

ev/church

ROMANS

THE LETTER THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

οὐ γὰρ ἐπαισχύνομαι τὸ
εὐαγγέλιον δυνάμεις γὰρ
θεοῦ ἐστὶν εἰς σωτηρίαν
παντὶ τῷ πιστεύοντι

TERM 4 – 2025

“ON MISSION” THIS TERM

Summer is just around the corner! It's a great time to start thinking about people we can be praying for, inviting, or speaking to about the gospel. Romans will show us the desperate need of the world for a saviour and the horror of the judgment that awaits. In this letter, we see God's plans and desire to save. How might you play a part in God's mission this term? What might the next step be for you to be *on mission* this term? You'll notice an "On Mission" reminder every few weeks this term to take those next steps.

Check out the video from Adrian for one way to be on mission >



“READING WIDER” THIS TERM

Our Daily Reading Notes have played a pivotal part in our aim to let God speak to us and to be in the Scriptures as a church together. We wanted to provide an option to *read wider* than just the weekly preaching passage so that we might hear the voice of our heavenly Father in the whole of his word to us.

READING WIDER: These "Reading Wider" coloured box sections allow us to read through the Bible roughly every three years in a way that draws some connections to the part of Scripture we are dwelling on together. You will find "Reading Wider" at the bottom of most days of the Daily Reading Notes and Optional Weekend Readings.

“THINKING DEEPER” THIS TERM

The Bible's message is both wonderfully simple – we teach it to our children – and gloriously deep – we never stop learning together. At times it helps to not only look through a particular passage but to step back and see how related passages shape how we understand various topics as we hear from the whole of Scripture. This term we've introduced "Thinking Deeper" sections throughout the Daily Reading Notes.

THINKING DEEPER: Look for these "Thinking Deeper" coloured sections with QR Code links. You'll see ways to *think deeper* through podcasts, articles, and other recommended resources related to the topics that emerge in the passages we are dwelling on together.



INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS 1-5

"... This Epistle (Romans) is really the chief part of the New Testament and the very purest Gospel, and is worthy not only that every Christian should know it word for word, by heart, but occupy himself with it every day, as the daily bread of the soul."

– Martin Luther

"... when any one gains a knowledge of this Epistle, he has an entrance opened to him to all the most hidden treasures of Scripture." – John Calvin

"All roads in the Bible lead to Romans, and all views afforded by the Bible are seen most clearly from Romans, and when the message of Romans gets into a person's heart there is no telling what may happen." – J. I Packer

Paul's letter to the Romans contains such a clear picture of the gospel of glorious salvation. In Romans, we clearly see our greatest need and how that need is met in Christ. It teaches us God's great desire to save and how that salvation is accomplished in Christ.

There is so much more to Romans, but all its depths flow out from this gospel message – God saves sinners by faith in Christ. This simple message has glorious depth.

INTRODUCTION TO ROMANS

The Purposes of Romans

The content of Romans suggests that Paul had multiple purposes in mind for writing this letter. He wanted to heal disunity in the church (14:1-15:3; 16:17) perhaps between Jews and Gentiles (11:17-20), he wanted to partner with the Roman church to launch a new missionary journey into Spain (15:22-29), and he wanted to raise funds for the church facing famine in Jerusalem (15:31). But even more than this, the content in chapters 1-5 and the anticipated questions in chapters 6-11 suggest that Paul wrote this letter to proclaim and defend the gospel. Perhaps chief among other purposes, Paul wanted to clarify the gospel especially in light of objections like: “only Gentiles need saving?”; “how can God be a just saviour – does he turn a blind eye to sinful rebellion?”; “does Paul’s gospel of grace promote sin?”; and “has God given up on Israel?”

The basic structure of Romans 1-5:

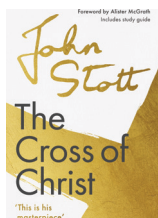
- 1:1-17 Introducing Paul’s Mission and the Gospel
- 1:18-3:20 All have sinned and face the wrath of God
- 3:21-4:25 Salvation comes through Christ to those who trust him
- 5:1-11 Being justified means we have peace now and forever
- 5:12-21 Christ is our new Head who saves us from Adam’s condemnation

It’s a great joy to be reading Romans 1-5 together this term. Let’s be praying that God does a mighty work in our hearts such that we’d be captured by the gospel and that our joy would overflow in praise to our God, so that we’d live lives that honours his name, and share this good news of salvation to a world in need of rescue.

If you’d like to read more on Romans, there is great introduction here >>

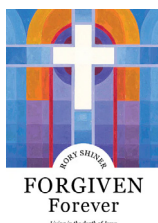


SUGGESTED READING:



The Cross of Christ – John Stott

Many would say that if you are only going to read one book other than the Bible, make it this one. As we look into Romans 1-5 we get one of the clearest outlines of what it means to be saved, and at the heart of salvation is the cross. It's not the easiest read, some find it best to skip straight to the chapter, 'The Problem of Forgiveness'.



Forgiven Forever: Living in the death of Jesus – Rory Shiner

This book is a much more accessible but still fantastic overview of the Bible's teaching on the cross and why it matters. Much of the gold of 'The Cross of Christ' is in this book but it won't take you as long to read.



Daily Doctrine: A One-Year Guide to Systematic Theology – Kevin DeYoung

Reading Romans reminds us that the teaching of the Bible is deep and rich. To understand any one part of Scripture more fully we need to connect it with what God has said elsewhere. This is why this book is so helpful. There is a topic for each day of the year covering the teaching of the Bible. You could pick it up with a friend and start working through it together to give you an appreciation for the teaching of the whole Bible to help you read each part.

This book is also available as an audiobook and there is a related podcast series called 'Doctrine Matters'.

WEEK 1: ROMANS 1:1-7

DAY 1

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything you find interesting, or that seems important.

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God – ² the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding his Son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for his name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ. ⁷ To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be his holy people: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. What are some truths here that you can bring to God in praise?

READING WIDER: To cover more of the Bible as you follow the Daily Reading Notes, we have added these optional readings to read wider. Today's reading wider is Psalm 147. What does this psalm teach us about God and about God's people?

Prayer: Spend some time praising God for the truths you've seen in this passage.

DAY 2

Read Romans 1:1-7 and Zephaniah 3:17

1. What does the Romans passage teach about Paul, the author of the letter?
Note: it seems that the 'we' in verse 5 is specific to Paul and his co-workers
2. What does it teach about the Christians Paul wrote to in Rome?
3. How do both these passages help you understand yourself and all Christians?

READING WIDER: Zephaniah is one of those easily forgotten books – but still is a word of God written for us. Perhaps today and tomorrow you could read the whole book (about 10 minutes total). There is a great little introduction to the book here >>



As you read Zephaniah, think about the realities of God's judgment and God's blessing. How does this book help you further appreciate both judgment and blessing, and encourage you to live in light of them?

Prayer: Spend some time reflecting on the privilege it is to be "loved by God" and "belong to Christ Jesus". Thank God for this love we have in Christ. Pray that you would live as Christ's slave.

