



15800 Calvary Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64147

Syllabus

Course: BI334D/ND Romans
Credit: 3 Semester Hours
Semester: Spring 2027 (Session 2)
Time: 1:00–2:20 P.M. Mondays and Wednesdays, March 15–May 7
Location: Calvary University, CABRE 103 and Online Classroom
Instructor: Joel T. Williamson, Jr., Th.M., Ph.D. (in process)
Office: Madison Hall #218; Office Telephone: ext. 1347
Cell phone: (816) 258-1726 (text only, please—except in emergencies)
E-mail: joel.williamson@calvary.edu

I. DESCRIPTION

A systematic analysis of the Book of Romans, highlighting the outworking of God's righteousness in His plan of salvation. Each student is required to master the argument of Romans as a solid foundation for Christian living and service. (Prerequisite: BI115)

II. OBJECTIVES

General competencies to be achieved. The basic goal of this course is not knowledge, but knowhow: "Knowledge is not knowhow until you understand the underlying principles at work and can fit them together into a structure larger than the sum of its parts. Knowhow is learning that enables you to *go do*."¹ When you have knowhow, you are ready to explore the implications of the book of Romans for yourself. Growth in knowhow is a lifelong process and thus beyond the scope any one Bible course. Still, by the end of the course, you should demonstrate basic competence in each of the following areas:

1. **Knowledge of Basic Facts.** You can't distinguish what is relevant from what is not unless you know the basic facts associated with the book. To help you achieve this awareness, you must become able to identify all the following facts about the book of Romans:
 - a. Basic Facts about the Book. This includes its author, recipients, date, occasion, theme, purpose, and structure. (PLO's: 1, 2) (Assignments: Readings, Quizzes, Exams)
 - b. Basic Facts within the Book (the chapter from which selected basic statements come). (PLO's: 1, 2) (Assignments: Readings, Quizzes, Exams):

¹ Peter C. Brown, Henry L. Roediger III, and Mark A. McDaniel, *Make It Stick: The Science of Successful Learning* (Cambridge, MA and London: Belknap Press, 2014), 158. (The italics are in the original.)

Our Mission: "... to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."

2. ***Wrestling with Knotty Problems.*** Only a reliable procedure can consistently provide reliable solutions when you confront an interpretive problem. Toward this end, you will demonstrate your ability to do all the following:
 - a. Explain why selected interpretive problems need to be solved (PLO's: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (Assignments: Personal Studies, Argument).
 - b. Critically evaluate alternative solutions to these problems (PLO's: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (Assignments: Personal Studies, Argument).
 - c. Derive and justify your own tentative solutions to these problems (PLO's: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (Assignments: Personal Studies, Argument).
3. ***Insight into the Argument.*** You don't really understand a book until you see how its parts work together to make a point. (The whole really is greater than the sum of its parts.) To show that you have made progress toward this level of understanding, you should be able to do all the following:
 - a. Identify the basic questions that the book addresses and the answers it provides. (PLO's: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (Assignment: Argument)
 - b. Trace the overall structure of the book's argument. (PLO's: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (Assignment: Argument)
 - c. Propose practical—and interpretively sound—applications of the book and its principal sections. (PLO's: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (Assignment: Argument)

III. TEXTBOOKS

A. ***Holy Bible.*** The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask me if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

B. ***Other Textbooks.***

McClain, Alva J. *Romans: The Gospel of God's Grace*. Winona Lake, IN: BMH, 1973. [ISBN: 9780884690801, \$14.99]

IV. ASSIGNMENTS

Types of Assignments. It is my conviction that most of the learning and the best learning for this class will come through the assignments you do. Though they will be used to calculate your course grade, the primary purpose of the assignments for this course is to help you develop knowhow, the ability to extract truth from God's word and infuse it into your life. Knowhow doesn't just happen; you must cultivate it. Take out your spade; the process begins now.

Reading Journals. Knowhow cannot develop without facts. Therefore, your first responsibility is to fill your mind with the fundamental facts found in Romans. Focused reading is the most efficient way for you to gain this information. Therefore, you will perform two types of reading this semester: the reading of the Book of Romans itself and the reading of McClain's commentary. You

will submit reading reports at each of the four major examinations. Your work will receive points according to the following criteria:

	On Time	Late	Not Done	
Textbook Reading	3	1.5	0	3.0 pts
Textbook Summary Paragraph	7	3.5	0	14.0 pts
Bible Reading	12	6	0	24.0 pts
Bible Assignment	28	14	0	28.0 pts
Totals:	50	25	0	

Note: although you receive 0 points for incomplete readings, you can get half credit if you go on to complete them late.

Quizzes. To help you retain what you learn, you will be quizzed in Canvas following each class session. These quizzes will focus on the material covered since the last quiz. Your best guarantee of a good grade is to understand the material, not to memorize lecture points. NO QUIZ MAY BE TAKEN LATE.

Exams. During the semester, you will take six online examinations—all consisting of essay questions. Each will require you to demonstrate competency in all three categories of course objectives, but particularly in the last two. In short, you will have to expound and/or apply material covered in class.

