

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 Justification, Righteousness, Election and Sanctification. These truths are not only key to understanding our faith, but essential if we are to share this 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 so 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 the Word to speak. Meditate on each passage until the Word of God starts to speak, transforming our minds, changing our attitudes and affecting our lives.*

Heart:Felt - How do I feel? *God's Word should touch our emotions and enrich our 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 apply practically God's Word in real life situations. So go and do!*

Romans

God's Righteousness Revealed

2. Righteousness Revealed

Holiness revealed, sinfulness exposed

Romans 1v 18-32



“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

Introduction:

So Paul commences his great treatise on the Christian faith: a message encapsulating the most important themes humanity can grapple with. With stark descriptions and graphic examples, he introduces two points fundamental to the whole epistle: God is holy and man is sinful. Later in his letter, Paul will move to more practical points, but first he must secure these essential foundations, knowing that we cannot truly build up to the good news that follows until we are fully aware of the bad news first!

Romans presents mankind in grave trouble due to sin fuelled rebellion and rejection of God. The Apostle reveals this as having devastating consequences for the way people of all races and religions live: Sin has been exposed and affects every aspect of our ability to truly reflect what we were intended to be. It stains, spoils and separates us all from the God who made us - a problem we all need to reckon with!

As Paul's argument builds, he reveals the cosmic consequences of this sinful condition. The problem is an eternal one, striking at the heart of our spiritual standing before this holy God and affecting our ultimate destiny. Scripture says that God "*dwells in unapproachable light*", (1Tim. 6:16) elsewhere it states that "*men loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.*" (Jn. 3:19). Yet this God is on the move in Romans 1, never caught out by the fluctuating fortunes of our misfiring world. He is not only holy, but active. Paul presents us with these polarised parties, standing opposed to each other and impossibly apart. Can they ever be reconciled? We must continue reading Romans to discover more!

**Key verses this week:**

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness. Since what may be known about God has made it plain to them... So that men are without excuse." – Romans 1v 18-20

RIGHTEOUSNESS REQUIRED: Holiness revealed, sinfulness exposed

In this study we will look at how Paul describes God and mankind at the beginning of his argument and think about the implications.

Read: Romans 1v 18-32

- **The Character of God: 1v 18-20**
God is angry wherever sin and injustice break out with their devastating results. Sin always grieves God, but ultimately prompts His saving intervention.
- **The Condition of Man: 1v 21-25**
Paul's lurid description of mankind's motives and actions make for stark reading, but are also hard to deny as we continue to see the evidence of sin in our world today.
- **The Consequence of Sin: 1v 26-32**
Man's sin alienates him from a holy God. However, once we truly realise this, we are ready to appreciate the good news!

**Reflecting on Romans Together:**

- *What do you know of God?*
- *Do thoughts of sin trouble you?*
- *Have you considered where these things lead?*
- *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?*