

# Romans

Sundays at Sladebrook, April - June 2013

## **Introduction and Aim of this Teaching Series:**

*The book of Romans is perhaps the best known summary of Christian doctrine in the New Testament. Within its pages, the truth of God's Divine purposes for humanity and humanity's need to respond are revealed. The work of Christ is central to all that is taught in Romans with its focus on such fundamental doctrines as Righteousness, Justification, Election and Sanctification. These truths are not only key to understanding our faith, but essential if we are to share this same gospel effectively with others.*

*The aim of this series is to grapple with these great themes that we might better understand what lies at the heart of the Christian message and our own lives. But more than that, that may we desire, as a result of these studies, to express the Christian life and share the Gospel in the ways Romans so clearly teaches that God might be glorified in the lives of His people.*

## **Each week - Reflecting on Romans Together:**

**Questions** *There is so much in the book of Romans it would be impossible to remember everything! However, as part of our response to God's Word and as His people learning together, there will be a brief opportunity each week for the church family to ask questions at the end of each session.*

## **Each week - Responding to Romans Personally:**

**In:Sight - What have I learned?** *Scripture is intended to illuminate. Things become clear when we allow scripture to speak. **Meditate on each passage** until the Word of God starts to transform your mind, change your attitude and affect your life.*

**Heart:Felt - How do I feel?** *God's Word should touch your emotions and enrich your relationships with God and each other. Pray that each week the Holy Spirit will enrich your relationship with Christ and with His Church.*

**Life:Change - What am I going to do?** *So you've heard the sermon now what?! The only way in which these studies will truly impact you and others is to **practically apply God's Word** in real life situations. So go and do!*

# Romans

*God's Righteousness Revealed*

## 1. The Road to Romans

### *Background and Introduction*

Romans 1v 1-17



*“For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith...”*

– Romans 1v 17

Sladebrook Evangelical Church

[www.sladebrook.org.uk](http://www.sladebrook.org.uk)

**Introduction:**

Paul had never visited the church in Rome. Despite his longstanding desire to get to the heartland of the empire, God's purposes had, thus far, delayed Paul, distracting him legitimately elsewhere. (1v 13; 15v 22) The epistle to the Roman church was written from Greece in 57 A.D, toward the end of Paul's third missionary journey, during a three month stay in Corinth. The letter was part of Paul's contingency: absent in person, he could be present in word, recording truths for the Roman Christians that God had put on the absent Apostle's heart.

The Roman church was grappling (as were many other first century churches) not only with what the gospel meant, but also how it looked in practice as a community of Christians, including Jews and Gentiles, attempting to embrace God's new way. Followers of this Way were to demonstrate the difference Christ made in their lives with a newfound understanding of the Gospel and in their resultant treatment of each other. Romans deals doctrinally with these underlying ethnic, religious, and practical issues, with clear teaching about what God has done and what He now expected from all who would call themselves Christian.

The epistle to the Romans preserves these truths for the many generations of Christians who have subsequently been saved and have likewise sought to live in the light of them. May we also embrace the truth of what Romans teaches us in such a way that during these studies and beyond, The Holy Spirit, speaks through the Word of God, and continues to change our lives as we seek to live for Christ.

**Key verses this week:**

*"I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith." – Romans 1v 16-17*

**THE ROAD TO ROMANS: Background and Introduction**

In this study we will set the scene, look at the main themes introduced at the beginning of the letter and seek to apply them to ourselves.

**Read: Romans 1v 1-17**

- **The Call of the Christ: 1v 1-7**

*Paul introduces himself as God's servant called and set apart to share the wonderful good news of what He has done. We too are called to celebrate the gospel and to share it with others.*

- **The Aims of the Apostle: 1v 8-15**

*The church of Christ needs everything that God, in His grace, has given us. We should share Paul's apostolic aims for they are the only way the church can grow and know blessing.*

- **The Glory of the Gospel: 1v 16-17**

*Only the Gospel has the power to change lives. It is only when God's interrupts our otherwise sinful circumstance that we begin to see the true extent of His mighty ultimate purposes for each one of us.*

**Reflecting on Romans Together:**

- *Have we heard the Call of Christ?*
- *Do we have Apostolic Aims?*
- *When did we last experience the Glory of God?*
- *Do you have any questions about today's study?*

**Responding to Romans Personally:**

- **In:Sight** - *What have I learned today from God's Word?*
- **Heart:Felt** - *How does this truth make me feel?*
- **Life:Change** - *What is my response going to be this week?*