

TRUTH THAT TRANSFORMS

ROMANS 1 - 5



This prayer journal is private and belongs to:

How To Use This Devotional Journal

Journaling is a powerful discipline to help you grow in your relationship with God. When we take the time to write down the Word of God with application, it will begin to take root in our hearts. In ancient times with Israel, it was the responsibility of each king to write down a copy of God's laws and apply it in his heart.

In Deuteronomy 17:18-20 (NIV) we read, "When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the priests, who are Levites. ¹⁹ It is to be with him, and he is to **read it** all the days of his life so that he may **learn to revere** the LORD his God and **follow carefully** all the words of this law and these decrees ²⁰ and **not consider himself better** than his brothers and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel."

I have broken down the Bible passages into smaller sections for you to read. I suggest you read each passage 2-3 times and then write down how each passage applies to your everyday life. Asking questions is a great way to go deeper in your Bible Study. The goal is to go deeper in the Word of God to strengthen your relationship with Jesus. READ one passage each day, REFLECT on what you have read, and then RESPOND by writing a personal prayer that will correlate to the passage you read. Use Saturday as a day to catch up if you need it. Sunday is designed to be a day to worship as a church and discuss any highlights of your week with your family and friends. Remember, knowledge isn't the goal, but rather life application of God's Word that blesses our family, church, and community.

In the back of this booklet there is a Prayer Journal. If you are like me, it is too easy to forget all that God has done and is doing. By keeping a record of your thankfulness and how God answers your prayers, you will see God at work. If you dare to keep a discipline of prayer for 30 days, I believe you will see God bring you on an amazing spiritual journey of His presence and joy.

Pastor Ed Turley
Cornerstone Church of Poway

Outline Of Romans

Adapted From Preacher's Outline and Sermon Bible - Commentary - Romans.

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Prayer Journal For The Book Of Romans

Day 1 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 1:1-17 (NLT2) The Gospel And God's Righteousness

“This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his **Good News**.² **God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures.**³ The Good News is about his Son, **Jesus**. In his earthly life he was born into King David’s family line,⁴ and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was **raised** from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. **He is Jesus Christ our Lord.**⁵ Through Christ, God has given us the privilege and authority as apostles to tell Gentiles everywhere what God has done for them, so that they will believe and obey him, bringing glory to his name.⁶ And you are included among those Gentiles who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.⁷ I am writing to all of you in Rome who are **loved by God** and are called to be his own holy people. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.⁸ Let me say first that I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith in him is being talked about all over the world.⁹ God knows how often I pray for you. Day and night I bring you and your needs in prayer to God, whom I serve with all my heart by spreading the Good News about his Son.¹⁰ One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you.¹¹ For I long to visit you so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord.¹² When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours.¹³ I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now. I want to work among you and see spiritual fruit, just as I have seen among other Gentiles.

¹⁴ For I have a great sense of obligation to people in both the civilized world and the rest of the world, to the educated and uneducated alike.¹⁵ So I am eager to come to you in Rome, too, to preach the Good News.¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, **saving everyone who believes**—the Jew first and also the Gentile.¹⁷ This Good News tells us how God makes us right in his sight. This is **accomplished from start to finish by faith**. As the Scriptures say, “It is through faith that a righteous person has life.”

Reflect:

What truths about Jesus Christ does Paul proclaim in this passage?

What is this Good News and how do you receive it?

How would you describe your relationship with Jesus?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Day 2 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 1:18-32 (NLT2)

God's Case Against All Ungodliness & Unrighteousness

But God shows his anger from heaven against **all sinful**, wicked people who suppress the **truth** by their wickedness. ¹⁹ They know the **truth** about God because he has made it **obvious** to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his **invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature**. So they have **no excuse** for not knowing God. ²¹ Yes, they **knew God**, but they wouldn't **worship** him as God or even **give him thanks**. And they began to **think up foolish ideas** of what God was like.

