

# **LIVING BY FAITH**

**A Study of Romans and Galatians**

THIRD COURSE

## **New Testament Studies**

by Weldon E. Viertel

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## CONTENTS

RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS . . . . .		4
PREFACE . . . . .		5
MINISTERIAL TRAINING THROUGH GUIDED STUDY . . . . .		7
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE STUDY GUIDE . . . . .		7
LESSON 1	Introduction to Romans and Galatians . . . . .	9
LESSON 2	Paul and the Saints (Galatians 1:1-2:21) . . . . . (Romans 1:1-17)	27
LESSON 3	Man Without Faith (Romans 1:18-3:20) . . . . .	47
LESSON 4	Righteousness Through Faith (Romans 3:21-4:25) . . . . .	61
LESSON 5	Law and Grace (Galatians 3:1-4:31) . . . . .	71
LESSON 6	The Blessings of God's Gift (Romans 5:1-21) . . . . .	89
LESSON 7	New Life and the Law (Romans 6:1-7:25) . . . . .	103
LESSON 8	Living in the Spirit (Galatians 5:1-22) . . . . . (Romans 8:1-39)	119
LESSON 9	Israel's Place in God's Plan (Romans 9:1-11:36) . . . . .	139
LESSON 10	Christian Behaviour (Romans 12:1-21) . . . . . (Galatians 6:1-10)	157
LESSON 11	Christian Citizenship and Liberty (Romans 13:1-15:13) . . . . .	169
LESSON 12	The Conclusion of the Epistles (Romans 15:14-16:27) . . . . . (Galatians 6:11-18)	185
SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY . . . . .		199

## RECOMMENDED TEXTBOOKS

### Level 1:

The Study Guide: Living by Faith: A Study of Romans and Galatians

The New English Bible or the New American Standard Bible

### Level 2:

The Study Guide: Living by Faith: A Study of Romans and Galatians

The New English Bible or the New American Standard Bible

\*A. M. Hunter, The Epistle to the Romans: The Torch Bible Commentaries

\*A. M. Hunter, Galatians to Colossians: Layman's Bible Commentaries

### Level 3:

The Study Guide: Living by Faith: A Study of Romans and Galatians

The New English Bible or the New American Standard Bible

F. F. Bruce, The Epistle of Paul to the Romans: Tyndale New Testament

A. M. Hunter, Galatians to Colossians: Layman's Bible Commentaries

(\*These books would be appropriate for Level 1 to have in their library.)

## ABBREVIATIONS

AV or KJV	Authorized or King James Version**
LNT	Living New Testament
NASB	New American Standard Bible
NEB	New English Bible
RSV	Revised Standard Version

(\*\*Scripture quotations are from the Authorized Version except when otherwise indicated.)

## PREFACE

No greater book has ever been written than Paul's Epistle to the Romans. Whenever the Church has gone astray, the study and preaching of Romans has guided it back to the grace of God. Augustine of North Africa was converted through the reading of this Epistle and became a foremost theologian in the Church. Martin Luther, an Augustinian monk and professor of sacred theology in the University of Wittenberg, was converted as a result of the reading of Romans in 1515 and led in the Reformation. The life of John Wesley was changed in 1738 when he heard a reading of Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. When theologians were floundering in the early twentieth century, Karl Barth published a commentary on Romans which led to a reversal of the trend of theology.

The Epistle to the Romans is difficult to understand unless Paul's world view is understood. Paul did not live in a scientific age in which materialism predominated. Anders Nygren has emphasized an important aspect of Romans in the concept of the two ages. These ages are spiritual in nature, but they control and are expressed through material reality.

For Paul, material existence was created good by God. Man's sin disrupted the harmony of nature and caused trouble and struggle to be the lot of man. Sin which Adam and Eve introduced into the world brought death as a companion. Satan uses the evil powers of sin and death to alienate man from God and to bring him into bondage. Man is unable to deliver himself from the old dominion of sin and death. In Christ, God expresses His grace and power in delivering man from the kingdom of evil. The sinless life, death, and resurrection of Jesus were essential elements in the establishment of God's Kingdom, in the defeat of evil powers, and in the victory of man. Paul who had been a Pharisee found the Law to be good but impotent to deliver man from spiritual evil powers. In his experience in Christ, he discovered a new righteousness, a new power, and a new peace with God. Through this most profound Epistle, Paul's experience has been shared with millions who have followed him in finding victory through faith in Christ. Those who live by faith experience the power of God in their lives through the indwelling Christ.

*LIVING BY FAITH* is the study guide for the third course in New Testament. It is designed specifically for a ministerial training programme in which the student himself is responsible for the mastery of the subject. The study guide should be valuable to laymen also who are interested in a deeper understanding of the nature of sin, salvation, and the victorious Christian life.

The study guide is not intended to replace the Bible or to be studied without reading the parallel Scripture references. The questions on the right side of the page assist the student in focusing on the key points of each paragraph. The questions at the end of each lesson enable a student to evaluate the degree of his mastery of the lesson content.

The study guide can be used effectively without supplementary textbooks. Parallel reading has been suggested for students who desire to do a more extensive study of Romans and Galatians.

The study of Galatians has been included with Romans. Galatians is very similar in doctrinal content to the Epistle to the Romans and the two Epistles can be studied together with profit. Some parts of Galatians add important insight into the material in Romans; other parts have the same concepts in slightly different wording.