The exams will be cumulative, focusing on any and all material covered since the beginning of the course. Ordinarily, YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE ANY EXAM LATE; however, if you know that you will have to miss an exam (and have an acceptable reason for doing so), you should make arrangements with me beforehand if possible.

Personal Studies. While knowhow does require a body of basic facts, facts alone are not enough. You also need skill in interpreting, correlating, and applying those facts. In short, you need to be able to see the bigger picture. An important part of this ability is the skill of problem solving. Developing that skill is the function of the assigned personal studies.

One of the most frustrating realities about Bible study is that godly men and women often disagree about what a passage means or how it should be applied. Sometimes, these disagreements can (and should) be ignored. More often, however, they cannot. In such cases, it is up to you to decide for yourself which explanation you believe is correct. On the Canvas homepage for this course, you will find six such problems along with the procedure you are to follow in each case and the date that the assignment is due. While there may be minor variations from problem to problem, all six studies will be graded based on the following rubric:

- Your assessment of the Significance of the Problem (why it should be solved)
- Your identification of the Positions of the Commentators (how each solves the problem)
- Your Evaluation of the proposed solutions to the problem (their strengths and weaknesses)
- Your own Solution and your Justification of it (why you believe it to be the best)
- Your Clarity and Mechanics (logic, spelling, grammar, etc.)

YOU MAY SUBMIT PERSONAL STUDIES LATE, BUT IF YOU DO, YOUR WORK WILL RECEIVE ONLY 12.5 OUT OF 25 POSSIBLE POINTS.

Argument of the Book. In Week 7 of the course, you will submit a ten-page, double-spaced summary of the argument of Romans. This paper should identify the core idea being developed throughout the book, Paul's purpose in writing it, and how each section and subsection contributes to fulfilling that purpose. (This assignment, more than any other, will demonstrate

how much knowhow you have attained about the book of Romans.) Your paper will be graded based on the following criteria:

Accuracy—Did you get your facts right?

Adequacy—Did you get enough facts?

Clarity—Is your logic easy to follow?

Mechanics—Do you consistently use correct spelling and grammar?

You may submit your arguments up to one week late, but YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS ASSIGNMENT TO PASS THE COURSE. IF YOU DO SUBMIT IT LATE, YOU WILL RECEIVE A GRADE OF 40 OUT OF 80 POSSIBLE POINTS. IF YOU DO NOT SUBMIT BEFORE 11:59 OF THE LAST DAY OF THE CYCLE, YOU WILL FAIL THE COURSE—NO MATTER HOW HIGH YOUR OVERALL AVERAGE IS.

Specific Assignments Due Each Week

Week #1. Why Listen to Paul? (Romans 1:1–17) (0 points)

Week #2. Condemnation (Romans 1:18–3:20) (193 points)

Reading #1 (50 points)

Personal Study #1 (25 points)

Quiz #1 (18 points)

Exam #1 (100 points)

Week #3. Salvation – 1 (Romans 3:21–5:21) (93 points)

Reading #2 (50 points)

Personal Study #2 (25 points)

Quiz #2 (18 points)

Week #4. Salvation – 2 (Romans 6:1–8:17) (193 points)

Reading #3 (50 points)

Personal Study #3 (25 points)

Quiz #3 (18 points)

Exam #2 (100 points)

Week #5. Vindication – 2 (Romans 8:18–9:29) (193 points)

Reading #4 (50 points)

Personal Study #4 (25 points)

Quiz #4 (18 points)

Exam #3 (100 points)

Week #6. Vindication – 2 (Romans 9:30–11:36) (43 points)

Personal Study #5 (25 points)

Quiz #5 (18 points)

Week #7. Application – 1 (Romans 12:1–13:14) (160 points)

Exam #4 (100 points)

Argument of Romans (60 points)

Week #8. Application – 2 (Romans 14:1–16:27)	(125 points)
Exam #5	(100 points)
Personal Study #6	(25 points)

V. METHODS

A. Teaching

1. *Lecture.* Due to the blended nature of the class, I will have to depend heavily on the use of lecture. As much as possible, however, I will involve you actively in the learning process. Still, the primary purpose of the class sessions is the dissemination of data, and the most efficient way to do that is lecture.
2. *Discussion.* Discussion is intended to help you wrestle with profound or difficult issues and to help the instructor analyze the needs of the class. But these ends can be attained only if you approach in-class discussion prepared both spiritually and intellectually. In short, I do most of the teaching, but you are responsible for learning the material. Come to class prepared.

B. Grading

1. Reading Reports 200 points
 2. Personal Studies 150 points
 3. Quizzes 90 points
 4. Exams 500 points
 5. Argument of Romans 60 points (pass/fail)
- Total 1000 points

C. Calculating the Final Grade

930–1000 points	A	730–769 points	C
900–929 points	A-	700–729 points	C-
870–899 points	B+	670–699 points	D+
800–829 points	B-	630–669 points	D
770–799 points	C+	0–559 points	F

D. Academic Issues and Support

1. **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated.
2. **Style.** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition and the latest Calvary Style Guide.
3. **Assistance.** The Clark Academic Center (learning@calvary.edu), located in the library building, provides free academic assistance for all students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams, and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.

4. ***Disabilities.*** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator (aso@calvary.edu) of any disabling condition that may require support.