

ROMANS NEVER ENDS | DEVOTIONAL | WEEK 4

Day 1 and Day 2

Let me tell you, my honeymoon wasn't the dreamy, picture-perfect experience you might expect. Sure, Cancun was stunning—turquoise waters, luxury resorts, and time alone with my new husband away from the chaos of blended family life. But the trip itself? It was like something out of *A Series of Unfortunate Events*.

First, our luggage was lost at the airport. Then, I got sun poisoning so severe my face swelled up like a pink, puffy version of an *Avatar* character. And if that wasn't enough, I ended up with food poisoning, probably from the seafood I was so excited to try. By the time we boarded the plane home, I was counting the hours until I could collapse into my own bed with a good old-fashioned McDonald's meal.

Fast forward a few years, we gave Cancun a second chance—a “honeymoon do-over,” if you will. This time, it was bliss. I'd learned some hard lessons (hello, sunscreen and luggage tags!), and every moment felt magical. As we lounged by the ocean and indulged in chef-prepared meals, I caught myself saying, “We could live here, you know. Oceanfront life, year-round sunshine. What do you think?” My husband, ever practical, gently reminded me of our three girls, our responsibilities, and life back home.

Do you remember the “honeymoon” phase of your relationship with Jesus? That season when His presence felt so near, when every sermon seemed tailor-made for you, and you couldn't get enough worship, prayer, or Scripture? It's like the scales fell from your eyes, and for the first time, you could truly see the beauty of grace and the depth of God's love. But then, as time passes, that initial elation starts to fade. Maybe you find yourself longing for those early days when everything felt so alive and new. A friend recently told me, “I just want to go back to that time. I miss feeling so close to God.”

I've been there too. But here's what I've learned: the honeymoon phase isn't meant to last forever. Just like Paul's transformation in Acts, the moment he encountered Jesus wasn't the end—it was the beginning.

Paul didn't stay in Damascus, basking in the glow of his newfound faith. He pressed on, dedicating his life to proclaiming the gospel. Look back at Romans 1:16:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.”

Paul understood that the power and beauty of the gospel weren't just for him. His honeymoon with Jesus fueled his purpose: to share that good news with the world.

And that's our calling too. The honeymoon phase is a gift, but it's meant to prepare us for something greater. We're called to take what we've received—grace, love, and new life—and pour it out into the lives of others.

1.Can you remember your spiritual honeymoon phase? How did it feel to encounter Jesus for the first time?

2.Are there ways you've been longing to return to those feelings? How might God be calling you to move forward with renewed purpose instead?

Read Romans Chapter 9

Who do you know that needs Jesus? Take a moment to reflect on that question. For some of us, it's exciting—give us a mission, and we're ready to go! For others, it might feel overwhelming. Why get so caught up in someone else's spiritual life? Can't we just love people and let them live? Paul couldn't. In Romans 9:1-4a, Paul writes:

"I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, the people of Israel."

Let that sink in. Paul says he'd give up his own relationship with God if it meant his people—the Israelites—could come to know Jesus. That's not just passion; that's sacrificial love.

So, who are *your* people? Who stirs that kind of love and urgency in your heart? For some of us, it might be our family, friends, or coworkers. For others, it's a specific group—maybe athletes, artists, or entrepreneurs. Whoever your people are, God has placed you in their lives for a reason.

But here's the catch: **salvation isn't up to you.**

Paul reminds us throughout Romans that it's not by works, not by effort, and not by us. God is the one who calls people to Himself. He's the one who softens hearts, opens eyes, and gives faith. We don't have the power to save anyone—but we do have the responsibility to go, share, and love.

This truth keeps us humble. It's not about how well we speak or how hard we work; it's about being faithful to the opportunities God gives us. Paul's sorrow for his people wasn't born from pride but from an intimate understanding of God's grace in his own life. He knew he didn't find God—God found him.

Study Questions

1.What stands out to you about Paul's heart for his people in Romans 9:1-4? How does it challenge your own attitude toward those who don't yet know Jesus?

