THE QUESTION

Why is the letter to the Romans so hard to read?

Asked by a THF member on May 18, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 9 numbered quotations · the 20 early Christian passages and 269 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/why-is-the-letter-to-the-romans-so-hard-to-read

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

Early Christians agreed that Paul's letters are deep and not quickly understood. Romans leans heavily on the Old Testament, and some of its words about the flesh and the law are easy to misread. The early writers urged careful, patient study and said God gives understanding to those whose hearts are right with him.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
SHARING WITH AN AI?	Every quotation here comes from The Historic Faith's library. If you paste this study into an AI, anything it adds beyond these pages comes from that AI, not from us.

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POINT 1 OF 6

Paul's letters hold very deep ideas

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen asks who could think the apostles' letters are clear and easy. He says they hold countless deep ideas that do not allow quick understanding. So finding Romans hard is not a sign of failure; the early church felt this too.

1 “And to what person, skilled in examining words, would the Epistles of the Apostles seem clear and easy to understand, since even in them there are countless very deep ideas which, coming out as if through an opening, do not allow quick understanding?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 4.1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 12, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 6

Understanding Scripture needs God's help

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen warns against claiming to understand easily what needs the key of knowledge. Hippolytus says hard sayings given by the Holy Spirit become clear to those whose hearts are right with God. Both see understanding as a gift as well as a task.

2 “Therefore, since these things are so, and since countless people fall into errors, it is not safe, when reading the Scriptures, to say that someone easily understands what needs the key of knowledge, which the Savior says is with the lawyers.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 4.1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 12, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

3 “Therefore he says, "To understand the difficulties of words," because things spoken in unusual language by the Holy Spirit become clear to those whose hearts are right with God.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Hippolytus,** *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (c. 200–236 AD) **Source 11, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 3 OF 6

Polycarp honored Paul's wisdom and urged study

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Polycarp says that no one, himself included, can match Paul's wisdom. He tells readers that if they study Paul's letter carefully, it will build them up in the faith. Careful study, not a quick read, is his advice.

4 “For neither I, nor anyone else, can match the wisdom of the blessed and glorified Paul.”

later in the same passage

“And when he was absent from you, he wrote you a letter, which, if you study carefully, you will find to be a means of building you up in the faith that has been given to you, and which, being followed by hope, and preceded by love towards God, and Jesus, and our neighbor, "is the mother of us all."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Polycarp,** *Epistle to the Philippians* (c. 100–155 AD) **Source 1, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 6

Romans is built on the Old Testament

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Caius says Paul wrote to the Romans about the Old Testament Scriptures and to show that Christ is their main subject. Irenaeus quotes Romans saying God's righteousness is witnessed by the law and the prophets. A reader who knows the Old Testament will follow Romans more easily.

5 “Then he wrote to the Romans about the rule of the Old Testament Scriptures, and also to show them that Christ is the first subject in these Scriptures.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Caius,** *Fragments* 1 (c. 200–220 AD) **Source 10, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

6 “But now, without the law, the righteousness of God has been revealed, witnessed by the law and the prophets; for the just shall live by faith."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 2, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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POINT 5 OF 6

Paul's words about the flesh are easily misread

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian notes that Paul can sound as if he condemns the body itself, but he does not mean that. Irenaeus agrees that Paul's words in Romans do not reject the body; they show the Spirit must fill it. Some of the difficulty is that a surface reading can mislead.

7 “You may notice that the apostle everywhere condemns the works of the flesh in such a way that he seems to condemn the flesh itself. But no one can suppose that he means this, since he goes on at once to suggest another sense, even though it somewhat resembles that one.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On the Resurrection of the Flesh* 46 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 9, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

8 “These words don't reject the body but show that the Spirit must be infused into it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book V* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 3, page 5** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 6

Romans 7 needs a careful reading

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Methodius explains that in Romans 7 Paul describes several laws at work in a person. When Paul cries out about the body of this death, Methodius says he does not mean the body is death, but the law of sin hidden within us.

