

# ROMANS NEVER ENDS | DEVOTIONAL | WEEK 1

Coming off the most stressful—I mean, “joyful”—time of the year, it’s easy to glance at the half-packed decorations, presents strewn about, and half-eaten cookies on platters and wonder, amidst the chaos, where your Bible ended up.

Maybe your house doesn’t look like that. Perhaps it’s pristine, and your advent season was perfectly focused on Christ every step of the way. For the rest of us, we’re simply breathing deep, thankful that the holiday season is just that: a season in the year of life. But before we know it, one season flows into the next, time trickles by, and as we move from one “have to” task to another, we suddenly ask, *When was the last time I just sat with God?*

When was the last time you opened His Word to seek His wisdom and life? As we begin this new year, we invite you to step into resolutions and goals with intentional time with the Lord. Go deeper, breathe lighter, and discover what He has in store for you.

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## Day 1 and Day 2

### Read: Romans 1

Known by theologians as the “Great Paragraph,” this passage encapsulates the essence of our salvation, emphasizing God’s plan to redeem His people and set the foundation for Christ as both the Son of God and the fulfillment of that plan. The book of Romans lays out a roadmap for living in a real relationship with God—no longer divided or striving to be “good enough” but freely receiving His offering.

As you reflect on the following verses, consider these questions:

1. What does this say about God’s character?
2. What does it reveal about your relationship with Him?

**Romans 3:21-26:** *But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus...*

### Reflection Questions:

1. What role do the Law and the Prophets play in pointing to God’s righteousness? (See Deuteronomy 18:15, Isaiah 53:5-6, Psalm 19:7-9, Matthew 5:17, Luke 24:27, Romans 10:4.)
2. Why was it significant for Jesus to fulfill the Jewish prophecies?
3. Why does the passage emphasize “no difference between Jew and Gentile”?
4. Reflect on the phrase “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” What thoughts come to mind?

5. How does Christ's sacrifice demonstrate God's character?

**Personal Reflection:** How does understanding God's plan for justification deepen your view of salvation?

**Application:** How does seeing the Old Testament point to God's righteousness shape your faith?

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your plan of redemption. Since the beginning, You've sought a relationship with us, weaving a perfect plan through Christ. Help me to see Your hand in my life and draw closer to You daily.

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## Day 3 and Day 4

### Read: Romans 8

Recently, my daughter had a moment of extreme anger. After a rushed morning, I told her, "No, you can't go back in the house to grab your iPad." Cue tears, screaming, and words I never thought I'd hear: "You are the worst ever!" Later, she admitted, "I just can't control it, Mom. I want to stop, but I can't."

Can't we all relate? Whether it's anger, gossip, spending habits, or private struggles, there are moments we feel helpless. Paul describes this struggle in Romans 7:

*So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me... What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:21-25)*

Thankfully, Romans 8 follows:

*Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2)*

### Reflection Questions:

1. What is the status of those in Christ Jesus?
2. How does the "law of the Spirit" set us free from the "law of sin and death"?
3. What promises are laid out in Romans 8:6-16 for believers?
4. How does the Spirit affirm our relationship with God?
5. What hope is described in Romans 8:18-25?

**Personal Reflection:** How does knowing you are an heir with Christ shape your identity and relationship with God?

**Application:** List your struggles. How can you set your mind on the Spirit to overcome them?

**Prayer:** Father, remind me there is no condemnation in You. Help me to walk by the Spirit, trust in Your plan, and live as Your child. Amen.

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## **Day 5 and Day 6**

### **Read: Romans 12**

New Year's Day offers a moment to pause, reflect, and plan. Similarly, Romans 12 invites us to reflect and act:

*Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:1-2)*

### **Reflection Questions:**

1. What does Paul urge believers to do in these verses?
2. How does transformation differ from conformity?
3. How does accepting Christ change the way you live?

**Personal Reflection:** Are you offering your life fully as a living sacrifice? Where are you holding back?

**Application:** How does the gospel shape how you think, act, and love others?

**Prayer:** Heavenly Father, today I give You my mind, body, and heart. Teach me to live transformed, reflecting Your love and truth. Amen.