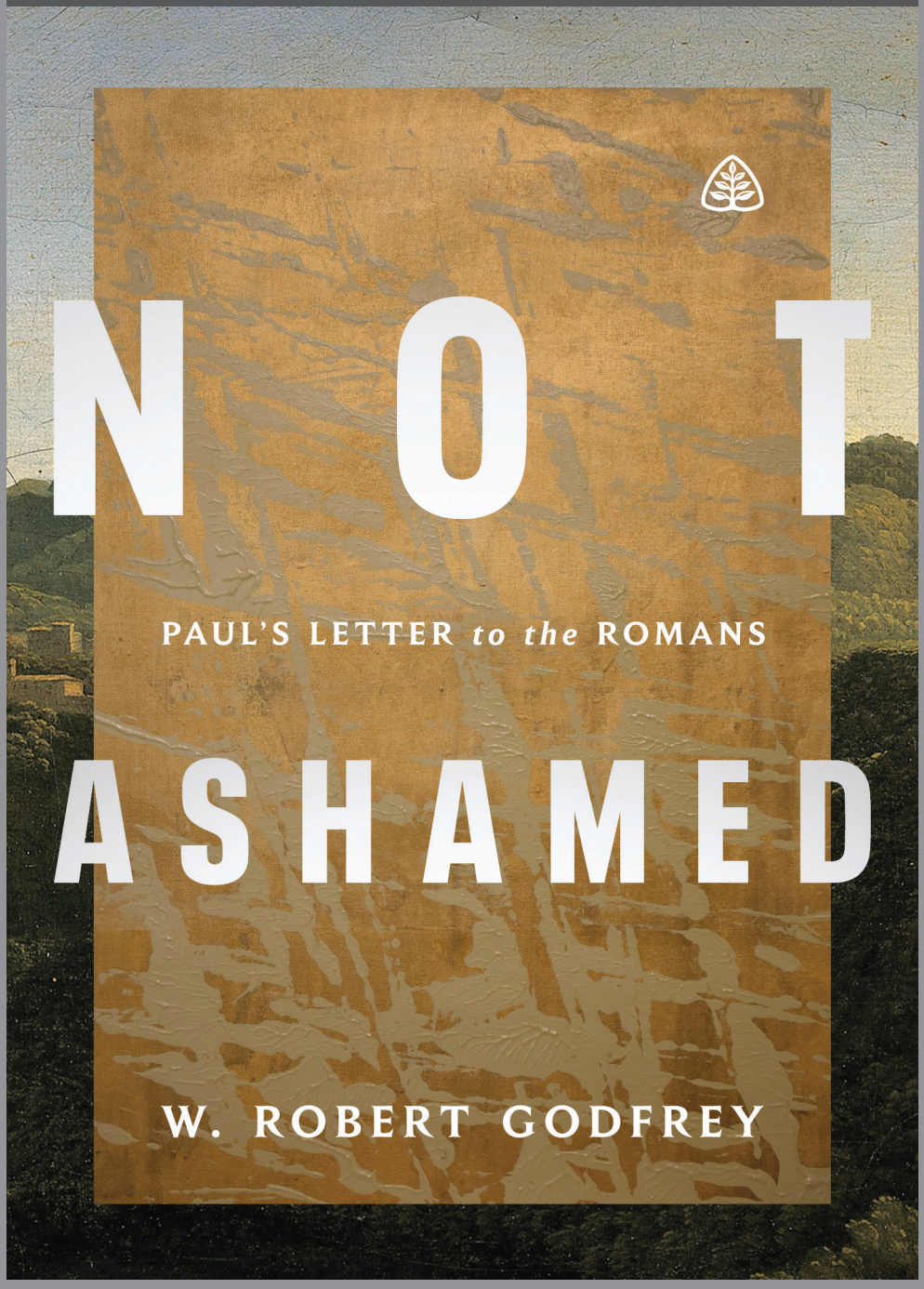
STUDY GUIDE



NOT ASHAMED

PAUL'S LETTER *to the* ROMANS

W. ROBERT GODFREY

STUDY GUIDE

Not Ashamed

Paul's Letter to the Romans

W. Robert Godfrey

LIGONIER MINISTRIES
Renew your Mind.
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Introduction

Many consider Paul's letter to the Romans to be his magnum opus. John Calvin believed that studying Romans unveils "the most hidden treasures of Scripture." In this teaching series, Dr. W. Robert Godfrey undertakes an exciting, verse-by-verse adventure through the book of Romans, giving us a glimpse at the heart of the Apostle and the heart of the gospel.