9 “For the apostle here clearly sets out, as I think, three laws.”

later in the same passage

“By this he does not mean that the body is death, but the law of sin in his members, hidden in us through the transgression and always deceiving the soul into the death of unrighteousness.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Methodius,** *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* (c. 270–311 AD) **Source 18, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

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THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- None of these passages singles out Romans as harder than Paul's other letters.
- They do not walk through every hard section of Romans, such as chapters 9 to 11.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 20 early Christian passages and 269 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–20, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 21–150, in Bible order), then 139 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *20 passages from 9 writers*

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** neither I, nor any other such one, can come up to the wisdom of the blessed and glorified Paul. He, when among you, accurately and stedfastly taught the word of… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 2–4*

2 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 3** “this effect also Paul, His apostle, says in the Epistle to the Romans, “But now, without the law, has the righteousness of God been manifested, being witnessed by the law… [continues online] **read ›**

3 *Against Heresies: Book V* **Quote 8, page 4** “person does not receive the Spirit through faith, they remain in their old state and, being mere flesh and blood, cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Thus, the apostle rightly… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *Against Heresies: Book V* (on point 5) all these passages, therefore, as I have already said, these people must either claim that the apostle expresses opinions that contradict himself regarding the statement, “Flesh and blood cannot inherit… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 5–6*

5 *Stromata* 3 (on point 6) at once lawgiver and evangelist, He never fights against Himself. For the law lives, since it is spiritual and understood in a spiritual way. But we have died to the… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Stromata* 5.4 “1:11 It was impossible that gifts of this sort could be written without disguise… [continues online] **read ›**

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Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 7–9*

7 *Against Marcion* 8 (on point 5) the Father sent His Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, Romans 8:3, it must not therefore be said that the flesh which He seemed to have was only… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *On the Resurrection of the Flesh* 10 (1885 English; on point 5) “8:18 although he affirms that they who are in the flesh cannot please God, Romans 8:8 because the flesh lusts against the Spirit… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *On the Resurrection of the Flesh* 46 **Quote 7, page 4** “what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God, sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and through sin condemned sin… [continues online] **read ›**

Caius, *c. 200–220 AD · source 10*

10 *Fragments* 1 **Quote 5, page 3** “for Paul's letters, those who understand the matter can see from the letters themselves what they are, and from what place or for what purpose they were sent. First… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 11*

11 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 **Quote 3, page 2** “he says, "To understand the difficulties of words… [continues online] **read ›**

Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 12–16*

12 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 4.1 (1885 English) **Quotes 1, 2, page 2** “who, on reading the revelations made to John, would not be amazed at the unspeakable mysteries therein concealed, and which are evident (even) to him who does not… [continues online] **read ›**

13 *Commentary on Matthew* 13 (on point 5) man is in these better parts, as leaning upon them and clinging to them. For “they who are in the flesh cannot please God; but you are not in the… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Commentary on Matthew* 12 (on point 6) mind, and the law of the mind, Romans 7:23, we must say that the law of the mind, that is, the spiritual law, is man, to whom the soul… [continues online] **read ›**

15 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 4.1 (on point 1) “perhaps the Epistles of the Apostle Paul will appear to be beyond this… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 1 (1885 English) “with which will be examined also the statement of the apostle, Therefore has He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will He hardens… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · sources 17–18*

17 *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* (on point 6) “without the law, sin was dead," Romans 7:8, which means… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *From the Discourse on the Resurrection* **Quote 9, page 4** “it often draws the soul into lustful thoughts. He says this law wars against the law of the mind, Romans 7:23. The third is in agreement with sin, established… [continues online] **read ›**

Peter of Alexandria, *c. 300–311 AD · sources 19–20*

19 *Genuine Acts of Peter* (on point 6) “it often pulls the soul toward lustful thoughts. This, he says, wars against the law of the mind, Romans 7:23. And the third agrees with sin, which is settled… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *Genuine Acts of Peter* (on point 6) “without the law, sin was dead," Romans 7:8, which means… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *130 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

21 **Genesis 9:4** But you shall not eat flesh that has the blood of life in it. **read ›**

22 **Genesis 15:6** Abram believed God, and it was counted to him for righteousness. **read ›**

23 **Exodus 33:19** And the Lord said, “I will pass by before you in my glory, and I will call by my name, ‘The Lord,’ before you; and I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” **read ›**

