

Romans – 12A Listening Guide

1. We start part three of the book of Romans today.
2. The first third, Chapters 1-8 teaches how you obtain _____.
3. Chapters 1-8 of Romans teaches anyone who will listen, how you get to _____.
4. It started with how _____ men are unrighteous. All men are _____ and therefore are justly under a sentence of _____ by God.
5. And furthermore, no man by his own nature ever _____ after God.
6. We learned that God in _____ made a way for men. That we obtain a righteousness that is not our own, but _____ righteousness. Not by _____ but only by _____.
7. Then Paul ended part one explaining the consequences of having been _____ with God's righteousness.
8. Consequences include:
You are _____, and declared innocent by God based on His righteousness.
Your glorification; your _____ your new _____.
9. Then in part two, having determined that there is a way to God and here's what it is, that brought us to chapter 9. Chapters 9-11 have to happen because, if it is God who's doing the work of redemption on behalf of those whom He promises to glorify...then what happened to the Nation of Israel?
10. In 9-11 we learned God's _____ for Israel.
That He had _____ them in the **past**.
That **today** they're being _____ by God so that they will not receive their Messiah and yet is preserving a _____.
There is a **future** day when He brings them all into _____.
11. This time of hardening is the opportunity for the _____ to enter into the promises of Israel.
12. Gentile believers believe in the _____ and we have to maintain a Biblically informed perspective concerning Israel.

Vs. 28-32

13. When we now as Christians take stock of the Jewish people...we're going to see them as enemies...to the gospel. But from God's point of view they remain forever His chosen people.

14. Paul's next thought – the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable – proves that God will keep His promises to Israel.

Vs. 33

15. God's ways are un_____. God's logic and His _____ are literally beyond _____ comprehension.

16. Apart from God's divine revelation to us, we have no hope to discover _____ or His plan. Men _____ find God.

17. Chapter 12 is part three. There is a huge shift in part three. Chapters 1-11 are pure doctrine. Now Paul moves from doctrine to _____.

18. The first part of the letter was how to _____ righteousness.

19. Now the conversation will shift...to how do you _____, having already obtained righteousness. We work and live a certain way _____ we have been _____.

20. Since you can not _____ your way to heaven, _____.

21. Accept that a payment for your _____ has _____ been made, and then you serve God for a totally different motivation.

22. We accomplish good works not to _____ something from God but out of awe of Him, out of gratitude, as our proper response.

23. The "mercies of God" refers to what Paul has taught in chapters 1-11.

24. By the mercies of God...put yourself at God's _____.

25. *Present* is in the aorist tense which means an instantly true action that remains true forever. *Present* yourself, meaning set yourself on a _____ and _____ vary from it again.

26. Your _____ is now God's – do what _____ wants you to do with it.

27. When you set yourself on a course to present your body as a living and holy sacrifice he is saying...you're taking your body up to the _____ and letting God _____ it.

28. The doctrine of chapters 1-11 makes possible the discussion beginning in chapter 12. If you're not saved you can't do what's taught in chapter 12.

29. Paul says God _____ us despite ourselves and He's promised to _____ us in our future state, and what else can we do in the mean time but _____ Him with this temporary body while we wait for our glorification.

30. True worship is _____.

31. Paul goes through six principles...three of which are things _____ start to do and the other three move _____ from you into spheres of influence around you.

32. In light of being saved, here are three things we should do, followed by three ways in which we influence our world.

Vs. 2

33. Paul names the first principle. Do not be _____ to the world.

34. There is never a moment when these three things ends – they are a continuous kind of effort.

35. *Conformed* means a companion with, and a form or pattern.

36. The idea is _____ to be a companion with or accompanying the world's patterns of _____ or _____.

37. Are we _____ to be seen as _____?

38. Assuming we have the _____ and _____ to live a life that doesn't follow the world's patterns...then we're ready for step two.

