



ontrack devotions

NOVEMBER

2018

ROMANS

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

"...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." James 5:16

Reach out...

How I will do it...

How it went...

Other requests...

Answered

How it was answered...

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will help you grow in your walk with God. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable to your personal commitment.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____
I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____
I will attend Youth/Growth Group _____ time(s) this month.
I will attend the Sunday AM service _____ time(s) this month.
I will attend the Sunday PM service _____ time(s) this month.
I will attend _____ time(s) this month.
I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

Scripture Memory:

How did I do with Scripture memory last month? _____
I will memorize _____ key verse(s) from the daily OnTrack Devotions this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Christ? _____
I will share Christ with _____ person/people this month.
I will serve my local church this month by _____

Other Activities:

List any other opportunities such as events, prayer group, etc., that you will participate in this month. _____

Why are some people ashamed of the gospel? Why was Paul not ashamed? Verse 16 in today's reading gives you the answer and also gives you reasons why you should not be ashamed of it, either. Paul was totally convinced that the gospel was the power of God to transform lives. He knew that if someone would give his life to Christ, He would change it. How could he then be ashamed of something he believed had such power? He had seen it transform his own life and the lives of countless others. Not only was he not ashamed of the gospel, he was proud of it and used every opportunity he could to tell people about it. If he were ashamed, he could not honestly say he believed the gospel to be the power of God to transform lives. What do you believe about the gospel? Do you believe it is the power of God to transform lives? What impact has it had on your life? What does your attitude about the gospel tell you about what you truly believe? Circle the word "because" in your Bible to remind you what the truth of the gospel is. Something powerful enough to change a life should not cause you shame.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

ROMANS 1:18-25

CONSEQUENCES

SAY WHAT?

How does God reveal Himself to us in His creation?

SO WHAT?

How does one "glorify Him" as God?

NOW WHAT?

How does one "give thanks to Him" as God?

THEN WHAT?

How should you respond to Him as God today?

Suppose someone comes to you and asks how a loving God can send someone to hell. How would you answer him? You could take him to today's reading and give him the answer to his question. According to this passage, everyone who goes to hell does so because he has rejected God and His provision for their sin. This passage tells us that God has revealed Himself to everyone through His creation (vs20). When man comes to recognize that there is a God, he has a choice. He can choose to respond to Him as God or reject Him. Paul tells us that those who reject God by refusing to glorify Him or give thanks to Him as God will face the consequences of their choice. Only those who reject God face the consequences Paul lists in the rest of the chapter. A loving God sends people to hell for rejecting Him. How have you responded to God's revelation? Today would be a great day to start glorifying Him and giving thanks to Him as God. To refuse to respond to Him as God is to face consequences you can't control. Do you know someone who needs to hear about these consequences?

How could God send someone to hell who has never heard the gospel? Though similar to yesterday's question, it has important differences. The answer is found in today's reading. This passage is a very important section of Scripture that all of us must understand. Paul tells us that everyone has a standard by which he lives, a system of what he believes is right and wrong. It might not be God's, but it is a standard nonetheless. According to this passage, God will be able to use one's own standard to demonstrate they do not measure up and do not deserve eternal life. The point is that people do not even measure up to their own standards. No matter what standard one uses, all men stand before God condemned. Therefore, all men need Jesus Christ to redeem them. How sobering to read verse 16 and realize that God will use our consciences and our thoughts to judge our secrets. Are you ready? There are people in your mission field who are not. What are you doing to prepare them to be ready for this important day? Who has God been burdening you about recently?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

PROVERBS 14

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

Do you ever wonder why Christians have such little influence in the world today? It seems we have no credibility. When people talk about us, they do not refer to us with respect, but with ridicule. Today's reading gives us a clue as to why this is true in some cases. Paul was writing to Jews who felt that they were more spiritual than Gentiles. Why? The Jews had been given the Law and were the nation chosen by God. However, their lives did not demonstrate the transformation they claimed. They preached against stealing, yet they stole. They preached against adultery, yet they committed adultery. As a result, the name of God was blasphemed among the Gentiles. We, as Christians, claim to have the message the world needs yet, often, our walk does not match our talk. We lie like the world does. We cheat like the world does. We mistreat each other like the world does. How about you? Are you a person who causes others to blaspheme God or one whose life demonstrates transformation and brings praise not from men, but from God? What needs to change for our lives to have credibility?