WEEK 1: ROMANS 1:1-7

DAY 3

Read Romans 1:1-7; Ezekiel 36:22-32

1. In what ways is the gospel about the Son? Try and find at least two ways (see verse 9 as well).
2. Some people say that faith (or trust) is better understood as “faithfulness”. What does the phrase “the obedience that comes from faith” (NIV) or “obedience of faith” (ESV) suggest? Are they the same thing, or does one flow from the other (Galatians 5:6 says something similar)?
3. Paul says his ministry is for the sake of the Son. Ezekiel 36 shows us how God’s plans for salvation are for the sake of his name (reputation). How might the way we live out our salvation to honour or dishonour the reputation of the Son?
4. How might your life look different if you fully lived “for the sake of his name”? What steps could you take towards this?

READING WIDER: Today you can finish reading Zephaniah. As you read it, think about the realities of God’s judgment and God’s blessing. When you understand judgement like it’s described in Zephaniah, how does it help us respond to reading about the gospel in Romans? How might the blessing anticipated in Zephaniah see some fulfillment in the coming of this gospel?

Prayer: Reflect on the incredible gift we have in the Son by trusting him and leaning on his life and death, and not relying on our own works to save us. Pray that you’d grow in a deeper knowledge of your salvation so that you might desire to live for his honour.

DAY 4

Read Romans 1:1-7; Psalm 89:20-29

1. From just Romans 1:1-7, what can we learn about the gospel? Try and list three things, or as many as you can.
2. In what ways are all three Persons of the Trinity mentioned in these passages?
Hint: "God" often refers to the Father (though not always).
3. How might you praise the Father, Son, and Spirit for their united work in our salvation?

THINKING DEEPER: This term we've added some optional resources to help you "think deeper". Check out more about how the gospel teaches us the Triunity of God, God is Three in One, here >>



After watching or reading one of the resources for today, how does it help us see the importance of knowing God as Trinity?

Prayer: Praise the Father for orchestrating all of history to make salvation available through the Person and work of the Son, Jesus, who was given the Spirit as the promised Messiah (anointed one). Praise God for saving us.

WEEK 1: ROMANS 1:1-7

DAY 5

Read Romans 1:1-7

If you're up for it, try and read Romans 1-6 (or as much as you can today, or over the weekend).

1. As you read Romans 1-6, what connections can you see with 1:1-7?
2. What themes or ideas keep popping up?
3. If you go back to Day 1, what do you notice or appreciate more having spent more time reading the passage throughout this week and in Growth Groups?
4. What would you like God to help you have more clarity about as we read Romans this term?

READING WIDER: Read Psalms 148-150. What are all the reasons listed to praise God? What reasons are also expressed in Romans 1:1-7?

Prayer: Ask that God would help you build clarity around the things you've mentioned in Question 4. Perhaps using the psalms, praise God for who he is and for his glorious acts.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

OPTIONAL WEEKEND READING

READING WIDER: Read Philemon and Psalm 1

1. Philemon is the owner of Onesimus, a run-away servant who is now serving Paul in prison. What does Paul's letter teach about Christian relationships and values? See background to this letter [here >>](#)
2. What do you notice about Paul's priority and his hopes for God's people?
3. Psalm 1 gives us an introduction to Psalms and key insights into life as God's people. How does this psalm help us understand Christ's obedience? In what ways is Christ's model reflected in your own life? How might you grow in "the way of the righteous"?



Prayer: Use some of the words of Psalm 1 to praise Jesus for his perfect obedience. Use some of the words to pray that God might grow you to be more like Christ.

WEEK 2: ROMANS 1:8-17

DAY 1

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything you find interesting, or that seems important.

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world. ⁹ God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you ¹⁰ in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you. ¹¹ I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong – ¹² that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith. ¹³ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. ¹⁵ That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome. ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. ¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed — a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

2. What are the things that motivate Paul? How can these things motivate us?

READING WIDER: Read Habbakuk 1-2. See here for an introduction to Habbakuk >> What are Habbakuk's complaints to God and how do they arise from God's character? What comfort is it to know God's word records these complaints? How does God's response help us with the questions raised by suffering?



Prayer: Ask God that we'd be motivated to live in light of the wonderful gospel of God that makes it possible for us and those who come to Christ to be right with him by faith.

DAY 2

Read Romans 1:8-17 and 15:17-24

1. What motivates Paul's letter and his whole life?
2. It's possible to imagine that someone who "works hard" for the gospel has no time to pray. Why do you think prayer is so significant for Paul (Romans 15:25-33 might also help)?
3. What does your current prayer life reveal about your beliefs and your priorities?

READING WIDER: Read Habakkuk 3. The imagery here echoes God's saving acts in Exodus and in bringing God's people into the promised land. How does Habbakuk respond to the saving acts of God, and how is it the same or different for us?

Prayer: Ask God that we'd be shaped by his word and the priorities revealed in it. Ask him to continue to work in his world to bring salvation to every nation.

WEEK 2: ROMANS 1:8-17

DAY 3

Read Romans 1:8-17 and Proverbs 24:11

1. What does Paul hope for from his visit to Rome? Try and find at least two things.
2. What seems to be a key method Paul will use to see these things occur? How is it connected to God's own work (verse 16)?
3. What are some ways you are tempted to be ashamed of, or silent about the gospel today? How are today's two passages an encouragement to speak with, or invite non-Christians to hear the gospel?

ON MISSION: List some people you know well and could invite to church, Summerfest, or Summer Series. What's the next step to have conversations with each person?

READING WIDER: Read Proverbs 1-3 today. What do you learn about wisdom in these chapters? How might the fear of the Lord relate to Paul's gospel priorities? What other connections can you see between the things you've read today?

Prayer: Praise God for choosing to powerfully bring about salvation through the weak activity of sharing the gospel. Pray that our church and that you might be emboldened to share the gospel that saves those in urgent need

DAY 4

Read Romans 1:16-17

This is the letter that changed the world, especially these two verses! In the 16th Century, Martin Luther, a Friar within the Roman Catholic Church, read these verses closely. With joy, he described his insight into these verses as his spiritual rebirth.

1. What are the key words to understand in verses 16-17? What clues are there that they are connected?

What is the "Righteousness of God"?

There are three common views.

- a. First, "the righteousness of God" is describing God's character – God is righteous or just (Romans 3:5). Luther had previously thought that if the gospel revealed God's just character it was not good news for sinners who would be justly condemned by the righteous God.
- b. Second, "the righteousness of God" is about his saving acts. The Old Testament sometime uses "righteousness" and "salvation" alongside each other to describe God's faithfulness to his promise to save his people (e.g. Isaiah 46:13, Psalm 98:2).
- c. Third, "the righteousness of God" is the gift of righteousness from God to those with faith (the original Greek words could be either 'from' or 'of'). Luther believed this view best explained the connection between verses 16 and 17, and what Paul goes on to teach through the rest of the letter. God saves those with faith, declaring them righteous (Romans 3:21-26; 4:5).

Many note the connection between the three ideas above: a) God is a righteous God, b) revealed so clearly in the way he is faithful to his promises to save, and c) a salvation possible because he gives righteousness to those who don't deserve it but who have faith – they trust in Jesus for their righteousness. This doesn't sound like a righteous thing to do! How could a judge give a "not guilty" verdict to a guilty person? We will see the answer in chapter 3:21-26. Feel free to read ahead!

Prayer: Praise God for his righteousness and for making sinners like you righteous through faith in Jesus.