24 **Leviticus 7:37** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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25 **Leviticus 17:11** For the life of all flesh is its blood, and I have given it to you on the altar to make atonement for your souls; for its blood shall make atonement in place of the soul. **read ›**

26 **Deuteronomy 1:12** How can I alone bear your toil, your burden, and your disputes? **read ›**

27 **Deuteronomy 29:9** So you shall take care to do all the words of this covenant, that you may understand all that you do. **read ›**

28 **Deuteronomy 32:29** They had no sense to understand; let them take these things to heart for the time to come. **read ›**

29 **Joshua 11:20** For it was from the Lord that their hearts were strengthened to come against Israel in battle, so that they might be utterly destroyed, that no mercy might be given them, but that they might be utterly destroyed, as the Lord had said to Moses. **read ›**

30 **Psalms 13:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

31 **Proverbs 8:21** that I may give a portion of substance to those who love me and fill their treasuries with good things. If I declare to you the things that happen day by day, I will remember to recount the things of old. **read ›**

32 **Proverbs 8:23** Before the age he founded me, in the beginning, before he made the earth, **read ›**

33 **Proverbs 8:29** and when he made strong the foundations of the earth, **read ›**

34 **Proverbs 12:4** A courageous wife is a crown to her husband; but as a worm in wood, so an evildoing wife destroys her husband. **read ›**

35 **Proverbs 12:10** The righteous has compassion on the lives of his cattle, but the inward parts of the ungodly are unmerciful. **read ›**

36 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

37 **Ecclesiastes 9:18** Wisdom is better than weapons of war, and one sinner will destroy much goodness. **read ›**

38 **Song of Solomon 3:5** I have charged you, O daughters of Jerusalem, by the powers and by the strengths of the field, that you not stir up or awaken love until it pleases. **read ›**

39 **Isaiah 5:25** And the Lord of hosts was enraged in anger against his people, and he laid his hand upon them and struck them; and the mountains were provoked, and their carcasses were like dung in the midst of the road. And for all this his wrath has not turned back, but his hand is still raised. **read ›**

40 **Isaiah 13:15** For whoever is caught will be overcome, and those who are gathered together will fall by the sword. **read ›**

41 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

42 **Ezekiel 15:3** Will they take wood from it to make it into anything for work? Will they take a peg from it to hang any vessel on it? **read ›**

43 **Ezekiel 37:13** and you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves to bring my people up out of the graves. **read ›**

44 **Daniel 1:2** And the Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, with part of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them into the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasure house of his god. **read ›**

45 **Daniel 1:3** And the king told Ashpenaz, his chief eunuch, to bring in some of the sons of the captivity of Israel, and some of the royal seed, and some of the phorthommin, **read ›**

46 **Daniel 1:6** And among them, from the sons of Judah, were Daniel, Hananiah, Azariah, and Mishael. **read ›**

47 **Daniel 11:5** And the king of the south shall grow strong; and one of their rulers shall grow strong against him and shall rule with great dominion. **read ›**

48 **Daniel 11:17** And he shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall make all things straight with him; and he shall give him a daughter of women to ruin her; but she shall by no means remain, and she shall not be his. **read ›**

49 **Daniel 11:31** And seeds from him shall arise, and they shall profane the sanctuary of might, and remove the continual offering, and set up an abomination made desolate. **read ›**

50 **Amos 1:15** and its kings shall go into captivity, their priests and their rulers together, says the Lord. **read ›**

51 **Amos 3:9** Proclaim it to the regions among the Assyrians, and to the regions of Egypt, and say, “Gather yourselves on the mountain of Samaria, and see the many marvels in her midst, and the oppression that is in her.” **read ›**

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52 **Amos 6:6** who drink strained wine and anoint themselves with the finest ointments, and have suffered nothing over the ruin of Joseph. **read ›**

53 **Amos 6:11** For behold, the Lord commands, and he will strike the great house with breaches and the little house with cracks. **read ›**

54 **Amos 9:15** And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall never again be plucked up from the land which I have given them, says the Lord God Almighty. **read ›**

55 **Tobit 13:2** For he whips and has mercy; he leads down to Hades and brings up again; and there is no one who will escape his hand. **read ›**

56 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:15** For righteousness is immortal. **read ›**

