

RECHARGE

DISCIPLINES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be

transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is God's will, what is good and acceptable and perfect. Gifts of Grace

3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4 For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, 5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. 6 Having gifts

that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity;

9 Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. 10 Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. 11 Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.

12 Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. 13 Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them, 15

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do

what is good, for in doing so you will attain peace with all. 19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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THEREFORE, LIVING IN LIGHT OF TRUTH

• ROMANSTWELVE •

Wade Allen

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that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: 7 if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 8 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 9 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; 10 the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with gentleness. 11 Let us love one another in showing honor, 12 as showing honor to the Lord. 13 Do not be slothful in zeal; be fervent in spirit; serve the Lord. 14 Rejoice in hope; be patient in tribulation; be constant in prayer. 15 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse

them. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. 17 Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. 18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, live

THEREFORE,

LIVING IN LIGHT OF TRUTH

peace with all men, as far as it depends on you. Do not avenge yourselves, but leave that to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will

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INTRODUCTION

“Let me see clearly so that I may take in the amazing things coming from Your law .”

Psalm 119:18 (THE VOICE)

We’re excited to bring you a new issue of *Recharge* for this fall. Some of you have mentioned that you have missed having this over the summer. I’m sorry that we didn’t have an issue for the sermon series this summer, but I am happy that you missed it! It is our prayer that these little booklets will be your a companions to you in your daily devotions, as well as give you a place for notes from Sunday morning and your community group studies.

We try to be very strategic in the developmental process for all these studies. What we focus on in the Sunday morning sermon will be expounded upon in the *Recharge* books and community group studies. It is true that we learn through repetition, but that’s not exactly the goal in doing this. When each of these reinforce the other, it allows us to experience different levels of comprehension, which increases our overall understanding of Scripture and deepens our spiritual growth!

It is God’s plan for your life to be transformed into the likeness of His Son—Jesus Christ. In Ephesians 4, Paul told us to “grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ” (4:15). The combined efforts of listening to the weekly message, participating in the weekly community groups and working through the studies in this booklet will help you do just that—mature in your faith in Jesus Christ!

INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ROMANS

The Book of Romans is “the most formal and systematic of Paul’s epistles. The main theme of Romans is that righteousness comes as a free gift of God and is receivable by faith alone...”

“The great theme of Romans is God’s power to save. The Romans understood power; when Paul wrote this epistle to the capital of the ancient world, Rome ruled supreme. The gospel, however, is nothing to be ashamed of in comparison; for it, too, is power—indeed the ‘power of God to salvation for everyone’ (1:16). In the gospel both Jews and Gentiles find access to God, not on the basis of human achievement, but because of God’s free grace bestowed on those who accept it in faith.” (Excerpt from *Nelson’s Student Bible Dictionary*)

NEW SERMON SERIES IN ROMANS 12

The twelfth chapter of this book is where Paul starts focusing on the more practical application of the truth in the previous chapters. We will spend eleven weeks (September 10th through November 19th) studying through this chapter.

One of the most notorious aspects of its literary structure is the placement of the word “therefore” in verse 1. This happens in other passages of Scripture, but none is as famous as Romans 12:1. Any time you see the word “therefore” in the Bible, you must discover what it is there for! In this instance, Paul is transitioning from sections that expound on the theological basis of salvation and the Christian life to this new section on the practical application of these truths.

This is why this sermon series is called: “THEREFORE, Living in Light of Truth.” Over the next eleven weeks, we will examine the practical application of Paul’s theology in day-to-day life. Our goal is to give you a clear portrayal of what it means to live life as a follower of Christ, and help you realize that these things in Romans 12 are not just ideas about what you might try to do as a believer but expectations of those who have trusted in Christ as their Savior.

For some of you, a study in the Book of Romans will feel familiar, but for others, this may be the first time you’ve spent any dedicated time in this book. This presented a challenge to us for this series. If the twelfth chapter of Romans is the practical application of all that came

before it in the book, what if you don't know what they rest of the book has to say? How can you "live in light of truth" if you don't know what that truth is? That's where this book comes to the rescue!

FALL 2023 RECHARGE STUDIES

This issue of *Recharge* is designed to provide you with foundational knowledge that you need to be able to obey the truths of Romans 12. In this issue, we will be studying and SOAPing through Romans 6-8. Often referred to as the most complete treatment in Scripture on what the Christian life ought to look like, this study through Romans 6-8 will help provide you with the info you need to apply the truths of chapter 12.