As in other study guides, valuable assistance has been received in the preparation of the manuscript and the adjunct programming. In addition to secretarial assistance, the work of Mrs. Gladys Nelson and my wife Joyce has been essential for the completion of this book.

It is my hope that the students who use *LIVING BY FAITH* as an introduction to Romans and Galatians will find similar blessings in the study of these great Epistles to those which I experienced in the preparation of the study guide.

WELDON E. VIERTEL

El Paso, Texas  
July, 1973

## MINISTERIAL TRAINING BY GUIDED STUDY

Ministerial Training by Guided Study is designed to introduce students of various levels of academic preparation to the Bible and related areas. The Guided Study is not a correspondence course, nor the traditional lecture system, but a new approach in education. The goal of the programme is to make quality theological training available to all students. Lack of academic prerequisites and finances and family and church responsibilities prevent many men and women who have been called of God from improving their ministry through training. These obstacles can be overcome by an approach which emphasizes self-study and weekly small group discussions. The study guides are designed for students on three levels of preparation:

1. Students with some primary education,
2. Students with some secondary education,
3. Students with university qualifications.

Although this approach is designed primarily for pastors and ministerial candidates who have had no seminary training, laymen and lay preachers can also benefit from some of the courses. Pastors with divinity degrees will find some of the study guides useful for refresher courses, especially if they serve as leaders of study groups and conveners of the weekly seminars.

Study guides are used to direct private and group activities in the mastery of the content of a subject. They contain the basic content for each subject and recommend supplementary sources for a more advanced study. Questions are included to direct the attention of the student to the important facts in the lessons and to provide an immediate response to the material read. Weekly seminars of approximately an hour for each subject provide opportunities for the discussion of issues related to the subjects and their practical application in contemporary life. A teacher or tutor guides the seminar discussions, but the students from all three levels present and discuss their ideas. When students come to the seminar with a basic understanding of the lesson, the seminar can be dedicated to enrichment of the subject and to discussion of the practical use of the material in the life of the Church.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE STUDY GUIDE

#### Text and learning activities

The study guide is designed primarily for home study. When the guide is opened, the text appears on the left side of the page and questions requiring an immediate response to the material read appear on the right. The student should read a paragraph before reading and answering the question or questions for that paragraph. If there are no questions for a paragraph, he continues to the next. The questions and answers should be covered with a strip of paper until the paragraph has been read and the student is ready to answer each question. The cover sheet should be moved down the page only enough to enable the reading of the question and the filling in of the answer. The correct answer appears immediately under the question. After the student has written his own answer, he may then compare it with the given answer. If the two are not the same, the paragraph in the text should be read again. The student will find value in making notes on the paragraphs where there are no questions.

#### Home study assignments

A home study assignment appears at the end of each lesson. The study guide contains the basic content for each lesson, and the questions on the basic material are to be answered by all three levels. After reading the text and doing the learning activity on each page, the student

should be able to answer most of the home study questions without further reference to the text. These questions are self-testing exercises. If a student is unsure of the correct answer, he has not learnt adequately the material in that particular section, and should review until he is sure that he understands the content. Some questions call for more extensive answers and require concentrated effort for mastery. The completed questions serve as a summary of the lesson and should be helpful as a review.

Students on Levels 2 and 3 are required to do supplementary work in addition to the basic material. The supplementary activities sometimes include a reading assignment in another book with questions to be answered.

Level 3 is required to do advanced study in addition to the basic and supplementary work. This work will vary according to the availability of library resources. Sometimes there will be questions over a parallel reading assignment in a recommended resource book. At other times, the questions will require independent or individual research. Bible dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and books on the subject of the study guide are sources which should be consulted. A bibliography at the end of the study guide indicates where additional material may be found.

### Seminar

It is suggested that the students of all three levels in a geographical area meet for an hour each week with a teacher or tutor to discuss the lesson with reference—

- to problems encountered in answering the home study questions or understanding some concept in the textual material;
- to the application of the lesson to the practical work of Christian ministry and conduct;
- to the significance of the lesson as a whole and its place in the total programme of ministerial training.

It is sometimes possible to correctly answer the fragmentary questions of the lesson without getting a picture of the lesson as a whole. It is also possible to learn the 'facts' about Christianity without seeing their application in the life of the Church. The student is responsible for getting the detailed information of the lesson in his home study. Understanding the over-all meaning of the lesson and its practical application should be the goal of the seminar.

Some seminar questions have been included with each lesson. Their purposes are—

- to stimulate interest (Some are controversial questions which have not been resolved by scholars.);
- to guide in the beginning of the seminar discussion;
- to direct attention to problems related to the material studied;
- to require original thinking which will lead to suggestions for the practical application of the material.

### Teacher or tutor

The teacher or tutor may offer other seminar questions which are more relevant in a given situation. He should feel free to use any approach he chooses as long as the discussion remains related to the material of the lesson. It is his responsibility to prevent the seminar discussion from departing from relevant issues.

The teacher may find that a brief test at the beginning of the seminar will be helpful. The test will encourage students to prepare their home study assignments more adequately and enable the teacher to evaluate the progress of each student. Two or three questions from the basic studies should be sufficient. Students who are not making satisfactory progress may need personal help and encouragement in preparing their lessons. They should not be overlooked!