

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

Romans – God’s Righteousness Revealed

Sermon Series

04 Apr 2021	Luke 24:13-36	Easter Sunday
11 Apr 2021	Romans 9:6-29	God’s Righteousness Revealed – through His Sovereign Mercy
18 Apr 2021	Romans 10:1-17	God’s Righteousness Revealed – through the Preaching of Christ
25 Apr 2021	Romans 11:25-36	God’s Righteousness Revealed – through Saving Israel

Outline of Romans (The Bible Project)

ROMANS

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GENTILES

SAUL OF TARSUS, A PHARISSEE

PAUL APOSTLE TO THE GENTILES

REVERSALS

MULTI-ETHNICITY

THE GOSPEL

1-4 ... REVEALS GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

IS GOD'S POWER TO SAVE PEOPLE

REVEALS GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

THE KEEN JESUS IS KING OF THE NATIONS

11-17

18-20 ... ALL NATIONS ARE TRAPPED

SIN

SIN

21-23 ... BUT... GOD MEANS...

SO WE COULD BECOME WHAT HE IS

JESUS BECAME WHAT WE ARE...

TRAPPED IN GUILTY

24-26 ... SO WE COULD BECOME WHAT HE IS

BY JUSTIFICATION FAITH TO DECLARE RIGHTEOUS

NEW STATUS: RIGHT WITH GOD & FORGIVEN

NEW FAMILY: INCLUDED IN GOD'S PEOPLE

NEW FUTURE: TRANSFORMED LIFE

27-30 ... IN CHRIST

ALL NATIONS BLESSED THROUGH TRUSTING IN CHRIST

DECLARED RIGHTEOUS BY HIS FAITH IN CHRIST

THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH IN THE ONE AND ONLY FULFILLED GOD'S PROMISE

15-17 ... CREATES A NEW HUMANITY

ADAM - HUMANITY

THE NEW ADAM - JESUS

OBEDIENCE

LOVE

NEW LIFE!

WE ARE JOINED TO JESUS

WHAT'S TRUE OF HIM IS TRUE OF US

LIBERATED TO LOVE GOD & NEIGHBOR

THE SOLUTION - JESUS & THE SPIRIT

WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THE LAW?

THE STORY OF THE TORAH

THE 613 COMMANDS

MOSES

GOD & SHOW GODS WILL

MORE GUILTY!

THE PARADOX OF THE POINT

WE DON'T LIE

WE DON'T STEAL

WE LOVE OTHERS

WE DON'T COMMIT

19-21 ... FULFILLS GOD'S PROMISE TO ISRAEL

ISRAEL IN THE PAST

ETHNIC ISRAEL ≠ COVENANT MEMBER

GOD SELECTED A SUBSET OF THE FAMILY

PEOPLES REJECTION ACCOMPLISHES GOD'S PURPOSES

PHARISES REJECTING

MY PEOPLE ISRAEL!

ISRAEL IN THE PRESENT

COVENANT RELATIONSHIP BASED ON LAWS

NEW ADAM, BASED ON FAITH

ISRAEL IN THE FUTURE

JEWISH & GENTILE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

IS GOD DONE WITH ISRAEL?

A NO!

REJECTORS OF JESUS

ONE DAY JESUS WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED BY HIS PEOPLE

GOD'S COVENANT FAMILY

MULTI-ETHNIC FAMILY

9-11 ... UNIFIES THE CHURCH

UNIFYING THROUGH LOVE & FORGIVENESS

SEEKING ONE ANOTHER

HUMILITY & FORGIVENESS

IT'S BEEN A SINCE

LOVE fulfills the TORAH

SHOULD GRACE TO EACH OTHER ON NON-ESSENTIAL ISSUES

HONOR HEALING ETHNIC DIVISION

HONOR PHOEBE! ... SHE'S LIGHT! ... SHE'S GIVING THE GONGS

SUMMARY OF CHS 1-4

ALL HUMANITY IS TRAPPED IN SIN & NEEDS TO BE RESCUED

RESCUE COME WITHOUT TRYING TO OBEY THE LAWS OF THE TORAH

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS HAS RESCUED THE WORLD THROUGH JESUS...