WEEK 2: ROMANS 1:8-17

DAY 5

Read Romans 1:16-17; 3:21-26; 4:1-5; 5:17

1. What connections can you see between these verses?
2. How does it help you understand what “the righteousness of God” means in 1:17?
3. How might you express joy at this good news of salvation today?

READING WIDER: Read Proverbs 4-6 today. What do you learn about wisdom in these chapters? What does Proverbs say is most precious and how does this relate to Paul’s priorities to preach the gospel? What other connections can you see between the things you’ve read today?

Prayer: “Nothing in my hand I bring, simply to your cross I cling, naked come to you for dress, helpless look to you for grace, stained by sin to you I cry, wash me Saviour or I die” – Listen to the song: *Rock of Ages* >>



PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

OPTIONAL WEEKEND READING

READING WIDER: Read Ecclesiastes 1 and Acts 1

1. What problems does Ecclesiastes introduce?
2. How might Acts 1 speak to these issues?

See helpful introductions to Acts and Ecclesiastes here >>

3. In what ways is God working in you through these words? Are there things to repent of? Things to praise him for? New ways of thinking? New ways of living?



Prayer: Father, thank you for saving us from the futility of living without hope. Thank you for bringing us into the hope of your kingdom through the message preach by the eyewitnesses of Christ's resurrection. Help me long for your kingdom and not chase the emptiness of this life.

WEEK 3: ROMANS 1:18–32

DAY 1

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything that stands out, and notice what ideas or phrases are repeated. What does this passage teach about humanity and God?

¹⁸ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, ¹⁹ since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

²⁰ For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. ²¹ For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²² Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles. ²⁴ Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. ²⁵ They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator – who is forever praised. Amen. ²⁶ Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. ²⁷ In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. ²⁸ Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. ²⁹ They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, ³⁰ slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; ³¹ they have no understanding, no fidelity, no love, no mercy. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practice them.

READING WIDER: Read Psalms 14 and 53. What do these psalms add to our understanding of humanity and of God?

Prayer: Ask that God would keep you from the wickedness of sin, to see it in your life and put it to death.

DAY 2

Read Romans 1:18-32 and Proverbs 7:21-27

1. What does Paul say all humans know? Try and list at least five things.
2. What do all people do with this knowledge? Try and list at least two things.
3. How does this explain why “the wrath of God is being revealed” (verse 18)?
4. Are people purely free in their sin; what’s the reality of so-called “freedom”? In what ways is it connected to God’s wrath being revealed?
5. How might our perspective on the human condition need to change to fit with God’s word?

READING WIDER: Read Proverbs 7-9 today. What do you learn about sin’s attraction, the way sin suppresses wisdom, and the result of sin? Compare this with wisdom? How do you see these themes in Romans 1:18-32? What other connections can you see between the things you’ve read today?

Prayer: “Glorious God, I am humbled again, as I look on your holiness, I’m so ashamed of my sin. You are so pure, in unapproachable light, but I am so shattered and stained by my selfish desires. Have mercy Lord...” – Listen to the Song: *Humbled Again* >>



WEEK 3: ROMANS 1:18-32

DAY 3

Read Romans 1:18-32

1. What are some of the different attitudes towards God that Paul lists?
2. Which attitudes seem more central? How so?
3. In what ways are these attitudes still present in your own life? What do you think is causing those attitudes? How might you grow to be more thankful to God?

READING WIDER: Read Isaiah 1. See here an introduction to the book of Isaiah >> What connections can you see between the today's passages?



Prayer: Father, there are all sorts of things I wish I had, or that I wish were different in my life. Things that I deep down value more than I ought. Renew a steadfast spirit in me that desires you above all else. Would I be able to truly say that your love is better than life (Psalm 63:3).

DAY 4

Read Romans 1:18-32 and Isaiah 2:6-9

1. What do these passages teach about sin? Is it only behaviours? How else is it described?
2. Are there parts of this passage that particularly expose your own past or present sin?
3. Go back to Romans 1:16-17. How is this news especially wonderful when we see the depth of our sin?

READING WIDER: Read Isaiah 2 today. Talking or thinking about sin isn't fun, and it is not uplifting. What does Isaiah 2 add to both the depth of sin and the wonder of salvation? How do Romans 1 and Isaiah 2 encourage us to trust Christ alone for salvation?

Prayer: "Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).

WEEK 3: ROMANS 1:18-32

DAY 5

Read Romans 1:18-32

1. Have another look at Day 1. What do you notice or appreciate more having spent more time reading this passage throughout this week on your own or in Growth Groups?
2. How has God been working in you by his Spirit this week? Are there particular truths that you have dwelt on? Things the Spirit has convicted you of? New appreciations of your sin and so the wonder of salvation?

READING WIDER: Read Isaiah 3-4 today. What does Isaiah 3-4 add to the picture of sin and “the revelation of God’s wrath”? Given this dire state, what hope is there for anyone to be saved? (Who or what might the branch be referring to (see Isaiah 11:1-3 and Jeremiah 23:5-6)?)

Prayer: Father, I thank you that you are at work in me, your child, to form me in the likeness of your Son, my Saviour. I praise you, for the wonder of salvation, that you would save a wretch like me. What amazing grace.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

OPTIONAL WEEKEND READING

READING WIDER: Read Ecclesiastes 2 and Acts 2

1. What frustrations are wrestled with in Ecclesiastes 2? How might the gospel of resurrection hope in Acts 2 speak to these frustrations?
2. Throughout Romans this week we have seen the depravity of humanity. How does Ecclesiastes help us see our hopelessness without God? What hope does the preaching in Acts 2 offer, and who is this offer for?
3. In what ways is God working in you through these words? Are there things to repent of? Things to praise him for? New ways of thinking? New ways of living?

Prayer: Bring the things you've listed above to God in prayer.

WEEK 4: ROMANS 2

DAY 1

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything you find interesting, or that seems important. Try to write the main point in a sentence.

¹ You, therefore, have no excuse, you who pass judgment on someone else, for at whatever point you judge another, you are condemning yourself, because you who pass judgment do the same things. ² Now we know that God's judgment against those who do such things is based on truth. ³ So when you, a mere human being, pass judgment on them and yet do the same things, do you think you will escape God's judgment? ⁴ Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?

⁵ But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed. ⁶ God "will repay each person according to what they have done."

⁷ To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. ⁸ But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. ⁹ There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; ¹⁰ but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

¹¹ For God does not show favoritism. ¹² All who sin apart from the law will also perish apart from the law, and all who sin under the law will be judged by the law. ¹³ For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous. ¹⁴ (Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law. ¹⁵ They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.) ¹⁶ This will take place on the day when God judges people's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares.

READING WIDER: Read Psalms 47 and 67. How do these psalms help us appreciate the potential shock of Romans 2? If you have questions about the phrases, "first for the Jew and then for the Gentile," there's a helpful article explaining this here >>



Prayer: Ask God that he'd show us our sin so that we might always humbly depend on him. Praise him for pouring out his blessing from the Jews to all nations that we might be his children. Pray that we'd seek to do good and honour him.

DAY 2

Read Romans 2:1-4 and Luke 6:41-42

1. You might have noticed a shift at the beginning of chapter 2. In chapter 1, Paul keeps saying “they, them, those who ...”. How does this change in chapter 2, and why do you think he changes?
2. What similarities can you see between the teaching of Paul (Romans 2) and Jesus (Luke 6)?
3. In what ways does this passage show you your guilt? In what ways does it help you to see the way God wants you to live?