As you work through this book, you will notice that each week of study contains:

- TWO pages to take notes from each Sunday's sermons.
(Several have requested more writing room for sermon notes. Others have requested less sermon so that their notes would fit the space. We have opted for more space rather than less sermon. 😊)
- A QR code link to the YouVersion study notes for each week.
- A page for notes/prayer concerns from your Community group.
- A Bible reading plan to SOAP Journal through the passages that parallel the passage from our weekly sermon text. Instructions for SOAP Journaling and a Table of Contents for your journal entries are located on pages 66-67.
- And two studies each week from Romans chapters 6-8 and chapter 12, that have been adapted from Timothy Keller's devotional, *Explore the Book: 90 Days in John 14-17, Romans and James*.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or one of our pastors. Our prayer is that these studies will provide you with a daily *Recharge* for your life!

Pastor Wade Allen

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Peculiar**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:1-2

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: Romans 6:1-14

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Romans 1-5 tells us what God has accomplished for us in the gospel; chapters 6-8 tell us what God will accomplish in us through the gospel. What question does Paul ask to start this section? How does he answer his question? How does he say this is possible? (Romans 6: 1-2)

Read Romans 6:3-5. In these verses, Paul uses the phrase "baptized into Christ Jesus" to refer to conversion. What do these verses teach about what happened when you became a Christian?

These verses teach that because we are now in Christ, we can live a life free from habitual sin if we choose to obey. Is there an area of your life where you are in danger of "living in sin"? Will you confess that to God in prayer right now?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 6:6-7. If you are a Christian, what has happened to the old "you"?

Paul refers to the "old self" and the "body of sin" in verse 6. The "old self" refers to me before I became a Christian, but the "body of sin" refers to the sin that still exists in our lives. What does God want to happen in regard to the "body of sin" in our lives?

Read Romans 6:8-14. What do we know lies ahead of us, and why (v.8-9)? According to verse 11, how should we respond to the truths in verses 8-10?

What does this mean we must not do; and what does it mean we must do (v.12-13)?

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Ordinary**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:3-5

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

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Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: Romans 6:15-23

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

If a Christian has been "freed from sin" (6:7) and is no longer "under law" (6:14), does that mean we are now free to live any way we choose?

Read Romans 6:15-18. What two things can someone offer themselves to as slaves (v.16)?

How does Paul describe a Christian's conversion in terms of slavery (v.17-18)?

Read Matthew 6:24. What we serve becomes our master. It controls our thoughts, our actions and our attitudes. Is this different to the way you usually think about the choices in your life? How?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 6:19-23. What happens as someone lives in slavery to sin (v.19)?

What about someone who chooses to live in slavery to righteousness—what happens to them (v.19)?

As we act in a particular way, with a particular motivation, it shapes our character—it becomes more natural and obvious to us to act that way again. According to verses 21 and 23, what is the result of living in slavery to sin?

What is the result of living in slavery to God?

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Impactful**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:6-8

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

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Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: Romans 7:1-6

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Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Roman 7:1-3. What relationship is Paul now talking about, and what does he say about it (v.2-3)?

Paul used the idea of slavery to illustrate our relationship to God and to sin in chapter 6. Here in chapter 7, he switches the analogy to marriage to continue illustrating our relationship to God and to sin. What stops a marriage being binding?

All of us were once "married" to—bound by—the law. It was not a good spouse, because it could never be satisfied! What does verse 4 remind us about our relationship to sin?

Spend some time in prayer today thanking God that He has freed you from slavery and marriage to the law through your death in Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 7:1-6. So what was the result of being married to the law (v.5)?

According to verse 4, what has now happened? How?

If we follow the metaphor in verses 2-3 and we have died to law, who do we now belong to (v. 4)?

What an incredible metaphor—we are now married to Christ! To be a Christian is to fall in love with Jesus and enter into a legal yet personal relationship as comprehensive as marriage. No part of your life goes unaffected.

Looking at Romans 6:1 – 7:6, what are the ultimate reasons why Christians should obey God?

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Gracious**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:9-10

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
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COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: Romans 7:7-25

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 7:7-12.

According to verse 7, what is the purpose of the law? Why is it a good thing that the law does this? (cf. Romans 3:20-21)

Have you ever told a child, "Don't do _____" and they do it anyway? Why does this happen?

As we look at the law, it exposes our sin. As Paul read the command "Do not covet," what did his sinful nature do (v.8)?

