

## *Lord, Fill Our Cup: April 2017*

**Theme:** The Plan of Salvation, *we are separated from God by our sins.*

### **Introduction to Romans**

The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. He probably did this while he was in Corinth on his third missionary journey. Paul wrote Romans to unite the Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome in the gospel. He also wanted the church in Rome to become the base of operations from which he could proclaim the gospel in Spain. The ultimate goal of preaching the gospel is the glory of God. Paul longs for the Gentiles to become obedient Christians for the sake of Christ's name. The book of Romans highlights how in the cross of Christ, God judges sin and at the same time shows his saving mercy. For more information, go to <http://www.esvbible.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-romans/>.

**Scripture: Romans 3:23** (*Optional: read all of Romans chapter 3*)

***“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”***

- New American Standard Bible (NASB)
- New International Version (NIV)
- English Standard Version (ESV)
- New King James Version (NKJV)

**Observation:**

**Application:**

**Prayer:**

*Scripture (Reading), Observation (Reflection), Application (Discussion), Prayer*  
*See reverse side for additional related material.*

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**Romans 3:23** in the Message: *But in our time something new has been added. What Moses and the prophets witnessed to all those years has happened. The God-setting-things-right that we read about has become Jesus-setting-things-right for us. And not only for us, but for everyone who believes in him. For there is no difference between us and them in this. Since we've compiled this long and sorry record as sinners (both us and them) and proved that we are utterly incapable of living the glorious lives God wills for us, God did it for us. Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ.*

The goal of The Message is to engage people in the reading process and help them understand what they read. This is not a study Bible, but rather "a reading Bible." The verse numbers, which are not in the original documents, have been left out of the print version to facilitate easy and enjoyable reading. The original books of the Bible were not written in formal language. The Message tries to recapture the Word in the words we use today. The Message strives to help readers hear the living Word of God—the Bible—in a way that engages and intrigues us right where we are. When we hear something over and over again in the same way, we can become so familiar with it that the text loses its impact. For more information on the Message, go to <https://www.biblegateway.com/versions/Message-MSG-Bible/>

*Scripture (Reading), Observation (Reflection), Application (Discussion), Prayer*  
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**Theme:** The Plan of Salvation, *Jesus **died** on the cross for our sins. He **shed His blood**, because **HE LOVES YOU!***

**Introduction to Romans**

The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Rome. He probably did this while he was in Corinth on his third missionary journey. Paul wrote Romans to unite the Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome in the gospel. He also wanted the church in Rome to become the base of operations from which he could proclaim the gospel in Spain. The ultimate goal of preaching the gospel is the glory of God. Paul longs for the Gentiles to become obedient Christians for the sake of Christ's name. The book of Romans highlights how in the cross of Christ, God judges sin and at the same time shows his saving mercy. For more information, go to <http://www.esvbible.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-romans/>.

**Scripture: Romans 5:8** (*Optional: read all of Romans chapter 5*)

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* - New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* - New International Version (NIV)

*But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* - English Standard Version (ESV)

*But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* - New King James Version (NKJV)

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## *Lord, Fill Our Cup: April 2017*

### **Introduction to John**

John the son of Zebedee wrote this Gospel. He was a Palestinian Jew, one of the 12 disciples, and a member of Jesus' inner apostolic circle. He was referred to as the disciple "whom Jesus loved" in John 13:23. John also wrote 1-3 John and Revelation. He likely wrote his Gospel account between A.D. 70 (the date of the destruction of the temple) and A.D. 100 (the reputed end of John's life) from Ephesus in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), one of the most important cities of the Roman Empire at the time. His original audience consisted of Jews and Gentiles living in the larger Greco-Roman world in Ephesus and beyond, toward the close of the first century A.D. The theme of John's Gospel is that Jesus is the long-awaited, promised Messiah and Son of God and that by believing in Jesus, people have eternal life... for more information, go to <http://www.esvbible.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-john/>.

**Scripture: John 3:16** (*Optional: read all of John chapter 3*)

***For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.*** - New American Standard Bible (NASB)

***For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*** - New International Version (NIV)

***For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*** - English Standard Version (ESV)

***For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*** - New King James Version (NKJV)

**Observation:**

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*Scripture (Reading), Observation (Reflection), Application (Discussion), Prayer*  
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