READING WIDER: If you have time you might like to use these passages to think about whether or not judging others is always wrong? (See Matthew 7:1-6; 1 Corinthians 4:3-5 and 1 Corinthians 5:12-13).

Prayer: Father, I am an expert at seeing sin in others, especially those who wrong me. So often I’m blind to my own sin and slow to see how kind you have been to me despite my sin. Help me to have a constant awareness of your grace and patience so I might live mercifully towards others and give joyful thanks for salvation.

WEEK 4: ROMANS 2

DAY 3

Read Romans 2:1-16, 3:10, 3:20

1. If you only read Romans 2:1-16, what might you say is the way to be saved?
2. How does seeing Paul's conclusion in Romans 3:20 help you know that being saved is not about doing good works?
3. God makes himself clear to all in creation (1:20), how is God's law also clear? What does this mean for people's guilt?

Conscience is a special gift to us as those made in God's image, it helps us know to know right from wrong – but because of sin conscience is not always working as it should be (1 Timothy 4:2).

4. How might you live your life in light of the fact that you and others will be judged (see also 2 Corinthians 5:10)?

READING WIDER: Read Ecclesiastes 3. What wisdom about time, death, and work does Ecclesiastes 3 offer? Why might knowing God's future judgment be critical to living wisely? What does the Ecclesiastes' picture of judgment here add to the other readings today?

Prayer: Father, thank you that if I trust Christ, he has already faced your judgement so that there is no condemnation awaiting me. But Lord, press on me the reality of that final day, standing before you in your splendour and glory, seeing my Saviour interceding for me. Lord, keep this day clear in my mind to live rightly for you.

DAY 4

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything interesting, or important.

¹⁷ Now you, if you call yourself a Jew; if you rely on the law and boast in God; ¹⁸ if you know his will and approve of what is superior because you are instructed by the law; ¹⁹ if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light for those who are in the dark, ²⁰ an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of little children, because you have in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth – ²¹ you, then, who teach others, do you not teach yourself? You who preach against stealing, do you steal? ²² You who say that people should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? ²³ You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? ²⁴ As it is written: “God’s name is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” ²⁵ Circumcision has value if you observe the law, but if you break the law, you have become as though you had not been circumcised. ²⁶ So then, if those who are not circumcised keep the law’s requirements, will they not be regarded as though they were circumcised? ²⁷ The one who is not circumcised physically and yet obeys the law will condemn you who, even though you have the written code and circumcision, are a lawbreaker. ²⁸ A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person’s praise is not from other people, but from God.

2. What do we learn about what matters to God and what does not? In what ways might you seek to pursue the things that God praises?

READING WIDER: Read Ecclesiastes 4-5. We just considered Paul’s priorities and our own. What priorities are considered and critiqued in Ecclesiastes 4-5? In what ways does this encourage or challenge your goals in life?

Prayer: Pray for our world (especially for our Mission Partners page 66), that the gospel would be boldly proclaimed and its light would burst forth in regions of great darkness, bringing incredible salvation. Pray that the Lord would raise up more workers to be part of this urgent saving work

WEEK 4: ROMANS 2

DAY 5

Read Romans 2:17-29, Jeremiah 31:31-33, and Ezekiel 36:26-27

Circumcision was the Old Testament sign for males that marked them as God's people (see Genesis 17). However, the sign didn't guarantee they were truly God's people (for example, Ishmael was circumcised). Coming into the covenant community assumed an obligation of obedience to the whole of God's law (see Genesis 17:1), an obedience that should come from the heart (Deuteronomy 10:14-17) as evidence of trusting in God's promise for a renewed heart (Deuteronomy 30:6).

1. What seems to be Paul's point about external religiosity?
2. For anyone to be right with God (in the Old or New Testaments), why do we need an inner work of the Spirit?
3. A key mark of the person with a renewed heart is that they seek praise from God (Romans 2:29). In what ways do you seek praise from people? In what ways should you more sincerely seek praise from God?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 3:1-4:21. What opposition does Peter face, and how does his perspective help him? How might the people opposing Peter in Acts be similar to the people Paul is warning in Romans 2? What warning and encouragement does this give you today?

Prayer: Father, it is so easy to seek praise from people. The ways we serve or give or do external 'religious' activities can often mask a heart that is wandering from you, or is forgetful and unappreciative of your grace. Lord, stir in me a longing for your praise, give me a heart that desires to serve and honour you. Awaken me from a sleepy apathy and renew a zeal for following your ways.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

OPTIONAL WEEKEND READING

READING WIDER: Read Psalm 2 and Acts 4:23-36

1. What do you think is the main point of Psalm 2, and how do the Apostles understand it in Acts 4?
2. It's interesting in Acts 4:27-29 that the believers' prayer shows that they think the Psalm is fulfilled in Jesus and also in their own experience of persecution. Rulers once rose against Jesus and still rise against him in their opposition to the gospel. How might we pray for the gospel to go out using this prayer as a guide?
3. How might you be part of fostering a church community like Acts 4:32-36?

Prayer: Use the prayer from Acts 4 as a guide for your prayers.

WEEK 5: ROMANS 3:1-20

DAY 1

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything interesting, or that seems important. Try to write the main point in a sentence.

¹ What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision?

² Much in every way! First of all, the Jews have been entrusted with the very words of God. ³ What if some were unfaithful? Will their unfaithfulness nullify God's faithfulness? ⁴ Not at all! Let God be true, and every human being a liar. As it is written: "So that you may be proved right when you speak and prevail when you judge." ⁵ But if our unrighteousness brings out God's righteousness more clearly, what shall we say? That God is unjust in bringing his wrath on us? (I am using a human argument.) ⁶ Certainly not! If that were so, how could God judge the world? ⁷ Someone might argue, "If my falsehood enhances God's truthfulness and so increases his glory, why am I still condemned as a sinner?" ⁸ Why not say – as some slanderously claim that we say – "Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is just! ⁹ What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; ¹¹ there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. ¹² All have turned away; they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." ¹³ "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." ¹⁴ "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." ¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ ruin and misery mark their ways, ¹⁷ and the way of peace they do not know." ¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes." ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰ Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

THINKING DEEPER: You might like to read *Daily Doctrine* page 116, or listen to the podcast, 'What is the Doctrine of Sin?' >>



Prayer: Ask God to help you see the depths of your sin so that you might always cling to his mercy in Christ and so you might see the need for the gospel to spread in our world.

DAY 2

READ ROMANS 3:1-20

1. What questions are asked in this passage? What are Paul's answers?
2. Imagine someone opposing what Paul has said so far. Someone might claim that Paul is either wrong about his verdict on humanity or wrong about God. But Paul is holding three truths together: human sin, God's faithfulness and mercy, and his justice (see below). Why might it be easy to emphasis one truth in a way that 'neglects' another truth? How do you see Paul trying to uphold all three?

Humanity's sin: Paul has been making it clear that no one will escape judgment.

God is faithful and merciful: God had made gracious promises to his people. The Jews who truly believed the promises leant on his grace and could be confident about their future with him despite their sin. But the promises were never to be an excuse for sin.

God is just and righteousness: God had said that He will judge the world in truth (Romans 2:2). The sinful Jew who leans on his own righteousness to be saved can't possibly be "good" enough – "there is no one righteous".