As a result, their minds became **dark and confused**. ²² Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. ²³ And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they **worshiped idols** made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴ So God **abandoned** them to do whatever shameful things **their hearts desired**. As a **result**, they did vile and degrading things with each other's bodies.

²⁵ **They traded the truth about God for a lie**. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen. ²⁶ That is why God **abandoned** them to their **shameful desires**. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. ²⁷ And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved. ²⁸ Since they thought it foolish to acknowledge God, he **abandoned** them to their **foolish thinking** and let them do things that should never be done. ²⁹ Their lives became full of every kind of **wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, quarreling, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip**. ³⁰ **They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They invent new ways of sinning, and they disobey their parents**. ³¹ They refuse to understand, break their promises, are heartless, and have no mercy. ³² They know God's justice requires that those who do these things deserve to die, yet they do them anyway. Worse yet, they **encourage** others to do them, too.

Reflect:

What have you observed in nature that confirms to you that God exists?

What did mankind do when given the truth about God?

As a consequence of people's failure to accept the truth about God, how did God respond? vs. 24, 26, 28

What created things are most tempting for you?

How does the Good News of Jesus speak into all of this?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Day 3 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 2:1-16 (NLT2)

God's Case Against The Moralist: Judgment

¹ You may think you can **condemn** such people, but you are **just as bad**, and you have no excuse! When you say they are wicked and should be punished, **you are condemning yourself, for you who judge others do these very same things.** ² And we know that God, in his justice, will punish anyone who does such things. ³ Since you judge others for doing these things, why do you think you can avoid God's judgment when you **do the same things?** ⁴ **Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his kindness is intended to turn you from your sin?** ⁵ But because you are stubborn and **refuse** to turn from your sin, you are **storing up** terrible punishment for yourself. For a day of anger is coming, when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ He will judge everyone according to what they have done. ⁷ He will give **eternal life** to those who keep on doing good, **seeking after** the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. ⁸ But he will pour out his **anger and wrath** on those who live for themselves, who **refuse to obey the truth** and instead live lives of wickedness. ⁹ There will be trouble and calamity for everyone who keeps on doing what is evil—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. ¹⁰ But there will be glory and honor and **peace from God for all who do good**—for the Jew first and also for the Gentile. ¹¹ **For God does not show favoritism.** ¹² When the Gentiles sin, they will be destroyed, even though they never had God's written law. And the Jews, who do have God's law, will be judged by that law when they fail to obey it. ¹³ For merely listening to the law doesn't make us right with God. It is obeying the law that makes us right in his sight. ¹⁴ Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that **they know his law** when they instinctively obey it, even without having heard it. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is **written in their hearts**, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. ¹⁶ And this is the message I proclaim—**that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life.**

Reflect:

Sometimes we like to point out other people's sin to get the focus off of our sin. Why doesn't this work with God?

In what ways does God's kindness lead us to repentance?

By what standard will God judge people in the final judgment? How do you reconcile these standards with the theme of Romans of being made right with God?

Where in your life do you need God to adjust your attitude towards others?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Day 4 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 2:17-29 (NLT2)
God's Case Against The Religionist (Jew)

¹⁷ You who call yourselves Jews are relying on God's law, and you boast about your special relationship with him. ¹⁸ You know what he wants; you know what is right because you have been taught his law. ¹⁹ You are convinced that you are a **guide for the blind** and a light for people who are lost in darkness. ²⁰ You think you can instruct the ignorant and teach children the ways of God. For you are certain that God's law gives you complete knowledge and truth. ²¹ Well then, if you teach others, **why don't you teach yourself?** You tell others not to steal, but do you steal? ²² You say it is wrong to commit adultery, but do you commit adultery? You condemn idolatry, but do you use items stolen from pagan temples? ²³ You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. ²⁴ No wonder the Scriptures say, "**The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you.**" ²⁵ The Jewish ceremony of circumcision has value only if you obey God's law. But if you don't obey God's law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile. ²⁶ And if the Gentiles obey God's law, won't God declare them to be his own people? ²⁷ In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God's law will condemn you Jews who are circumcised and possess God's law but don't obey it. ²⁸ For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. ²⁹ No, **a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God.** And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a **change of heart produced by God's Spirit.** And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

Reflect:

What was the original intent of the law of circumcision? Genesis 17:1-14

How did these Jews miss what circumcision was all about? 25-29

How is circumcision of the heart acquired? Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6; Jer. 4:4; 9:25-26

Why is Paul so vocal about Gentiles not needing to be circumcised in order to come into the church? What is the true mark of God's family?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Day 5 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 3:1-8 (NLT2)

The Arguments Of The Religionist (Jew) Against A Heart

¹ Then what's the advantage of being a Jew? Is there any value in the ceremony of circumcision? ² Yes, there are great benefits! First of all, the Jews were **entrusted** with the whole revelation of God. ³ True, some of them were unfaithful; but just because they were unfaithful, does that mean God will be unfaithful? ⁴ Of course not! Even if everyone else is a liar, **God is true**. As the Scriptures say about him, "You will be proved right in what you say, and you will win your case in court." ⁵ "But," some might say, "our sinfulness serves a good purpose, for it helps people see how righteous God is. Isn't it unfair, then, for him to punish us?" (This is merely a human point of view.) ⁶ Of course not! If God were not **entirely fair**, how would he be qualified to judge the world? ⁷ "But," someone might still argue, "how can God condemn me as a sinner if my dishonesty highlights his truthfulness and brings him more glory?" ⁸ And some people even slander us by claiming that we say, "The more we sin, the better it is!" Those who say such things deserve to be condemned.

Reflect:

Do you think it is easier for a prodigal who has hit rock bottom to come to God in repentance than it is for someone with religious training? Why or why not?

What are the advantages of growing up in a Christian environment?

What are the potential disadvantages?

What are the three questions in this passage? How does Paul answer them?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Day 6 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 3:9-20 (NLT2)
God's Case Against All Men

⁹ Well then, should we conclude that we Jews are better than others? No, not at all, for we have already shown that **all people**, whether Jews or Gentiles, **are under the power of sin**. ¹⁰ As the Scriptures say, “**No one is righteous— not even one.**” ¹¹ No one is truly wise; **no one is seeking God**. ¹² **All have turned away**; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one.” ¹³ “**Their talk is foul**, like the stench from an open grave. Their tongues are filled with **lies**.” “Snake venom drips from their lips.” ¹⁴ “Their mouths are full of **cursing and bitterness**.” ¹⁵ “They rush to commit **murder**.” ¹⁶ Destruction and misery always follow them. ¹⁷ They don’t know where to find peace.” ¹⁸ “**They have no fear of God at all**.” ¹⁹ Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that **the entire world is guilty before God**. ²⁰ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us **how sinful we are**.

Reflect:

How is sin defined in today’s society?

List what is said regarding human speech, thoughts, and action. 3:10-18

How does this list make you feel?

What is the law’s purpose? 3:19-20

When did you first become aware of your sinfulness and need for God?

How does the Good News of Jesus speak into this truth?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Day 7 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 3:21-31 (NLT2)

Righteousness Is The Way To Be Right With God

²¹ But now **God has shown us a way to be made right with him** without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. ²² **We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.** And this is true for **everyone who believes**, no matter who we are. ²³ **For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.** ²⁴ Yet God, with **undeserved kindness, declares that we are righteous. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins.** ²⁵ For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God **when** they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is **fair and just**, and he declares sinners to be right in his sight **when they believe in Jesus.**

²⁷ **Can we boast**, then, that we have done anything to be accepted by God? No, because our acquittal is not based on obeying the law. It is **based on faith.** ²⁸ **So we are made right with God through faith and not by obeying the law.** ²⁹ After all, is God the God of the Jews only? Isn't he also the God of the Gentiles? Of course he is. ³⁰ There is only one God, and he makes people right with himself **only by faith**, whether they are Jews or Gentiles. ³¹ Well then, if we emphasize faith, does this mean that we can forget about the law? Of course not! In fact, only when we have faith do we truly fulfill the law.

