

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

6. How Christ Changes Everything

Introducing the promised Messiah

Romans 3v 21-31



“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 far, Paul has painted a bleak picture of the human condition. In his desperate descriptions, Paul has declared mankind morally bankrupt and spiritually dead. Far from God and lost in sin, this condition will ultimately expose every human being as guilty when they ultimately stand before God on judgement day. The Apostle has gone to great lengths to emphasise that on that fateful day, no-one will be justified: Regardless of self-assumed standards, or religious rhetoric, man's sin stained heart will be impossible to overlook. Yet, amid these gloomy prospects, a sudden shaft of Divine light breaks in: Like the first brave bud of spring, piercing the fierce freeze of winter's grip, or the rainbow's gentle hue signalling the end of a dark storm, Paul's words are about to bring fresh hope: There is light at the end of this particularly torrid tunnel.

Several key words with significant biblical implications are introduced at this stage of Paul's Roman letter: "*righteousness*", "*faith*", "*justifies*" and "*atonement*" all of which Paul begins to explain as part of the Gospel's salvation process. Essentially, this section of the epistle heralds the timely introduction of Jesus; the longed for Light so necessary to expose the desperate darkness of the human plight and, more importantly, the One who radiates God's grace and leads all who would trust Him out of such darkness and into the saving Son-shine of His love.

Having demolished the futile thinking of any who would trust in law or human heritage, Paul now invites the human race he has roundly condemned as universally sinful, to embrace a new, equally universal truth; that is to recognise the Christ of Scripture and see just how God has demonstrated His love. Here then, is genuine hope. No wonder Paul could say among his opening Roman remarks: "*I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes...*" (1v 16) Paul had discovered this glorious truth for himself and was now keen to share it with others, who, like us, need to receive God's radical righteousness for ourselves.

**Key verses this week:**

"But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." - Romans 3v 21-22

HOW CHRIST CHANGES EVERYTHING:*Introducing the promised Messiah*

This week we will examine how Jesus Christ takes centre stage within God's plan of salvation and how we can begin to understand and receive His good news for ourselves.

Read: Romans 3v 21-31

- **Righteousness Declared: *Scripture Speaks of a Saviour* - 3v 21-24**
Paul asserts that the entire Scripture record has been leading to this: God has revealed His ultimate plan for salvation in His Son, the eternal Word, who fulfils the Divine purpose Himself.
- **Righteousness Demonstrated: *The Christ at the Cross* - 3v 25-26**
Here Paul twice mentions what God did through Christ and why. Only by recognising God's gospel initiative can we hope to receive His salvation for ourselves.
- **Righteousness Defined: *Jesus the Justifier* - 3v 27-31**
Paul emphasises that being righteous before God is a matter of faith in Christ, not self-reliant religious works. Honouring God's law is the desire of the Christian, not for salvation, but because of it.

**Reflecting on Romans Together:**

- *Do you appreciate how Scripture reveals Christ as Messiah?*
- *Have you understood the cross and what happened there?*
- *How would you explain what God has done to someone else?*
- *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?*