3. These verses can be tricky to follow. Part of the reason for this is because he will say more later in Romans. But what can we learn about humanity, God, and the need everyone has for salvation?

READING WIDER: Read Ecclesiastes 6 and 7. What does Ecclesiastes teach us about living in a world under the curse of sin? What evidence is there that the writer isn't giving a full picture of life from a Christian perspective? What is helpful to learn from the perspective he brings?

Prayer: Praise God for His faithfulness, justice and righteousness, and pray that we'd never use his grace as a reason to belittle sin but instead use it as more reason to love our gracious God in obedience to his commands.

WEEK 5: ROMANS 3:1-20

DAY 3

Read Romans 3:1-20

1. What picture does Paul paint of humanity? Is there any escaping, or anyway of being able to excuse yourself from this description?
2. Paul wrote this letter to a church! Why might he go into so much depth to convict churchgoers of their sin?
3. How might a more sober view of your sin help you in your Christian life?

READING WIDER: Read Acts 5. What does this passage add to the seriousness of sin and the place of appropriate fear in Christian life? What does Acts 5 teach us about Jesus and the gospel?

Prayer: Father, show me my sin. Help me never trust in my own righteousness. Give me an awareness of my sin so that I'd never turn from relying on Christ and his righteousness. Bring specific sins to God in repentance.

DAY 4

Read Romans 3:1-20

1. Try and summarise the conclusions that Paul makes in verses 19-20.
2. What does Paul say here about one of the purposes of the law (see also Romans 7:7-12 and Galatians 3:24)?
3. If the law only speaks to those under the law, how is every mouth, including those who don't have the law, silenced (see 2:14-15)? What does this mean for our friends and family who don't know Jesus?

ON MISSION: What next steps could you take to pray for, speak to, and invite someone as Summer gets closer?

READING WIDER: Read Ecclesiastes 8. In what ways does the writer see the frustration of injustice? We all long for justice, but if God is to give us justice on the final day, how will that end for every person according to Romans 3?

Prayer: Ask that God would turn people from trusting their own righteousness to trusting in Christ. Pray for our church family that we would also be humbly dependent on Christ for our salvation. Pray that this dependence would show in our humility towards all and our love for those who need to hear the gospel.

WEEK 5: ROMANS 3:1-20

DAY 5

Read Romans 1:18-3:20

1. What picture has Paul been building of humanity?
2. Why do you think he takes so much time to say it?
3. There is a common perception, "If there's a God, I'm sure he'd let me into heaven." How might Romans 1:18-3:20 address all the different kinds of people who might believe in their own righteousness?
4. How does this section help us see our need for Jesus and praise him?

Prayer: Ask God that he'd open the eyes of our friends, families, and neighbours. Is there a particular person for you to pray for who thinks they are "good enough"? Ask that God would help them to see their sin and so desperately seek the saviour. Pray you'd also continue this longing even though it has been wonderfully met in Christ.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

OPTIONAL WEEKEND READING

READING WIDER: Read Ecclesiastes 9 and Acts 6

1. What is the common end of all people, and how does that disappoint the writer of Ecclesiastes? In what ways is it helpful to feel this disappointment?
2. If life is short and we all die and face judgment (Hebrews 9:27), why might the Apostles devote themselves to prayer and the ministry of the word (see Romans 1:16)?

Prayer: Father, help us to number our days so that we might live a life of wisdom and prioritise what will make an eternal difference in people's lives. Give us wisdom to know best how to partner in the work of the gospel.

WEEK 6: ROMANS 3:21-26

DAY 1

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything you find interesting, or that seems important. With another colour, note any words you are unsure of.

²¹ But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²² This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood – to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – ²⁶ he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

2. What are some of the truths that you can praise God for today?

THINKING DEEPER: You might like to read page 226 of *Daily Doctrine* today on “Expiation and Propitiation” – big words that mean cleansing and turning aside anger. See how these words relate to Jesus’ work on the cross. There is a longer article available here >>



Prayer: Spend some time praising God for the truths you’ve seen in this passage.

DAY 2

Read Romans 3:20-26 and Romans 4:5

1. Remembering the big conclusion from the previous section (verses 20, 23), why is this section such wonderful news?
2. Today, let's think about that word "justified". What other words or phrases in the passage seem to be connected to "justified"?

Justification – The word "justified", is a legal word, often used in ancient and modern law courts. A person is declared "not guilty" = they are justified.

The Roman Catholic Church has a different view of this word – they believe it is not simply a word of "declaring" someone not guilty, it is also "transforming" that person to start becoming "not guilty". But Romans 4:5 says, "God who justifies the ungodly". Understanding this verse helps us see that our justification – our right standing before God – is totally through Christ's righteousness alone, we are given his legal righteousness – even without yet performing any righteous act (2 Corinthians 5:21). It's true that this will transform us – being justified by faith leads to obedience – but transformation is the evidence of our justification – it does not contribute to, or merit our justification.

READING WIDER: Read Psalms 18 and 51. What do these psalms teach us about people and about God? What can we learn about the humble, and how does this connect with being justified apart from works?

Prayer: "Before the throne of God above, I have a strong and perfect plea, a great High Priest.. who ever lives and pleads for me... my perfect spotless righteousness". Listen to the Song: *Before the Throne*



WEEK 6: ROMANS 3:21-26

DAY 3

Read Romans 3:20-26

But if God justifies the ungodly, how can he be just? That's the question we will look at in our passage today.

1. Where can you see Paul trying to defend God's justice in these verses?
2. People have spoken of God as "the just, justifier" or as "the righteous, righteous-er". Can you see how they get that from this passage?
3. How is God both just and able to justify sinners? (The notes on Day 5 might be helpful).
4. Why would Martin Luther call this "possibly the most important single paragraph ever written"? How might this good news bring joy to you today?

READING WIDER: Read Galatians 1. What's at stake if someone changes the gospel to include works? Is this how you think about the gospel? How might our love for Jesus' salvation necessarily lead us to care deeply about his true gospel?

Prayer: Father, I praise you for your incredible character that is so clearly revealed in the cross. You are at the same time perfect in justice and love. I don't deserve your mercy, I deserve your justice, but you have made a way to satisfy your justice and show me, a sinner, unfathomable mercy – thank you for Jesus, who died to satisfy your anger and open the path for your love to come to sinners like me.

DAY 4

Read Romans 3:21-26

(If you have time you could also look at 1:17, 4:3, 4:7-8, 4:16-24)

1. Some Christians put a big divide between the Old Testament and the New Testament. What does Paul show about the way our Old Testament reveals this gospel news? (Note: for Paul there wasn't yet a "New Testament", he was still writing most of it! For Paul, he saw the good news in his Scriptures, our Old Testament).
2. What do these words suggest about people who lived before Christ and who trusted in the promise of Scripture: "because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished" (verse 25)?
3. Our Triune God has accomplished in Christ the plan of the ages, rescuing a people from his holy wrath – a people who trusted the promise before Christ, and those since who have trusted Christ as the fulfilment of that promise. How is each member of the Trinity involved in this work of redemption (see Ephesians 1:3-14; John 3:16; Hebrews 9:14; 1 John 2:2)?

READING WIDER: Read Ephesians 1-2. What does this add to the picture of the incredible salvation God has achieved for us in Christ? For what things does it encourage us to praise God for and ask God for?

