



God's Answers to My Deepest Needs

Four megathemes of Romans

1. My problem: _____

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God..." Rom. 3:23

God's prescription: _____

"...and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus." Rom. 3:24 (See 5:1, 2)

"...there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" Rom. 8:1

2. My struggle: _____

"I don't understand what I do. What I do isn't the good I want to do; no, the evil I don't want to do --this I keep on doing." Rom. 7:15, 19

God's solution: _____

"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires." Rom. 8:5

"The mind of sinful man is death; the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace." Rom. 8:6

"...be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Rom. 12:2 (See 13:14)

3. My anxiety: _____

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?" Rom. 8:35

God's answer: _____

"...neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Rom. 8:38

"...you didn't receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear... but of sonship. And by him we cry, 'Abba, Father.'" Rom. 8:15

4. My desire: _____

God's direction: _____

"The commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not murder, Do not steal, Do not covet, and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this one rule: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Rom. 13:9

"How can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'" Rom. 10:14

"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?!" Rom. 8:31

Daily Meditations

Here's a chance to "take it home": Spend a few minutes every day reading Scripture, praying, and answering thought provoking questions about this weekend's topic!

This week's memory verse:

"This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference." Rom. 3:22

Monday

Look back over your notes from this past weekend. Which of the four issues do you wrestle with most? Which of God's responses ministers the most to you right now?

Read Romans 1:16-17. How does Paul set the theme for the entire book?

Why is this good news?

Thank God today for His righteousness. Ask Him into your life today if you haven't yet! Ask God for Paul's unashamed-of-the-gospel spirit.

Tuesday

Read Romans 3:21-28. This section summarizes the first megatheme of Romans: God sent a Savior to free us of our sin. Why is “boasting excluded”?

If you had to explain the gospel message from this one passage, what would you say?

Spend some time praising God today for His forgiveness and grace. Pray for those you know who need to hear and believe this message, or better understand it.

Wednesday

Read Romans 7:15-25. This section summarizes the second megatheme of Romans: While we’re forgiven, we still struggle with sin! How do you relate to Paul’s struggle?

Compared to Paul, how open are you about the struggles you’re facing?

Read Romans 8:1-7. Paul’s response is to change your mindset. When bad memories or unhealthy thoughts enter your mind, what have you found most helpful in dealing with them?

Thank God that He understands your current struggle with sin. Ask Him to help you renew your thoughts.

Thursday

Read Romans 8:28-38. This is the start of the third megatheme of Romans: We fear we’ll lose God’s love by our failures. From here through chapter 11, Paul shows that God’s promises can never be broken. When was it hardest for you to believe Romans 8:28?

How are you going through a school of hard knocks right now?

In the midst of the knocks, how do you see God at work?

What do you need to claim from this passage to help you through the week?

Praise God today that He will NEVER leave you! Rest in this truth.

Friday

Read Romans 12:1-12. This begins the last megatheme of Romans: Our service to others as a response to God’s mercy to us. How is this more effective, in the long run, than service motivated merely by duty?

How can you present your body as a living sacrifice in everyday life?

How can you better use your personal spiritual gift in the church?

Who is one person you really wish would come to Christ, and what specifically could you do this week to help that person draw closer to God?

Ask God to help you live in love and service to others out of love, not just duty! Ask Him to show you how you can maximize the use of your gifts and talents for Him!

Saturday

Complete any devotions you may have missed. Polish up the memory verse. *Please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!*