SAY WHAT?

In what ways do we hinder our credibility?

SO WHAT?

What can we do to gain credibility?

NOW WHAT?

What needs to change in your life so you bring credibility to the claims of Christ?

THEN WHAT?

In light of today's reading, what personal commitment can you make?

ROMANS 3:21-31

BEING JUSTIFIED

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How many times is the word "justified" used in this chapter? Number them in your Bible. How does one become justified with God? Today's reading tells us that no man can be declared righteous by observing the Law. In other words, I can never earn eternal life by my works. No matter how hard I try or how many good things I do, I can never do enough to earn eternal life. If, by observing the Law, we cannot earn righteousness, then how do we? According to this passage, it is through faith. While we often quote verse 23, verse 24 is just as important to our understanding. All men are sinners and cannot earn eternal life. However, all men can be justified by God's grace through the redemption that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. How exciting it is to know I do not have to earn my way. Jesus Christ has made it possible for me to gain righteousness when, by faith, I accept Him. We are saved when we depend on what Christ did, not on what we can do. We must let those in our schools and at work know that they cannot earn eternal life, and that God has provided a way through Christ. Who, in your world, needs to hear this?

XTRA READING
ROMANS 3

What Old Testament characters are found in today's reading? Why are they mentioned? One reason the author included them was to convince the Jews that they also needed a Savior. Paul was trying to help them understand that righteousness could come by faith in Jesus Christ alone, not through individual works. How better to illustrate that truth to the Jews than by using two of their most famous and respected forefathers? God wanted it made clear that even Abraham and David were not justified by their works, but by their faith. In verse 10, we find that Abraham was credited with righteousness not after he was circumcised, but before. Therefore, circumcision could not save him, and it would not save the Jews. If it were true for Abraham, how much more true is it for you? Again, God drives the point home to us that righteousness comes not from works, but through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Is it obvious to you that your works cannot give you eternal life? So many people, even in your world, are trying to earn eternal life by doing good works. How can you reveal the truth of this passage to them?

SAY WHAT?

What might people trust in to attain eternal life?

SO WHAT?

Why do you think people believe those things will earn them eternal life?

NOW WHAT?

How can you use the truth you are learning in Romans to help them see how wrong trusting in works is?

THEN WHAT?

Who, in your world right now, needs to hear what you are learning? How can you tell them?

ROMANS 4:16-25

CREDITED

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How important are the words, "it was credited to him?" If they were not in the book of Romans, what would we miss? Why do you suppose God inspired Paul to write them? God put those words in Romans so that you would understand an amazing truth. He wanted you to clearly understand that it is possible for you to have God's righteousness credited to your account. He wanted you to know that it is possible to have your sins forgiven and to stand before God clothed in righteousness. What Abraham did, you also can do. Likewise, the results of Abraham's faith in his life can be the same results in your life. All it takes is faith to believe in Him who raised Jesus Christ from the dead. God wanted us to know the greatest message ever given—righteousness is by faith. I can be righteous by placing my faith and trust in Jesus Christ. I can have the righteousness of God "credited to me." Take time today to thank God for His incredible gift. Also, ask Him to give you the courage and the opportunities to share it with someone who needs to know this truth. Today would be a good day to start telling others how they to can be righteous. Ask God for the courage to share.