Prayer: Father, thank you for sending Christ your Son, anointed with your Spirit, to bring salvation to all who trust him. Father, we thank you that you are not only our Holy Judge but our loving Father who has adopted us by bringing us into union with Christ and giving us the Spirit of adoption (Romans 8:14-17). We praise you Father for sending your Spirit to give us the eyes to behold the light of Christ, the radiance of your glory.

WEEK 6: ROMANS 3:21-26

DAY 5

1. Go back to Day 1. What things do you understand more clearly, or appreciate more fully?

Below are some key terms we've looked at this week.

Justification:

A term taken from the law courts meaning "declared not guilty."

Redemption:

A term taken from the slave market meaning "to purchase from slavery."

"Sacrifice of Atonement" or "Propitiation":

"A sacrifice that turns away wrath." (NIV has translated "propitiation" as "sacrifice of atonement"). The just punishment for sin is poured out on Christ and has propitiated or satisfied the just wrath of God, turning his wrath away from Christians.

READING WIDER: Read Galatians 2 and 3. How do these chapters in Galatians complement what we've seen in Romans 3 this week?

Prayer: Praise God for the wonderful and glorious salvation he has orchestrated for sinners like us in Christ.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

OPTIONAL WEEKEND READING

READING WIDER: Read Galatians 5-6 and Ephesians 3-6

1. We've seen this week the immeasurable grace shown to us in Christ turning aside the penalty we deserve. What else does Paul teach us in these passages about the grace and the blessings Christians receive?
2. How does he expect grace to change us?
3. What might this transformation look like in your own life? Perhaps just pick one or two things to reflect on.

Prayer: Father, we praise you for your grace to us. You have been so immeasurably kind to sinners like me. Help me to cherish your grace each day and let it lead to a life overflowing in grateful obedience to you.

WEEK 7: ROMANS 3:27–4:12

DAY 1

Read Psalm 32 and Romans 3:27-4:12

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything you find interesting, or seems important.

²⁷ Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. ²⁸ For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law. ²⁹ Or is God the God of Jews only? Is he not the God of Gentiles too? Yes, of Gentiles too, ³⁰ since there is only one God, who will justify the circumcised by faith and the uncircumcised through that same faith. ³¹ Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law. ⁴ ¹ What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ² If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about – but not before God. ³ What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” ⁴ Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵ However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness. ⁶ David says the same thing when he speaks of the blessedness of the one to whom God credits righteousness apart from works: ⁷ “Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. ⁸ Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them.” ⁹ Is this blessedness only for the circumcised, or also for the uncircumcised? We have been saying that Abraham’s faith was credited to him as righteousness. ¹⁰ Under what circumstances was it credited? Was it after he was circumcised, or before? It was not after, but before! ¹¹ And he received circumcision as a sign, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them. ¹² And he is then also the father of the circumcised who not only are circumcised but who also follow in the footsteps of the faith that our father Abraham had before he was circumcised.

2. What connections can you see between God’s blessing and his forgiveness?

READING WIDER: Read Psalm 103. How does this psalm express gratitude for what God has done?

Prayer: Spend some time praising God for the truths you’ve seen in this passage. You could use Psalm 32 or 103 to guide your prayers of praise.

DAY 2

Read Romans 3:27-4:12

1. Using the printed on the previous page, underline (or circle or highlight) the questions that are asked.
2. How would you answer these questions? How does Paul answer them?
3. In what sense do you think faith upholds the law? (See also Romans 3:21 and 13:8-10.)
4. Given what we've seen in Romans, why might someone think that obeying God is no longer important? If good works don't make us right with God, why does obedience matter?

READING WIDER: Read Genesis 12-14. In what ways do we see Abraham's faith, and what questions do you have of his faith (God changed Abram's name to Abraham in Genesis 17)? What does this part of Abraham's life teach us about faith?

Prayer: Father, thank you that you see me as righteous even though I stumble. May your grace in saving me also motivate me to live a new life, upholding your law of love.

WEEK 7: ROMANS 3:27–4:12

DAY 3

Read Romans 3:27-4:12

1. How does Paul respond to the following misconceptions:
 - a. “If it is by faith, Old Testament Jews and New Testament Christians are saved in different ways”?
 - b. “God has specifically chosen the Jews, he is only the Jewish God”?
2. What does this passage help us appreciate about God’s plan for all people?
3. What might a healthy response to being included in God’s plan to save his people look like for you today?

ON MISSION: How might mission be connected to our healthy response to God’s plan? What next steps could you take to pray for, speak to, and invite someone as Summer gets closer?

READING WIDER: Read Isaiah 36-37. What do we learn about faith and its trials from the example of Hezekiah?

Prayer: Father, help me to never waiver from faith – to know your promises and to trust them. Help me to keep trust in whatever trials I face. Help me to see the wonder of what you’ve given that I might proclaim it to myself and others.

DAY 4

Read Romans 3:27-4:12

1. How is David a model for us of faith and praise?

2. Why do you think faith and praise go hand in hand?

This quote from Stephen Charnock in *Christ Crucified* wonderfully captures how our faith in the cross leads to praising God because of the cross.

"There is nothing in heaven or earth such an amazing wonder as this [cross]; nothing can vie with it for excellence. All love and thankfulness are due to God, who has given us his Son, not only to live, but to die for us a death so shameful... This death is the ground of all our good; whatever we have, is a fruit that grew on the cross... nothing is so strong to encourage us; nothing so powerful to purify us; how can we be without thinking of it?"

READING WIDER: Read Psalm 65. What do we learn about David's trust? What does he recall about God, and how do they deepen his confidence?

Prayer: Praise God for the cross of Christ. Recall what we should have received from God for our sin and thank him with your whole heart for what we instead receive through Christ's death for us.

WEEK 7: ROMANS 3:27-4:12

DAY 5

Read Romans 3:27-4:12

1. Today we are going to work at memorising Romans 4:5. Write it down twice below.
2. Without looking. Try and write it again, until you no longer need to look.
3. How is this verse an encouragement for you today?

READING WIDER: Read Colossians 1. What do we learn about the gospel, how it changes us, the priorities it gives us, and how it leads to worship of Jesus?

Prayer: Father, thank you that you do not count my sin against me but because of Christ's work and my trust in him, you give me righteousness as a gift. Help me regularly recall with joy this wonderful news.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

OPTIONAL WEEKEND READING

READING WIDER: Read Colossians 2-4

1. What do we learn about the gospel from Colossians:
 - a. How we are saved?
 - b. How we continue in it?
 - c. The hope it gives us?
 - d. The way we should live in light of it?

Prayer: Father, thank you that Jesus has nailed my debt to the cross so that I can be forgiven. There is no charge against me. Help me to live in light of this great salvation and to live with my eyes fixed on Jesus, who is coming back to bring me home.

WEEK 8: ROMANS 4:13–25

DAY 1

Read Romans 4:13-17

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything you find interesting, or seems important.

¹³ It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴ For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵ because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression. ¹⁶ Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring – not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷ As it is written: "I have made you a father of many nations." He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed – the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

2. What questions do you have from this passage that you can continue to think through this week?

3. What are some truths here that you can bring to God in praise?

READING WIDER: Read Genesis 15-16. What circumstances does Abram face that make it difficult to believe the promise? What can we learn from his example and from God's promise?

