



## **A BIBLE READING PLAN FOR ROMANS**

November 2 - 29, 2015

Mountain Brook Baptist Church  
[www.mbbc.org](http://www.mbbc.org)



# ROMANS

Project 119 is a Bible reading initiative of Mountain Brook Baptist Church. Our hope is that every member of our church body would be encouraged in his or her relationship with Jesus Christ through the regular reading of God's Word.

This reading plan is a four-week reading plan that will guide you through the book of Romans. The plan provides you a suggested Scripture reading and devotional thought for each day of the week. On the weekends, we suggest that you re-read the Scripture passages that you have been working through during the past week. To learn more about Project 119 and to access previous plans, visit [www.mbbc.org/project119](http://www.mbbc.org/project119).



# ROMANS

## Week One: Romans 1:1-4:25 November 2 - 8, 2015 |

### Monday, November 2 | Romans 1:1-7 | Dr. Doug Dortch

Romans is thought to be the last letter the Apostle Paul wrote, which makes it in so many respects Paul's "last will and testament." The letter has two distinct sections. The first section (chapters 1-11) deals with theological matters, such as justification by faith. The second section (chapters 12-16) addresses more practical concerns, as Paul calls his readers to express their faith in everyday experience.

The letter begins with a salutation that reflects Paul's conviction that the good news of Jesus was a fulfillment of promises God had made to His people through the prophets of Israel. Paul's greeting has a "worship tone" to it, which sets the stage for the context of how the letter would be read among its recipients. The pivotal verses in 12:1-2 will bridge the gap between the theological and the practical.

As you begin your reading of this letter, be prepared to ask whether you approach life in terms of achieving it or receiving it. The manner in which you answer that question will determine whether you know God's judgment or His grace.

### Tuesday, November 3 | Romans 1:8-32 | Dr. Doug Dortch

As with many of his letters, Paul begins with a word of thanksgiving for the Roman Christians and an explanation of the many obstacles that had kept him from paying them a visit. Not wanting his readers to think that his absence was because of some fear or shame regarding the gospel, Paul emphasizes in verses 16 and 17 the heart of his belief in Jesus – God's righteousness is revealed "through faith for faith." Human effort cannot bring about such righteousness because it is inherently corrupt and in need of redemption.

How bold are you in your belief in God's gift of Jesus Christ? How do others see your conviction in the things you say and do?

### Wednesday, November 4 | Romans 2:1-29 | Dr. Doug Dortch

Though humans are inherently corrupt, our sinful natures do not excuse us from striving to be righteous. Unfortunately, in times past, people sought to earn their way into God's presence, but outward actions can never replace inner devotion.

What do you deserve from God? Facing that question is the only way to get to a place where you will be able to be surprised by grace.



# ROMANS

## Week One: Romans 1:1-4:25 November 2 - 8, 2015

### Thursday, November 5 | Romans 3:1-31 | Dr. Doug Dortch

Everyone is under the power of sin, but God loves us anyway. Such is the majesty of the gospel. We are all disobedient and deserve God's judgment. It is only through our faith in what God has done through Jesus Christ that gives us any hope of being able to stand in His presence as righteous souls.

We often think we are better than we are. Where are your "blind spots?" God already knows them, and the sooner you confess yours, the quicker His grace can make up for where you have fallen short in your own power.

### Friday, November 6 | Romans 4:1-25 | Dr. Doug Dortch

Like any good preacher, Paul understands the importance of providing an illustration of deep theological truths. In this chapter, he points to Abraham, the patriarch of Israel, as an example of someone who trusted God's promise and was blessed for it. In the same way, we trust God's promise in Jesus Christ in order to experience the full measure of favor God desires for us to know.

If someone were to write your story of faith, would there be any defining moment where they would be able to say that your faith set you on a path to God's blessing? If not, then this chapter should help you to see that you're missing out on way too much and today needs to be that day.

### Saturday, November 7 - Sunday, November 8 | Romans 1:1-4:25

This weekend read Romans 1:1-4:25 and reflect on what God has been teaching you this week.



# ROMANS

## Week Two: Romans 5:1-8:39 November 9 - 15 , 2015

### Monday, November 9 | Romans 5:1-21 | Wayne Splawn

It is easy to love those who are lovable. In fact, when we love those who love us in return, the world usually does not take notice. However, if we offer love to those who have wronged us, those whom the world deems unlovable, then people usually take notice and want to learn more about this unusual type of love.

In Romans 5:6-8, Paul describes the remarkable love that God has shown us through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In verse 8, Paul writes, “. . . but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (ESV). God does not show us love because we are lovable. Instead, God shows his love for us in sending his Son to die for us even when we were still sinners.

This verse is a much-needed reminder that our salvation is a gift of grace and not a result of our own righteousness. God does not love us because we are worthy of his love. Instead, he sets his love upon us even when we are at our worst.

Take some time today and reflect on the gracious love that God has shown you through Jesus Christ. Ask God to give you a renewed sense of wonder at the love and mercy you have received through Jesus Christ. Then, ask God to help you bear witness to this love by loving the seemingly unlovable people in your own life. Your love will be a powerful witness to the love that you have received through Christ.

### Tuesday, November 10 | Romans 6:1-23 | Wayne Splawn

Yesterday, we read about the fact that God shows his love for us by sending Jesus Christ to die for our sins even while we were still sinners. In Romans 6, Paul turns his attention to the truth that God is not content to leave us in our sin after we have experienced salvation through faith in Jesus. Rather than continuing in sin, Paul says that God desires for us to walk in a way that is characterized by a pursuit of righteousness.

Paul uses the imagery of baptism to powerfully illustrate this truth. In verses 1-4, Paul writes:

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:1-4 ESV)

The transformation that we experience through faith in Christ is akin to death and resurrection. We have died to sin and been raised to walk in newness of life. Sin no longer has dominion over believers. We are now able to present ourselves to God and experience the freedom and joy that is only found through obedience to God's will. (continued on next page)



# ROMANS

**Week Two: Romans 5:1-8:39**

**November 9-15, 2015**

(continued from previous page)

Ask God to continually empower you to walk in the newness of life that is yours through Jesus Christ. Make the commitment to daily present yourself to God as an instrument of righteousness that will be used to bear witness to the difference that Jesus has made in your life.

## **Wednesday, November 11 | Romans 7:1-25 | Wayne Splawn**

How do we begin to walk in the newness of life that Paul described in Romans 6? Many of us instinctively attempt to walk in newness of life by trying harder to obey God's commands and laws. We recommit ourselves to pursuing the Lord and vow that we will not return to the same old sins with which we have struggled in the past.

We all know how this attempt at walking in newness of life usually works out for us. Rather than overcoming sin by our own efforts, we are usually guilty of doing the very things we hate. So, if the key to walking in righteousness is not trying harder to obey, what is it? In Romans 7:4-6, Paul offers insight into this issue.

First, in verse 4, he says that we must recognize the truth that we now belong to Jesus Christ, who has been raised from the dead, so that we might bear fruit for God. I believe that Paul is trying to help us understand the identity we have been given through faith in Christ. We no longer belong to the law. Instead, we belong to Jesus Christ and our righteousness should be the fruit that flows from our new identity and not an attempt to earn anything from God. That is, we must not try to obey the law in order to become righteous. Instead, we must understand that we have already been given the righteousness of Christ so that we are now free to live into this new identity.

Second, in verse 6, Paul says that the fruit of righteousness in our lives is a work of the Holy Spirit in us. We are not to pursue righteousness by our own effort alone. We are to rely upon the Holy Spirit to produce this fruit in and through us.

As you seek to live for Christ this week, ask the Lord to remind you of who you are in Christ. You are no longer a slave to sin. You have been given the very righteousness of Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit to be at work in your heart and life so that you may no longer live as if you are under the law.



# ROMANS

## Week Two: Romans 5:1-8:39 November 9-15, 2015

### Thursday, November 12 | Romans 8:1-17 | Wayne Splawn

What is the highest privilege the Christian enjoys? In his book, *Knowing God*, J.I. Packer writes that adoption is the highest privilege that Christians enjoy through their faith in Jesus Christ. Packer notes that justification is certainly an important aspect of our salvation but that adoption is an even higher privilege because it means that we have been brought into a personal relationship with God. Packer writes, "To be right with God the judge is a great thing, but to be loved and cared for by God the Father is a greater."<sup>1</sup>

In Romans 8:12-17, Paul writes that those of us who know Christ are now children of God and heirs with Christ. This truth is staggering! Not only does God declare us not guilty through faith in Christ, he also adopts us into his family so that we may now call God our Father.

Many of us struggle to experience joy in our Christian lives because we do not adequately understand who we are in Jesus Christ. We are still living as if we are slaves who are trying to do enough to earn God's love. This attempt to earn God's love through works will only lead to despair and frustration. We must daily remind ourselves of the truth that God has adopted us into his family through Jesus Christ. Today, reflect on this truth that you have been granted an amazing privilege of becoming a child of God and co-heir with Jesus Christ.

### Friday, November 13 | Romans 8:18-39 | Wayne Splawn

Life is often hard. This is something that each of us will learn at some point in our lives. Sometimes the hardships come as a result of our own sinful choices, but other times the difficulties we face are simply the result of living in a fallen world. But whatever the cause of the difficult seasons we face in life, the effect is often the same; we become discouraged and might even question God's love for us. How do we continue to have faith and trust in God's goodness and love during such seasons?

The answer is that we must focus our hearts and minds on the truths we find in the Scriptures and Romans 8:18-39 is one of the most helpful passages in this regard. How does Paul encourage us to continue in faith as we walk through hardships?

First, he reminds us of the truth that the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ are praying for us (8:26-27, 34). There are moments in life when the challenges we face leave us speechless. We literally do not know what to pray for. In such moments, we can draw strength from knowing that the Holy Spirit and Jesus are interceding on our behalf. (continued on next page)

<sup>1</sup> J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* (Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1973), 207.



# ROMANS

## **Week Two: Romans 5:1-8:39** **November 9-15, 2015 | Wayne Splawn**

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Second, Paul reminds us that God will work all things for our good and his glory (8:28-30). God will finish the work of salvation that he has started in us and not even the most difficult seasons will thwart his plans in our lives. God works all things for good in the lives of those who are called according to his purpose.

Finally, Paul reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God (8:37-39). Nothing in this life or the next can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. We are not at the mercy of the circumstances of this life. We are in the hands of a sovereign God whose will for us will not be thwarted.

Romans 8 is one of the most beautiful and substantive passages in all of Scripture. I would encourage you to meditate on it often and make the commitment to commit as much of it to memory as possible. When the storms of life come, the truths in the chapter provide us the foundation upon which our faith is founded and will remind us that God will certainly see us through to the end.

### **Saturday, November 14 - Sunday, November 15 | Romans 5:1-8:39**

This weekend read Romans 5:1-8:39 and reflect on what God has been teaching you this week.





# ROMANS

**Week Three: Romans 9:1-12:36**

**November 16-22, 2015**

**Monday, November 16 | Romans 9:1-33 | Wyatt Harris**

**Wyatt Harris has served MBBC for four years in the Christian Life Center and is a current student at Beeson Divinity School pursuing a Master of Divinity degree.**

Romans 9 is a difficult chapter and there has been much discussion and debate about it over the centuries. As you read, keep in mind these three things:

*First, we must see how much the Father cares for his people, and that his word does not fail!* This is evident in Paul's "unceasing anguish in his heart" (9:1) for Israel, the people through whom God chose to make Himself known to all the world and through whom He would bring salvation to all people by the life of his Son—Jesus Christ is of Israel: "from them [Israel] is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised!" (9:5)

We need to keep in mind that "It is not as though God's word had failed" (9:6); God's word does not fail, for through Israel God has in fact given his people the gift of Himself, the Messiah, the gift of salvation, to *both* Israel *and* to the world. Before we Christians, as those who are faithful to God, speculate over His choosing, we must *remember* that God's word *remains forever*, and this word is the Word in the flesh, Jesus Christ. He has come to seek and save the lost of his people and the world. *We have this Word! Jesus Christ!* If you are a confessing Christian reading this, you have been given the gift of Jesus Christ!

*Second, we are reminded that "It does not, therefore, depend on human desire or effort, but on God's mercy" (9:16).* For "What then shall we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; but the people of Israel, who pursued the law as the way of righteousness, have not attained their goal. Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works.

It is by faith we are saved. It is by faith we are chosen to be the people of God. And God has given us this gift of faith—in his Word Jesus Christ! We should be thankful and praise God for this, and we should continually remember that God still cares deeply for his people, Israel and Gentile alike, and that God has control of the situation, for his Word remains. God is faithful.

*Third, we must continue to read Romans to let the fullness of Paul's argument be given.* We never should read a single chapter alone, without the accompanying ones. Paul will clarify further about Israel, especially in chapter 11. Read on!



# ROMANS

**Week Three: Romans 9:1-12:36**

**November 16-22, 2015**

**Tuesday, November 17 | Romans 10:1-21 | Mary Splawn**

When someone is baptized at Mountain Brook Baptist Church, they are asked to publicly profess their faith. Most often they respond with these three words, "Jesus is Lord." These words, rooted in Romans 10:9, are a voiced expression of a heart that believes in the justification (just as if I have never sinned) that Christ gives to sinners who call out to him.

After confessing faith, the baptismal candidate is immersed in the water while the pastor says, "Buried in the likeness of Christ's death." As the person is leaned backward, it is as if he or she is being laid in a grave. This visual helps us recall that Christians are identifying with Christ in his death! As he was sinless, we are proclaiming our repentance and desire to be dead to our sins and selfish ways.

And then, when the person is brought back out of the water, the pastor says, "Raised to walk in newness of life." Bursting forth from the grave (water), it is as if the baptized person has resurrected from the dead. This visual reminds us of Christ's physical resurrection and the fact that we too will be resurrected because of belief in him. It also reminds us of the new abundant life for those who seek their righteousness in Christ.

On baptismal Sundays, the congregation has a great opportunity to remember the time when we first called on the name of the Lord. As we remember what Christ has done on our behalf, we must be about the business of sharing this good news with others so that they might come to faith in him. As Romans 10:14 asks, "How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?"



# ROMANS

**Week Three: Romans 9:1-12:36**

**November 16-22, 2015**

**Wednesday, November 18 | Romans 11:1-36 | Wyatt Harris**

Romans 11 is a text full of insightful imagery and careful reflection from Paul on God's plans and purposes for his chosen people.

I want to highlight two major points to guide our reading of the text.

First, Israel is vital to the purposes of God's act of salvation for the world, for those who are not Israel. God will deal with his chosen people of Israel accordingly, and Paul gives a beautiful argument for Israel's sacrificial status for the salvation of the world, coming to a climax in verses 15-16: "For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? If the part of the dough offered as first fruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches."

Jesus Christ was Israel for Israel; he took Israel's place and revealed who Israel was always called by God to be: a light to the nations, the means of salvation for the world! If we want to know the role and status of Israel, according to Paul, look to Christ. The part of the dough, Jesus, made all holy. The rejected people, the rejected One, brought salvation to the world, to the gentiles! And what better reward than life, resurrection, from the dead! There is no salvation if there is no Israel. What a remarkable act of God this is!

Second, we Christians should always be reminded: "If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you" (11:17-18). God's work through Israel supports us! Israel is the root. Jesus the faithful Israelite is the root, and we are grafted in. We don't anchor the story. God's work through his chosen people does.

I think a helpful way to keep perspective on this is that as Christians we are grafted into the story of God's creation and redemption. The story is not about us; it is about God, and through Jesus Christ we are given the gift of participation in the story.



# ROMANS

**Week Three: Romans 9:1-12:36**

**November 16-22, 2015**

**Thursday, November 19 | Romans 12:1-8 | Mary Splawn**

In Romans 12, Paul gives instructions on how to live out the Christian faith! Verse 2 instructs us to be “transformed by the renewing of our minds” into the kind of people who know and do the will of Christ.

But what does it mean to renew our minds?

