
Romans: Gospel People

Midweek Bible Study

Week 1 - An introduction to Paul's letter to the Church in Rome



Quotes about Romans

“...really the chief part of the New Testament, and ...truly the purest gospel.”

“It is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but also that he should occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul”

Martin Luther

“If we have gained a true understanding of this epistle, we have an open door to all the most profound treasures of Scripture”

John Calvin

“The principal and most excellent part of the New Testament, and most pure Euangelion, that is to say glad tidings... and also a light and a way into the whole of Scripture”

“...the more it is studied, the easier it is; the more it is chewed, the pleasanter it is”

William Tyndale

“...a timeless manifesto, a manifesto of freedom through Jesus Christ. It is the fullest, plainest and grandest statement of the gospel in the New Testament”

John Stott

The Romans Road approach to evangelism

Example courtesy of Bible Gateway (please excuse different translations used)

The Problem

Romans 3:23 (CEB)

All have sinned and fall short of God's glory.

Romans 3:10 (CEV)

The Scriptures tell us, “No one is acceptable to God!”

The Consequences

Romans 5:12 (NirV)

Sin entered the world because one man sinned. And death came because of sin.

Everyone sinned, so death came to all people.

Romans 6:23 (ERV)

When people sin, they earn what sin pays—death. But God gives his people a free gift—eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Scope

Romans 1:20 (ICB)

There are things about God that people cannot see—his eternal power and all the things that make him God. But since the beginning of the world those things have been easy to understand. They are made clear by what God has made. So people have no excuse for the bad things they do.

The Solution

Romans 5:8 (GNT)

God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!

The Response

Romans 10:9-10 (NIV)

If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

The Assurance

Romans 10:13 (NLT)

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

The Result

Romans 5:1 (VOICE)

Since we have been acquitted and made right through faith, we are able to experience true and lasting peace with God through our Lord Jesus, the Anointed One, the Liberating King.

Romans 8:1 (NirV)

Those who belong to Christ Jesus are no longer under God’s judgment.

Romans 8:38-39 (NIV)

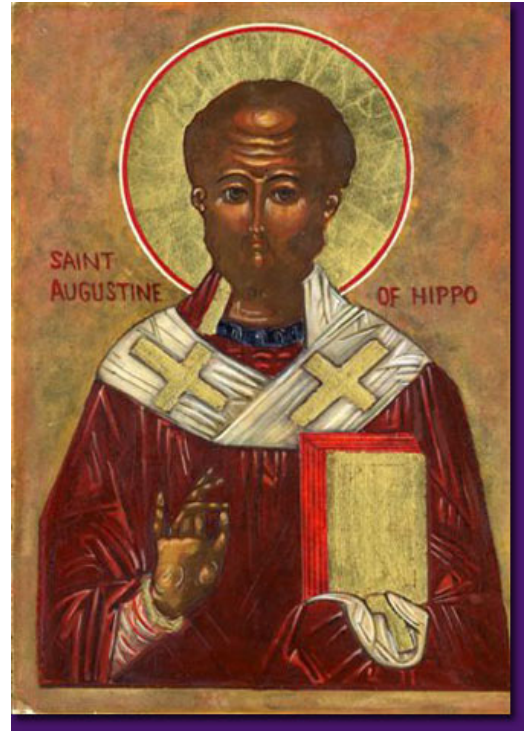
I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/blog/2016/09/evangelism-the-romans-road-to-salvation/>

Testimonies

Augustine of Hippo (354-430)

"The tumult of my heart took me out into the garden where no-one could interfere with the burning struggle with myself in which I was engaged... I was twisting and turning in chains... I threw myself down somehow under a certain fig tree, and let my tears flow freely. Suddenly I heard a voice from the nearby house chanting as if it might be a boy or girl... saying and repeating over and over again, "Pick up and read, pick up and read." ... I interpreted it solely as a divine command to me to open the book and read the first chapter I might find... So I hurried back to the place where I had put down the book of the apostle when I got up. I seized it, opened it and in silence read the first passage on which my eye lit: 'Not in riots and drunken parties, not in eroticism and indecencies, not in strife and rivalry, but put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision in the flesh for lusts' (Romans 13:13-14). I neither wished nor needed to read further. At once, with the last words of this sentence, it was as if a light of relief from all anxiety flooded into my heart. All the shadows of doubt were dispelled." Summer 386

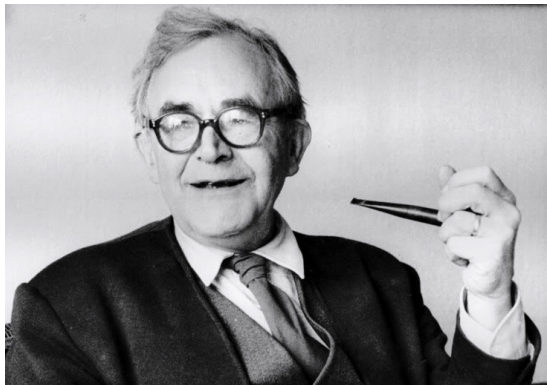


Martin Luther (1483-1556)

"I had greatly longed to understand Paul's letter to the Romans, and nothing stood in the way but that one expression, 'the righteousness of God', because I took it to mean that righteousness whereby God is righteous and acts righteously in punishing the unrighteous... Night and day I pondered until... I grasped the truth that the righteousness of God is that righteousness whereby, through grace and sheer mercy, he justifies us by faith. Thereupon I felt myself to be reborn and to have gone through open doors into paradise." 1515

John Wesley (1703-1791)

“About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.” 1738



Karl Barth (1886-1968)

“Our relation to God is ungodly... We assume that we are able to arrange our relation to him as we arrange our other relationships... We dare to deck ourselves out as his companions, patrons, advisers, commissioners... This is the ungodliness of our relation to God” On Romans 1:18

Theme of Romans

God’s justification of sinners by grace alone, in Christ alone, through faith alone.

or...

Who are the people of God?

“The redefinition and reconstitution of the people of God as comprising Jewish and Gentile believers on equal terms is a critical theme which pervades the letter.”

John Stott

Or **both!**

Structure of Romans

Greetings and introduction (1:1-18)

The Wrath of God (1:18-3:20)

The Grace of God (3:21-8:39)

The Plan of God (9-11)

The Will of God (12:1-15:13)

Paul's ministry and future plans (15:14-33)

Personal greetings and doxology (16)

Video of Andrew Wilson - A public performance of Romans. Accessible via Youtube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S2wjg3dQnEQ>