57 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:9** Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will stay with him in love, for grace and mercy are for his chosen ones. **read ›**

58 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:6** For the lowliest may be pardoned in mercy, but the mighty will be mightily examined. **read ›**

59 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:11** Set your desire, then, on my words; long for them, and you will be instructed. **read ›**

60 **Wisdom of Solomon 9:15** For a perishable body weighs down the soul, and this earthly tent burdens the mind that ponders many things. **read ›**

61 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:15** But being righteous, you govern all things righteously, deeming it foreign to your power to condemn one who does not deserve to be punished. **read ›**

62 **Wisdom of Solomon 19:1** But merciless wrath pressed upon the ungodly to the end; for he knew beforehand even what they would do: **read ›**

63 **Wisdom of Solomon 19:16** but these, after receiving with festivities those who had already shared the same rights with them, mistreated them with terrible labors. **read ›**

64 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:21** Do not seek what is too hard for you, and do not examine what is too strong for you. **read ›**

65 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:11** Even if there is one stiff-necked man, it will be a marvel if he goes unpunished; for mercy and anger come from him; he is mighty in atonements, and pours out anger. **read ›**

66 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:14** He will make room for every act of mercy; each one will find according to his works. **read ›**

67 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:2** The Lord alone will be justified. **read ›**

68 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:14** He has mercy on those who accept discipline, and on those who are eager for his judgments. **read ›**

69 **Wisdom of Sirach 28:5** He, being flesh, keeps up wrath; who will make atonement for his sins? **read ›**

70 **Wisdom of Sirach 29:28** These things are hard for a man who has sound judgment: rebuke over lodging and the insults of a lender. Concerning Children **read ›**

71 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:18** At his command is all his good pleasure, and there is no one who will lessen his salvation. **read ›**

72 **Wisdom of Sirach 40:8** So it is with all flesh, from man to beast, and upon sinners sevenfold more than these. **read ›**

73 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:2** of the law of the Most High and of the covenant, and of judgment, to justify the ungodly; **read ›**

74 **Wisdom of Sirach 44:20** who kept the law of the Most High and entered into a covenant with him; and in his flesh he established a covenant, and when tested he was found faithful. **read ›**

75 **Wisdom of Sirach 47:22** But the Lord will never forsake his mercy, nor will any of his works perish; he will never blot out the descendants of his chosen one, nor will he take away the seed of him who loved him; and he gave a remnant to Jacob, and to David a root from him. **read ›**

76 **Wisdom of Sirach 51:26** Put your neck under the yoke, and let your soul receive instruction; she is near at hand to be found. **read ›**

77 **1 Maccabees 2:52** Was not Abraham found faithful in trial, and it was counted to him for righteousness? **read ›**

78 **1 Maccabees 8:21** And the proposal pleased them. **read ›**

79 **1 Maccabees 8:23** May it go well with the Romans and with the nation of the Jews on sea and on land forever, and may sword and enemy be far from them. **read ›**

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80 **1 Maccabees 8:29** On these terms the Romans made an agreement with the people of the Jews. **read ›**

81 **1 Maccabees 12:4** And the Romans gave them letters to the people in each place, that they should send them on their way to the land of Judah in peace. **read ›**

82 **1 Maccabees 12:10** have tried to send word to renew our brotherhood and friendship with you, so that we may not become strangers to you; for much time has passed since you sent word to us. **read ›**

83 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

84 **2 Maccabees 4:17** For it is no light thing to commit ungodliness against the divine laws; but the time that follows will make this clear. **read ›**

85 **2 Maccabees 8:36** So he who had undertaken to secure tribute for the Romans from the captives of Jerusalem proclaimed that the Jews had God as their champion, and that for this reason the Jews could not be harmed, because they followed the laws God had ordained. **read ›**

86 **2 Maccabees 9:18** But when his sufferings did not in any way cease, for the just judgment of God had come upon him, he gave up hope for himself and wrote to the Jews the letter written below, which had the form of a plea. It read as follows: **read ›**

87 **2 Maccabees 11:16** The letters written to the Jews were these. From Lysias, as follows: “Lysias to the people of the Jews, greeting. **read ›**