39. Step two is...be transformed by the _____ of your mind.

40. A dedicated _____ to grow in the grace and _____ of Jesus Christ. Simply, _____ God's word.

41. *Transform* means to be changed into something _____ different.

42. When you renew your mind you're not _____ information to what's already there. But...taking whatever you have rattling around in your head and systematically over time completely _____ it with something else.

43. The effect of this dedication is a renewing – a true changing of who you are as a person.

44. So, having resisted the urge to _____, and in its place we set our purpose to the _____ of the mind, then we _____ what the will of God is; that which is good acceptable and perfect.

45. What is God's will...in terms of our effect? In a sense, God's ultimate plan by saving (us) is that...we become a beacon for the Living God we serve and as a result people are drawn to Him through us, and His name is glorified.

46. *Prove* can mean approve or establish. Do the work of making the world _____ God's _____ at work in your life.

47. That would be a Godly Christian life. We _____ conforming to this fallen lost world, we _____ into something different, and by looking different, acting different, we *are* _____ and God's difference is seen through _____.

48. By the Holy Spirit being the one _____ by which we are all convicted of sin and brought to a knowledge of the Word, we're all moving toward the same target.

49. The last point is that we would now live a life that is different so as to prove God's will in the world.

50. When you are changing _____ you're doing all that's necessary to be an acceptable _____ of God's will in the world.

51. Examples of being different:

- How we make _____
- How we respond to _____
- How we set priorities in our _____
- How we engage in personal relationships
- How we _____ our kids
- How we treat our elderly parents
- How we _____ our enemies

52. These are not works to _____ us. These are not works to show off. These are not works to make somebody else feel _____. The motivation is always...He died for us. He bought us with a price. We're _____. We're only here for a short time and we're supposed to _____ Him with every day of our lives. We reflect His _____ in our own life, and stand as a _____ to that will.

Next week, having taken those three steps...Paul will list three ways in which we move outward from ourselves to influence the world directly.

Verse by Verse Ministry

A Study of the Book of Romans Leader's Guide – Lesson 12A

Overview-

In this week's lesson Pastor Armstrong took time to review where we've been so far. That's a great place for us to begin as well. Let's take a few minutes to review what we've learned from each chapter and agree on a one word memory tool so that we can recall the principle's "address" when we need to review that teaching. (Leader note – attached is a handout with the chapters listed and a blank for filling in the one word answer. During these last few weeks take time to review this at each meeting, and add to it the last few chapters so that members begin to recall the key ideas from each chapter. On the right side of the page you'll see some suggested words. Feel free to use these suggestions if the group has difficulty culling it down. Encourage your group to memorize the words as if they are a sentence -even though it won't make sense- rather than trying to remember the subject of the chapter. The key word should do the reminding. Practice with them getting the key words memorized and *then* practice having them tell you what the chapter was about.)

Now that Paul has finished his theological essay, he embarks on a practical dissertation. Though all of theology, properly apprehended by faith, is practical in its application, this last portion of Paul's letter reveals the significance and implications of his message up to this point.

Discussion Topics and Questions -

1. Remember that Romans 9-11 were an aside, and that Romans 12 picks up where Romans 8 left off. Turn then to the last verse of Romans 8 and read it, then turn back to Romans 12 and read the first word of the first sentence.
2. Explain what the *therefore* is there for and summarize what Paul is telling us.
3. Now read Romans 12:1-2.
4. What does a commitment to the Gospel look like in real life? What three commands are issued in these verses?
5. These verses instruct us in the proper response to God's grace. How does the first command to present our bodies as living sacrifices reflect Paul's teaching from Romans 6:13, 16 and 19?
6. Why does Paul use the words '*living sacrifice*'?
7. Verse two gives us the "how-to" instructions of presenting ourselves. The first principle is to conform no longer to the patterns of this world, or this age. Read Ephesians 4:22-32 and list some of the ways that we are to be transformed.

