

Potential Research Questions and Topics for NT631/NT731 Romans based on past proposals.

"Christians are under the Spirit's Law, therefore, is it necessary for them to be obedient to any of the laws given to the Jews in the Old Testament?" Romans 6:14-23
I would like to do an exegesis on the following passage: Romans 4:16-25.
The tentative passage to be chosen for this exegesis research paper is from Romans, Chapter 8:16-27. Paul's message from Romans Chapter 8 has had a profound impact on my spiritual journey, and I am excited to have the opportunity of taking a deep dive into that passage again with the tools and resources which I did not have before this class.
Paul's discussion of general and special revelation in Romans 1:19-21 has always been fascinating to me. How can general revelation be enough to condemn ("without excuse") but not enough to save? For my research paper I would like to look specifically at these verses and the way scholars have dealt with Paul's logic.
"A Look At The Spirit of Adoption: Are We All God's Children?" A recurring statement made in our culture is that "we're all God's children." By reviewing Romans 8:14-17 and from a biblical perspective, I hope to review the biblical meaning of "adoption" in verse 15 to support my claim that only those born of the Spirit by faith in Jesus Christ are the true sons and daughters of God. I hope to show through scripture, that those who do not accept Jesus Christ as Lord cannot be claimed as children of God.
What does Paul's letter to the Romans reveal to us about salvation as it relates both the Jew and Gentiles?
"How can we understand Paul's claim that a person might inherit eternal life by doing good"? (Romans 2:6-10)
Research Question: Does the wrath of God continue to exist since the advent of Christ?
In Romans 16:17ff, Paul warns, "urges" his readers, to be aware of "those who cause divisions and put obstacles" in their way that would detract them from the teaching that they had learned. Paul urgently warns them in this paragraph to "keep away from them." What are these teachings that are causing divisions and what are the obstacles? What affects are they having on the Roman churches to cause division and how deeply rooted are these divisions? What type of obstacles are these that are put in their way? Legalistic obstacles? Racial barriers? Were there multiple obstacles? Was what was being taught combating against the gospel or was it an additional teaching that was heretical? In addition, in the cusp of defining and encouraging unity, what is it about this false teaching that leads Paul to conclude it would be better off that the Romans should "keep away from" the individuals involved in the false teaching?
Topic: Freedom in Death. Looking more intently at Romans 6 (and possibly 7), what does the role of death in association with baptism reveal about Paul's Theology?
How is salvation history illuminated in the book of Romans?
Paul's purpose in writing the Epistle to the Romans? What are his rhetorical aims/goals? What is he trying to accomplish? What does he want his readers to know? To believe? To do? How can we tell? What is our evidence from within the letter itself?

You can always choose a particular passage to focus on and then engage it using the Exegesis Research Paper Template provided. Guidelines for the length of the passage are provided within the syllabus and on E360, but, in general, the passage should be at least 8-10 (eight to ten) verses.

And here are some Questions and Topics that I have suggested when students did not know quite where to begin:

The use of OT Scriptures, stories, characters (e.g., Abraham and Adam), etc. within Romans: Where are they used, how are they being used in those places, and what other Scriptures, if any, do they occur in close proximity to?

The representation of Jesus Christ as Son: What things are said to be true about Jesus Christ as the Son of God that are different from or not true about what is said of others, such as the angels, Moses, etc.? In light of this, what was writer exhorting his readers to do, and what should we be exhorting our listeners, those to whom we minister, to do?

What are the specific things that the author wants the ideal audience/readers to do based on reading/hearing this sermon, and what reasons does he offer to persuade them to do these things? You could limit this to Chapter 4, Chapter 10, Chapter 13, or do some combination or all of these, if you felt that you had the time for research and space in your paper. How would these actions and reasons relevant and applicable in our contemporary setting?

What part do Jesus's death, burial, and/or resurrection, and ascension play in the book of Romans? How do we emphasize these things in our sermons, our Bible studies, and other ministries? Are these foundational truths upon which we build other doctrines and find guidance for our practices?

One last idea could be a general survey of faith in Romans, in an attempt at a definition/description arrived at inductively based upon the material present in Romans, and some presentation of the distinction between faith and works and the importance of faith in the lives of the believers.