# Romans

## Description

This is a course on Bible Interpretation, demonstrated with the book of Romans.

## Course Objectives

By completing this course the student will:

1. Better understand the process of interpreting a book of the Bible and teaching it to their disciples.
2. Understand the contents and context of Romans.
3. Better understand ancient letter writing and rhetoric and how that influences the interpretation of New Testament letters.
4. Have a greater appreciation for the history of interpretation so that they are better prepared to enter into the ongoing discussion.
5. Have a greater motivation to make disciples.

## Textbooks

1. The Bible
2. Class notes

## Assignments

1. Read Romans at least twice during the course (preferably in two different translations).
2. Keep folders (3-ring binder, or a computer folder) devoted to Romans with a collection of material relevant to its interpretation.
3. Final exam. Completion of the course is dependent on attendance on the final night and passing an exam on the material covered in the class.

## Schedule

Class times are 7:00–7:55 (15 minute break), 8:10–9:00.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Session | Content |
| 1/11 | 1  2 | Introduction to Course, and “Why are we Here?”; Bible Interpretation  Author and Audience; Genre, Structure and Primary Themes |
| 1/18 | 3  4 | Romans 1:1-17  Romans 1:18–2:16 |
| 1/25 | 5  6 | Romans 2:17–3:20  Romans 3:21–31 |
| 2/1 | 7  8 | Romans 4:1-25  Romans 5:1–11, 12–21 |
| 2/8 | 9  10 | Romans 6:1-14  Romans 6:15–7:6 |
| 2/15 | 11  12 | Romans 7:7-12, 13-25  Romans 8:1-17, 18-39 |
| 2/22 | 13  14 | Romans 9:1–10:8  Romans 10:9–11:36 |
| 3/1 | 15  16 | Romans 12:1-21  Romans 13:1-14 |
| 3/8 | 17  18 | Romans 14:1–15:13, 14-21  Romans 15:22–16:24 |
| 3/15 | 19  20 | Final Questions and Discussion  Final Exam and Celebration |

## Select Bibliography

Though there are no required textbooks for this course, you may wish to acquire some of the following for your personal study. If you have questions regarding these or other books, please ask.

Adler, Mortimer J., and Charles Van Doren. How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1940.

Allman, James E. Accept One Another: A Practical and Expository Commentary on the Book of Romans. Lebanon, TN: Seven Interactive Academic, 2017.

Blackwell, Ben C., John K. Goodrich, and Jason Maston, eds. Reading Romans in Context: Paul and Second Temple Judaism. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2015.

Cranfield, C. E. B. A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans. Vol. 1. 2 vols. International Critical Commentary on the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, ed. J. A. Emerton, C. E. B. Cranfield, and G. N. Stanton. London: T & T Clark, 1975.

Hoehner, Harold W. “Israel in Romans 9–11.” In Israel: The Land and its People, ed. H. Wayne House, 145-67. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1998.

Moo, Douglas J. Encountering the Book of Romans: A Theological Survey. Encountering Biblical Studies, ed. Walter A. Elwell. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2002.

Moo, Douglas. The Epistle to the Romans. New International Commentary on the New Testament, ed. Ned B. Stonehouse, F. F. Bruce, and Gordon D. Fee. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1996.

Song, Changwon. *Reading Romans as a Diatribe*. Studies in Biblical Literature, ed. Hemchand Gossai, vol. 59. New York: Peter Lang, 2004.

Witherington, Ben, III. Paul's Letter to the Romans: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2004.