88 **2 Maccabees 11:26** You will do well, therefore, to send to them and give them right hands, so that, knowing our purpose, they may be of good cheer and gladly go on with the conduct of their own affairs.” **read ›**

89 **2 Maccabees 11:34** The Romans also sent them a letter, which read as follows: “Quintus Memmius and Titus Manlius, envoys of the Romans, to the people of the Jews, greeting. **read ›**

90 **2 Maccabees 12:24** Timothy himself fell into the hands of those with Dositheus and Sosipater, and he begged them with much deceit to let him go safe, because he held the parents of many of them and the brothers of some, and if he died, it would turn out that these would be disregarded. **read ›**

91 **3 Maccabees 3:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

92 **4 Maccabees 1:32** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

93 **4 Maccabees 1:34** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

94 **4 Maccabees 5:25** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

95 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

96 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

97 **4 Maccabees 16:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

98 **1 Enoch 7:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

99 **1 Enoch 58:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

100 **1 Enoch 81:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

101 **Luke 18:34** They understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not understand the things that were said. **read ›**

102 **John 6:60** Therefore many of his disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying! Who can listen to it?” **read ›**

103 **Acts 5:23** “We found the prison shut and locked, and the guards standing before the doors, but when we opened them, we found no one inside!” **read ›**

104 **Acts 6:9** But some from the synagogue called the Freedmen’s, with Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. **read ›**

105 **Acts 8:12** But when they believed Philip as he preached the gospel concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. **read ›**

106 **Romans 1:7** to all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **read ›**

107 **Romans 1:10** always in my prayers asking whether now at last, by the will of God, I may succeed in coming to you. **read ›**

108 **Romans 1:13** Now I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I often planned to come to you (and was hindered so far), that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among the rest of the Gentiles. **read ›**

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109 **Romans 1:17** For in it God's righteousness is revealed from faithfulness to faithfulness. As it is written: But the righteous will live by faithfulness. **read ›**

110 **Romans 3:2** Much in every way! For first of all, they were entrusted with the oracles of God. **read ›**

111 **Romans 3:20** Because by the works of the law, no flesh will be justified in his sight; for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. **read ›**

112 **Romans 3:21** But now apart from the law, a righteousness of God has been revealed, being attested by the law and the prophets; **read ›**

113 **Romans 3:24** being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **read ›**

114 **Romans 3:26** in God's forbearance; to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so that he is just and justifies the one on the basis of Jesus' faithfulness. **read ›**

115 **Romans 3:27** Where then is the boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith. **read ›**

116 **Romans 3:28** We maintain therefore that a man is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. **read ›**

117 **Romans 4:5** But to him who does not work, but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness. **read ›**

118 **Romans 6:19** I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh; for just as you presented your members as slaves to uncleanness and to lawlessness leading to lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. **read ›**

119 **Romans 7:5** For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions that worked through the law were active in our members, bearing fruit for death. **read ›**

120 **Romans 7:14** For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am fleshly, sold under sin. **read ›**

121 **Romans 7:25** I thank God through Jesus Christ, our Lord! So then with the mind, I myself serve God's law, but with the flesh, sin's law. **read ›**

122 **Romans 8:3** For what the law could not do, because it was weak through the flesh, God did: sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as a sin offering, he condemned sin in the flesh, **read ›**

123 **Romans 8:4** so that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **read ›**

124 **Romans 8:5** For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **read ›**

125 **Romans 8:7** because the mind of the flesh is hostile toward God, for it is not subject to God's law, neither indeed can it be. **read ›**

126 **Romans 8:13** For if you live according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **read ›**

127 **Romans 8:30** Whom he predestined, those he also called. Whom he called, those he also justified. Whom he justified, those he also glorified. **read ›**

128 **Romans 9:2** that I have great sorrow and unceasing pain in my heart. **read ›**

129 **Romans 9:11** For before the children had been born or had done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to choosing might stand, not from works but from him who calls, **read ›**

130 **Romans 9:15** For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." **read ›**

131 **Romans 9:16** So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who has mercy. **read ›**

132 **Romans 9:18** So then, he has mercy on whom he desires, and he hardens whom he desires. **read ›**

133 **Romans 9:19** You will say then to me, "Why does he still find fault? For who withstands his will?" **read ›**