Reflect:

How would the average person in San Diego react to the statement, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God?"

How does this passage break down barriers between Jews and Gentiles?

What is the righteousness of God? 3:21-22

How was Jesus able to fulfill the law?

This passage is attributed to changing the lives of Martin Luther, John Welsey, and Karl Barth who began immense revivals. How is the message of God's grace impacting your life?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Day 8 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 4:1-8 (NLT2)

Logic: The Evidence That Faith Alone Makes A Person Right With God

¹ **Abraham** was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What did he discover about being made right with God? ² If his good deeds had made him acceptable to God, he would have had something to boast about. But that was not God's way. ³ For the Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, and God counted him as righteous **because of his faith.**" ⁴ When people work, their **wages are not a gift**, but something they have earned. ⁵ But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but **because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.** ⁶ David also spoke of this when he described the happiness of those who are declared righteous without working for it: ⁷ "Oh, what joy for those whose **disobedience is forgiven**, whose sins are put out of sight. ⁸ **Yes, what joy for those whose record the LORD has cleared of sin.**"

Reflect:

On the surface, what might seem to make Abraham righteous?

According to Paul, what really made Abraham righteous?

What is the difference between a wage and a gift?

What makes a gift special?

How does the Good News of Jesus speak into this?

Describe how you felt when you first understood that all of your sins were forgiven?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above.)

Day 9 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 4:9-16 (NLT2)

Rituals and Rules: The Wrong Way For A Man To Seek To Be Right With God

⁹ Now, is this blessing only for the Jews, or is it also for uncircumcised Gentiles? Well, we have been saying that Abraham was counted as righteous by God **because of his faith**. ¹⁰ But how did this happen? Was he counted as righteous only after he was circumcised, or **was it before he was circumcised?** Clearly, God accepted Abraham before he was circumcised! ¹¹ Circumcision was a sign that Abraham already had faith and that **God had already accepted him and declared him to be righteous—even before he was circumcised**. So Abraham is the spiritual father of those who have faith but have not been circumcised. They are **counted as righteous because of their faith**. ¹² And Abraham is also the spiritual father of those who have been circumcised, but only if they have the **same kind of faith Abraham** had before he was circumcised. ¹³ Clearly, God's promise to give the whole earth to Abraham and his descendants was based not on his obedience to God's law, but on a **right relationship with God that comes by faith**. ¹⁴ If God's promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. ¹⁵ For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!) ¹⁶ So the promise is received by faith. **It is given as a free gift**. And we are all certain to receive it, whether or not we live according to the law of Moses, if we have faith like Abraham's. For Abraham is the father of all who believe.

Reflect:

What is the wrong way for a person to seek to be right with God?

How does this passage help you understand what it means to have faith in God?

How then is Abraham the father of all who believe?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 10 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 4:17-25 (NLT2)

Abraham: A Man Made Right With God By Faith Alone

¹⁷ That is what the Scriptures mean when God told him, “I have made you the father of many nations.” **This happened because Abraham believed in the God who brings the dead back to life and who creates new things out of nothing.** ¹⁸ Even when there was no reason for hope, Abraham kept hoping—believing that he would become the father of many nations. For God had said to him, “That’s how many descendants you will have!”

¹⁹ And Abraham’s faith did not weaken, even though, at about 100 years of age, he figured his body was as good as dead—and so was Sarah’s womb. ²⁰ **Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise.** In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God. ²¹ He was fully convinced that God is able to do whatever he promises. ²² **And because of Abraham’s faith, God counted him as righteous.**

²³ And when God counted him as righteous, it wasn’t just for Abraham’s benefit. It was recorded

²⁴ **for our benefit, too, assuring us that God will also count us as righteous if we believe in him, the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.** ²⁵ **He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.**

Reflect:

How would you sum up the gospel from 4:23-25?

What is the right way for a person to be right with God?

In most religions forgiveness or grace is a foreign concept; to get to heaven you have to earn your way to heaven by doing good deeds. What would have happened if Paul had given in on the issue of circumcision?

What does it matter to you, practically or emotionally speaking, whether a right relationship with God is a gift to be received or a prize to be earned?

In what area of life do you need to take a lesson from Abraham?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 11 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 5:1-11 (NLT2)

The Great Depth Of Justification (Being Right With God)

¹ Therefore, since we have been **made right** in God's sight by faith, **we have peace** with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. ² Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of **undeserved privilege** where we now stand, and we **confidently** and **joyfully** look forward **to sharing God's glory**. ³ We can rejoice, too, when we run into **problems and trials**, for we know that they help us **develop endurance**. ⁴ And endurance develops **strength of character**, and character strengthens **our confident hope of salvation**. ⁵ And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has **given us the Holy Spirit** to fill our hearts with his love. ⁶ When we were **utterly helpless**, Christ came at just the right time and **died for us sinners**. ⁷ Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. ⁸ **But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners**. ⁹ And since we have been **made right** in God's sight by the blood of Christ, he will certainly **save us** from God's condemnation. ¹⁰ For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. ¹¹ **So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.**

Reflect:

How is our relationship described in 5:1-2?

Out of the areas suffering, perseverance, character, and hope, where is God working in your life?

How should a Christian look upon suffering or disappointment?

What is so amazing about what Christ did for us?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Day 12 _____ / Date

Read: Romans 5:12-21 (NLT2)

Adam And Christ: The Two Focal Points Of History

¹² When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. **Adam's sin brought death**, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned. ¹³ Yes, people sinned even before the law was given. But it was not counted as sin because there was not yet any law to break. ¹⁴ Still, everyone died—from the time of Adam to the time of Moses—even those who did not disobey an explicit commandment of God, as Adam did. Now **Adam is a symbol**, a representation of Christ, who was yet to come. ¹⁵ But there is a great difference between Adam's sin and God's gracious gift. For the sin of this one man, Adam, brought death to many. **But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of forgiveness to many through this other man, Jesus Christ.** ¹⁶ And the result of God's gracious gift is very different from the result of that one man's sin. For Adam's sin led to condemnation, **but God's free gift leads to our being made right with God, even though we are guilty of many sins.** ¹⁷ For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God's wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, **but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.** ¹⁹ Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. ²⁰ God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant. ²¹ So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, **now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Reflect:

What do you best remember about the story of Adam and the fall of mankind?
Genesis 3

How has the sin of Adam affected his decedents?

How would you describe this in medical terms?

What results did the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ bring?

What must one do to benefit from what Christ did? 5:17

The gift is mentioned five times. What is it? Who gives it and who receives it?

Does the Good News of Jesus excite you like it does Paul? If not, what could help you experience its vitality?

Respond: (Write out a personal prayer using the scripture above)

Lessons From Romans:

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Our Purpose And Vision

When you come to Cornerstone, you will find a contemporary style of music with words that direct our hearts to celebration and **WORSHIP** our great God and Savior. You will hear relevant teachings from God's Word with a life application every Sunday. As we **CONNECT** with each other, it is our vision to go beyond the superficial and encourage each other to take our next right step with God. It is our aspiration to help people **GROW** into maturity through personal application of God's Word. We desire to lead the way with selfless generosity and **SERVE** as a way of life. It is our purpose to **SHARE** God's message of forgiveness through Jesus Christ and help people find and follow Jesus.

Service Times:

On Campus Sunday Worship Service: 9:15 & 11:00AM

Online Sunday Service: 9:15AM > <https://www.youtube.com/c/cornerstonepoway>

Weekly Sermon Notes> <https://www.cornerstonepoway.com/sermons>

Sermon Notes Bible Study, Tuesdays 6:00-7:00PM (online Zoom)

Link> <https://zoom.us/join>. Meeting ID: 84983852091, Password: 355924

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