

Romans Bible Study

WEEK 1: JESUS REVEALED

*So, faith comes from hearing the message,
and the hearing through the word of Christ.* – Romans 10:17 (Hebrews 4:12; 2Timothy 3:16)

Opening Question: Think of a time when you experienced spiritual renewal.

What was happening at that time? How has the Word of God brought renewal in your life?

PERSONAL REFLECTION. THE WORD OF GOD BRINGS ABOUT RENEWAL AS WE STUDY GOD'S WORD TOGETHER, IT'S ENOUGH. IN THIS BIBLE STUDY WE'LL BE CONTENT TO SIMPLY DIG INTO GOD'S WORD, AND EXPECT RENEWAL.

We shared times when we were growing and the centrality of Scripture. Pastor Dan told the story of Martin Luther and John Wesley, and the historical impact of the book of Romans and spiritual renewal.

Our hope for the next 12 weeks is that we will experience the renewal that comes from understanding the message about Christ, and that as we read and study God's Word together

----- READ ROMANS 1:1-7-----

SOME ROMANS TRIVIA:

Who wrote Romans? Paul, Tertius (Romans 1:1, 16:22)

Who was it written to? Those in Rome loved by God and called to be Saints (1:7, Be specific)
Pastor Dan described the pockets of believers in Rome—multiple house churches, not one big church.

From where was Romans written? Corinth (Tradition & Acts 20:2-3; Rom 15:23-26 & 1Cor 16:1-8)

When was Romans written? 56-58AD (Based on Acts Timeline mentioned above)

What has happened at the church in Rome? Jews kicked out & later returned (Historically in 48/49AD)

What is going to happen? Persecution, Growth, Eventual center of Western Christianity

When did Paul visit Rome? When placed under house arrest (60AD) (Acts 28:16 & 30)

What genre (type of literature) is Romans? Epistle/Letter with elements of Diatribe (question and argument)

CONTEXT: How does knowing that we are reading a letter, written by a real person to a group of people who are experiencing specific things at a specific time help us better understand what we're reading?

We better understand what the words meant to the original audience, so that we can discern what they mean in our own context.

TYPES OF CONTEXT INCLUDE:

Biblical Context – Where does this fall in the story of the Bible?

Literary Context – Where does this passage fit in the whole book? What's the flow of thought? Genre?



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Historical/Cultural Context – What was happening in the world at that time?

Immediate Context – What’s happening around this passage?

Complete Context – How is this passage fulfilled in Christ, through the gospel?

What are some the themes (repeated words) of vs 1-7?

GOSPEL, GRACE, APOSTLE, CALLING, JESUS

GOSPEL: *euangelion* , n., good news -- the good news of God’s boundless grace that comes through faith in Jesus as Lord and Christ.

Where does the word gospel come from?

THE ROMAN EMPIRE used the term to designate the good news of victory that would bring about peace and prosperity, now that a new leader was in charge. The phrase “Good News” is used in Isaiah 52:7, and prior to it’s usage in the Roman Empire it was translated as *euangelidzo*. WE READ ISAIAH 52:7 and noted how it proclaims God’s good news as a message of God’s victory, that brings peace and salvation. Paul used this term to confront the Roman Imperial Cult, to say that Jesus is King and that where he is in charge there is peace, grace, life, love, hope, blessing, protection, etc.

How does Paul qualify the “gospel” in vs 1, 9, 16, 2:16?

Gospel of God; Gospel of his Son; Power of God to Salvation; my gospel. We discussed the significance of these terms.

What two elements of the gospel does Paul focus on in vs 2-4 ?

Jesus as the promised Messiah—in the flesh, Jesus as the Son of God—proved by his resurrection (Caesar also a divine son). The cross and Jesus’ death in our place, and the resurrection are both essential elements of the gospel.

When did God promise the Gospel (v.1)? (Ephesians 1:4, 1Peter 1:20, Revelation 13:8)

Beforehand, before the creation of the world, through the Holy Scriptures

GRACE: *charis* , n., undeserved favor (*chen* in Hebrew) (5, 7)

How does it change your understanding of grace to see it as “favor,” and not merely forgiveness. How does God show his favor to us?

God is for me, because I believe him. He desires to bless me and others through me. Blessing isn’t wealth, but it is God’s favor in my life. Grace is not merely forgiveness, it is the layers of goodness that he promises to those who believe him. Those who believe in Christ are guaranteed his grace—gifts, identity, righteousness, Holy Spirit, access to the Father, answers to prayer, provision, placed in his family, a calling, etc.

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CHRIST JESUS: Christ (Christos) is Greek for Messiah (anointed one). Jesus is the Greek name translated from Joshua, meaning “YHWH saves.”

From what have we been saved by this long promised savior?

sin, death, ourselves, power of Satan, the dominion of darkness, selfishness, the curse of the Law, obligation to rules (Old Testament).

OBEDIENCE OF FAITH (vs 5) – Paul has been accused of promoting faith without obedience (see Romans 3:8). How is “obedience of faith” different from a typical understanding of religious obedience?

