

REFLECTION

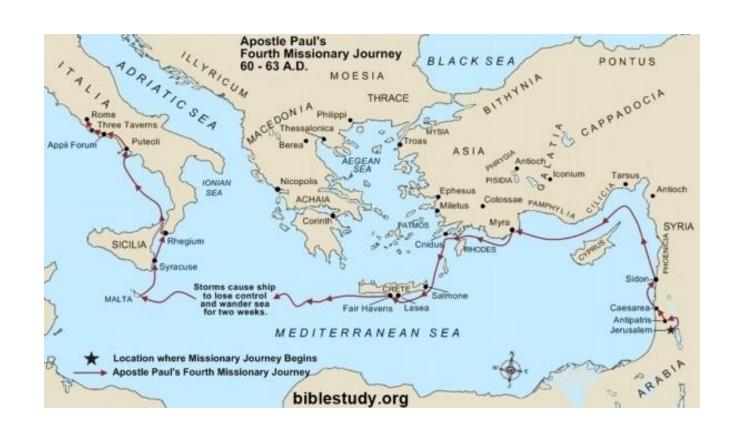
The Book of Romans offers an expanded and detailed look at God's special plan for the human race. It will show you the "before and after" conditions of your life in relation to Jesus Christ.

Consider your lifestyle before you became a Christian. What are some of the major changes that Christ has made in your life?



SITUATION

- The apostle Paul wrote this letter to a group of Christians in Rome, the capital of the Roman Empire, to lay out his Christian doctrine after years of missionary work.
- He wanted to spend time with Roman believers as with the many fledgling churches around the Mediterranean Sea.
- This letter was Paul's way of saying, "Here are all the central lessons I would teach you if I were with you."





OBSERVATION

Read Romans 1:16-32

EXPLORATION

- 1. What does Paul mean when he says he is "not ashamed of the gospel" Rom. 1:16
- 2. In what ways does God reveal himself to people?
- 3. How does Paul say that some people have provoked God to anger?
- 4. How and why is the truth of the gospel hidden from some individuals?
- 5. What happens when God lets people go their own way?
- 6. How does Paul say people can find freedom from the bondage of sin?

INSPIRATION

 George Monroe and William Robinson are thought to be two of the first African Americans to work as Pony Express riders.





REACTION

- 1. How does Paul describe your condition before you accepted Christ as your Savior?
- 2. How would you describe righteousness to a new believer?
- Based on this passage, what is required to be right with God?
- 4. In what ways have you seen the righteousness of Christ transform a person's life?
- 5. In what areas of your life do your sinful desires tend to interfere with living a righteous life?
- 6. How does this passage encourage you to live by faith?

LIFE LESSONS

Whether we are new in our faith of have trusted in Christ for years, all of us struggle with the tendency to fall back on our righteousness, our "track record" or ability to do and be good, rather than placing our hope in Christ.



DEVOTION

Father, forgive us for being witnesses of your majesty and yet living as though you do not exist. Forgive us, Lord, when we put more hope in the things of this earth then in the incredible promises of your heaven. Have mercy on our hardened hearts. Transform us in your likeness.