134 **Romans 9:23** and did so to make known the riches of his glory on vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory— **read ›**

135 **Romans 11:25** For I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you will not be wise in your own eyes: a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in, **read ›**

136 **Romans 11:32** For God has bound all to disobedience, that he might have mercy on all. **read ›**

137 **Romans 15:15** But I have written more boldly to you in part, brothers, to remind you, because of the grace given to me by God, **read ›**

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138 **Romans 15:22** Therefore also I was hindered these many times from coming to you, **read ›**

139 **1 Corinthians 10:15** I speak as to wise men. Judge what I say. **read ›**

140 **1 Corinthians 14:20** Brothers, do not be children in understanding. In malice be infants, but in understanding be mature. **read ›**

141 **2 Corinthians 1:13** For we write no other things to you than what you read or even acknowledge, and I hope you will acknowledge to the end— **read ›**

142 **Galatians 2:16** yet knowing that a man is not justified by works of the law but through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, even we believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be justified by the faithfulness of Christ and not by works of the law, because no flesh will be justified by works of the law. **read ›**

143 **Galatians 5:17** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, that you may not do the things that you desire. **read ›**

144 **Ephesians 3:4** By reading this, you can perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ, **read ›**

145 **Ephesians 3:6** that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and fellow partakers of his promise in Christ through the gospel, **read ›**

146 **2 Timothy 2:7** Consider what I say. May the Lord indeed give you understanding in all things. **read ›**

147 **2 Timothy 3:1** But know this: in the last days difficult times will come. **read ›**

148 **Hebrews 5:11** About him we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing. **read ›**

149 **2 Peter 3:15** Regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also, according to the wisdom given to him, wrote to you, **read ›**

150 **2 Peter 3:16** as also in all his letters, speaking in them about these things. In these matters are some things hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *139 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 4:25

Leviticus 15:18

Deuteronomy 8:18 · 20:5 · 20:19

2 Kings 2:11 · 2:15

Proverbs 9:17

Isaiah 50:9

Jeremiah 23:24

Joel 2:28

Matthew 1:20 · 5:17 · 6:19 · 6:24 · 7:21 · 16:4 · 16:24 · 17:10 · 17:11 · 17:12 · 17:13 · 18:20 · 19:6 · 22:37 · 23:9 · 23:28 · 25:35 · 25:41 · 26:6 · 26:39 · 26:64 · 27:35

Mark 9:44

Luke 1:13 · 1:15 · 1:16 · 1:17 · 1:63 · 6:46 · 7:37 · 20:25 · 20:27 · 20:34

John 1:1 · 1:8 · 3:6 · 6:27 · 19:19 · 20:1

Acts 13:5 · 14:27

Romans 1:11 · 5:12 · 5:17 · 6:3 · 6:9 · 7:1 · 7:2 · 7:4 · 7:7 · 7:8 · 7:9 · 7:12 · 7:13 · 7:15 · 7:17 · 7:19 · 7:20 · 7:22 · 7:23 · 8:2 · 8:6 · 8:8 · 8:10 · 8:11 · 8:18 · 8:35 · 9:5 · 10:2 · 10:17 · 11:33 · 11:34 · 12:9 · 12:10 · 12:12 · 12:16 · 12:17 · 12:18 · 12:19 · 13:8 · 13:9 · 14:19 · 14:21

1 Corinthians 2:9 · 2:10 · 2:11 · 2:14 · 3:1 · 3:10 · 3:16 · 6:12 · 6:15 · 6:18 · 6:20 · 7:5 · 7:8 · 7:9 · 7:14 · 7:32 · 7:39 · 8:6 · 9:10 · 12:13 · 13:13 · 14:32 · 15:22 · 15:50 · 15:53

2 Corinthians 4:11 · 10:5 · 11:3

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Galatians 4:26 · 5:13 · 6:17
Philippians 4:3
Colossians 2:9 · 2:20
1 Timothy 3:2 · 4:1 · 4:3 · 5:14
Hebrews 13:5 · 13:12
1 Peter 1:23
1 John 1:8 · 4:18
Revelation 2:17 · 3:8

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Why is the letter to the Romans so hard to read?” on May 18, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY