

1. Which most accurately describes Paul's relationship with the Romans?
 - A. familiar, because the Romans know Paul's letters and he has passed through once already
 - B. introductory, because Paul is well known to some of its leaders but hasn't visited
 - C. tense, because of the interethnic frictions there and the stances he's taken
 - D. unacquainted, because Paul is unknown and wants to make a good first impression
2. The Bible Project emphasizes the occasion for Romans as
 - A. bad leaders teaching that we are made right with God by good works, not faith
 - B. false teachers of 'a different gospel' requiring Gentile Christians be circumcised
 - C. Jewish-Gentile Christian conflict after Jews were expelled from Rome, then returned
 - D. nothing in particular; Paul just wants to introduce himself and his gospel
3. Work compares Romans to
 - A. an anthology, because its passages all resemble Paul's themes in his other letters
 - B. a libretto, because it is like the lyrics and commentary to the 'opera' of Christians' lived experience
 - C. a symphony, because its parts all contribute to an overall thesis or theme
 - D. variations, because Paul keeps embellishing his one recurring main theme
4. Which of the following is *not* a key passage from the first half of Romans? (*Hint: it's not 'on theme.'*)

A. All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.	C. If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
B. I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.	D. Neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1. Take a look at one or more of those key verses from the final multiple choice question. These are like scenes in a much more involved storyline. Can you articulate the place they occupy in the whole letter?

2. Choose some of the following questions that interest you. As you respond, bear in mind the whole 'symphony' contextualizing the passages. You can consider evidence from elsewhere in Paul's writings, but keep Romans front and center. You can also draw on OT books Paul draws on, but don't use other NT sources for your answer.

A. Does Paul think people who have never heard the gospel might be saved anyway? See 1:18-25, 2:1-16, 3:9-25, 10:14-18, and 11:25-32.

B. How does Paul think Christian sex should differ from unrighteous sex? See 1:21-27 (as well as 1 Cor 6:15-7:16).

C. What good is the Torah, according to Paul? See 2:9-3:31, 7:1-25, 10:1-4, 13:8-10.

D. How according to Paul do Jesus' life, death, and resurrection address the problem of sin? See 3:9-26, 4:22-6:14, 7:1-6, 8:1-11.

E. What do Abraham and Adam have to do with Paul's thesis in 1:16-17? See that passage, 4:1-25, and 5:12-21.

F. "If death, much more life" (5:9, 5:10, 5:17, 8:34, 11:12, 11:24). Trace the logic of 'if this, how much more that' in Romans 4:24-7:6, 8:39, as the lecture did.

G. What should Christians think about persistent sin in their lives? (Or do you think Paul is talking about former sins in the lives of people who aren't yet Christians?) See 6:1-8:17.

H. How should Christians regard the continuing presence of 'natural evil' (not sin, but bad things such as natural disasters, aging, ignorance, conflict, etc. that can't be rooted in sins) in God's creation even after Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection? See 8:18-39, 4:16-5:5.

I. How does the Holy Spirit's presence shape the lives of Christians? What do manifestations of the Spirit look like in these passages? See 1:4, 5:5, 8:1-30, and perhaps 14:17. We've already seen attention to this in the Corinthian letters, and we'll see more in the ones to come.

3. Take a passage that has struck you in today's discussion or in your earlier reading. Recite it aloud.

What does the passage (in context, of course) say about God? about us?

What will you do with what you learned? Whom will you tell?