2.Who are your people? Who do you feel called to share Jesus with?

3.What are you willing to give up for them to meet Jesus? (Time? Comfort? Convenience?)

4.How does knowing that salvation is God's work, not yours, change the way you approach sharing the gospel?

5. Are there people you see regularly that no one else is reaching? How might God be asking you to step into their lives?

Personal Reflection: In what ways do you hear God calling you to step more into sharing the gospel? What typically stops you from taking that action?

Application: Take today to pray specifically for “your people.” Ask God to give you opportunities to love them well, share the gospel, and point them to Jesus. Trust that He is working even when you don’t see immediate results.

Prayer: Lord, thank You for pursuing me, for giving me faith, and for calling me Your own. Help me to have a heart like Paul’s—a heart that aches for the people around me to know You. Show me who “my people” are and give me boldness and humility as I share Your love with them. Remind me that the results are in Your hands. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 3 and Day 4: It’s Not Fair!

“It’s not FAIR!” my 9-year-old cries out, stomping up to her room with the flair of a reality TV star in the middle of a dramatic meltdown. The offense? Her dad and I get to continue having screen time while she has to wind down for bed.

How often do we feel the same way?

- *It’s not fair—why did they get the promotion?*
- *It’s not fair—how come I work so hard and still have to budget every penny while others seem to have it so easy?*
- *It’s not fair—why am I struggling with a rebellious child when her kids always seem so well-behaved?*

We all have these moments when life feels unjust.

Now imagine the Jewish people in Paul’s time, hearing him proclaim that salvation through Jesus was now open to *everyone*. For generations, they were the chosen ones, enduring persecution, holding onto God’s promises. Then Paul declares, “*Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved*” (Romans 10:13).

Wait, what?! *Everyone*? Even the Gentiles? Even the ones who haven’t walked the same path, followed the same laws, or endured the same struggles? It must have felt so unfair.

If we’re honest, we can relate:

- *God wants a relationship with him? Doesn’t God know what he’s been doing behind his girlfriend’s back?*
- *God gave her that gift, and now her business is thriving? What about me? She doesn’t even give God the glory for her success!*

Here's the truth: God's grace isn't fair. And that's the best news we could ever receive. Think about it:

- Was it "fair" for Jesus to bear the punishment for sins He didn't commit?
- Was it "fair" for God to elevate Jacob over Esau, or Joseph over his brothers?

No, none of it was fair. And yet, in each of these stories, we see God's unshakable purpose and His extravagant grace unfolding. Joseph's brothers didn't think it was fair when he was favored. But years later, when famine struck, it was Joseph's God-ordained position in Egypt that saved their lives. God's plans often feel unfair until we see the bigger picture. The same is true for us today. We don't deserve God's grace, yet He lavishes it on us anyway. Salvation, forgiveness, and eternal life aren't rewards for good behavior; they're gifts we could never earn.

As we dive into Romans 10, consider this:

How does knowing that God's grace isn't based on fairness, but on His love, shift your perspective?

How does receiving such extravagant grace move you to share it with others?

Read Romans Chapter 10

1.) - Paul expresses his deep desire for Israel to be saved (vs 1-4) explaining that they pursued righteousness through the law but missed it because they did not submit to Christ.

2.) Read Philippians 3:8-9. How does Paul's personal testimony highlight the futility of works-based righteousness?

3.) Romans 10:13 – "For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

What does it mean to confess Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart? Why are both confession and belief significant?

4.) Rom 10:14-15a- How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? How does this verse line up with the "Great Commission" in Matthew 28:16-20 (to make disciples) for Christians?

5.) Paul concludes with a sobering truth: though many have heard, not all obey the gospel. Yet God remains faithful, extending His invitation to all. How does God's persistence with Israel encourage you when sharing the gospel with those who seem resistant?

Personal Reflection: Paul asks a series of rhetorical questions emphasizing the critical role of evangelism. 'Faith comes by hearing, but hearing requires someone to speak. What picture

comes to your mind when you hear the term “evangelism”? How do you see your role as an evangelist?