This study guide is a companion to the video teaching series. Whether you are using the DVDs, streaming the videos on Ligonier.org, or going through the course in Ligonier Connect, this resource is designed to help you make the most of the learning experience. For each message in the series, there is a corresponding lesson in this guide. Here is what you will find in each lesson:

INTRODUCTION	The introduction is a brief paragraph that summarizes the content covered in the lecture and considered in the study guide lesson. **How to use:** Use the introduction to each lesson to get a sense of the big picture before watching the video. Refer to these statements as you work through the study guide to remind you of what you have already covered and where you are headed.
LEARNING GOALS	The learning goals are the knowledge and skills that the study guide lesson will endeavor to equip you with as you work through the lecture content. **How to use:** Familiarize yourself with the goals of each lesson before engaging its contents. Keeping the overall purpose in mind as you watch each video and reflect on or discuss the questions will help you get the most out of each lesson.
KEY IDEAS	The key ideas are the major points or takeaways from the lecture. **How to use:** Use these ideas to prepare yourself for each lesson and to review previous lessons. They describe specifically the knowledge that each lecture is communicating.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	The questions are the guided reflection and/or discussion component of the lesson that is intended to help you prepare for, process, and organize what you are learning. **How to use:** Reflect on individually or discuss in a group the questions in the order in which they appear in the lesson. The time stamps in the right margin indicate where the answers to questions during the video can be found.
PRAYER	The prayer section offers suggestions for how to close the lesson in prayer with respect to what was taught in the lecture. **How to use:** Consider using each lesson's prayer section as a guide to personal or group prayer. These sections follow the ACTS prayer model, which you can learn more about in R.C. Sproul's Crucial Questions booklet *Does Prayer Change Things?* This helpful guide is available as a free e-book at Ligonier.org.
REVIEW QUIZ	The review quiz is a set of six multiple-choice questions that appears at the end of each lesson. **How to use:** Use each quiz to check your comprehension and memory of the major points covered in each lecture. It will be most beneficial to your learning if you take a lesson's quiz either sometime between lessons or just before you begin the next lesson in the study guide.
ANSWER KEY	The answer key provides explanations for the reflection and discussion questions and answers to the multiple-choice questions in the review quiz. **How to use:** Use the answer key to check your own answers or when you do not know the answer. Note: Do not give in too quickly; struggling for a few moments to recall an answer reinforces it in your mind.

Study Schedules

The following table suggests four plans for working through the *Not Ashamed* video teaching series and this companion study guide. Whether you are going through this series on your own or with a group, these schedules should help you plan your study path.

	Extended 25-Week Plan	**Standard 23-Week Plan**	**Abbreviated 12-Week Plan**	**Intensive 8-Week Plan**
Week	**Lesson**			
1	*	1	1–2	1–3
2	1	2	3–4	4–6
3	2	3	5–6	7–9
4	3	4	7–8	10–12
5	4	5	9–10	13–15
6	5	6	11–12	16–18
7	6	7	13–14	19–21
8	7	8	15–16	22–23
9	8	9	17–18	
10	9	10	19–20	
11	10	11	21–22	
12	11	12	23	
13	12	13		
14	13	14		
15	14	15		
16	15	16		
17	16	17		
18	17	18		
19	18	19		

	Extended 25-Week Plan	Standard 23-Week Plan	Abbreviated 12-Week Plan	Intensive 8-Week Plan
Week	**Lesson**			
20	19	20		
21	20	21		
22	21	22		
23	22	23		
24	23			
25	*			

* For these weeks, rather than completing lessons, spend your time discussing and praying about your learning goals for the study (the first week) and the most valuable takeaways from the study (the last week).

1

Paul's Concerns

INTRODUCTION

Paul's epistle to the Romans has a special place in Scripture for its insights into the truth of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. But this letter was not written in a vacuum. In this lesson, Dr. Godfrey introduces Paul's letter to the Romans by exploring Paul's reasons, which become clear after a close reading of the letter, for sitting down to write it.

LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Appreciate the theological majesty and pastoral scope of Paul's letter to the Romans
- Identify Paul's pastoral concerns that drive the theology of the letter
- Summarize the criticisms that the Apostle faced and addressed

KEY IDEAS

- Paul wrote his letter to the Romans with primarily pastoral concerns.
- Paul needed to defend his ministry and preaching of the gospel as the Apostle to the gentiles to the congregation in Rome, whom he had never met but planned to visit soon.
- Paul addresses charges about his teaching that relate to how boldly he preached the gospel of grace; opponents accused him of promoting lawlessness and forgetting Israel's place in redemptive history, for example.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- Why are you undertaking this study through Romans?