XTRA READING
ROMANS 4

Listed in this chapter are some results for those of us who have been justified by faith. Put an * in your Bible next to them. You can identify them by the words "we have" or "we receive." Of the ones you have marked, which ones mean the most to you? Just stop and think for a moment what it means to be able to have peace with God, to know you need not fear Him or His judgment for your sin, and to know that you are now His child and that there is no strain in your relationship with your Father. But it is not only peace. It is also confidence, during trials and times of suffering, to know that the circumstances that hurt will produce positive qualities. Because you are justified, suffering produces perseverance, character, and hope. God uses every negative circumstance in your life to achieve a positive outcome. Hope may be the most sought after quality in our world, and we have this hope because we have been justified. Make a list of the ways your life is different because you have been justified. Then, thank God for His salvation and its impact on your life and ask God to give you opportunities to share your list.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

ROMANS 6:1-14**VICTORY OVER SIN****SAY WHAT?**

How can I prevent sin from reigning in my body?

SO WHAT?

In what ways do I offer parts of my body to sin and how can I stop?

NOW WHAT?

How can I offer my body to God?

THEN WHAT?

Write out a plan to begin working on it today!

Write in your Bible, at the end of chapter 5, the words, "So what?" The answer to that question is in Paul's mind as he writes this next chapter. If all that he says in chapters 1-5 is true, what does that mean you should do? What should be true of our lives in light of what chapters 1-5 teach us? Our sinful natures have been crucified so that sin need not be our master any longer. So what? We have been justified by God and have had His righteousness given to us. So what? Paul gave three specific responses we need to have in light of the fact that we can now count ourselves dead to sin. They are found in verses 12-14. Number them in your Bible. First, we must not let sin reign in our bodies. Second, we must not offer parts of our body to sin. Third, we are to offer our bodies to God. If we do these three things, we will see ourselves gaining more and more control over sin. Because Jesus Christ has saved us, we can live victoriously. Answer today's questions to help you begin to have these three responses. If you need help in understanding them or coming up with answers, ask someone for help.

XTRA READING
ROMANS 6

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE



ROMANS 6:15-23

SET FREE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

In this section of Scripture, Paul contrasts two different lives. Did you notice? One is the example of those who are slaves to sin and the other is of those who have been set free from sin. Put a "-" in your Bible next to those things that are true of one who is still a slave to sin and a "+" next to those things that are true of one who has been set free from the slavery of sin. It is incredible to realize that those who have trusted Christ for salvation have the choice to become a slave to righteousness. We no longer need to have any of the things marked with a "-" dominate our lives. We can now live a holy life, and the result of our being set free is eternal life. Sin does not have to control our lives. What hope we have! We must realize that Jesus Christ has set us free from sin. We no longer need to give in to temptation. How desperately the world needs to see this truth lived out in the lives of Christians. Sin leads to death, but God's gift leads to eternal life. Does your life demonstrate that there is hope to gain victory over sin, or does your life say to others that there is no hope? What needs to change?

XTRA READING
ROMANS 6

Have you ever felt like Paul does at the end of this chapter? You want to do the right thing, but you just can't seem to carry it out? You try to stay away from sin but, every time you turn around, it seems to be right there with you? You make great plans and really intend to follow through with them, but you fail? If this is you, or if you know someone who struggles this way, it should give you hope to know that you are not alone. Everyone struggles to overcome sin. Even the Apostle Paul did, and it caused him to grow discouraged, as he expresses in this chapter. But did you notice the little phrase in verse 25? Paul tells us that, while the struggle against sin is a very difficult one and we may become discouraged in our fight against it, there is hope. Before you trusted Christ, you had no hope. You may have wanted to do the right thing, but you had no ability to say "no" to sin. Now, through Jesus Christ, you can say "no." It will always be a struggle, and sometimes you will lose. However, you will find yourself winning more than you are losing, and that is exciting. Now you can win!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

XTRA READING
ROMANS 7



ROMANS 8:1-17

A PROCESS

SAY WHAT?

Over the past year, in what area of your life have you struggled the most?

SO WHAT?

In what areas have you seen the greatest progress in putting sin to death?

NOW WHAT?

What area of sin are you currently putting to death?

THEN WHAT?

Write out a plan below to help you get started.

