



ROMANS

- CORE CHRISTIANITY -

(PART 1)

STUDY GUIDE, TERM 1/2018

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, “The righteous shall live by faith.””

(ROMANS 1:16–17 ESV)

WELCOME

Welcome to our new study series in the book of Romans. In the first term of 2018, we will be working our way through the first five chapters of this amazing book — during our Sunday sermons, our weekly Grace Community Groups, and our Prep - Gr 6. Sunday School.

The book of Romans has often had a major impact on those who read it, many of whom became major figures in Christian history.

Augustine (354 - 430 A.D.) found himself caught in spiritual tension — flirting with Jesus, and flirting even more with sin. He was sitting anxiously in a garden one day when he heard some children chanting in a game, “Take up and read! Take up and read!”. We’re told he grabbed a Bible, opened it and read where it fell from Romans 13:13: *“Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarrelling and jealousy.”*

“I wanted to read no further,” says Augustine, “nor did I need to. For instantly, as the sentence ended, there was infused in my heart something like the light of full certainty and all the gloom of doubt vanished away,”



AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO

Martin Luther was wrestling with Romans 1:17, *“The righteous shall live by faith.”* This bugged him for a long time, because he knew he wasn’t righteous; how then was he supposed to live by faith? During his doctoral studies, God revealed the truth to him: “At last meditating day and night, by the mercy of God, I ... began to understand that the righteousness of God is that through which the righteous live by a gift of God, namely by faith... Here I felt as if I were entirely born again and had entered paradise itself through the gates that had been flung open.”



MARTIN LUTHER

Romans is a book about the gospel of Jesus Christ: that we were dead in sin, enemies of a holy God, hopeless and helpless, until Jesus himself becomes the atoning sacrifice for our sins — then we received grace as a free gift, and enter God’s family as his beloved children, destined to be with him forever.

What’s interesting about the book is that it isn’t just a ‘systematic theology’ of the Christian belief system. The Welsh preacher Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones is well known for having preached over 350 sermons on Romans on Friday nights at Westminster Chapel in London. He said that Romans is “not a theological treatise written to experts and professors, but a letter written by a great pastor to the church”. This is a personal letter written by Paul to fellow believers, so that they may be united in the gospel truth, and go on to be united in gospel mission.

Our prayer is that, through this study, each one of us would experience a new unity with each other in the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We pray that the gospel would capture us afresh as a church family, to protect us from error and from fruitless pursuits, but also to motivate us together towards gospel-service, taking that gospel to our family, our friends, our neighbours and whomever else the Lord brings across our path.

- Clint Lombard
January 2018

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY GUIDE

This term's Grace Community Group studies will be a little different from previous studies.

We are using a resource called *Read Mark Learn: Romans* produced by St Helen's Bishopsgate, a church in London, UK. You can purchase your own copy of this excellent guide at <http://gracechurchbuderim.com.au/resources/book-store/>.

For each week, there is a section to take '**Sermon Notes**'. You may also want to write down unanswered questions to take along to your group studies.

After that, there is a section called '**Group Study Preparation**'. This is for you to do yourself in preparation for the group study. Each week there is a section of the text of Romans to read, followed by 4-5 questions to work through, to get you thinking about the text.

Following that, there is a section called '**Group Study Discussion**'. You'll notice this section is blank. Your group leader will prepare questions to help discussion around the text for each group session. This will help you to dig into the meaning of the text together, as well as help each other work out how to apply the text to daily Christian life.

Try to make an effort to spend time in the Bible on your own, apart from the Sunday messages and group studies. Make this study in Romans personal!



ROMANS - AN OVERVIEW

The book of Romans is the first letter (epistle) in the New Testament collection. It comes after Acts and before 1 Corinthians. It is also the longest letter in the New Testament, with 16 chapters.

It was written by Paul in about AD 57, towards the end of his Third Missionary Journey. He tells us in 15:23-29 that he plans to travel to Jerusalem, then to Rome, and then onto Spain, to continue his gospel work.



THE COLISEUM IN ROME

Paul hadn't yet visited Rome when he wrote his letter, but he's heard of their reputation for firm faith in Jesus (1:8). The church in Rome was probably made up of a majority of non-Jews, but with a small but significant number of Jews present.

Paul isn't writing to address one particular issue in the Roman church. Rather, he is writing a general letter in which he takes the opportunity to address specific things.

Part of the reason for his letter is to gather support for his intended mission to Spain. Part of the letter addresses the tensions that exist between Jews and non-Jews in the Roman church. Another part of his reason for writing is so that they may have understanding and confidence in the gospel.

Perhaps the most important thing this letter has to teach us is that we're never done understanding the gospel. Until we reach heaven, we must expect and endeavour to grow deeper and deeper in our understanding of how God has graciously saved us. But this mustn't remain head-knowledge only: this knowledge should grow us together with our brothers and sisters in Christ, and motivate us towards sharing that gospel with those who don't yet know.

GRACE COMMUNITY GROUPS

Each week across the Sunshine Coast, small groups from Grace Christian Church meet to

- study the Bible,
- pray together,
- worship God,
- encourage each other,
- care for one-another,
- grow together as followers of Jesus,
- laugh, cry, discuss life's big questions,
- and build lasting friendships!

If you're not part of a group yet, why not? It might take courage to join a group, or it might take a bit of personal rescheduling, but we promise that you won't regret it!

