

Romans Bible Study

WEEK 2: RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

READ Romans 1:8-17. Pray for guidance and understanding from the Holy Spirit.

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

The gospel is simple and layered. All that is required to experience it is faith. However, as we grow in our understanding of the gospel, we realize that it impacts every area of our lives—God's grace and its implications are boundless.

THE SEED OF THE GOSPEL. The metaphor of a seed is used consistently throughout the New Testament (NT). In Matthew 13 Jesus tells a few different parables about seeds and how they represent 1) the message of the kingdom (i.e. elsewhere identified as the gospel of the Kingdom--Matt. 4:23; 9:35; Mk. 1:15; Lk. 4:43; 8:1; 16:16; Acts 8:12), 2) the kingdom of God itself, and 3) those who receive the message about the kingdom.

Seeds are complex. They are small, but contain all of the essential components to bear a plant or tree, their fruit, and seeds for replication.

In what way is the gospel like a seed?

"All discipleship is discipleship in the gospel." – Caesar Kolinowski, *The Gospel Primer*

SUMMARIZE v. 8-15

Given what we know about the history of Roman Christianity, what might have made the faith of the Roman believers worth sharing all over the world (v 8) ?

What is Paul's main prayer in this section (v 10)? _____

Romans Bible Study

WEEK 2: RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

What does Paul expect to happen when he arrives in Rome?

_____ (v11) _____ (v11)

_____ (v12) _____ (v13)

Note: Paul doesn't indicate what the spiritual gift is. Some commentators believe this to be general blessing. Others connect it with 1 Tim. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:6, though Paul doesn't mention the "gift" by name in that context either. Additionally, we know that the church in Rome is already exercising spiritual gifts Romans 12:6-8. It's not as though the Roman believers lacked spiritual gifts—as they are a reflection of the Holy Spirit that is given to those who belong to Christ (see Romans 8, 1Corinthians 12:7). Without further clarification, we won't dwell on the question of what exactly Paul means by this statement, save to say, that we should expect to have spiritual gifts, and that these come with the "preaching of the gospel" (v15). We'll address this topic in week 10.

Paul concludes the description of his intentions with a summary statement in vs 15. What might be surprising about the fact that Paul wants to preach the gospel in to those receiving this letter? What does this fact tell us about the relevance of the gospel for day-to-day life?

What is the link between Paul's expectations listed above and his desire to preach the gospel in Rome?

****Week 1 HOMEWORK REVIEW: MEMORIZE v 16-17, Read Ch 1-4, Outline Romans****

FILL IN THE SPOKES ON THE GOSPEL WHEEL.

How does vs 16-17 capture the theme of Romans? _____

Why is Paul specifically focused on "The Gentiles" (v 13, 5)?

Romans Bible Study

WEEK 2: RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

The Greeks who ruled the world before the Romans divided the world into two groups—the Greeks and everyone else (barbarians). Later Paul will address the divisions that arise in the church because of the tension between the Jews and everyone else (Greeks, gentiles, nations). Paul is obligated to minister to the gentiles. Similarly, Jesus said that he was “sent to the lost sheep of Israel (Matt 15:24). Where does Paul get this clear sense of calling (**v 5,9**) (see also Galatians 2:7-8, Acts 13:2)?

Who is salvation for? _____

Who is excluded by the term “everyone”? _____

Why does Paul say that salvation is “first for the Jew and then for the Gentile”?

How can the gospel bring healing to racial and social tension within the church?

FAITH IS A MAJOR THEME IN THE BOOK OF ROMANS.

In English we use a few different words to capture the idea expressed by *pistis* in Greek.

πίστις *pistis*, *n.* – belief, trust, faith

πιστεύω *pisteuo* *n.* – to believe, to trust, to have faith

How many times does the word *pistis* or *pisteuo* come up in verses 8-17? _____

How is faith different from simply agreeing that something is true?

Romans Bible Study

WEEK 2: RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

What does the gospel save us from?

What does the gospel save us to?

What are some different translations of the phrase ἐκ πίστεως εἰς πίστιν ? What the phrase imply?

What happens in our lives as we mature from faith to faith? (see the gospel wheel)

How is God inviting you to mature in from “faith to faith” this week?

How is the righteousness of God reflected in the following elements of the gospel?

Jesus’ Death on the Cross: _____

His Grace for Us : _____

His Holy Spirit in Us: _____

When we “Put on the New Self” (Eph 4:24, Col 3:10): _____

As we share the gospel: _____

Romans Bible Study

WEEK 2: RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED

The central message of the cross is Jesus death and resurrection. How should our lives reflect Jesus' death? How can they reflect his resurrection?

Why do you believe that the gospel is good news?

LOOK UP 1CORINTHIANS 1:18-31.

What does this passage indicate about God's ways and our ways?

Based on this passage and Paul's statement in vs 16, why might someone be ashamed of the gospel?