One of the key words in the Christian life is the word "process." Do you know why? In today's reading, Paul shows us how important an understanding of this word actually is. Yesterday, we read that Jesus Christ set us free from the slavery to sin. How? According to today's reading, it is the Spirit of God who has been living inside of us from the first moment we trusted Christ. He will give us the power necessary to conquer sin--a power that we did not have before we trusted Christ. As a result, Paul tells us that we have an obligation to live according to the Spirit. With the Holy Spirit's help and guidance, we then begin a process of putting to death the misdeeds of our bodies. We are sons of God and, as we grow, we continue to progress in putting to death the misdeeds of our body. The longer we walk with God, the greater we become at resisting sin. We grow from babies to children to adults. We may act like babies now, but we do grow. Do you see progress in your life? If you have trusted Christ, you should see progress in areas of your life. Why not get started today to allow the Spirit of God to direct a new area of your life? And remember, it's a process.

Have you ever wondered if you could lose your salvation? Have you ever said you didn't feel you could but did not know why you believed this to be true? In today's reading, there is perhaps the clearest verse in all of Scripture that shows that the answer is NO! There is nothing anyone can do that could result in the loss of his salvation. Did you see the verse? It is verse 28. It tells us that for those of us who have by faith trusted Christ, "ALL" things work together for our good. If I could lose my salvation, then it would have to read, "most things work together for good, except those things that cause me to lose my salvation." What an amazing promise! In every circumstance and situation I find myself, God accomplishes good. What is the good? God uses all things to conform me to the image of Christ. Our hope is that God is using everything in our lives to conform us to His Son. In light of what we have been reading these last few days, it gives us even greater hope. Meditate today on this great promise. God will cause everything to conform you to His Son and could never let it result in the loss of salvation.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

ROMANS 9:1-5

BURDEN OR ANGER?

SAY WHAT?

Who needs to know what Jesus Christ can do for them?

SO WHAT?

What are you now doing to give them this important information?

NOW WHAT?

How can you create opportunities to tell them?

THEN WHAT?

Write out a commitment you are willing to make to follow through on what you have written.

How burdened are you that the people in your life know what you have been learning in Romans? How burdened are you that they know that faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone, can set them free from the power of sin and give them eternal life? How burdened are you that people come to know what God has done in your life so they, too, can have eternal life and its fruit lived out in them? It is obvious, in today's reading, that the Apostle Paul had an incredible burden for the people in his world to know this truth. It is so great, in fact, that he says in verse 3 that he would be willing to be cursed and cut off from Christ if they would accept the truth. Not many of us share this kind of heartfelt pain for the people in our mission fields. We go about our days and often give very little thought to the condition of the lives of those with whom we rub shoulders. In fact, we get angry at their behavior. Do you care about those in your mission field? What are you doing to let them know what God's Word says to them? What are you doing to impact them for Christ? Maybe its time to become burdened for, not angry with lost people. Who needs to hear from you today?

What happens to people who are really sincere about their love for God? They really want to serve Him but never, by faith, trust Jesus Christ? In fact, they are so sincere that they try each day to do what pleases God, but never, by faith, trust Him as Savior. According to chapter 10, they will go to hell. This passage makes it clear that one's zeal and sincerity are not enough to result in eternal life. Paul says that he himself can testify that the Jews are very zealous for God. Many people in other religions are very zealous for God. However, their effort is not based on knowledge. It does not matter how much effort you give or how sincere you are. If you do not trust Christ by faith, you cannot have eternal life. God will determine whether you have eternal life not based on your zeal, but based on your submission to God's righteousness, which is Jesus Christ. Based on this standard, how are you doing? No matter how hard you work or how many good things you have done, unless you trust Christ, you can't get into heaven. Make sure your efforts are based on truth, lest you be zealous in vain.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

XTRA READING
ROMANS 10



PROVERBS 16

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE

If Israel were the chosen people, how then can we who are not Jews become children of God? The answer is found in today's reading. You see, God gave the message of salvation first to the Jews. Their response? They rejected it. Therefore, God has allowed us, the Gentiles, to be a part of His family. God has opened the door to allow all who would to enter in. Paul warned us, who have been grafted in, along with the Jews who did believe, not to become proud or to look down on those who have rejected the message. We must keep in mind that we are sons of God because of what He did, not because of anything we could ever do. We cannot look down on others as though we are above them because we know the truth and have accepted it. We can't assume that it is stupidity that has prevented them from accepting salvation. We have become a part of God's family through faith. There is no room for pride in our salvation, only humble gratitude to God alone. When was the last time you expressed your gratitude? Say "thanks" today.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?



