

21 DAYS



TETHERED TO TRUTH



OF PRAYER

MOUNTAIN BROOK COMMUNITY CHURCH

ROMANS

21 DAYS OF PRAYER

What is significant for our understanding of Romans is the sense Paul gives us of having reached an important transition in his ministry career. He had been preaching the Gospel for almost twenty-five years; he planted thriving churches over much of the northeastern Mediterranean and hammered out his theology on the anvil of pastoral problems and debates with opposing factions. Paul wrote Romans while in Corinth during the third missionary journey, likely around A.D. 57, give or take a year. This was during a lull in his ministry which allowed him to reflect on what he believed and the impact that doctrine had on the church. These circumstances help explain why we find so much general doctrinal discussion in Romans.

A crucial event in the history of the early Roman church was the expulsion of Jews from Rome under Emperor Claudius in A.D. 49 (Acts 18:2). After the death of Claudius in 54, the mandate was rescinded, and Jews were allowed to return to Rome. During that five-year exile, the church was mostly Gentile-led, and when the Jewish believers returned, there was a sudden influx of new people from a rival ethnic group. One can only imagine the social tensions that such a situation would create since the Jewish founders of the church were no longer leading the community and were now the minority of the congregation. This tension was a large part of Paul's purpose in writing the anthem of unity throughout the epistle.

Understanding the historical context of Romans is essential for us today. Paul was confronting the church's disunity with the Gospel's commonality. Over the last few years, the American church has faced division from varying social and political opinions. Paul reminds the Romans, as he does us, that the only hope they have is the Gospel.

For I am not ashamed of the Gospel because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the Gospel, the righteousness of God is revealed - a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." Romans 1:16-17

TETHERED TO TRUTH



MONDAY - ROMANS 1:8-17

PASSAGE

"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I mention you always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine. I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles. I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish. So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome. For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Romans 1:8-17

PRAYER

- Begin your time of prayer by pausing and recognizing the power and presence of God.
- Thank God for the people in your life. Pray for them now and throughout the day.
- Thank God for their faith and how it encourages you, and ask God for ways to encourage them today.
- Thank God for the power of the Gospel and how it brings salvation to all.
- Pray that you would not be ashamed of the Gospel and that God would grant you power today to live by faith.

TRUTH

The Gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

CHALLENGE

It is easy to lose sight of the importance and purpose of community. In a normal day we talk with friends, family members and coworkers about various things, but rarely do our conversations include gratitude for the power of the Gospel in our lives. But when tragedy strikes, everything changes. Those passing conversations become intentional opportunities to sit with others and bypass the temporal talk for the eternal. With the countless conversations that you have today, pray that they would be filled with gratitude for the Gospel and the power of the Spirit that brings salvation to all.

TETHERED TO TRUTH



TUESDAY - ROMANS 11:33-36

PASSAGE

"Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!

"For who has known the mind of the Lord,
or who has been his counselor?"

"Or who has given a gift to him
that he might be repaid?"

For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen."

Romans 11:33-36

PRAYER

- Begin your time of prayer by pausing and recognizing the power and presence of God.
- Ask God to help you focus on the depth of his riches, wisdom and knowledge. Give thanks to God for each of those as they come to mind.
- Confess that all things are from God and through God and ask that He would give you the ability to trust Him today.
- Pray specifically for the wisdom of God for decisions you are facing right now.

TRUTH

All things are from God and through God, so we can trust Him fully today.

CHALLENGE

Have you ever thought about the depth of the wisdom and knowledge of God? It is like a multifaceted diamond where each aspect provides a window into the heart of God so big that no one explanation or description can tell the whole story. It's a bottomless pit of redeeming love that you could never fully understand the depths of His knowledge and grace.

It is profound, yet personal. It is sometimes intimidating, but always intimate and available for everyone. Pray that God would give you the courage to jump in today and experience the depth of the riches, wisdom and knowledge today that is only found in Him.

TETHERED TO TRUTH



WEDNESDAY - ROMANS 15:5-7

PASSAGE

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

Romans 15:5-7

PRAYER

- Begin your time of prayer by pausing and recognizing the power and presence of God.
- Pray for endurance and encouragement for the things that you face today.
- Think of areas of life where you feel discouraged, and ask God to give you guidance and encouragement.
- Think about how Christ has welcomed you, and ask God to give you the ability to welcome others.
- Pray that God would be glorified in your life today.

TRUTH

God gives endurance, encouragement and a spirit of unity through Christ Jesus.

CHALLENGE

Of the words often used to describe God, endurance probably isn't one of them. You likely think of God as loving, gracious or merciful. He is near the brokenhearted and provides a peace that transcends our understanding because He never gives up. His enduring love for you is the very reason you are reading these words now, and it is the power to live in harmony with others. As Paul prayed for the Romans, may you have an enduring love for others and be encouraged to welcome others just as Christ has welcomed you.

TETHERED TO TRUTH



THURSDAY - ROMANS 15:13

PASSAGE

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Romans 15:13

PRAYER

- Begin your time of prayer by pausing and recognizing the power and presence of God.
- Ask God to fill you with joy.
- Ask God to fill you with peace.
- Ask God to fill you with hope through the power of the Spirit.

TRUTH

In Christ alone we can find hope, joy and peace.

CHALLENGE

Do you ever miss the hope that you had as a child? The opportunity of each day brought about an excitement like Christmas morning because of the unknown possibilities that awaited. Unfortunately, as the years pass, that burning excitement becomes drenched with the downpours of reality and what is left is a mere glimmer of the hope that once was. Spurgeon says, "Without Christ, there is no hope," reminding each of us that our hope is only as strong as the thing to which it is anchored. The things of this world come and go, but the hope you have in Christ alone will last forever. Through Him, you can abound in hope if you die for what is temporal and live for what is eternal.

TETHERED TO TRUTH



FRIDAY - ROMANS 15:30-33

PASSAGE

"I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. May the God of peace be with you all. Amen."

Romans 15:30-33

PRAYER

- Begin your time of prayer by pausing and recognizing the power and presence of God.
- Pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ by name.
- Ask for God's will in guiding your steps today.
- Pray that the peace of God lives in and through you today.

TRUTH

The God of peace is with you today and always.

CHALLENGE

*When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul.*

These words are both familiar and challenging to many people. We know that God gives peace, yet we don't feel it. We know that God is with us, yet we feel so lonely. We know God has a plan, yet we wonder what He is doing. Many of us search for joy and peace instead of for the God who embodies these things that we long for the most. God is not merely the giver of peace; He is the essence of it, and true peace is only found in and through Him.

TETHERED TO TRUTH



SATURDAY - TETHERED TO TRUTH

As we prayed with Paul through Romans this week, we were reminded of 5 truths about the character and nature of God. Spend some time today meditating on these truths and ask God to allow them to be woven into your thoughts throughout the day.

Meditation is often used in Eastern religions, but it is prevalent throughout Scripture and has been used by God's people for thousands of years. The difference between Eastern Meditation and Christian Meditation is the goal behind each practice. In Eastern Meditation, the goal is to empty one's mind with the intention to connect with essential nature. Christian meditation has the purpose of filling one's mind with Scripture with the intention of connecting with God.

As you meditate on these truths today, ask God to tether your life to these truths as you process the week behind and prepare for the week ahead.

TRUTHS

The Gospel is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes.

All things are from God and through God, so we can trust Him fully today.

God gives endurance, encouragement and a spirit of unity through Christ Jesus.

In God alone we can find hope, joy and peace.

The God of peace is with you today and always.

TETHERED TO TRUTH