... TO CREATE THE FAITH-BASED, MULTI-ETHNIC FAMILY OF ADOPTANTS

THE CHURCH OF ROME

EMPEROR CLAUDIUS

NON-JEWISH JEWS

5 YEARS LATER

5 YEARS EXPULSED

THE CHURCH OF ROME (see Acts 18:1-18)

BLASPHEMERS!

YOU MUST OBEY ROME!

SUBSABTUAL!

YOU MUST BE ROME!

WE ARE FREE IN CHRIST!

WE WANT YOU TO BE UNIFIED!

PAUL'S EARLIEST EXPLANATION OF THE GOSPEL, THE GOOD NEWS ABOUT JESUS' LIFE, DEATH, & RESURRECTION

created by Bible Project

What makes it hard to believe in Jesus' resurrection?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read Luke 24:13-27.

(a) What were the two disciples of Jesus talking about? (cf. vv.1-12)

(b) How are the two disciples of Jesus feeling? What reasons do they give for feeling this way?

(c) Compare what they say in vv. 19-24 with what Jesus had previously said in Luke 9:21-22, 43b-45, and 18:31-34. What do you notice? What should the disciples have expected, but didn't?

(d) How did Jesus describe the disciples' view of events?

(e) How does Jesus correct the disciples' understanding (see also Luke 24:44-47)? Why is this the best means of convincing them?

2. Read Luke 24:28-36.

(a) When are the disciples' eyes opened? Why is that significant? (Hint: there are two important episodes of breaking bread in Luke cf. Luke 9:10-17; 22:14-23.) What have the disciples finally understood about Jesus?

(b) Having seen and understood the resurrection, how do the disciples then respond (see also Luke 24:8-12, 48-49)? Why is this the natural result of confidence in Jesus' resurrection?

3. Think about the passage as a whole. What reasons for having confidence in Jesus' resurrection does Luke give his readers?
4. Jesus' fulfilment of the Old Testament is one of Luke's biggest themes, and he highlights this by making explicit statements about it in the beginning and end of his gospel (Luke 1:69-73; 24:25-27, 44-46). How should seeing that the entire Old Testament points towards Jesus' death and resurrection help us in our walk with God?

APPLICATION

5. How does today's passage help us to keep trusting in Jesus' resurrection, even when it is hard?
6. In what ways would our lives look different if we live with full confidence in Jesus' certain resurrection? (You might want to discuss what that looks like in some of the following areas: your relationship with God, church, priorities in life, work, personal joy, evangelism.)

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Our disappointment in Jesus sometimes stem from our disbelief in his words, and a lack of understanding of Scripture
- Jesus' fulfilment of the Old Testament is a key reason for us to have confidence in him and his resurrection
- The resurrection really did happen – the tomb was empty, the risen Jesus was seen, felt, and he ate with them, and the disciples' doubts turned to overwhelming joy! Praise God!
- Jesus' death and resurrection accomplishes our rescue and brings us peace
- The natural response of complete confidence in Jesus' certain resurrection is to proclaim this good news to the world

11 Apr 2021

Romans 9:6-29

God's Righteousness Revealed – through His Sovereign Mercy

Think about the last time you made something – what was it? How would you have responded if someone then came up to you and said that you should have made something else with your materials?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read Romans 9:6-13.

(a) Paul says that God's Word has not failed. What reason does he give for saying this?

(b) Who are God's children? What qualifies them to be God's children?

(c) How do the examples given help to explain Paul's point here? (cf. Gen 18:10, 25:23)

2. Read Romans 9:14-18.

(a) Why does Paul cite Exod 33:19 to say that God is not unjust? Consider what has happened prior to this in Exod 32.

(b) Consider Exod 9:13-16. Why was Pharaoh placed where he was and with a hardened heart? How does this support Paul's statement that God is not unjust?

3. Read Romans 9:19-29.

(a) What is the objection that Paul answers in v.19? How does he answer it?

(b) Do the children of promise, God's children, come only from the Jews? Conversely also: are all Jews automatically then God's children?

4. What is Paul's major point in Romans 9:6-29?

5. The concept that the Creator has the right to order the world as He chooses is one that was accepted without question in the ancient past. Today we speak about how our choices are what determine our lives. Are the two in contradiction?