Prayer: Spend some time praising God for the truths you've seen in this passage.

DAY 2

Read Romans 4:18-25

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything you find interesting, or seems important.

Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed and so became the father of many nations, just as it had been said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”¹⁹ Without weakening in his faith, he faced the fact that his body was as good as dead – since he was about a hundred years old – and that Sarah’s womb was also dead.²⁰ Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,²¹ being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised.²² This is why “it was credited to him as righteousness.”²³ The words “it was credited to him” were written not for him alone,²⁴ but also for us, to whom God will credit righteousness – for us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead.²⁵ He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

2. What questions do you have from this passage that you can continue to think through this week?
3. What are some truths here that you can bring to God in praise?

READING WIDER: Read Genesis 17-18. What connections can you see Paul making with Genesis in Romans 4?

Prayer: Spend some time praising God for the truths you’ve seen in this passage.

WEEK 8: ROMANS 4:13–25

DAY 3

Read Romans 4:13-25

1. How does Paul contrast law and promise in this section? What other words seem to connect with law, and what words seem to connect with promise?
2. How does Paul respond to these misconceptions:
 - a. “But the great believers in the Old Testament lived according to the law; faith wasn’t a central thing”?
 - b. “The law gives us the way to obey so that we can receive God’s promise”?
3. What are the ways Paul tries to help us see that salvation is by faith and not through the law?

ON MISSION: Could you have a go at trying to ask someone today or this week, what they think grace is? How do you think they will answer? How does this passage help you know what grace is?

THINKING DEEPER: You may like to read *Daily Doctrine* on Covenant – there’s relevant chapters from pages 133-158 – choose one, or as many as you like. There also a podcast version here >>



Prayer: Father, I know I could never follow the law perfectly. The law reveals how much I deserve wrath and not mercy. Thank you for Jesus, the one who kept the law perfectly in my place so that you might show mercy to sinners like me. Please empower me to share the good news of grace and bring many more to trust Christ.

DAY 4

Read Romans 4:13-25

1. What challenges to faith did Abraham face?
2. What do you find within your own nature, or from living in this world that seeks to try and take you away from faith alone in Christ alone for salvation?
3. How might the following thoughts emerge from a desire to be good enough for God and not trust Jesus alone for salvation:

"My sin isn't really that bad, I don't need to take repentance and change seriously"

"I probably need help to deal with sin, but I don't want anyone to know and think less of me"

"I've grown a bit dull to Jesus and the gospel, it's just all a bit too familiar now"

"Sure the gospel matters, but there lots of other things in life that equally matter"

"It's great knowing Jesus, but I'm not sure I can say I love him"

READING WIDER: Read Psalm 6 and Psalm 130. What do these psalms teach about humanity, God, sin, and repentance?

Prayer: Does one of the statements from Question 3 particularly resonate with you? Bring this to God in prayer and thank him for his mercy in Christ to undeserving sinners.

WEEK 8: ROMANS 4:13-25

DAY 5

Read Romans 4:1-25 and Psalm 107:1-9

1. Looking back over Romans 4, what things do you understand more clearly or appreciate more fully?
2. What things does this passage urge you to pray for, and what things does it remind you to praise God for?

READING WIDER: Read Psalm 78 today. What does this psalm reveal about God, his plans, and his love?

Prayer: Spend some time praying to God and praising him for the things you've noted.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

OPTIONAL WEEKEND READING

READING WIDER: Read Psalms 105-107

1. What are some of the themes of these psalms?
2. What actions do they call on for God's people, and what prayers do they ask of God?
3. What do these psalms teach about the life of faith? How might that encourage your own life of faith?

Prayer: Use the words of these psalms to pray that you'd live rightly for your God, praise him for what he has done, and pray that he'd continue to act for his people.

WEEK 9: ROMANS 5:1-11

DAY 1

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything you find interesting, or seems important.

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. ⁶ You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! ¹¹ Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

2. What are some truths here that you can bring to God in praise?

READING WIDER: Read Proverbs 10. What particularly strikes you as something you'd like to apply in your life? In what ways does Proverbs 10:12 and the rest of the chapter help us understand Jesus and his work for us?

Prayer: Spend some time praising God for the truths you've seen in this passage.

DAY 2

Read Romans 5:1-11

1. How is it that Christians have been justified, and what does this mean?
2. In verses 1-2, what are the benefits that come to those who have been justified?
3. Which of these benefits do you hold most dear, and why? And what change might occur if you can recall these benefits in everyday life?
4. How should we respond to such blessings?

READING WIDER: Read Proverbs 11. In what ways is Jesus “the righteous” person in Proverbs 11? How might you live more like him?

Prayer: Give thanks that you have been justified, and for the great blessings that justification brings: peace with God, standing in God’s grace, and having the hope of glory.

WEEK 9: ROMANS 5:1-11

DAY 3

Read Romans 5:1-11 and 2 Corinthians 6:4-10

1. What perspective does Paul have on suffering (you could also read 2 Corinthians 11:23-30)?
2. How do you tend to respond to suffering in your life? In what ways is your perspective different from Paul's perspective?
3. What truths do you think convict Paul and allow him to live out this different perspective? How might you grow in this area?

READING WIDER: Read Proverbs 12. How might the suffering of Christians question the truthfulness of Proverbs? When you consider the final outcome, how is it true that “no harm overtakes the righteous” (12:21)?

Note: the wisdom books of the Bible appear to be making absolute claims – like it's always true in every situation. But if we read the whole book carefully we'd see that they are not absolute claims (look at the way verse 4 and verse 5 in Proverbs 24 seem to contradict). Proverbs are general truths about how life generally works – not promises from God about how it will always turn out. Part of wisdom is applying the right wisdom in different situations. This is not ignoring what we read, but reading more widely and carefully to understand the nature of the statements in Proverbs.

Prayer: Give thanks that even suffering is good for Christians, as it produces in us perseverance, tested character and ultimately robust hope (which is certain).

DAY 4

Read Romans 5:1-11

1. How does God demonstrate his love? How does it compare with other examples in the passage or your own experience?
2. What does Christ's death achieve for us, and what does his life secure for us?
3. How does this passage help you understand your security in salvation? What is it based on? What is it not based on? How long are we secure for?

READING WIDER: Read Proverbs 13-14. What wisdom stands out to you from the reading today? Looking more closely at Proverbs 13:12 and Romans 5:5, what difference does it make to know that our hope will not be put to shame?

Prayer: Father, thank you for securing me in Christ. Thank you that it is not based on my clumsy attempts at being righteous but on Christ's perfect righteousness. Help me to know that you see me as your child, that I'm loved by you because of Christ and no longer under your condemnation because of his death in my place. Thank you that because he lives my eternity is secure.

WEEK 9: ROMANS 5:1-11

DAY 5

Read Romans 5:1-11

1. Going back over Day 1, what verse, phrases or words do you have a greater clarity about, or appreciation for?
2. How can this passage encourage you to rejoice today?

READING WIDER: Read Proverbs 15-16. What wisdom stands out to you from the reading today? How might these wise sayings help you live out the hope you have in Jesus? In what ways do the readings together encourage our humility?

