

Firm Foundations

Growing in Christ: Romans

book 8

Study Guide

Trevor McIlwain



The Scripture version used in these lessons is the New King James Version (NKJV).

First Printing 2013

Firm Foundations Growing In Christ: Romans (Revised Edition)
Book 8: Study Guide

Copyright 2013 by Ethnos360
312 W 1st St
Sanford, FL 32771

Leon Trevor McIlwain

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the written permission of the publishers, with the exception of brief quotations in magazine reviews or other notices.

ISBN Number: 978-1-61565118-4

Printed in the United States of America

What is *Firm Foundations*?

Just what is *Firm Foundations*? It is foundational, chronological Bible teaching.

This method of teaching is patterned on God's progressive revelation of Himself and His plan to rescue people from sin, Satan and death. Lessons start "in the beginning." Moving through the Old and New Testaments, *Firm Foundations* highlights the themes that run through all of God's Word. This builds, from lesson to lesson, an understanding of the Bible as a whole.

This practical approach has been used all over the world, and is proven for:

- Evangelism
- Grounding new believers
- Teaching maturing believers
- Planting churches

Firm Foundations arose from the experience of Trevor McIlwain in the 1960s. While working cross-culturally with a people group in the Philippines, Trevor saw the need to establish proper biblical foundations. He developed Bible lessons to meet that need. As Trevor states, "The Scriptures were progressively revealed by God within the context and framework of history. Therefore, the best way to teach divine truth in any culture is God's way, within the chronological and historical framework of the Scriptures."

Trevor shared this approach with other missionaries who were also teaching cross-culturally, initially distributing his basic outline and later detailed Bible lessons. They discovered, as he had, that this *Firm Foundations* approach was exceptionally effective.

When these missionaries returned home, their glowing testimonies inspired pastors and other Bible teachers to adopt this method. As a result, the *Firm Foundations* lessons were modified for churches and home Bible studies, and this approach has proven equally effective in English-speaking settings as in cross-cultural settings.

Since that time, adaptations of the *Firm Foundations* materials have been developed for many languages, cultural contexts and age groups.

You are now a part of the *Firm Foundations* legacy!

How to Use This Study Guide

You are about to embark on a thrilling study of the liberating truths explained by the Apostle Paul in the book of Romans.

In this study guide, you will have the rich opportunity to examine how God has made the way for all believers to enjoy deliverance from the condemnation, guilt and power of sin. You'll be amazed at, and thankful for, the solid guidelines He gives to His people so that we might become more like Him.

This study guide is intended to be used in conjunction with the *Firm Foundations – Growing in Christ: Romans* Bible study.

The study guide provides a space where you can take notes while the teacher expands on the lesson. In addition, questions are included for personal study and review after class. At the end of each lesson, you will find an Answer Key for checking your answers.

Lesson
1

Paul wrote this letter to the believers in Rome.

Lesson Outline and Scripture

For Class Notes

1. Introduction

2. Paul introduced himself to the believers in Rome. (Acts 9:15; 20:24; Romans 1:1; Ephesians 2:1-3)

3. Paul reminded the believers in Rome of their position in Christ. (Matthew 6:25-26; John 3:16; Romans 1:7; Philippians 4:6-7)

4. Paul thanked God for the believers in Rome and said he wanted to help them mature spiritually. (Acts 2:46-47; Romans 1:8-12)

5. Paul was committed to the task of sharing the Gospel. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 9:20; Romans 1:14-15; 15:20; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

6. Paul explained that God's power and righteousness are revealed in the Gospel. (Romans 1:16-17)

7. Conclusion

Personal Study Questions

1. Why should we accept what is written in the book of Romans as God’s message to us in this century?

2. In Romans 1:1, Paul introduced himself as “*a bondservant of Jesus Christ.*” What did he mean?

3. Considering that Paul willingly became a slave to the Lord Jesus out of love and gratitude, how do you think you should respond to what the Lord Jesus has done for you?

