

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

5. Sin's Slippery Slope

Both Jew and Gentile need a Saviour

Romans 3v 1-20



“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:

Scripture exhorts us to keep “*speaking the truth in love.*” (Eph. 4v 15) Although this is a noble and godly injunction, it can be hard to hear truth, even if it is ultimately for our good! Fallen humanity has developed a desire to dilute truth especially when it comes from God and is likely to expose the darkness of the human heart. Rather than letting light break in to bring necessary change, human beings opt instead to move their god-shaped goal posts; either tolerating sinful behaviour or ultimately legalising it. By tampering with the revealed will of God, people are content to shun truth, embrace error and settle for a lesser, more lenient image of who God is and what He expects.

Once convenient convictions are created, everything shifts and, as Romans 1v 25 says, we exchange “... *the truth of God for lie.*” This seems easier in the short term, but in reality, half-truth is no truth and man’s self-deception doesn’t change anything in God’s economy: Whatever God has revealed as right and wrong is the only measure by which we can expect to be judged. Better to hear the awful truth now and face up to what God requires, rather than continue to buy into fashionable falsehood and one day face the full fury of a sin hating God. Paul persists then in teaching what we need to know!

In Romans 3 Paul addresses some opposing questions to the hard truths he has already taught the Roman church. Previously he had clearly stated that law abiding Jews are just as guilty as idolatrous Gentiles or hedonists when it comes to sin. Having been so assertive in his indictments, the Apostle now contemplates the protests such teaching might provoke by answering objections in this next section of the epistle. Paul summarises his points and concludes that, regardless of ethnic background or religious persuasion, sin is a universal problem. Mankind is plummeting hopelessly down sin’s slippery slope, far from his Maker and lost in his sin. Yet despite this dramatic declension, God is revealed in Romans 3 as ever faithful, totally trustworthy and in absolute control.

**Key verses this week:**

“Therefore no-one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.”

- Romans 3v 20

SIN’S SLIPPERY SLOPE: Both Jew and Gentile need a Saviour

In this study we will consider potential objections to Paul’s previous teaching, examine Scripture’s description of the sinful human race and contemplate the place and purpose of God’s law.

Read: Romans 3v 1-20

- **Doubting Divine Direction: Paul deals with 4 objections - 3v1-8**
Having already explained how man is sinful and answerable to God, Paul now proceeds to address key human objections to God’s Divine verdict.
- **Sin’s Slippery Slope: Paul reveals the extent of the Fall - 3v 9-18**
Jews and Gentiles alike are all sinners! Regardless of racial or religious origins, mankind irresistibly succumbs to its fallen nature.
- **Learning Law’s Lesson: Paul summarises this section - 3v 19-20**
Once law’s boundaries are breached by disobedience, man is exposed and undone: No-one will be able to deny their sin on judgement day. Law cannot save, it only exposes the problem..

**Reflecting on Romans Together:**

- *Do you prize or despise your Christian heritage? Does it help or hinder your relationship with God?*
- *Do you trust God’s Word, or are you testing God’s Word?*
- *What does God see in your character, communication and conduct? Are you following Christ, or falling into sin?*
- *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?*