

EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS: BIBLE STUDY METHODS

THE MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

I. CLASS INFORMATION:

First Class Period (Onsite): Wednesday, August 14, 2019

6:00–8:00pm (Eastern Standard Time)

Ada Bible Church

East Paris Campus

1640 East Paris Ave, SE

Kentwood, MI 49546

Weekly Class Periods (Online): Thursdays, August 22 – October 3, 2019

8:00–9:30pm (Eastern Standard Time)

Direct Link to Zoom Conference Call: <https://zoom.us/j/622776909>

Alternatively, you may call in at (646) 558-8656; ID 622 776 909

Class Landing Page: <https://portal.moody.edu/cgte/ada-bible-church>

Class Instructor from Moody Bible Institute:

Jonathan J. Armstrong, Ph.D.

Director of the Center for Global Theological Education

Professor of Bible and Theology

jonathan.armstrong@moody.edu

Class Facilitator from Ada Bible Church:

Doug Redford

Pastor of On-Campus Groups and Men's Ministry

dredford@adabible.org

II. DESCRIPTION:

This class represents an in-depth investigation of the doctrines that Paul teaches in his magisterial work, the Epistle to the Romans. The class will present sustained discussion on the doctrine of justification, Paul's understanding of the Law, and the relationship

between Israel and the Church in God's plan of salvation. This course will also teach Bible study methods. Following this course, students will be familiar with the standard tools for Bible study and the steps to creating Bible study curriculum.

III. OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ We will become fluent with the outline of the Epistle to the Romans, and we will be able to trace the logic of Paul's argument through the entire treatise.
 - ❖ We will form opinions on some of the controversial points of doctrine in the epistle, including Paul's understanding of the law, the doctrine of election, and the salvation of Israel.
 - ❖ We will become better acquainted with commentary literature and the usefulness of commentaries for the preparation of teaching materials.
 - ❖ We will gain experience in creating Bible study curricula for group study.
-

IV. PROCEDURES:

Onsite and Online Class Periods: The first class period will be conducted as a live event on the campus of the partner church and will consist of two lectures of 50 minutes each. This opening class period may be advertised to the general public and may be used as an avenue for outreach into the broader community. The partner church is encouraged to provide modest refreshments.

Subsequent class periods will be conducted as online conference calls, each of which will be 90 minutes in length total. The first 45 minutes of each of these conference calls will be dedicated to new lecture material. Following a 10-minute break, the final 35 minutes will be dedicated to discussing class reading assignments.

Video Recordings: The online class periods will be video recorded, and these video recordings will be distributed to the students via the class landing page. The video recordings are not intended to serve as independent educational resources. Rather, the video recordings are created so that students may review any class periods from which they are absent and thereby remain fully integrated in class discussions.

V. TEXTBOOK (FOR PURCHASE):

Stott, John R. W. *The Message of Romans: God's Good News for the World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1994.

VI. CLASS SCHEDULE:

Date:	Place and Time:	Subject:	Readings and Assignments:
Wednesday, August 14, 2019	Ada Bible Church, East Paris Campus, 6:00–8:00pm (EST)	The Argument of the Epistle to the Romans	
Thursday, August 22, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	Where, When, and Why Did Paul Write the Epistle to the Romans?	Stott, <i>The Message of Romans</i> , 20–24, 31–43 Romans 1–2
Thursday, August 29, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	Justification by Faith Alone: Does Paul Contradict James?	Stott, <i>The Message of Romans</i> , 108–122 Romans 3–4
Thursday, September 5, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	Paul’s Teaching about the Law	Stott, <i>The Message of Romans</i> , 189–215 Romans 5–7
Thursday, September 12, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	Bible Study Methods I: Bible Translations	Stott, <i>The Message of Romans</i> , 246–260 Romans 8
Thursday, September 19, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	“In This Way All Israel Will Be Saved”; Salvation for Jews and Gentiles	Stott, <i>The Message of Romans</i> , 291–308 Romans 9–11
Thursday, September 26, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	Bible Study Methods II: Word Studies	Stott, <i>The Message of Romans</i> , 320–333 Romans 12–14
Thursday, October 3, 2019	Online, 8:00–9:30pm (EST)	Bible Study Methods III: Sentence Diagramming	Stott, <i>The Message of Romans</i> , 355–375 Romans 15–16

VII. ASSIGNMENTS:

- A. *Attendance.* In the case that a student is not able to be present for a class period, we recommend that (1) the student notify the class facilitator by email concerning the absence and (2) the student review the video recording of the class period before the next class period.

- B. *Reading*. There are reading assignments for each of the seven class periods following the first class period. Students are expected to read the assigned sections of the textbook prior to the start of the class during which they will be discussed.
- C. *Class Discussion*. The teacher will circulate a study guide for the textbook. Students are to prepare in advance responses to the discussion questions posed by the study guide and to come prepared to present a position in 2–3 minutes (i.e., 120–180 seconds) for each question. After one student argues for his or her position, the rest of the members of class will have the opportunity to respond.
- D. *Bible Study Curriculum Project*. Students are to prepare a sample curriculum for a group Bible study. There should be at least 3 lessons in the study, and each lesson is to have the following components: (1) the biblical passages to be covered and the themes to be addressed in the study; (2) a statement of the method to be used in creating the lessons; (3) the learning objectives for each lesson, (4) teaching notes for each lesson. The Bible Study Curriculum Project should be at least 1500 words in length.

VIII. FURTHER READING:

Carson, D. A., Peter T. O'Brian, and Mark A. Seifrid, eds. *Justification and Variegated Nomism*. Vol. 1: *The Complexities of Second Temple Judaism*. Vol. 2: *The Paradoxes of Paul*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2001, 2004.

Das, A. Andrew. *Paul, the Law, and the Covenant*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2001.

_____. *Solving the Romans Debate*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007.

Dunn, James D. G. *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Neusner, Jacob. *Judaic Law from Jesus to the Mishnah: A Systematic Reply to Professor E. P. Sanders*. Atlanta: Scholars Press, 1993.

Piper, John. *The Future of Justification: A Response to N. T. Wright*. Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway, 2007.

Sanders, E. P. *Paul and Palestinian Judaism*. Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1977.

Watson, Francis. *Paul, Judaism, and the Gentiles: Beyond the New Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2007.

Wright, N. T. *Paul: A Biography*. San Francisco: HarperOne, 2018.

_____. *The Climax of the Covenant: Christ and the Law in Pauline Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1993.

IX. COMMENTARIES:

Bruce, F. F. *The Letter of Paul to the Romans: An Introduction and Commentary*. Revised Edition. *Tyndale New Testament Commentaries*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000.

Cranfield, C. E. B. *Romans: A Shorter Commentary*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985.

Jewett, Robert. *Romans. Hermeneia*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2007.

Moo, Douglas J. *The Epistle to the Romans. The New International Commentary on the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1996.

Morris, Leon. *The Epistle to the Romans*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988.

Osborne, Grant R. *Romans*. Downers Grove: IVP Academic, 2004.

Wedderburn, A. J. M. *The Reasons for Romans*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 1991.

Wright, N. T. *The Letter to the Romans: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections. The New Interpreter's Bible*. Vol. 10: 393–770. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002.