4. Prior to meeting the Lord, to whom had Paul been a slave?

5. What did Paul mean when he called himself an apostle?

6. What was Paul’s consuming passion in life?

7. In Romans 1:7, Paul assured the believers that they were “*beloved of God.*” What is the greatest evidence of God’s love for man?

8. The biblical meaning of “saints” is “set-apart-ones.” What did God set believers apart from, and for what purpose?

9. When did God make us saints?

10. Why do we need God’s grace now that we are believers?

11. What does it mean that we have peace **with** God?

Paul wrote this letter to the believers in Rome.

Lesson 1

12. As God's children, why do we need the peace of God for our daily lives? (Refer to Philippians 4:6-7.)

13. According to Romans 1:8, what did Paul know about the faith of the Roman believers?

14. Paul prayed continually for the Romans. As we follow his example of praying for others, who might we pray for?

15. As we consider that the Lord's answer to Paul's prayer to visit the Roman believers was quite different from what he expected, what can we learn?

16. Paul desired to visit the Roman believers so that he could strengthen them in their Christian life. What are practical ways that you can help others in their relationship with the Lord?

17. As Paul anticipated visiting the Christians in Rome, he looked forward to his own faith being strengthened through their testimony and faith. What can we learn from this?

18. Why did Paul consider himself to be in debt to all people, especially to those who had never heard the Gospel?

19. To whom has the work of spreading the Gospel now been entrusted?

20. Why was Paul not ashamed of the Gospel?

21. In Romans 1:17, what did Paul mean when he said that the "*righteousness of God*" is revealed in the Gospel?

Personal Study Answers

1. *We should accept what is written in the book of Romans as God's message to us in this century because:*
 - *The Holy Spirit directed the Apostle Paul to write the book of Romans.*
 - *God has not changed.*
 - *The truth is still the same now as it was then.*
2. *Paul meant that he was a voluntary slave of Jesus Christ.*
3. [The answer to this question will be personal to you.]
4. *Paul had previously been a slave to his own ambitions and to Satan.*
5. *When Paul called himself an apostle, he meant that he was chosen by the Lord Jesus and sent out as His representative to tell others the message of the Gospel.*
6. *Paul's consuming passion in life was to make known the message of the Gospel.*
7. *The greatest evidence of God's love for man is that He gave His Son to die for our sins.*
8. *God has set believers apart from sin, Satan and the world for the specific purpose of living for God and His glory.*
9. *God made us saints at the moment we put our faith in the Lord Jesus.*
10. *As believers, we need God's grace every moment to teach us and to give us the strength to live in obedience to His Word.*
11. *Having peace **with** God means that we are no longer God's enemies, and that, through the death of the Lord Jesus, we have been made one with God.*
12. *We need God's peace daily to calm our hearts and minds from doubts and fears.*
13. *Paul knew that the faith of the Roman believers was "spoken of throughout the whole world."*
14. *We could pray for:*
 - *One another and for other believers*
 - *People we are trying to reach with the Gospel*
 - *Pastors and teachers of God's Word, both here and abroad.*
15. *Considering how the Lord answered Paul's prayer to visit the Roman believers, we can learn that we should be prepared to accept God's answers to our prayers, even though they may be different from what we expect.*
16. *We can help other believers in the following ways:*
 - *By praying for them*
 - *By spending time with them, sharing needs and praying together*
 - *By having a Bible study with them.*
17. *We can learn that we need one another in order for our faith to be strengthened.*
18. *Paul considered himself to be in debt to pass the Gospel on to others, because he knew that it rightfully belonged to all people in every part of the world.*
19. *The work of spreading the Gospel has now been entrusted to all of us who are God's children.*
20. *Paul was not ashamed of the Gospel, because he knew that it is God's powerful message which He uses to deliver all who believe from sin, Satan and everlasting death.*
21. *Paul meant that, in the Gospel, God shows everyone how He can remain perfectly righteous and, at the same time, forgive the sins of all those who put their faith in the Lord Jesus, and accept them as perfectly righteous.*