

Timothy Keller

Romans 8–16

In View of God's Mercy



 7-Session Bible Study

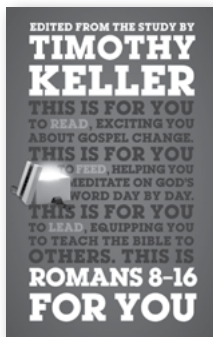
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In View of God's Mercy



 7-Session Bible Study



Romans 8–16 For You

These studies are adapted from *Romans 8–16 For You*.

If you are reading *Romans 8–16 For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Romans 8–16 For You*:

Study 1 > Ch 1

Study 2 > Ch 2-3

Study 3 > Ch 4-5

Study 4 > Ch 5-6

Study 5 > Ch 7-9

Study 6 > Ch 10

Study 7 > Ch 11-12

Find out more about *Romans 8–16 For You* at:

www.thegoodbook.com/for-you

Romans 8–16: In View of God's Mercy

A Good Book Guide

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Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God’s word as “a lamp for my feet, a light on my path” (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we’ve discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They’re perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let’s take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you’re invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you’ve seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven’t got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you’ll find a **Leader’s Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God’s light-giving word.

Why Study Romans 8 – 16?

How does faith in the gospel of Christ actually lead to change in real life?

In view of God's mercy, how will we think, speak, and act?

Those are the questions Paul addresses in the second half of the book of Romans. At the heart of chapters 8 to 16 lies a key verse:

"Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God."

(12:1, emphasis added)

The Christian life is lived with our gaze on God's mercy to us. Our eyes are fixed on the cross, where Christ died so that we need never fear condemnation by or separation from God.

And this, Paul says as he writes to the church in Rome in the middle of the first century, is to shape everything we are and do. The Christian life is a life of gratitude to our merciful Father. We live to please him by obeying him, even at cost or inconvenience.

How can we do this? In chapter 8, Paul will show us that it is by setting our mind on what the Spirit desires, as children of the Father.

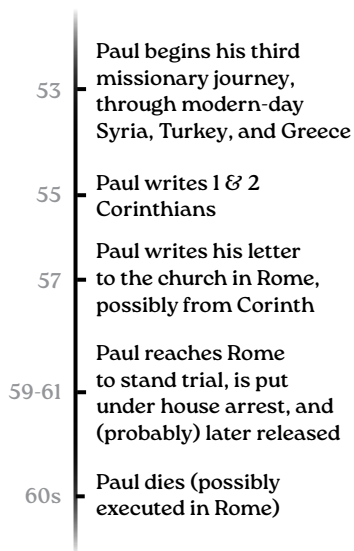
How do we do this? In chapters 12 to 16, Paul will take us on a tour of our lives, showing how we live as grateful sacrifices in every facet of life.

The gospel makes a difference not only to our eternal future but to our present perspectives and priorities, attitudes and actions. These seven studies in the second half of this wonderful letter will show you why and how to live in view of God's mercy.

Carl Laferton
Editor



Romans 57 AD



1

The Life of the Spirit

Romans 8:1-13

Talkabout

1. What do you think about when you have nothing much to do?

- What do you think this says about you?

Investigate

 **Read Romans 8:1**

The first word of verse 1 is “Therefore.” This reminds us that we are starting halfway through Paul’s letter to the Romans.

2. Read the following verses to understand what Paul is saying in 8:1.
- 1:18-21

- 2:1-3, 5

- 3:9-11

- 3:21-26

- 5:1-2

- 6:5-7

- 7:21-25

3. What does the phrase “no condemnation” mean? Put Romans 8:1 into your own words.

- Paul is saying there is “no condemnation” at all—not only no condemnation of our past, but of our present and our future too. Why is this important?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

If we forget that there can never be any condemnation for us if we are in Christ, what happens? We feel more guilt, unworthiness, and pain than we should. We’re defensive when criticized; have a lack of confidence in prayer; and obey out of fear. But if we remember, we know we are accepted; we can handle disappointment and criticism; we pray confidently; we obey out of gratitude and love.

When do you find it easiest to live as though you are, or could be, condemned?

How will you remember that “there is now no condemnation”?

 **Read Romans 8:1-4**

DICTIONARY

The law (v 2): here, meaning “rule.”

The law (v 3, 4): here, Paul is referring to God’s law in the Old Testament.

Sinful nature or **flesh** (v 3): our natural selves, which desire to disobey God.

Sin offering (v 3): a sacrifice that pays the debt for people’s sin.

4. What has the “Spirit of life” done for Paul, and for all Christians (v 2)?

5. What could the law (i.e. trying to obey God's commands) not do, and why (v 3)?

- How did God do it?

Apply

Verse 4 tells us that everything that Jesus went through—his incarnation, his death, and his resurrection—was all in order for us to live according to the righteous requirements of God's law, in the power of his Spirit.

6. How will this motivate us to live God's way?

Investigate

 Read Romans 8:5-13

DICTIONARY

Righteousness (v 10): right standing before God.

7. What do verses 5-8 tell us about people who...

- "live according to the sinful nature"?
- "live in accordance with the Spirit"?

8. What do verses 9-11 tell us about Christians?

9. How do people “die,” and what is the way to “live” (v 13)?

- What does this look like in reality?

Apply

10. How can we make sure we have our “minds set on what the Spirit desires” (v 5)?

Explore More | OPTIONAL

Read Colossians 3:1-14

- How do Paul’s words here help us to know how to set our minds on spiritual things?
- How will doing so show itself in our thoughts and lives?

11. What motivations throughout the passage have there been to “put to death the misdeeds of the body” (v 13)?

- How can we motivate ourselves to do this?
- How can we encourage each other to do this?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

The 20th-century Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple once said, “Your religion is what you do with your solitude.” Wherever your mind goes most naturally and freely when there is nothing else to distract it—that is what you really live for. Your life is shaped by whatever preoccupies your mind.

Where does your mind go most naturally? What does this say about you?

What truths from this passage will you consciously think about in your solitude this week?

Pray

Spend time praising God for the great truth that, in Christ, “there is now no condemnation.”

Thank God for the gift of the Spirit in your life. Speak to him now about ways in which you find it difficult to “live in accordance with what the Spirit desires.”

Finish your time of prayer by each reading a verse of your choice from this passage and praising God for the truths it contains.