

Romans: Part 4 Chapter Sixteen And Final Interpretation

Chapter Study of Chapter 16 and Final
Interpretation of the entire book of Romans

Questions or comments? Contact: Tim & Melinda Inman

Fall 2008 – Spring 2009

This study material provides additional study help for Chapter 16 for those who desire more help with their inductive study of this chapter. **The first week** of this study guide presents just a few additional study suggestions to supplement Basic Chapter Study Instructions. Study tools presented are additional suggested key words, Greek grammatical help, and study charts. **The second week** of this study gives ideas for Interpretation of the entire book of Romans.

The Inductive Method

Observation

What does the text say?

Overview

Establish Context by determining Historical Background

Where does it fit in the Bible timeline?

Ask: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How?

Make simple lists of people, places, and events mentioned in the text

Make simple lists of key words that are used throughout large portions of the entire book

Determine Book and Chapter Themes

Mark questions to return to later for future study

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Chapter Studies

Ask: Who, What, When, Where, Why and How?

Make more thorough lists of people, places and events

Make more thorough lists of Key Words in chapter or section

Ignore chapter divisions when the theme is carried forward

Mark Contrasts, Comparisons, Expressions of Time, Terms of Conclusion

Beginning of Interpretation: Tie this all together by examining text verse by verse

Outline or complete Structural Analysis to break down difficult text

Examine meanings of Key Words as you study verse by verse

Meditate on text to determine paragraph themes

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Interpretation

What does the text mean in correct context?

What principles do I see that tie to other sections of scripture?

Complete Cross References of those passages of scripture

Complete examination of Key Words: meaning, tense, voice

Notice and examine meaning of verbs & descriptive adjectives

Note commands and warnings

Consult commentaries after completing your own study

↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

Application

Based on correct interpretation of the text:

What must I do?

How can I apply this truth to my life?

How does this affect me?

How does this better knowledge of God change me?

Meditate on scripture and Memorize important, applicable passages of scripture

Chapter Study: Chapter 16

This week: Complete the steps given in the Basic Chapter Study Instructions for all of Chapter 16 or follow these instructions taken directly from Basic Chapter Study Instructions, with a few additional study helps added.

Additional Study help for Chapter 16, Week #1

Every day begin your study with prayer. Ask the Lord to enlighten your mind to what He wants you to learn from His Word as we finish our study of this very important book.

Romans 16 is a different style of writing than the rest of the book of Romans. Paul is wrapping up the letter and this chapter particularly contains greetings which conclude a letter and also some final instructions. Just as in a biblical history book, geographic locations, people, and words which indicate time are significant. Any way in which the Lord deals with these people, locations, or in time is also significant.

Since we'll be studying the end of the book of Acts after finishing Romans and the only material we will be providing are Basic Chapter Study Instructions for each chapter, we will provide the same type of instructions here for the rest of this book with just a few ideas and a few study helps given to help you transition into study guided and directed by your own preferences as you rely on the Holy Spirit to enlighten you.

Divide this week's study up in any way that works with your schedule. Check off each step as you complete it.

_____ Mark Key Words for Romans 16

Mark any of these words you see in the text with unique markings for each one:

God (a chart to record what you learn is on the next page)

Jesus

Holy Spirit

Author

Recipients (pay special attention to all the people mentioned here as they provide important facts about where this book was written from, and about the inner-workings of the New Testament church)

Other people

Geographic locations

Key/Significant Words which are significant for understanding the chapter or a specific paragraph

_____ **Make lists of all you observe about each Key Word**

In your notebook make a thorough list of everything you observe about each of these key words, along with the verse reference. This reveals content more clearly to you. Some lists can be noted by numbering right into the text, such as lists of qualities or attributes.

_____ **Mark Grammatical Phrases**

Note these with marks in the text, or lists in your notebook. Note the sections being contrasted, compared, concluded, or summarized with an arrow or notation connecting these texts to the marked term.

- Mark **words of contrast** (but, however, nevertheless, or, neither, nor, not only, etc.) with a lightning bolt mark above the word (or any mark you choose). What things does the author say are the different? What is being contrasted? Write in the margin of your working copy what is being contrasted.
- Mark **words of comparison** (like, likewise, also, in addition, as, in the same way, furthermore, etc.) with an = sign (or any mark you choose). What things are similar? What is the same? Mark in the margin of your working copy what is being compared.
- Draw a little clock face (or another mark you choose) above words showing **expressions of time** (then, when, after, until, at that time, the next day, etc.). **These are especially important to note within historical books and in this conclusion to the book of Romans.** Why are these words or phrases important?
- Mark with an “x” words that show **conclusions or an end result** (therefore, so that, for this reason, in order that, because, since, consequently, etc.) and draw arrows to the ideas being concluded. Ask yourself, “What is the “therefore” there for?” What is the author trying to show or prove?
- Mark **commands** in a way which draws the eye, such as highlighting, in order to remember to ponder on these for application to your own life.
- As you moved through the chapter, verse by verse, what was revealed about the passage? **Write down anything you discover that you hadn’t seen in the text before.**

_____ **Outline the text if you find outlining helps you understand.** Grammatical markings may be more easily understood if you outline the chapter or complete a discourse or structural analysis at this point. This is especially helpful for any teaching or instruction within the history book. Complete this step if it helps you.

Once this basic chapter study work is done begin the steps on the next page.