ROMANS 11:25-36

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Paul has been explaining to us in the last few chapters of Romans how we, who are Gentiles, were given an opportunity to become part of the family of God. We have learned that the Jews rejected God's offer and, because of the hardening of their hearts, we who are Gentiles have been allowed to enter. How long will all of this last? Is this opportunity only available for a limited period of time? The answer is yes and, when we realize how soon the time to be saved will be gone, it should concern and motivate us. According to verse 25 in today's reading, the time for salvation will continue until the full number of Gentiles have come into the family of God. Paul explains that when the last Gentile has come in, time will have run out. Do you realize how serious that is? The day of salvation will be gone forever. It is so important that we are ready when the time comes. Are the people in your world ready? The clock is ticking. Time is running out. Name someone who needs to hear about this today. How will you tell them? Make the effort because soon it may be too late.

What adjectives would you use to describe the will of God? What three did Paul use in today's reading? Circle them in your Bible. Why did he choose those particular words? A careful look at their definitions reveals why. The word "good" means excellent, distinguished, best, useful, and kind. The word "pleasing" means welcome, well pleasing, or sweet. The antonym of pleasing is hard to bear, oppressive, bitter, difficult, or perilous. The word "perfect" means purpose, finished, reached its goal, complete, or entire. The antonym of perfect would be lacking or deficient. It is never hard to bear, difficult, deficient and never without purpose. How important it is for us to be able to test and approve something this wonderful! However, to be able to do so, we must do what Paul wrote in verses 1-2. We must offer our bodies as living sacrifices, and we must not be conformed to this world, but transformed by renewing our minds. If you cannot describe God's will as Paul did, it's possible you have not done what he wrote in verses 1-2. Use today's questions to help you evaluate yourself in these important areas.

SAY WHAT?

How are you offering your body as a living sacrifice to God?

SO WHAT?

How do you control whether or not you are conformed to the pattern of this world?

NOW WHAT?

How can you begin to transform your mind?

THEN WHAT?

Write out a personal commitment about how you can follow through on what you have written above.

PSALM 34:1-10**THANKSGIVING****SAY WHAT?**

What answers to prayer have you seen this past year?

SO WHAT?

What lessons has God taught you this past year?

NOW WHAT?

List the members of your family and one thing you are thankful for about them.

THEN WHAT?

In what ways would your life be different if you did not know Jesus Christ?

Today is a day that Americans set aside to think about how much we have to be thankful for. This day takes on even greater significance for Christians as we reflect on all our God has done for us. Take time today to reflect on the blessings you have in your life. These questions are designed to help you. When finished, be sure to express thankfulness to God by spending time with Him in prayer.

As you begin to read today's passage, you will notice a shift in what Paul has been emphasizing. For the remainder of the book of Romans, Paul writes about how we ought to act in light of what God has done for us by providing salvation. It is the application of the truth written in the first 11 chapters. Today Paul, besides giving us instructions on how we ought to respond to each other, drops a phrase that seems to be quite difficult for Christians to master. Did you notice it? It is found in verse 11, and would make a great goal for this next year. In light of what we have in Christ, Paul exhorts us never to lack in zeal, but keep our spiritual fervor. In other words, we should not be hot and cold Christians, on fire one month and then cooling off throughout the year. We should never do anything halfheartedly. We need to strive to always serve God with all our hearts. We should never settle for a halfhearted effort in anything. Why not put this phrase on a piece of paper where you see it every morning? Remember, "Never lacking zeal."

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

ROMANS 13:1-7

RESPONSE TO AUTHORITY

SAY WHAT?

In what ways have you struggled with someone in authority over you?

SO WHAT?

Why do you struggle with them?

NOW WHAT?

List something God might be trying to accomplish in your life through this person.