Application: While not all people may be called to become missionaries or preachers or pastors - all have been tasked with demonstrating Christ’s love. Spend some time in prayer today. What are ways that you can become an “evangelist” in your community that may not fit the traditional mode? Where do you see God pointing out the opportunities for you to display who Christ is to those around you?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, Thank You for the gift of salvation and the privilege of sharing Your good news. Forgive us for the times we’ve hesitated or stayed silent. Fill us with boldness and compassion to speak truth and share Your love. Open doors this week for us to proclaim the gospel, and let our lives reflect Your grace.

Day 5 and Day 6

Growing up, I never had a super close group of friends. Sure, I had people I knew, communicated with, and hung out with, but I never felt truly “connected” to anyone. It seemed like everyone else had a “best friend” or that one person they could call no matter what. I was always invited to the big hangouts, but it still stung to hear about the special moments that other friends shared on weekends or jumping in the car together to go to the movies. Honestly, I just felt “left out.”

As I entered adulthood, things didn’t get much easier. Making friends, keeping friends, and forming truly deep relationships became even harder. Between kids’ extracurricular schedules, keeping up with university syllabi, and juggling part- or full-time work, there’s barely enough time to sleep, let alone nurture those meaningful friendships. And yet, there’s always that part of us, deep down, that longs to “fit in” – to belong, to be part of something, and not to feel cast out.

Romans 11 speaks directly to this sense of inclusion. Paul writes about the mystery of God’s plan for both the Jewish and Gentile people. Even though they were once seen as separate, God’s redemptive plan is for **all** people. He doesn’t want anyone to be left out. It doesn’t matter your background, where you come from, or what you’ve done – God’s grace, mercy, and love are for *everyone*. Just as the Gentiles were once outsiders, but now have a place in God’s family, we are reminded that no one is beyond His reach.

Reading this passage, I am reminded of how God, in His infinite grace, welcomes all people into His family. In my own life, I’ve sometimes felt that longing to belong, to be seen, but this truth brings comfort – I don’t have to strive to be included by the world. In God’s eyes, I am and you are already accepted, chosen, and deeply loved. His plan of salvation and grace isn’t just for a select few; it’s for everyone, regardless of past mistakes or circumstances.

Romans 11 teaches us that God’s redemptive plan is greater than our divisions. His kingdom is one where we are all embraced with grace. We don’t need to fit some standard of what we think belonging looks like because we are already a part of God’s family.

So, today, if you feel like you don't fit in, remember that God has already included you. His love and grace don't operate on the world's standards of fairness. They are poured out freely, and no one is left out! You've already been chosen, already been adopted, and you have a place in this family.

Read Romans Chapter 11

1. In verse 1, Paul asks, "Has God rejected His people?" How does Paul answer this question, and what example does he use to make his point?
2. Verse 6 highlights that salvation is by grace, not works. How did this truth challenge the Jewish people? How does this truth challenge the way people often think about earning favor with God?
3. Paul uses the metaphor of an olive tree (vs 17-18) What does it mean to be grafted into the tree, and why does Paul warn against pride?
4. Reflect on the image of being part of God's family tree. What emotions or thoughts come to mind when you realize you are grafted in because of His grace?
5. Paul speaks of a mystery: that Israel's hardening is temporary, leading to the inclusion of the Gentiles (vs 25-27) What does this teach us about God's sovereignty and his redemptive plan? How does this chapter encourage you to trust God, even when you don't fully understand His plan?

Personal Reflection: This chapter is full of Paul reminding both the Jews and Gentiles that they are ALL saved by grace - and all need the grace of God.

Where do you see pride or self-reliance in your own life? How can you stay humble, remembering that you are grafted into God's family by grace? Why is this important to remember in a Christian walk?

Application: Examine the areas of your life in relation to God's sovereignty and place of your life. Is there an area of your life where you need to trust God's plan, even if it feels unclear or not worked out? Write down a personal prayer of both thanks but also revealing the areas of your life that you need to surrender to God:

Prayer: