**Bible Book of the Month – November 2023 – Romans**

**Bible scholar Leon Morris wrote, “Romans is not an easy book. But it has always yielded rich dividends to anyone who has taken the time to study it seriously, and it does so still.”**

In this month of Thanksgiving, we can thank God for the profound gift that is Paul’s letter to the Church in Rome. This letter is filled with profound truths as Paul explains the good news of Jesus to a lost and broken world. God’s sweeping plan is unpacked and explained in great depth in this epistle and it should lead its readers to stand in awe of God’s loving plan for them.

At the heart of the letter is how God offers humanity righteousness or right-standing before Him by God’s grace through individuals putting their faith in Jesus Christ. Without God’s mercy, all of humanity stands guilty and justly condemned by God, but out of God’s deep love for us Jesus was offered as a sin-substitute for our sins. It was love that lead and compelled Jesus, the God-Man, to offer up Himself on our behalf as a sin-offering.

While this letter is very profound and deep on many points, there is also a sweet simplicity to it as well. Jesus laid down His life so that all people (Jew and Gentile) might find true life in and through Him (chapters 1-11). And all the church (made up of Jews and Gentiles) are to humbly live out their lives as believers in ways that demonstrate growth in Christlikeness and in joyful service to one another.

Additionally, the literary structure of Romans (H. Douglas Buckwalter) included here is a helpful tool in better grasping this very important letter.

Lord’s blessings in reading and meditating on this beautiful epistle,

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