THEN WHAT?

What commitment can you make to help you respond as God would desire?

When you face someone in authority who you believe is misusing his power, bullying people, or continuing to make bad decisions, how do you respond? If you find yourself in that position, today's passage will be a great encouragement to you. God tells us that every authority has been put in place over us, by Him, for our good. Every authority is guided by God to accomplish something positive in our lives. God promises to guide the one in authority so that, even if he misuses his authority, it will ultimately benefit us. How comforting that ought to be to us. Unless the one in authority asks us to violate Scripture, there is never an excuse to disobey any authority God has placed in our lives or to be disrespectful toward them. When we are successful in submitting to them, we demonstrate that we trust God and are willing to submit ourselves to Him. What authorities has God placed in your life? How are you responding to them? He wants to use them, even if they are wrong, to accomplish something worthwhile. Trust God! He always knows what He is doing.

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE | WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES | HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE



ROMANS 14:1-12

DISPUTABLE MATTERS

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

What are the kinds of issues Paul refers to in today's reading as "disputable matters?" If we look closely at Paul's examples in this chapter, we learn that they are issues not specifically dealt with in Scripture. That is, issues that Scripture does not specifically say are right or wrong. Scripture did not say whether eating meat sacrificed to idols was right or wrong. In today's world, we do not have the issues he mentioned, but we have similar ones. Unfortunately, we often judge one's spirituality based on where he stands on these kinds of issues. Paul gives us a warning relating to this kind of issue. He tells us, in verse 1, that we should not pass judgment on "disputable matters." Paul wanted all of us to honestly seek God's direction, but not to pass judgment on people based on what position they held. We often use the wrong standards to determine another's spirituality. Hair, music, dress, etc., are not clearly covered in Scripture and should not be used as measuring sticks. We need to remember we will all give an account to God for the choices we make in these areas. His standard is all that should determine spirituality.

Since we are not to pass judgment on “disputable matters,” does that mean it is okay to do whatever we want as long as it is not covered in Scripture? If we do not finish this chapter, we might come to that conclusion. In fact, often people will justify their behavior by simply saying that it is okay because Scripture does not say it is wrong. Paul gives us an important standard to determine if our behavior is correct and how our behavior impacts those around us. If a weaker brother is bothered by what we believe to be okay, then we should not do it. Our goal needs to be mutual edification and peace. The work of God is far more important than the rightness or wrongness of disputable matters. We need to be non-judgmental and not stubborn. The kingdom of God is about righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. We must not be critical of other people’s standards, nor should we stubbornly use our freedom in a way that hurts or confuses weaker brothers. Has God spoken to you through this chapter about a “disputable matter?” Is your attitude towards it correct?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

ROMANS 15:1-13

SCRIPTURE'S IMPACT

SAY WHAT?

In what ways does Scripture impact your life?

SO WHAT?

What have you recently read that has given you hope?

NOW WHAT?

What have you read recently that has helped you endure a difficult situation?

THEN WHAT?

What personal commitment can you make about your Bible reading?

What impact does Scripture have on you? Make a list of some of the ways it has impacted you recently. One important way Scripture ought to impact you is found in verse 4 of today's reading. Did you notice it? One reason God deals with the many topics, issues, and expectations in Scripture is to encourage us and to increase our endurance. As we read and spend time in it, Scripture enables us to endure what we are facing and encourages our hearts. What is the result? We have HOPE! God wants to give us hope, and He gives it through His Word. When we feel like giving up, we need to go to the Word. When we are discouraged, we need to go to the Word and in it find endurance and encouragement. As a result, God will flood our hearts with hope. Often, when we are discouraged or feel like giving up, Scripture is the last place we seem to want to go. However, we need to make the reading of God's Word THE priority of our lives. Contained in its pages is everything you need. When you have a need, open your Bible and read it. Don't go a day without God's Word. Allow it to encourage you!