What did Paul conclude about the law and sin (v.10-12)?

Spend a moment thanking God for His law, which shows you what is good and godly. Thank God that, once you know you are "dead," you can find life through faith in Jesus Christ.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 7:13-25. What is Paul like in his "inner being" (v.22)?
But what else is he like (v.23)?

What is the consequence of these two natures at war in his
"inner being" (v.15,19)?

Do you ever have this kind of internal struggle with sin in your life?
How do you deal with it?

How does knowing that Paul struggled with sin like this comfort you
today? Do you tend to excuse your sin, rather than acknowledge your
wretchedness? Or do you tend to forget to look beyond your own
failings to Christ's rescue?

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Diligent**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:11

Speaker: John O'Connor

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
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COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: Romans 8:1-11

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 8:1-2. What does verse 1 tell us about being “in Christ”? Why is this wonderful news?

What else happened to Christians (v.2)? How does this affect our response to sin?

Read Romans 8:3-4. Why couldn't the law free us from death (v.3)? (cf. Romans 7:14-20)

How was God able to free us from death (v.3- 4)? What was His purpose in doing this for us?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 8:5-8. What are the two things people can "set" their minds on (v.5)? What does this phrase "set their minds" mean? (Hint: It's more than just thinking about something.)

What is the consequence of setting your mind on the flesh (v.6-7)? What is the result of setting your mind on the Spirit? What is your mind focused on when you have a moment of solitude?

Read Romans 8:9-11. According to verse 9, who is controlled (or indwelt) by the Spirit?

What is true of Christians now (v.10)?

What is true of Christians in the future (v.11)?

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Devoted**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:12

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
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COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: Romans 8:12-17

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 8:12-14. The beginning of verse 12 uses the same Greek word as is found in Romans 12:1 that is translated as “therefore.” In light of what you have learned so far in chapter 8, what do Christians have an obligation to do (v.12-13)?

What does it mean “to put to death the deeds of the body” (v.13)?

Write down a sin pattern you struggle with. How can you put this sin to death?

How would you describe the difference between applying the gospel to our hearts and resisting sin just in our behavior?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 8:14-17. Who are the sons of God?

According to verse 15, how do believers become the sons of God?

In the Roman world, if someone was adopted, he immediately:

- got a new name,
- became an heir of all his new father had,
- his old debts were cancelled,
- his new father became liable for his actions, and
- the new son had an obligation to please and honor his father.

Realizing that this is the cultural context of this passage, how does it make you feel to be adopted in this way by God?

What are the privileges of being an adopted son of God?

- Verse 15a

- Verse 15b

- Verse 16

- Verse 17

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Generous**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:13

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
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COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: Romans 8:18-30

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 8:18-25. In verses 24-25, Paul refers to this idea of "hope" about five times. What is this hope that Christians are to look forward to (v.18)?

Read Romans 5:1-5. In these two passages, what is the connection between suffering and hope?

What does Paul tell us about nature (v.20,22)? What about nature's future (v.19,21)?

What does Paul tell us about believers (v.19,21,23)? How are we to wait for this day (v.23,25)?

Read Romans 8:26-27. As we wait, how does the Spirit help us?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 8:26-28. When we are dealing with suffering or struggling to pray, how do these verses bring us encouragement?

In verse 28, Paul says, "And we know..."
What is it that Paul says we know?

On a day-to-day basis, how confident are you in this truth? In good times? In bad times? In times of failure? When anxious?

Read Romans 8:29-30. How do these verses lay out God's ultimate purpose in the lives of believers?

What is God working to "conform" (or shape) us into (v.29)?
How does this tell us what our ultimate "good" (v.28) truly is?

Can you think of a hard time in your life when things went "wrong," but which, as you look back, you can see that God used to make you more like his son?

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Considerate**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:14-15

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

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COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: Romans 8:31-39

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 8:30-34.

God is working for His children's good. He has foreknown, predestined, called and justified us, and will glorify us. "What then shall we say" to these four questions in verses 31-34?

Identify the question in these four verses. Write each question in your own words. After that, please answer them in your own words as well.

– Verse 31b

– Verse 32

– Verse 33

– Verse 34

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Who is opposed to your Christian faith? How does verse 31 give you confidence?

What do you find yourself worrying about? Do you ever worry that you won't go to heaven? How does verse 32 give you confidence?

What makes you feel too guilty to be forgiven?
How do verses 33-34 give you confidence?

Read Romans 8:35-39. What are the final questions that Paul asks here (v.35)?

How does Paul answer this (v.37-39)? What is the big takeaway from these three verses?

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Understanding**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:16-18

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
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COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: Romans 12:1-8

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Read Romans 12:1-2. What is Paul urging us to do (v.1)?
Practically speaking, what does this mean?

What is the motivation for living this way (v.1)?

The word "spiritual" is better translated "logical." If you have a good view of what God has done for you, worshiping him with everything you have will seem sensible! To be fully at God's disposal—to offer yourself as a living sacrifice—means:

- Actively, to be willing to obey God in anything He says in any area of life.
- Passively, to be willing to thank God in anything He sends in any area of life.

How are you currently living as a sacrifice, active and passively?

According to verse 2, what should we do and not do?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Part of being renewed in our minds (12:2) is that we are able to see ourselves rightly, and see our place among God's people rightly. Read Romans 12:3. How are we to think (and not think) of ourselves?

Do you naturally think too highly of yourself, or too little?

Read Romans 12:4-8. In what way are we distinct from one another as Christians (v.4-6a)

Look through the list of spiritual gifts in Romans 12:6-8. (Prophecy here refers to preaching/teaching a message that conforms to Christian doctrine.) Which ones might describe you? What do you enjoy doing? What are you passionate about?

How are you using those gifts? How could you use them?

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Compassionate**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:19-20

Speaker: David McEuen

Sermon Notes:

Interactive Study Notes on the
YouVersion Bible App



COMMUNITY GROUP

Location:

Date:

Prayer Concerns:

Study Title:

Bible Reading: Romans 12:9-21

Title:

Date:

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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

At the heart of the gospel is God's love for us. So, at the heart of our lives should be love for him and for others.

Read Romans 12:9-16. What does genuine/sincere love look like (v.9)? Why does loving others mean hating what is evil?

What happens when we think loving someone means never opposing them? How does Ephesians 4:15 apply to this?

In verse 14, Paul could have said, "Don't persecute those who persecute you." What does he say instead? How is this more challenging?

Read Romans 12:17-21. The end of verse 20 is a picture of someone repenting. According to verse 19, what should we not do? What do verses 18 and 20 tell us we should do instead?

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Look at the list below and do a personal inventory. Ask yourself:

In which two of these am I weakest?

- Love people you don't naturally like with sincerity (v.9).
- Be willing to challenge evil (v.9)
- Love with dogged affection over the long haul, no matter what (v.10-12)
- Be generous with your home, money and time (v.13).
- Don't hold on to bitterness or resentment—instead, actively bless those who wrong you (v. 14)
- Be willing to be emotionally involved with others (v.15).
- Be humble, willing to associate with people who are different from you (v.16).
- Seek peace in difficult relationships, and avoid revenge if wronged (v.18-21).

Where will I need to use these gifts next (where will I next be tested)?

What practical steps can I take to strengthen myself in these two areas?

Sermon Title: **Therefore, Be Different**

Sermon Text: Romans 12:21

Speaker: Wade Allen

Sermon Notes:

Instructions for **SOAP Journaling**

As we read God's Word, we begin to see how God responds to things. Doing **daily devotions** re-patterns the way we think and transforms the spirit of the mind. Then, when we face similar situations as Jesus did, we begin to respond in the same way.

Journaling is an excellent way to both record and process what God has spoken to us. It's also a useful tool to use at a later time to reflect on and review some of the "gems" that you have received. Without writing these down, you may forget those blessings and some very important lessons!

S for Scripture

Open your Bible to today's reading on your Bible Reading Plan. Take time reading and allow God to speak to you. When you are done, look for a verse that spoke to you that day, and write it in your journal.

O for Observation

What is God saying in this scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal the truth of this verse to you. Now write a one or two sentence observation about that verse. What does the verse say? What does it mean?

