



Alpha-Omega Bible Study: The New Testament  
Session 2: Acts, the Epistles, & the Apocalypse  
Lesson 6: The Power of God for Salvation

## READ

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- A. Review the list of theological themes and doctrines covered in Alpha-Omega.
- B. Choose one of the following two reading plans. For either, look for recurring themes and perhaps mark them in your Bible.
  1. Read Acts 20:1 – 23:11; Romans
  2. Read only the following:
    - Romans 1:1-32
    - Romans 3:9-31
    - Romans 7:7 – 8:4
    - Romans 12:1-21
    - Romans 14:1 – 15:7

## REACT

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- A. Use the space below to write down key observations or questions that arose as you read the text. Note here the themes or doctrines you found in the passages.

B. Questions:

1. a. In anticipation of visiting the Christian believers in Rome, the Apostle Paul writes a letter to lay out his understanding of the gospel. In his introduction (Rom. 1:1-17), how many times does Paul use the word “gospel” or the phrase “good news”? What do these remarks reveal about what the gospel is and does?

b. How is Paul’s view of the gospel similar or dissimilar to your own?

2. a. Paul begins his letter to the Romans by showing that no one is righteous or rightly related to God on his or her own (Rom. 1:18-3:20). List some of the many ways Paul illustrates how people are unrighteous.

b. Why do you think Paul begins with this?

- c. How does this compare to the ways in which people normally view themselves?
3. Beginning in Romans 3:21, Paul shows that the only way to be righteous before God is to have a righteousness *from* God. (Note: The English words “righteousness” and “justify” have the same Greek root.) In your own words, summarize 3:21-31 and how we are justified or made righteous before God.
4. a. Although we may be saved and made righteous by grace through faith, Paul acknowledges that sin and wickedness are still problems in our lives and in the world (see especially chapters 6-8 or Romans). In Romans 7:7-8:4, what does Paul tell us about the power of sin in our lives?
- b. In light of his struggles with sin, where does Paul find hope?

- c. How is this a model for you for having a healthy and realistic self-image?
5. a. As Paul shifts his focus from theological instructions to practical exhortations in chapter 12 of Romans, he gives the challenge to not be conformed to the patterns and schemes of the world (Rom. 12:2). How do you think Christians today conform to the world in ways they shouldn't?
- b. How do Paul's instructions in the remainder of the chapter show a different way to live?
6. a. Beginning in Romans 14:1, Paul addresses a problem relevant to the Christian community in Rome, namely what foods are permissible for a believer to eat. However, Paul's principle of toleration—let the strong bear with the weak—has universal application. What are some “disputable matters” that divide Christians today?

b. How do you react to Christians whose convictions are stricter or more lenient than your own?

c. According to Paul, what should be our guideline and the defining characteristics in the church? What active step can you take to apply this principle in our church?

## REMEMBER

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Commit the following verses to memory:

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 6:23 (NRSV)