8. Can you add to this list in very practical ways as you consider the age in which we live?

9. According to Romans 12:2 what gives the power to our transformation?

10. Apply that to what you've done today. Did you know that you were instructed to not go to bed angry before you read that in Ephesians? Or maybe another aspect of the short list in Ephesians surprised you. What then was the agent which renewed your mind?

11. What then is the agent which transforms us to the point of not conforming?

12. Turn over to Philippians 4:8 and add to your knowledge. Besides renewal through the word, what else helps?

13. Change the positive words in the scripture to their opposites and make this a different kind of command. *(Leader note – the verse would read something like this: whatever is a lie, whatever is dishonorable, whatever is wrong, whatever is impure, whatever is ugly and of ill-repute, if there is nothing of excellence and nothing worthy of praise, turn your thoughts away from these things.)*

14. What kinds of things would be included in this way of looking at the verse and how would a different approach to those things renew your mind?

15. How would this cause you to look different from the world?

16. Does renewing happen instantaneously (consider that this is a command – something we are to do)? What then seems to determine the rate at which a Christian will grow, mature and be transformed?

17. What kinds of things can delay that transformation? Think back to the list you made from Ephesians as you answer.

18. Now look back at Romans 12:1. What is the reason given for offering our bodies as a sacrifice?

19. When you think of worship, what comes to your mind?

20. How does this transformational idea in Romans 12:1, change your ideas about worship (and therefore renew your mind)?

21. When do we worship?

22. Where do we worship?

23. How much of us is involved in worship?

24. What is the purpose of being transformed, according to the end of Romans 12:2? The NAS reads, "...so that you may prove what the will of God is..."

25. **Prove** means *to recognize as genuine after examination – to deem worthy.*

26. How do you think being transformed, and the resulting non-conformity with the world, proves God?

27. When we behave in a manner that is different from the world, what do we demonstrate about God?

Summary -

When we make the effort to be renewed by turning away from the world and toward God, we no longer conform to the image or expectations of the world. That non-conformity becomes our testimony – our proof – of who God is to us, and who He can be to others. The depth of our commitment, our sacrifice, our love, our obedience...all tell of a God who is worthy of the cost. Those things say to the world that we have weighed and measured the world's pleasures against a loving God and have found it lacking and Him deserving.

Chapter 1 - _____ God made Himself plain through creation...all are guilty.	Guilt
Chapter 2 - _____ We compare ourselves for the purpose of judgment.	Judgment
Chapter 3 - _____ There is a righteousness from God apart from the law.	Righteousness
Chapter 4 - _____ Abraham believed God and that became his righteousness.	Abraham
Chapter 5 - _____ One sinned and all died, one died and brought righteousness.	One
Chapter 6 - _____ Offer your bodies as slaves to righteousness.	Offer
Chapter 7 - _____ I do not do what I ought to do...but what I do not want to do, I do.	Sin
Chapter 8 - _____ Have your mind-set on what the Spirit desires.	Spirit
Chapter 9 - _____ The Doctrine of Election	Elected
Chapter 10 - _____ The plan for Israel.	Israel
Chapter 11 - _____ God has reserved a remnant of His people.	Remnant
Chapter 12 - _____ Rules for Christian Living.	Life
Chapter 13 - _____ Submit to the government, and love your neighbors.	Submission
Chapter 14 - _____ Don't judge one another over amoral issues.	Liberty
Chapter 15 - _____ Accept one another and glorify God.	Acceptance
Chapter 16 - _____ Paul's conclusions.	Farewells

**Memory Tool
Romans by Chapter**

Chapter 1 - _____

Chapter 2 - _____

Chapter 3 - _____

Chapter 4 - _____

Chapter 5 - _____

Chapter 6 - _____

Chapter 7 - _____

Chapter 8 - _____

Chapter 9 - _____

Chapter 10 - _____

Chapter 11 - _____

Chapter 12 - _____

Chapter 13 - _____

Chapter 14 - _____

Chapter 15 - _____

Chapter 16 - _____