- Drawing from your prior knowledge of the letter, what is Paul's main purpose in writing it?

Scripture Reading

> *And thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, lest I build on someone else's foundation, but as it is written, "Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand." This is the reason why I have so often been hindered from coming to you. But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.*
>
> —Romans 15:20–24

- Why had Paul not yet visited Rome before writing his letter? What is the reason that he wanted to go to Rome?

During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

Paul's Approach *0:00–10:48*

- What is a common misconception about Paul's letter to the Romans?

- What is an important question that we ought to ask when studying Romans?

- Why are Paul's pastoral concerns not as apparent in his letter to the Romans than in other letters?

Paul's Motivations *10:48–24:43*

- What important lesson does Paul teach us in Romans through his use of Scripture?

- What are some of the criticisms that motivated Paul to write his letter?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- "For I am not ashamed of the gospel" (Rom. 1:16). Have you ever wondered why Paul said this? How does Dr. Godfrey's approach help illumine why Paul said it?

  If you are in a group, have the members discuss how they have approached Paul's letter to the Romans in the past, perhaps as if it were a systematic theology. Ask: What makes Romans so compelling to read and study?

- Why might Paul have been accused of ignoring the place of the Israelites in redemptive history or of neglecting the value and power of the law in the Christian life? How did he respond to such accusations?

  If you are in a group, have the members identify and discuss why it does not make sense for Christians to set aside the law entirely, even though it cannot justify.

- Which of the accusations that Paul faced do you consider to be the most formidable? Which one did Dr. Godfrey say was probably the Romans' most fundamental concern?

  If you are in a group, have the members identify a time when someone has misinterpreted their beliefs. Ask: Why is it sometimes difficult to convey the truth about God's free grace to people?

PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for His Word to us, both in Scripture and in Christ.
- Confess the areas where you might be questioning fellow Christians' motives or beliefs in a way that is similar to that of Paul's accusers.

- Thank God for granting you a salvation that is not made secure through your obedience to the law.
- Ask God to bless your study of Romans with personal spiritual insight.

REVIEW QUIZ

Use these multiple-choice questions to measure what you learned from this lesson.

1. A commentary on the book of Romans was the first Bible commentary written by which of the following?
   a. Philip Melanchthon
   b. Martin Luther
   c. Martin Bucer
   d. John Calvin

2. Paul explicitly states his reasons and pastoral concerns in writing his letter to the Romans.
   a. True
   b. False

3. Which one of the following was *not* an accusation that Paul likely faced?
   a. That Paul's teachings were dangerous.
   b. That Paul's teachings promoted lawlessness.
   c. That Paul's teachings were fruitless among the gentiles.
   d. That Paul's teachings neglected the place of Israel in redemptive history.

4. How many times does Paul quote from the Old Testament in his letter to the Romans?
   a. Fewer than twenty times
   b. Fewer than fifty times
   c. More than seventy times
   d. More than ninety times

5. Paul taught the advantage of the Jews as having another way of salvation.
   a. True
   b. False

6. Which one of the following passages does *not* relate to Paul's defense of his ministry to the Romans?
   a. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel" (Rom. 1:16).
   b. "Then what advantage has the Jew?" (Rom. 3:1).
   c. "Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?" (Rom. 6:1).
   d. "Present your bodies as a living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1).

Answer Key—Paul's Concerns

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

These are personal questions. The answers should be based on your own knowledge and experience.

Scripture Reading

- Why had Paul not yet visited Rome before writing his letter? What is the reason that he wanted to go to Rome?

  Paul was the Apostle to the gentiles. He had a heart to reach those among the nations who had never heard about Jesus Christ. Though Rome had many gentiles among its congregation, Paul had not visited the church because it had already been established. He desired to see others won to Christ elsewhere, which is precisely why he wanted to go to Rome after his letter, to have a place from which to reach Spain for the sake of the gospel.

During the Video

Paul's Approach

- What is a common misconception about Paul's letter to the Romans?

  Many people think of Romans as a comprehensive systematic theology. On the one hand, it richly presents the doctrines of grace, but on the other hand, it is a letter that was written with a purpose to particular people. Paul had pressing pastoral concerns, so the letter isn't merely theological.

- What is an important question that we ought to ask when studying Romans?