Renewal is something we do. It is the process of continually putting our eyes on Jesus, remembering who he is and what he has done on our behalf. Renewal is also something that is done to us, through the transformation that the Holy Spirit is working in us, helping us to want to do that which is good and pleasing.

The process of transformation for a Christian is continual. And it can be likened to training for a sport or an art form.

In gymnastics, for example, kids start at a young age learning the fundamentals by doing forward rolls, swinging on the bar, and by walking on a beam that is barely raised from the floor. But over time, as the gymnast gains skill and experience, the practices become harder and more involved to including amazing flips, complicated routines, and breathtaking dismounts from a bar that is 4.1 feet high.

They work daily to improve their strength, balance and skill, but they do not do this alone. They have a coach that teaches them, encourages them, and constantly corrects their form. This is what the Holy Spirit does for us. The Holy Spirit reminds us of the teachings of Jesus (John 14:25-26), encourages us to have faith when things look out of control (John 15:26), and corrects us when our life is not in line with the life of Christ (John 16:8).

The goal for a gymnast is to win a medal. And for us the goal is to live according to God’s perfect will. (See the end of Romans 12:2). As we give ourselves to the practice of becoming more like Christ, God works to transform us and use us for his kingdom!

*“Lord, work in us to will and to act according to your good purposes, Amen.”*  
(based on Philippians 2:13).



# ROMANS

**Week Three: Romans 9:1-12:36**

**November 16-22, 2015**

**Friday, November 20 | Romans 12:9- 21 | Joyce Johnson**

I believe the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of Romans is one of the great passages of the Bible. It contains simple instructions of how we, as Christians, need to live. It is difficult to pinpoint a particular verse because the whole chapter is filled with directives not only to the new believers in Rome, but also to us today.

Paul has this message to all believers. *"So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life – your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life – and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out."* (The Message)

How many times do we go about our daily living without giving a second thought of what God's purpose is for us that day. Paul says we should take every part and activity of our lives and dedicate it to him. What a glorious way to live!

Don't neglect reading the entire 12<sup>th</sup> chapter. Paul sums up the instructions in verses 9-21 with what is considered the "Love" verses. He tells how important it is for a Christian to "love" not only people you "like" but even those who are "unlovable". *"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves."*(RSV)

My prayer today is that each of us will place every aspect of our entire life under God's leading and directions.



# ROMANS

## Week Four : Romans 13:1-16:27

November 23 - 29, 2015

### Monday, November 23 | Romans 13:1-14 | Hayden Walker

I don't know about you, but I always work with more precision, diligence and efficiency when I am under a deadline. While I was in seminary, I was able to read hundreds of pages a day and write what seemed like that many. The same is true in our jobs, family life and friendships. When we detect the urgency of any situation, an extra measure of devotion to our cause is suddenly present.

What if we had that same sense of urgency in our spiritual lives? Pastor John Piper once said, "If you are having trouble reading your Bible with deep and affecting meaning, imagine that you will die in about eight hours." Perhaps Paul might add to Dr. Piper's statement by saying "If you are also having trouble loving your neighbor..."

Love is the fulfilling of the law, and we have ultimately seen that love expressed powerfully on the cross. Because of God's love for us, we ought to love one another with diligence, even when it is not easy. Paul exhorts listeners in verses 11-14 to remember the urgency of the situation. "Wake up!" he cries! Truly, the day Christ will return is nearer now than it was yesterday. May we be called to new devotion to loving God and others in light of this news.

### Tuesday, November 24 | Romans 14:1-23 | Taylor Geurin

***Taylor Geurin has served MBBC for two years as Student Ministry Intern and is a current student at Beeson Divinity School pursuing a Master of Divinity degree.***

The 17th century puritan Richard Baxter once stated, "In things essential let there be unity, in non-essential let there be liberty, and in all things, let there be charity."

The church at Rome was struggling to love one another well because they were split apart over "non-essential," or secondary, theological issues. The Jews wanted to observe their food laws and observe their Sabbath days. The Gentiles wanted to practice outwardly their new freedom they found in Christ Jesus. We look to Paul as we ask, "What is the solution to the divisions we find in the church?" A better question is, "Who is the solution?"

