

Romans



Rimrock Church sermon series through the book of Romans.

Romans lays out God's plan of power and salvation in Jesus for our lives in a way that changes everything. We are expecting to experience the power of transformation in the good news of Jesus as we walk through God's Word together!

Romans: Booklet One

Introduction of the Letter to the Romans

April 8th Romans 1:1-15 Identity

Not Ashamed: of the Gospel of God

April 15th Romans 1:16-17 Power

*"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."
1:16*

Romans

Romans 1:1-15

Identity

Romans is the book in the Bible that most completely explains the gospel of God. It is God's gospel, meaning it is God's good news to share. It is a story about God. It is a story about God's purpose to bring blessing and goodness to all mankind. It is also a story about how men and women respond to God's goodness and love towards them. Will they respond in faith? The Apostle Paul wrote Romans to a struggling church in Rome. A church that needed to be established (Romans 16:25) in God's good news and be absolutely unashamed of who they were as a people of faith in Jesus Christ. We too need to be established in the good news of Jesus Christ and be unashamed of who we are in Him as a people of faith in Jesus.

1. How does Paul identify himself in the opening verse (v.1)? Why do you think he ties his identity to the Gospel of God? Is this something we should find our identity in as well? What does that look like and mean for us?
2. The gospel is not a new story (v.2-3). Why do you think this is important? How does the O.T Scripture reveal God's story and plan in Jesus?
3. In verse 4 what is the key event that identifies Jesus as the Son of God and Lord?
4. In verse 5-6 it says we received something from Jesus? What is it and why do you think Paul introduces this word in his introduction? In order to receive this thing, we must have what? We are called to _____ v.6
5. Verse 7 is a formal introduction and greeting. Where does the blessing come from?
6. What is Paul thankful for? V.8-15
7. What is Paul praying for? V.8-15
8. What is Paul longing for when he goes to visit the church in Rome v.11-12? How have you experienced this in your participation in the local church?
9. Is Paul's obligation to share the gospel only to certain people? How is his inclusion of Jews and Gentiles countercultural? Is this inclusion counter cultural today? How so? Who are you sharing the good news of Jesus with?

Romans 1:16-17

Power

These verses are the crux of the whole book of Romans. Paul is unashamed of the gospel of God because it is the power of God for salvation. Our human dilemma of brokenness, sickness, sin, violence, confusion, chaos, resentments, fear, and death has a solution. Jesus Christ. Jesus reveals the righteousness of God. This is a big word, but basically it means to put everything right, the way it should be. Righteousness is a right relationship with a good and loving God. A right relationship with the created world we live in. A right relationship with other people. Righteousness is the good life, a life of blessing. The life we were created for. This life provided by Jesus is available to us through faith. This is why Paul says the “righteous will live by faith”. The whole book of Romans explores the righteousness of God and how we can experience this righteousness through faith in our lives.

1. In verse 1 Paul says he is not ashamed. This implies a tendency towards shyness or shame in our lives. Why do you think we have this tendency towards shame? Where does this fear come from in our lives? What is the difference between good fear and a bad fear?
2. Paul is convinced the gospel is the power of God. Read Paul's conversion story (Acts 9). How did his encounter with Jesus radically change the direction of his life? What was the evidence of this power in Paul's life (Acts 22)?
3. Verse 16 tells us the gospel brings salvation. What comes to mind when you think about salvation? What do we need to be saved from? How does Paul's conversion story in Acts 9 shape our understanding of salvation?
4. A major theme in Romans is all people (both Jew and Greek). The Roman church was an ethnically diverse church. Why is it important that the gospel is for all people?
5. “Righteousness” is a major theme in the book of Romans. This word literally means, justice. Ultimately God is righteous, and Romans tells us He shares His righteousness with mankind. It connotes a relational dimension of favor and integrity in keeping of promises. For Paul it also carries a legal weight of being right before a judge. Why is the idea of justice so important to us as human beings? What is it like to live in an unjust world? Or in a just world? Why are right relationships so important in our lives (family, work, government)?
6. The final major theme introduced is faith. The righteousness of God is “by faith”. How would you define faith? How does Paul define faith (Romans 4:21)? What is the difference between faith and self-sufficiency? How does the power of God in the gospel relate to faith? What role does God play in faith? What is our role?