What can you learn about the Apostle Paul as you read this final chapter in Romans? Can you learn anything by how many people he mentions by name? One of the things we see is that Paul was a man who had relationships with many people. He was not the type of person who didn't take the time to build relationships with people. He cared deeply about people and took the time to get to know them and to find how he could meet their needs. Even though he had many demands on his time, he did not neglect people. We need to follow the example of the Apostle Paul. We also need to care about those around us. We need to build relationships with people because we love them and want to be able to have a part in their lives. Could you close a letter this way to your church? Could you list the names of people and give details about their lives? If not, today would be a good day to begin building relationships with the people around you. Start by taking the time to invest yourself in the lives of people. It would be a tragedy to spend time in your church and not know the people there.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

SAY WHAT?

Why do you think this book was written?

This page is designed to help you summarize your reading these past few weeks in the book of Romans. Take some time to jot down your thoughts so you will have a record of them. If you were to do this for every book, you would have your own summary of the entire New Testament.

SO WHAT?

What are some key principles you can take with you from this book?

NOW WHAT?

What things about Jesus Christ and His ministry did you learn from reading this book?

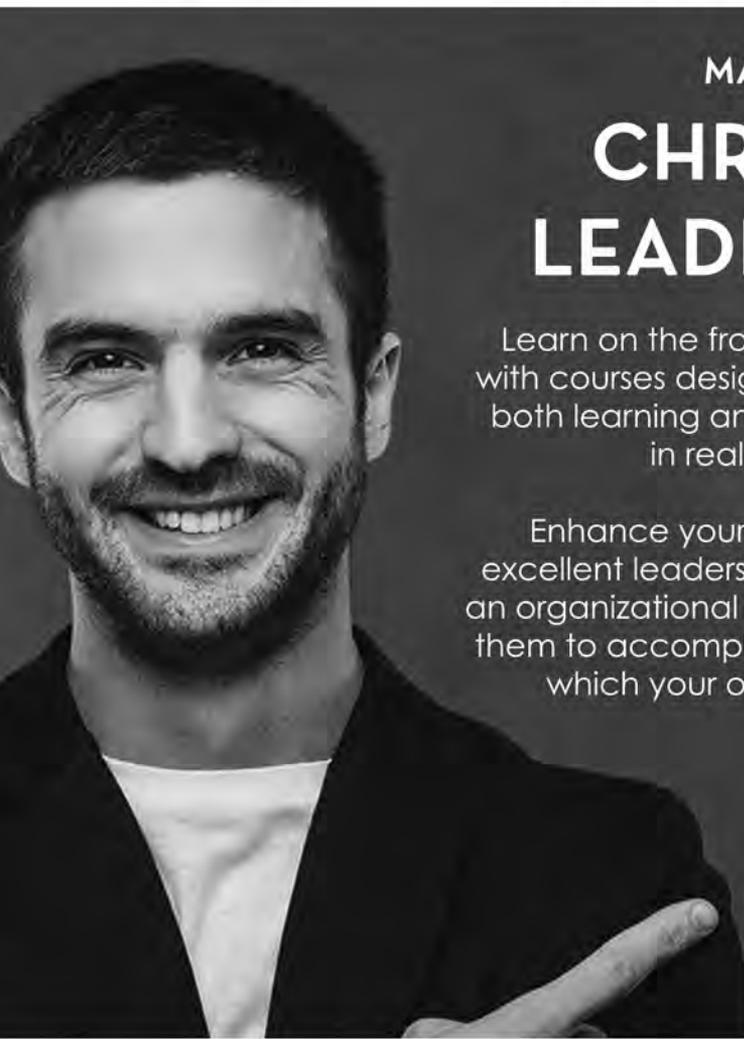
THEN WHAT?

If this book was not in the Bible, what would you have missed? Put into one sentence what this book is about.



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THIS HOPE WE HAVE AS AN ANCHOR OF THE SOUL, A HOPE BOTH SURE AND STEADFAST AND ONE WHICH ENTERS WITHIN THE VEIL, WHERE JESUS HAS ENTERED AS A FORERUNNER FOR US...
HEBREWS 6:19-20

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And we know that in all things God works for the **good** of those who **love** him, who have been called according to his **purpose**.
Romans 8:28

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