Verses 7-9 show us that Christ Jesus is Lord over death and life. How has he come to have this kind of authority? This authority is based on the redemptive work that he has completed through his death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. Jesus Christ and his redemptive work show us the primary doctrine to which all secondary doctrines bow the knee. We can love those within the body of Christ who hold different views on secondary issues precisely because we agree wholeheartedly on the primary issues. If we hold to the essential, we can show liberty in the non-essential, and show charity to our brothers and sisters in all.



# ROMANS

**Week Four : Romans 13:1-16:27**  
**November 23 - 29, 2015**

**Wednesday, November 25 | Romans 15:1-33 | Hayden Walker**

My husband's grandfather loves newspapers. He reads a couple every day and saves the best articles. In his home, he has collections of old newspapers stacked up. It is no surprise really; he was a Professor of Communications for many years. His newspaper collections are quite valuable to him. However, they do not retain much significance to the rest of us because the events recorded no longer have any relevance today.

That is sometimes how we treat Scripture. We see it as old collection of stories and moral admonitions that have little connection to our lives today. We exclaim, "Surely the Biblical authors could not have understood the pressures of modernity! We should not take all of these commands so seriously!"

When we take that perspective, we have forgotten the truth that the Holy Spirit is the ultimate author of Scripture; he is just as active and relevant today as he was in eternity past. Paul reminds us in Romans 15:4 that the Scripture written in the past is for **our instruction**, that we might have *endurance* and *encouragement* in our present situations. Friends, a cake will not cook unless you put it in the oven. Neither will your heart and life be changed apart from the transforming work of the Holy Spirit through Scripture. Put yourself near the word of God daily so that the truths of Scripture, which are ever relevant to us, may work in you that which God wills.

**Thursday, November 26 | Romans 16:1-16 | Hayden Walker**

There are certain passages in Scripture that we sometimes breeze over during our reading. We read them with the same enthusiasm as our weekly grocery list. Romans 16 might be one of those chapters you have skimmed in the past. At first glance, it appears to be just a stringing together of 27 random names and sentiments. But they weren't just random names to Paul; they were people whom he loved.

Take a moment to write down the names of 27 people who have positively influenced you over the course of your life.

If I were to share it, you might read over my list quickly. I might do the same with yours. But when you read your own list, those 27 names aren't just names. It's the person who introduced you to Jesus, the person who shared tears over heartache, the person who never gives up hope, the person who you've prayed with for decades.

Paul had ministered alongside these 27 people but perhaps had not seen them in many years. He gave them a great gift by remembering them in this letter. We all too frequently remember only those who are in our daily lives, neglecting valuable relationships that may be inconvenient due to time or distance. Paul shows us that remembering others is an important way to demonstrate genuine love.

Demonstrate your care for your 27 today by remembering them to the Lord in prayer.



# ROMANS

**Week Four : Romans 13:1-16:27**  
**November 23 - 29, 2015**

**Friday, November 27 | Romans 16:17-27 | Hayden Walker**

What good news have you received lately? How did you respond to the announcement? When we are greeted by good news, our spontaneous responses display our excitement. We squeal when an unexpected friend shows up at our door. We cry tears of joy when we hear good news from the doctor. We clap our hands when a baby learns to walk. We shout when we get accepted into the college of our dreams. We do not have to be instructed in how to respond to great news. It comes naturally—if you truly grasp that what you have heard is indeed good.

It is only right, therefore, that Paul ends his marvelous letter to the church at Rome with a doxology. This is the natural conclusion of such wonderful news! God has offered us redemption and life and hope through Jesus Christ. Our right standing with God changes everything, including how we interact with one another. There could be nothing more natural than looking back over the scroll and proclaiming the excellences of Him who gives life. When you observe the activity of God in your life, are you responding in heartfelt praise?

*To the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Saturday, November 28 - Sunday, November 29 | Romans 13:1-16:27**

This weekend read Romans 13:1-16:27 and reflect on what God has been teaching you this week. It would also be a great idea to find some time in the near future to read through the entire book of Romans in one sitting.