  Because we can lose sight of the pastoral issues behind Paul's letter, we ought to ask why *Paul is writing instead of solely focusing on* what *he is writing. In this manner, we can connect the theology of Romans to Paul's intentions, which will in turn give us greater insight into its theology.*

- Why are Paul's pastoral concerns not as apparent in his letter to the Romans than in other letters?

  In other letters, Paul is explicit about the issues he is addressing, at times even quoting correspondence back to his recipients, as in his letters to the Corinthians. Paul had never been to Rome, however. Though he knew some people in the congregation, the congregation as a whole did not personally know him. The church

in Rome had doubts about Paul and his teaching, and he addressed those doubts boldly throughout the letter, though not always explicitly.

Paul's Motivations

- What important lesson does Paul teach us in Romans through his use of Scripture?

  Throughout his letter, Paul quotes from the New Testament more than seventy times, and from this, an important lesson emerges for us: how to read the Old Testament. Paul gives us a theology of the Old Testament that clues us in on how to read it ourselves, giving us insights into the history of redemption and the role of the law in the Christian life.

- What are some of the criticisms that motivated Paul to write his letter?

  When reading between the lines of Paul's letters, one can discern the criticism that Paul was addressing. Paul's critics said that his teaching was dangerous, and they also believed that he had forgotten a number of things, including the special place of Israel in God's economy and the value of God's law. His critics even accused him of promoting sin as a means of increasing one's grace. All these false accusations were provided as reasons to the Christians in Rome for Paul's failure to visit them.

After the Video

- "For I am not ashamed of the gospel" (Rom. 1:16). Have you ever wondered why Paul said this? How does Dr. Godfrey's approach help illumine why Paul said it?

  Apart from understanding the pastoral context and intents of Paul's letter, this idea of being ashamed of the gospel may strike some as strange at first glance. Dr. Godfrey intends for us to see the reasons that Paul is writing his letter, and one of the accusations that he may have been facing or a doubt lingering in the minds of the Romans was that Paul was too ashamed of his teaching to visit the congregation. But in saying that he is not ashamed, Paul is declaring with boldness the nature of the gospel that is received only by faith for Israel and the nations, regardless of how some may have misinterpreted him.

- Why might Paul have been accused of ignoring the place of the Israelites in redemptive history or of neglecting the value and power of the law in the Christian life? How did he respond to such accusations?

  Paul stressed that the law cannot save anyone and that salvation is only through faith in Jesus Christ for both the Israelites and the nations. Paul was indeed called to be the Apostle to the gentiles. It would have been easy to accuse him of forgetting his heritage by the very nature of that mission, and because he spoke against the law's power to save, it would have been easy to conclude from his teaching that the law had no value for him. But Paul did not believe this, and throughout his letter he demonstrated with the Old Testament that the law was never intended to be used as a means of salvation and that God's plans for the nations had long been prophesied.

- Which of the accusations that Paul faced do you consider to be the most formidable? Which one did Dr. Godfrey say was probably the Romans' most fundamental concern?

  The answer to the first question takes into consideration all the accusations to determine which one you consider to be most challenging for Paul to surmount. Dr. Godfrey said that probably the most fundamental concern of the Romans was the charge that Paul promoted sin so that grace might abound (see Rom. 6:1–2). This charge is related to the accusation that he had forgotten the place of the law in the Christian life, but it goes even further to suggest that Paul endorsed absolute lawlessness.

REVIEW QUIZ

1. **D.**
   Although Bucer and Melanchthon had already published commentaries on the book of Romans, Calvin believed that a shorter commentary on Romans would serve the church excellently. Additionally, Romans is a significant and profound book of the Bible, but Calvin bravely decided to write his first commentary on it.

2. **B.**
   One the reasons why people might be surprised by Dr. Godfrey's calling Romans a "pastoral" letter is that Paul's pastoral concerns in writing the letter are easily overlooked. He states them not explicitly but implicitly in his overall argument of the letter.

3. **C.**
   While Paul faced many accusations, that his ministry and teaching among the gentiles was fruitless could not be one of them. As the Apostle to the gentiles, Paul had his work among the nations used by God to great effect.

