the course that we have on video of Irene teaching at Gospel Chapel in La Broquerie Manitoba, Canada. This was the last time and it was not easy for her because she was battling with the pain of cancer but with the love of her Pastor

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(Peter Broesky) and the students praying, she gave forth her best ministry yet. The presence of God supported her and flowed through her to encourage and bless others in the class.

Now I have been blessed to step into her shoes to teach this course in Myanmar. I had never taught it before and maybe I had somewhat been avoiding it, because of all the memories that were attached to it. While I was preparing myself to teach I began to reflecting back on Irene's life and ministry and at that moment a small voice seem to nudge me and say, "that I was to step out in faith and print this book as a teaching tribute to her memory". It also seemed appropriate that this would be printed in Myanmar, because this is the last place outside of Canada that Irene had taught and it was where Hkaw Win, was her translator, nurse and most of all a friend, who took care of her while she was ill in Myitkhyina. Irene was deeply touched by these people and the servant heart that they had toward one another and to us.

Throughout the week Irene was still able to minister at night and by the end of the week, participate in our first graduation service in the Kachin state of Myanmar. (See the picture on the back cover) This was a great victory for both of us and it fulfilled a dream that Irene had of going to the Kachin people. To see firsthand how God had kept them and called them out of animism for His glory. You will see some of her reflections under part two, titled, "People Need God's Righteousness".

It is our hope that people will gather together to work through this study on the book of Romans and that many more will come to understand the liberating message that "grace righteousness" gives to us. Christ desire to set the captive free and to bring us into a deep personal relationship with Himself. My

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prayer is that as you study this course book on Romans that you will be touched and be blessed by the Holy Spirit as Irene was in preparing it and teaching it to others.

With fond memories,

Rev. Dr. Lahtaw Zau Sam

Kachin State, Myanmar

Reflection Poem:

*As I walk along life's pathway,
Though the way I cannot see,
I shall follow in Christ's footsteps,
For He has a plan for me.*

- Thiesen

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OVERVIEW

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A. *The Foundation of our Faith*

Part 1 Introduction

Part 2 People need God's righteousness

Part 3 God imputes righteousness to people

Part 4 New life in Christ

B. *The Faithfulness of God*

Part 5 God and Israel

C. *The Fruit of our Faith*

Part 6 The conduct of faith

Part 7 Paul's closing remarks

** We gratefully acknowledge the work of Dr. David Johnson of Providence Theological Seminary, Otterburne, Manitoba, Canada for the outline of Romans used in this study.*

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PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Background

The origin of the church in Rome is historically unclear with no record of its beginning or of who founded it. When the letter to the Romans was written by the Apostle Paul, the church had a worldwide reputation (1:8) and consisted mainly of Gentile believers. Rome was the center of the civilized world and we know that there were at least four congregations that met in various homes. The reality of their status as Gentiles saved by faith in Christ is evident but who taught them prior to this letter?

It is most generally believed that the letter was written about 57 AD from the city of Corinth (Acts 20:3,6,16) during Paul's three month stay there on his third missionary journey. He was to return to Jerusalem with a gift of financial help for the church, after which he proposed a visit to Rome with further hopes of support for missionary work in Spain. It would not be for three years that Paul would actually visit Rome and then it was as a prisoner.

The letter to the Roman believers is without doubt the most important letter in the history of mankind and many volumes have been written about it. The true influence of this letter is not the hundreds of books that have been written about it but the lives which have been transformed reading it. Within ten years of receiving this letter, the church at Rome became the object of severe persecution by the Emperor who made the Christians his scapegoat for the fire of Rome, 64 AD. From what we know of the steadfastness of the Christians' faith at that time, we can be assured that this letter to the Romans bore fruit from the beginning. Another concern for the early church was the growing conflict

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between Judaism and the initial followers of Christ, mainly Jews who believed Christ was the long awaited Messiah. The Romans struck a major blow when they destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem in 70 AD. This was a critical time for the early congregations of believers. Paul directed by the Holy Spirit addressed the issues of the day and at the same time provided generations to come with a clear exposition of God's plan for redemption, the Spirit filled life and unity in the body of Christ. The letter is a systematic presentation of the Christian faith.

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ROMANS - Part 1

Paul's Introduction and Theme 1:1-17

In this section we will examine Paul's greetings to the recipients of the letter, his words of thanksgiving and prayers on their behalf. We discover that this portion introduces the central theme of the letter and explains Paul's passion for taking the Good News to the ends of the earth.

1:1-17 Paul is called as an apostle to preach the Gospel of the righteousness of God through faith in Christ

1:1-7 _____

1:8-13 _____

1:14-17 _____

14-15 _____

16-17 _____

Key Verses: Romans 1:16-17 _____

Paul opened his letter with a longer salutation than ordinary and begins by stressing his apostolic calling (1:1,5). He then expresses thanks for the remarkable faith of the Romans. He assures them of his desire to visit them and to preach the Gospel in Rome also and then he introduces the theme of the epistle, *justification by faith* (1:17).