Paul was accused of encouraging people to do whatever they want, because of grace. He confronts that off the bat. However, obedience doesn't bring grace. Faith brings grace. And Obedience flows out of faith. In other words because we believe and trust God we want what he wants. We obey because we trust him. Religious obedience is obeying to get a blessing and avoid punishment. Obedience of faith is a response of gratitude and trust, because of what we've already received in Christ.

CALLING: Calling is a big theme in the book of Romans. Calling (*kaleo* in Greek) is an invitation. What was Paul “called” to in this passage? What are we called to?

Paul – apostleship, to proclaim the gospel of God. Us—to belong to Jesus Christ, to be saints.

APOSTLESHIP: Paul was a “capital A” Apostle. However, the word “apostle” simply means “sent one” or “messenger.” In what way was Paul sent? How does “grace” apply to his “apostleship”? How does it apply to spiritual gifts (*charisma*), and calling?

Paul was sent to proclaim the gospel to the gentiles. He was called by God and the church confirmed his calling. When gentiles began receiving the gospel about Jesus there was a question as to how they should live. Paul's answer as God's messenger was that they should be led by the Holy Spirit and not worry about the laws of the Old Testament. In doing so they should be sensitive to their Jewish brothers, and abstain from sexual immorality. The church confirmed this as well (Acts 15). Paul was called to do this because God was gracious to him (he deserved it the least—read his story). He depended on God's provision and gifts to carry out this calling.

we have different gifts and different callings. We cannot answer God's call without his grace. We are dependent on his gifts and provision to answer his call.

What do we learn about ourselves in this passage?

We are loved by God. We are called to be saints.

How is the gospel changing your understanding of who you are? Of who God is?

Personal reflection – freedom, peace, confidence, joy, etc. God is for us.

How is Jesus being REVEALED in your life?

Personal reflection—he is king over my life. Where he is king, things are set right. He has called me to be a messenger for him.



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HOMEWORK :

READ 1-4

MEMORIZE 1:16-17

LOOK FOR AN OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ROMANS (USE GOOGLE)

THE GOSPEL WAS PROMISED BEFOREHAND!

SOME VERSES THAT PREDICT JESUS

- The Messiah would be the seed/offspring of a woman and would crush the head of Satan (Genesis 3:15).
- He would come from the seed/offspring of Abraham and would bless all the nations on earth (Genesis 12:3).
- He would be a “prophet like Moses” to whom God said we must listen (Deuteronomy 18:15).
- He would be born in Bethlehem of Judah (Micah 5:2).
- He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
- He would have a throne, a kingdom and a dynasty, or house, starting with King David, that will last forever (2 Samuel 7:16).
- He would be called “Wonderful Counselor,” “Mighty God,” “Everlasting Father,” “Prince of Peace,” and would possess an everlasting kingdom (Isaiah 9:6-7).
- He would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey, righteous and having salvation, coming with gentleness (Zechariah 9:9-10).
- He would be pierced for our transgression and crushed for our iniquities (Isaiah 53:5).
- He would die among the wicked ones but be buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9).
- He would be resurrected from the grave, for God would not allow His Holy One to suffer decay (Psalm 16:10).
- He would come again from the clouds of heaven as the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13-14).
- He would be the “Sun of Righteousness” for all who revere Him and look for His coming again (Malachi 4:2).
- He is the One whom Israel will one day recognize as the One they pierced, causing bitter grief (Zechariah 12:10).

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JESUS IS REVEALED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT AS...

Genesis – Jesus is our Creator
Exodus – He is the Passover Lamb
Leviticus – High Priest
Numbers – Water in the desert
Deuteronomy – He is our Eagles wings of deliverance
Joshua – Commander of the army of the Lord
Judges – He is the Lord of Peace
Ruth – He is our Redeemer
1 Samuel – He is the Prophet, Priest and King
2 Samuel – Rock of Salvation
1 Kings – Builder of a temple that will never fall
2 Kings – He is the reigning King
1 Chronicles – Son of David that is coming to rule
2 Chronicles – the King who reigns eternally
Ezra – Priest proclaiming freedom
Nehemiah – the One who restores what is broken
Esther – Protector of his people
Job – Mediator between God and man
Psalms – He is our song in the morning and in the night
Proverbs – our Wisdom and Strong Tower!
Ecclesiastes – our meaning for life
Song of Solomon – Author of faithful love
Isaiah – He is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace
Jeremiah – the weeping Messiah
Lamentations – He assumes God’s wrath for us
Ezekiel – Son of Man
Daniel – He is the Son of God with us in the fiery furnace
Hosea – Faithful husband even when we run away
Joel – He is the baptizer of the Holy Spirit
Amos – delivers justice to the oppressed
Obadiah – He is Mighty to Save
Jonah – The great missionary
Micah – He casts our sin into the sea of forgetfulness
Nahum – He proclaims future world peace
Habakkuk – He crushes injustice
Zephaniah – He’s the Warrior who saves
Haggai – He restores our worship
Zechariah – He is Lord and King over all the earth
Malachi – Sun of righteousness who brings healing