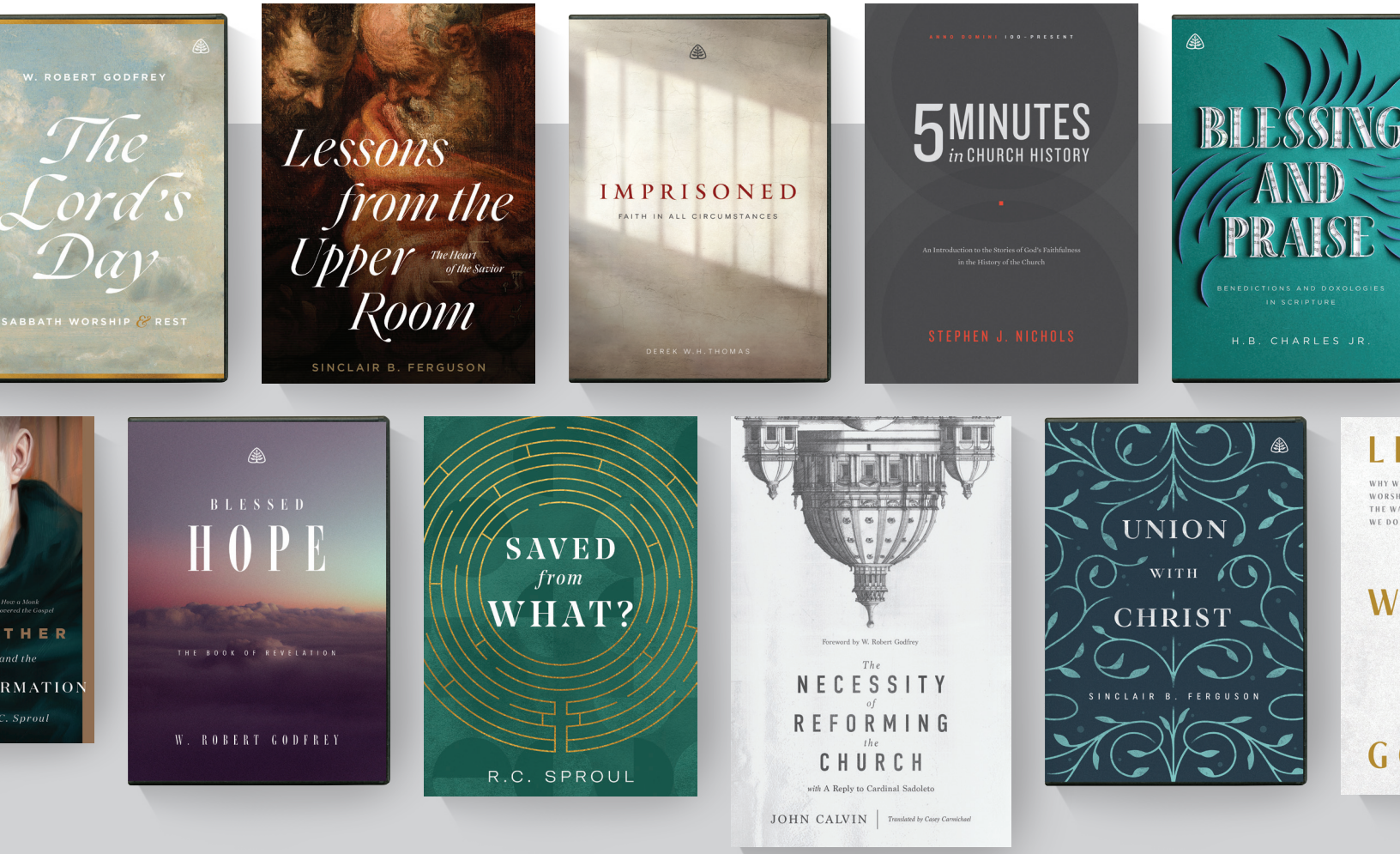
4. **C.**
   Paul's use of the Old Testament in his letter to the Romans could be understood as a lesson in biblical interpretation to that congregation. Paul quotes from the Old Testament more than seventy times to defend his gospel to the Romans.

5. **B.**
   One of Paul's teachings in line with the gospel of Jesus Christ was that the law equally condemned both the Israelites and the nations, and so keeping the law was unable to save anyone. Paul taught that both Jews and gentiles had the same need for salvation, and both had to receive it the same way—by faith.

6. **D.**
   Paul was maligned concerning his willingness to visit Rome, but he declared that he was not ashamed of the gospel. Paul was accused of forgetting about the special place of the Israelites in the history of redemption, but he consistently pointed to their advantages that were by God's grace. Paul was also accused of teaching law-

lessness, but he rejected the idea that grace gives someone permission to sin. Paul's call to present our bodies as living sacrifices is consistent with such teaching but does not reveal his concerns to defend his ministry to the Romans.

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