APPLICATION

6. Is there anything in us that qualified us into grace as God's children? Is there anything within us that can disqualify us from being God's children? What impact does this have on your discipleship journey?

7. Paul says that it is God's choice that determines who is saved and who is not – what implications does this have for how we obey the Great Commission?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- God is sovereign – He chooses in His sovereignty who He will have mercy upon, no one is entitled to salvation
- God is consistent – whether in the Old Testament or in the New, the identity of God's children is not decided by physical descent, but by God's election and calling
- God is sovereign – we are all (whether Jew or Gentile) dependent on His mercy for salvation

18 Apr 2021

Romans 10:1-17

God's Righteousness Revealed – through the Preaching of Christ

Imagine you've worked all your life towards a goal and then someone comes along and tells you that you've got it wrong. How would you feel? If this has happened to you before, share with your group what happened and how you dealt with it.

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read Romans 10:1-4. What does Paul say about the Israelites' zeal? Why does he say this?
2. Read Deuteronomy 30:11-14.
 - (a) What was Moses commanding the Israelites to do? What did Moses say about his instructions to them?
 - (b) What does Moses say the word is? What does Paul say it is in Romans 10:8? Are they the same?
3. Read Romans 10:5-13.
 - (a) What contrast does Paul make between the righteousness that is by the law and the righteousness that is by faith?
 - (b) What does the righteousness that is by faith require? What does it not require?
4. Read Romans 10:14-17.
 - (a) What must happen before someone can call on God for salvation?
 - (b) What is the message of good news to be heard, according to Paul?
 - (c) Were the Israelites given the chance to hear and respond? (cf. vv.18-21)

5. What is Paul saying in Romans 10:1-17? How does this add to what he says in Romans 9:6-29 about God's word not failing?
6. Why might the Jews have seen "the righteousness that is by faith" as equivalent to saying that God's word has failed?

APPLICATION

7. Who around you might be doing the same thing as the Jews – zealous for God without confessing Christ? How might you be able to preach the true gospel to them?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- It is not about the level of zeal that we have in pursuing God, but about our faith in Christ – we need to place our faith in Christ and not in our own way to righteousness.
- Christ has fulfilled the law on our behalf – he has made God's righteousness accessible to all.
- It is through Christ that the word of God has been fulfilled, through Christ that God's righteousness has been revealed, and through Christ that we can call on God for our salvation – hear Christ, confess Christ, believe in Christ.

25 Apr 2021

Romans 11:25-36

God's Righteousness Revealed – through Saving Israel

What does it mean to have a favourite thing/person? Can we have more than one favourite?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read Romans 11:25-32.

(a) Who is Paul speaking to in this section of the text – the Israelites or the Gentiles?

(b) Why would they be conceited? (cf. Rom 11:1-24)

(c) Why does Paul say they should not be conceited?

2. Read Isaiah 59:12-21 (cf. Rom 11:26-27).

(a) What is the situation described here? In what ways does it agree/disagree with what Paul says in Romans?

(b) Who does the Redeemer come to save? What does this salvation mean? (cf. Jer 31:31-34)

(c) What is the covenant referred to? Is this given to the Jews?

3. Read Romans 11:33-36. What is Paul saying about God? How is this linked to what he is saying in Romans 9-11?

4. What is Paul saying about the relationship between Israelites, Gentiles and salvation? How does this lead to Paul's exhortations on Christian living in Romans 12-15?

5. What attitude was Paul targeting in this text? What does the same attitude look like today? If this text were written to you specifically, what would Paul be saying?

APPLICATION

6. Consider God's mercy and reflect upon your inclusion within God's people. Share with your group specific instances in your life of faith that caused you to respond by praising God like Paul does in Romans 11:33-36.

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Salvation is not either/or: God desires that all are saved through His mercy, it is not limited to either Jews or Gentiles
- Salvation is a matter of God's mercy – mercy which He has extended to the Gentiles as well as to the Jews
- God's Word does not fail and has not failed – He keeps His promises, whether to Israel or to Gentiles.
- God's wisdom and knowledge are beyond our full grasp, though we may not understand how He does things and why He does things, we continue to trust in Him and praise Him.