Area/Group Focus	Meeting time	Contact	Phone
Bli Bli	Sunday, 2.00pm	John Baird	(07) 5448 4040
Buderim	Thursday, 7.00pm	Colin Weston	(07) 5476 9648
Caloundra	Wednesday, 7.15pm	Roger Anderson	(07) 5491 9442
Day-time Mixed	Tuesday 09.30am	John Amos	0421 417 999
Kawana/Wurtulla	Monday (fortnightly), 7.00pm	Tim Richards	(07) 5438 2201
Ladies	Thursday, 10.00am	Marie Butler	(07) 5445 8933
Men	Wednesday, 6.00am	Clint Lombard	0478 578 152
Palmwoods	Wednesday, 7.00pm	Brad Joyce	0403 199 394
Sippy Downs	Thursday, 7.00pm	Robert Handasyde	0400 564 826
Woombye	Tuesday, 7.00pm	Cameron Blue	(07) 5442 3103
Young Mums	Tuesday, 10:30am	Jean Bowen-Jones	0402 746 533

CONTENTS

1. GLORIOUS GOSPEL	9
<i>Romans 1:1-17</i>	
2. ANGRY GOD	14
<i>Romans 1:18-32</i>	
3. NO FAVOURITES	19
<i>Romans 2:1-29</i>	
4. OBJECTION OVERRULED	24
<i>Romans 3:1-20</i>	
5. ATONEMENT	30
<i>Romans 3:21-26</i>	
7. JUSTIFIED	36
<i>Romans 5:1-11</i>	
8. TWO MEN	42
<i>Romans 5:12-21</i>	

1. GLORIOUS GOSPEL

Romans 1:1-17

SERMON NOTES:

GROUP STUDY

Group Study Preparation

Do this section on your own before coming to group session.

Read: Romans 1:1-17

1. What do we learn about Paul and what do we learn about the Romans in this passage?
2. How is Paul's summary of the gospel in v1-6 different from what we might say?
3. What do we learn about Paul's relationship with the Roman Christians?
4. Why is Paul so eager to preach the gospel to the Romans? (There is more than one answer to this question.)

Group Study Discussion

Use this section to take notes from your group discussion

Group Prayer Points

Use this section to note any prayer needs, and to reflect on them in coming weeks

2. ANGRY GOD

Romans 1:18-32

SERMON NOTES:

GROUP STUDY

Group Study Preparation

Do this section on your own before coming to group session.

Read: Romans 1:18-32

1. Why is God angry? Is his anger justified?
2. What does humanity do wrong? What is God's response?
3. What do most people think humanity's biggest problem is? How does this passage challenge that view?
4. How should this passage influence our message in evangelism?

Group Study Discussion

Use this section to take notes from your group discussion

Group Prayer Points

Use this section to note any prayer needs, and to reflect on them in coming weeks

3. NO FAVOURITES

Romans 2:1-29

SERMON NOTES:

GROUP STUDY

Group Study Preparation

Do this section on your own before coming to group session.

Read: Romans 2:1-29

1. To whom is Paul talking in 2:1-16 and in 2:17-29?

2. What is his argument in 2:1-16?

3. What is his argument in 2:17-29?

4. Why does this section follow 1:18-32?

Group Study Discussion

Use this section to take notes from your group discussion

Group Prayer Points

Use this section to note any prayer needs, and to reflect on them in coming weeks

4. OBJECTION OVERRULED

Romans 3:1-20

SERMON NOTES:

4. What is the verdict on the human race by 3:20?

5. How should this affect our attitude towards ourselves?

6. How should this affect our attitude towards those who aren't Christians?

Group Study Discussion

Use this section to take notes from your group discussion

Group Prayer Points

Use this section to note any prayer needs, and to reflect on them in coming weeks

5. ATONEMENT

Romans 3:21-26

SERMON NOTES:

3. Read Leviticus 16 (the background to the atonement). Summarise what happened and why. How does this help us to understand Romans 3:25?

4. How does the solution in these verses solve the problem explained in Romans 1:18 - 3:20?

Group Study Discussion

Use this section to take notes from your group discussion

Group Prayer Points

Use this section to note any prayer needs, and to reflect on them in coming weeks

7. JUSTIFIED

Romans 5:1-11

SERMON NOTES:

4. How do you know that God loves you? Is Paul's reason different?

5. How can a Christian say that he or she is definitely going to heaven?

Group Study Discussion

Use this section to take notes from your group discussion

Group Prayer Points

Use this section to note any prayer needs, and to reflect on them in coming weeks

8. TWO MEN

Romans 5:12-21

SERMON NOTES:

Group Study Discussion

Use this section to take notes from your group discussion

Group Prayer Points

Use this section to note any prayer needs, and to reflect on them in coming weeks

Sunday Evenings @ Grace:



GROW @ GRACE
Sundays at 5.30pm

THE WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH

STARTS 5.30PM WITH LIGHT DINNER (GOLD COIN DONATION)
TEACHING SESSION FROM 6.15PM. ALL WELCOME!

28 JAN	9. GOD'S COVENANT
04 FEB	10. THE ATONEMENT
11 FEB	11. THE AGENT OF SALVATION
18 FEB	12. THE SOURCE OF SALVATION
25 FEB	13. JUSTIFICATION
04 MAR	14. ADOPTION AND ASSURANCE
11 MAR	15. PERSEVERENCE AND SANCTIFICATION
18 MAR	16. COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL

COPIES OF JOSEPH PIPA'S STUDY BOOK AVAILABLE FROM THE
CHURCH OFFICE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT JOHN BUTLER,
WWW.GRACECHURCHBUDERIM.COM.AU