Prayer: “We are children of the promise, the beloved of the Lord, won with everlasting kindness, brought with sacrificial blood... Rejoice!”
Listen to the song: *Rejoice* >>



PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

OPTIONAL WEEKEND READING

READING WIDER: Read Proverbs 17-18

1. What do these proverbs teach us about God, wisdom, and righteous living?
2. In what ways do these proverbs inform us how we should live as a Christian community?
3. How might God be calling you through these proverbs to new thinking, attitudes, behaviours, or delights?

Prayer: Ask your Heavenly Father to help you respond to his call.

WEEK 10: ROMANS 5:12–21

DAY 1

1. Circle, underline, or highlight anything you find interesting, or seems important.

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned – ¹³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. ¹⁵ But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God's grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! ¹⁶ Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man's sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! ¹⁸ Consequently, just as one trespass resulted in condemnation for all people, so also one righteous act resulted in justification and life for all people. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. ²⁰ The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more, ²¹ so that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

2. What themes can you notice from previous weeks, and what truths can you bring to God in praise?

READING WIDER: Read Genesis 3. What do you notice about the timing of Adam's sin compared to Eve's sin, and the particular responsibility God expected him to fulfill? How might this help us understand the place of Adam as the head of humanity?

Prayer: Ask God to help you see the depths of sin so that you might appreciate the blessing of Christ's work to rescue us.

DAY 2

Read Romans 5:12-21

1. What does this passage teach about Adam and Christ?
2. What phrases and words connect with Adam, and which ones connect with Christ? How are they similar, or different?
3. Are there questions this passage raises for you to keep thinking about or to seek answers for this week?

READING WIDER: Read Psalm 27 and 28. How do these psalms exemplify praising God for his salvation? What in these psalms help you appreciate Christ?"

Prayer: Father, your word is so far beyond full comprehension. There are depths and mysteries that are hard to understand. And, at times in my own sin or assumptions, I'm unwilling to see what is clearly written. Give me humility to come to you knowing you are Truth and Wisdom. Open my eyes to see.

WEEK 10: ROMANS 5:12-21

DAY 3

Read Romans 5:12-21, 1 Corinthians 15:21-22 and 2 Corinthians 5:21

Imputation

To 'impute' something is to count it to another person. For example, someone represents you in a team - their goal counts as yours. We see in Romans 5 two imputations: 1) Adam's sin is counted to humanity, "sin entered the world through one man" (5:12); and 2) Christ's obedience is counted to his people "through the obedience of one many the many will be made righteous" (5:19). But why is Adam's sin counted against me? And how can Christ's obedience be counted as mine? This connects with what the Bible teaches about Representation and Union.

Adam and Christ are "representatives" or "covenant heads" – they act on behalf of others like a captain. When we sin, we sin as an individual. When Adam sinned, he sinned as humanity's "head" – he received the commands (Genesis 2:15-17), he broke the covenant (Hosea 6:7, and, notice how God addresses Adam first after the fall, Genesis 3:9). In the same way, Christ's perfect obedience of the law is done for those he represents. We may all be like Adam (we all sin), but there is a way that he is different to all of us, he was a unique head of humanity representing us.

Another way of looking at this teaching is by looking at the Bible's teaching of "union". One of Paul's favourite phrases is "in/ with/ belonging to Christ". 1 Corinthians 15:22 has a clear parallel between being "in Adam" or "in Christ".

1. How does the teaching of imputation help us see our helplessness to save ourselves? How might you praise the Second Adam who rewrote Adam's fall?

THINKING DEEPER: You may like to read Day 176 of *Daily Doctrine* pages 254-255. Or read this short and helpful article [here >>](#)



Prayer: "All my sins imputed were, To my dear incarnate God; Buried in his grave they are, Drowned in his atoning blood... For my soul the dying Lamb, Hath a full redemption wrought; I in glory soon shall shine, I am Christ's, and Christ is mine" (Hymn by Toplady, *All my sins imputed were*).

DAY 4

Read Romans 5:12-21

1. This passage is full of comparisons between Adam's sin and Jesus' obedience. In the table below write down the comparisons that are made

	Adam's sin	Christ's obedience
Verse 15		
Verse 16		
Verse 17		
Verse 18		
Verse 19		

2. If Adam is our representative head (captain on our behalf), what are the effects of Adam's disobedience on us? If Jesus is our representative head (captain on our behalf), what are the fruits of Christ's obedience for us?
3. The word "reign" appears a number of times in this passage. What things reign in this passage, and what does each mean? Which do you experience reigning in your life, and in what way?

READING WIDER: Read Psalms 63 and 104. What do these psalms encourage us to praise God for? How do these things relate to what we've read in Romans today?

Prayer: Give thanks that sin and death no longer reign over you, but that you are under the reign of grace because of Jesus. Pray that this would more and more show itself in your life.

WEEK 10: ROMANS 5:12-21

DAY 5

Read Romans 5:12-21

1. Looking back over Day 1, what things do you understand more clearly or appreciate more fully?
2. What things does this passage urge you to pray for, and what things does it remind you to praise God for?
3. How has this term in Romans encouraged you to see the urgency of gospel mission? What next steps could you take to pray for, speak to, and invite someone to church as Summer gets closer?

READING WIDER: Read Psalms 99-101. What do these psalms recall about God's character and his works? What do these psalms reveal about right responses to God's character and works?

Prayer: Use the words of today's psalms to praise God for who he is and what he has done. Take some time to pray for those who don't yet trust in Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES

OPTIONAL WEEKEND READING

READING WIDER: Read Psalms 39-41

1. In what ways do these psalms help us understand Jesus and his experiences?
2. In what ways do these psalms relate to all Christians and our experiences?
3. What in particular in these psalms helps you to understand your salvation and your experience in Christian life?
4. What from these psalms resonates with how you would like to praise God today?

Prayer: Use your reflections from Question 4 to praise God.

For I am not ashamed of the
gospel, because it is the power
of God that brings salvation
to everyone who believes

Romans 1:16

ROMANS: ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Romans Intro	Article: Why Romans Is the Greatest Letter Ever Written
Summer Series Survey	Survey Link: evchurch.info/survey Video: Adrian Tells us about the Summer Series Question
Week 1 - Day 2	ESV Introduction to Zephaniah
Week 1 - Day 4	Video: The Simplest Way to Understand the Trinity Article: The Trinity: The God Behind the Gospel
Week 1 - Weekend	ESV Introduction to Philemon
Week 2 - Day 1	ESV Introduction to Habbakuk
Week 2 - Day 5	Song: Rock of Ages - Spotify link
Week 2 - Weekend	ESV Introduction to Acts and Ecclesiastes
Week 3 - Day 2	Song: Humbled Again - Spotify link
Week 3 - Day 3	ESV Introduction to Isaiah .
Week 4 - Day 1	Article: To the Jew First, and Also to the Greek- John Piper
Week 5 - Day 1	Doctrine Matters with Kevin DeYoung: What is the Doctrine of Sin (Podcast - Spotify , Apple)
Week 6 - Day 1	Article: Propitiation (The Gospel Coalition)
Week 6 - Day 2	Song: Before the Throne - Spotify link
Week 8 - Day 3	Doctrine Matters with Kevin DeYoung: What is Covenant Theology? (Podcast - Spotify , Apple)
Week 9 - Day 5	Song: Rejoice - Spotify link
Week 10 - Day 3	Article: The Doctrine of Imputation (Ligonier Ministries)