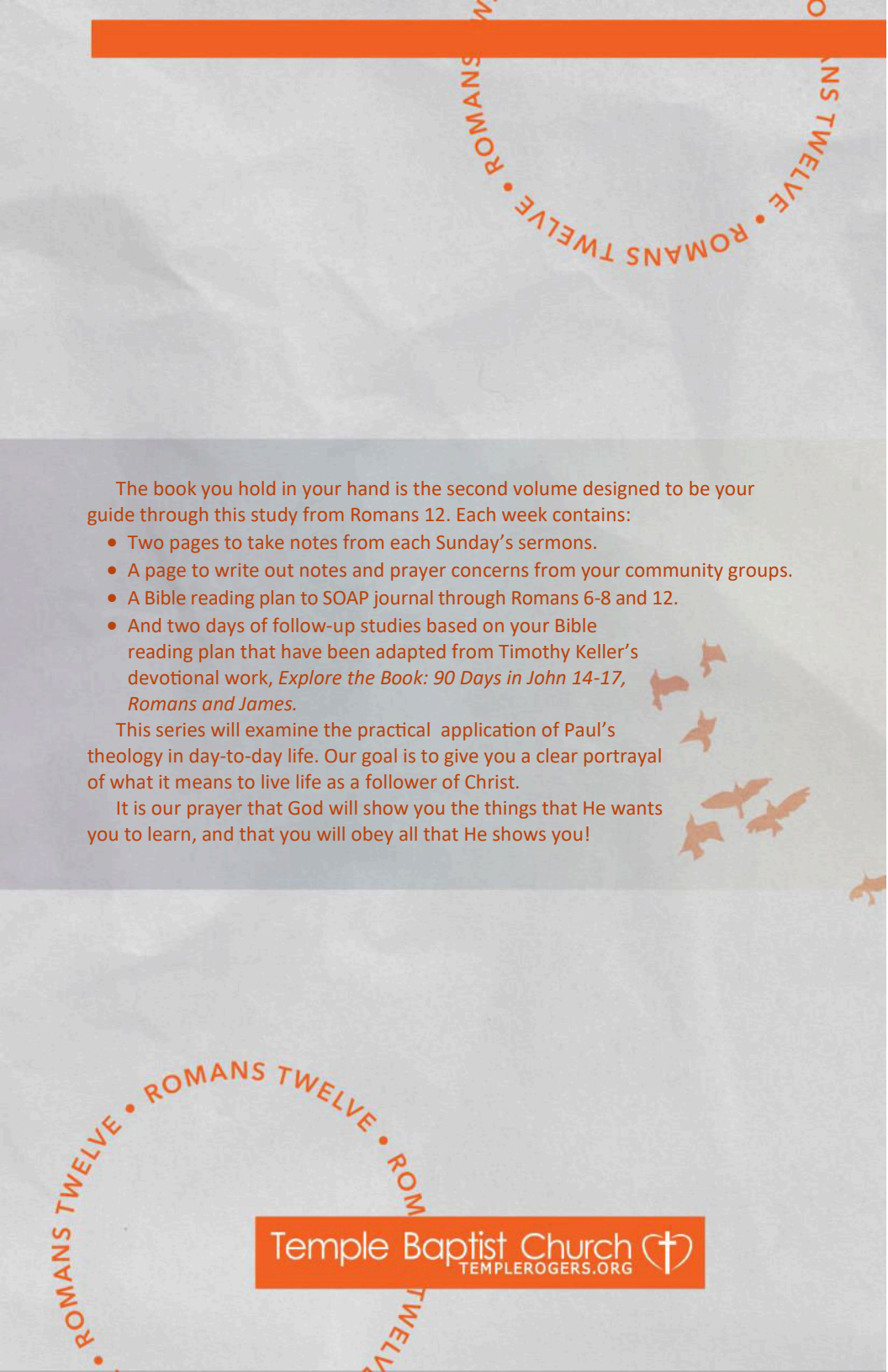
A for Application

Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, revelation of a new promise, or correction for a particular area of your life. Now write how this Scripture can apply to you today.

P for Prayer

This can be as simple as asking God to help you apply this Scripture, or it may be a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so be sure to listen to what God has to say!

Don't forget to give your journal entry a title and put it in the Table of Contents. This will help you find it when you want to read it again.



The book you hold in your hand is the second volume designed to be your guide through this study from Romans 12. Each week contains:

- Two pages to take notes from each Sunday's sermons.
- A page to write out notes and prayer concerns from your community groups.
- A Bible reading plan to SOAP journal through Romans 6-8 and 12.
- And two days of follow-up studies based on your Bible reading plan that have been adapted from Timothy Keller's devotional work, *Explore the Book: 90 Days in John 14-17, Romans and James*.

This series will examine the practical application of Paul's theology in day-to-day life. Our goal is to give you a clear portrayal of what it means to live life as a follower of Christ.

It is our prayer that God will show you the things that He wants you to learn, and that you will obey all that He shows you!