Next Steps to complete:

_____ Work through these steps of Interpretation for this chapter, verse by verse:

- ❖ Question the text verse by verse
- ❖ Look up significant word definitions in the Concordance or Lexicon
- ❖ Complete Cross references as necessary as you go through the chapter verse by verse.
- ❖ Meditate on each paragraph and assign a theme or summary to it

Additional Greek help: Mark this type of small squiggly line (~) above each of these words in Chapter Sixteen which convey habitual, repeated, or continuous action:

- V. 1, “commend,” “(is)” a servant
- V. 2, “may need”
- V. 5, “was”
- V. 7, “are”
- V. 11, “are”
- V. 12, “work hard”
- V. 17, “urge,” “watch out,” “cause”
- V. 18, “not serving,” “deceive”
- V. 19, “full of joy,” “want”
- V. 21, “sends”
- V. 22, “greet”
- V. 23, “sends,” “send”
- V. 25, “is able”

Now choose a mark which reminds you of an action or process that has continuing results, such as a ray, or small arrow, like this (→). Use this mark (→) above each of these words which show a completed action or process that has lingering effects or that leaves an ongoing result or condition—the effect of the verb continues to the present:

- V. 7, “were”
- V. 25, “hidden”

There are many commands given in Romans 16, but most pertain to the recipients of the letter exclusively. Highlighting commands makes them easy to see:

- “Greet” in v. 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 (2x), 11 (2x), 12 (2x), 13, 14, 15, 16 are commands, requests, or entreaties to begin immediately upon receipt of the letter
- V. 17, “Keep away from them” is a command which they are to begin obeying immediately

How to Find Cross References: Many of the people in this chapter are mentioned elsewhere and looking up their names in the other locations they are mentioned gives clues about how the early church functioned. Take the time to look up names which are significant elsewhere in the New Testament. These clues also help you figure out where Paul wrote from and who is with him.

Some very significant people, such as Phoebe, have their only mention here in the entire New Testament. Carefully examine all descriptions of these people who are only mentioned here, but who are significant. Examine all instructions given about them also.

One helpful discovery pertaining to this final chapter of Romans and the role of women in the church is that we are given details of some of the ministries and activities women had in the New Testament church for which Paul praises and commends them.

To find cross references look in the concordance at the list of all the references given for the same word or name used in Romans 16. Find the same Greek or Hebrew reference number that is given for the Greek or Hebrew word you are examining, and look up the references.

_____ Identify themes within a chapter

As you work through verse by verse ponder on the meaning you have found from questioning the text, and completing the word studies and the cross reference examination. As you complete your meditations on each section or paragraph of the chapter you should be able to identify the theme of each paragraph or section.

_____ Write the theme of each paragraph or section in the margin of your Bible or your working copy of the text.

If you like to outline note these themes in your notebook or on your computer as your paragraph headings. You can also do a word-for-word outline of the chapter under each paragraph title if you like. Experiment with outlines to help you see what helps you understand content best.

Final steps:

Don't consult a commentary until you are at this point in your study. Use the commentary to verify your own findings and to double-check what you have discovered about this chapter. If you consult commentaries before beginning they will influence your own study.

Additional Study help for Final Interpretation:

We are now finished with our study of Romans and will take the time this week to look through and re-cap what we have discovered and to discuss unanswered questions. Then, with correct interpretation within context, we will begin to work on application of these significant truths.

Suggested activities for this week:

1. From memory see if you can list what each chapter of Romans is about and the main details discussed in that chapter. Jot down what you remember.
2. Read through the entire book. As you do so, verify what you jotted down from memory and correct your notes and add to them so you end up with a summary of the book of Romans chapter by chapter in your own words. This can be as brief or as lengthy as you would like it to be – it is for your own reference only.
3. As you complete the second instruction any time you come to any part about which you still have any questions examine your notes on this section and then consult trusted commentaries to see what learned theologians have written. Compare their words to your own research and study.
4. After you've done all this bring questions you want to discuss further with you to Discussion Group next week.
5. Questions still unanswered? Consult one of the elders or pastors for a more detailed personal explanation of your question.

Most of these recommended commentaries and study bibles are available in the church library:

- **NIV Study Bible**
- **The Complete Word Study New Testament**, Edited by Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D., AMG Publishers, Chattanooga, TN.
- **The Expositor's Bible Commentary**, Barker and Kohlenberger III, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI
- **The Epistle to the Romans, The New International Commentary on the New Testament (NICNT)**, Douglas J. Moo, Eerdmans, Grand Rapids, MI
- **The NIV Application Commentary: NIV**, Douglas J. Moo, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, MI
- **The MacArthur New Testament Commentary**, John MacArthur, Moody Press, Chicago, IL
- **The Matthew Henry Commentary**, available online at www.crosswalk.com and other sites

Application: As the Holy Spirit convicts, apply what you've learned to your life. Let God's Word change you.

Memorization of key verses: Review your memorization of key verses.

Meditate on the truths you have learned in God's Word as you go throughout the day. Let God's Word become a part of your daily life by constantly meditating on it.

Application ideas from Rick Warren, *Dynamic Bible Study Methods* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1981): Application is where we apply what we learned to our own lives. If we only study God's word without applying it, then we will be no better off than the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus' day. Write out your application so that you do not forget it. Do not make general statement, but be as specific as possible. The application must be something that you need to do. It may be helpful to establish a timeline, set a deadline, and/or ask a trusted friend or family member to hold you accountable.

Is there any . . .

1. **Sin to confess?** Do I need to ask anyone for forgiveness, including God, and make any restitution?
2. **Promise to claim?** Is the promise universal? Do I meet the conditions to claim the promise for myself?
3. **Attitude to change?** What negative attitudes do I need to change?
4. **Commend to obey?** Am I willing to obey no matter what?
5. **Example to follow?** Is the example a positive one that I need to follow or a negative one to avoid?
6. **Prayer to pray?** Is there anything I need to pray back to God?
7. **Error to avoid?** Is there any problem that I need to be aware of?
8. **Truth to believe?** Do I need to change my thinking in any areas, such as in biblical doctrine?
9. **Something to praise God for?** Do I lack thankfulness? What can I thank God for?