

Romans

Sundays at Sladebrook, April - June 2013

Introduction and Aim of this Teaching Series:

The book of Romans is perhaps the best known summary of Christian doctrine in the New Testament. Within its pages, the truth of God's Divine purposes for humanity and humanity's need to respond are revealed. The work of Christ is central to all that is taught in Romans with its focus on such fundamental doctrines as Justification, Righteousness, Election and Sanctification. These truths are not only key to understanding our faith, but essential if we are to share this gospel effectively with others.

The aim of this series is to grapple with these great themes that we might better understand what lies at the heart of the Christian message and our own lives. But more than that, that may we desire, as a result of these studies, to express the Christian life and share the Gospel in the ways Romans so clearly teaches so that God might be glorified in the lives of His people.

Each week - Reflecting on Romans Together:

Questions *There is so much in the book of Romans it would be impossible to remember everything! However, as part of our response to God's Word and as His people learning together, there will be a brief opportunity each week for the church family to ask questions at the end of each session.*

Each week - Responding to Romans Personally:

In:Sight - What have I learned? *Scripture is intended to illuminate. Things become clear when we allow the Word to speak. Meditate on each passage until the Word of God starts to speak, transforming our minds, changing our attitudes and affecting our lives.*

Heart:Felt - How do I feel? *God's Word should touch our emotions and enrich our relationships with God and each other. Pray that each week the Holy Spirit will enrich your relationship with Christ and with His Church.*

Life:Change - What am I going to do? *So you've heard the sermon now what?! The only way in which these studies will truly impact you and others is to apply practically God's Word in real life situations. So go and do!*

Romans

God's Righteousness Revealed

3. In the Dock

The Coming Judgement of God

Romans 2v 1-16



"For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith..."

– Romans 1v 17

Sladebrook Evangelical Church

www.sladebrook.org.uk

Introduction:

With such tragic trajectory, Romans blasts off with a damning description of what the godless are like and what God Himself thinks of them. For anyone reading through the lurid list Paul presents, the actions and attitudes of those described are hard to deny, especially when we see them play out so regularly in today's fractured society. It is easy to relate such appalling behaviours to those we read about, hear about and, even occasionally know. It is much harder however, to image that when Paul was inspired to write such a list, his Roman rocket was heading for us!

The Apostle continues teaching about the gospel in Romans chapter two by stating that God is as unhappy with those who judge the sins of others as with those who commit them! God hates hypocrisy especially when it is seen in those who should know better! To develop the point, Paul takes up his argument with an imaginary listener (a common form of writing in the ancient world known as "diatribe.") He imagines confronting a hypothetical figure (probably a self-satisfied Jew – relying on law keeping and covenant promises) with the stark truth that everyone must stand before God and give account of the life they alone have lived.

Paul says that knowledge will not save anyone on that day. Neither will a polished spiritual heritage. No, the only thing that God is looking for on judgement day is how each person has lived, regardless of religion. What has humanity done in response to God's revealed will? Have we obeyed it, or have we displaced it with a lesser version shaped by our own values of right and wrong? Either way, the impending judgement of a holy God is coming: A sobering fact that reveals everything and affects everyone.

**Key verses this week:**

"God will give each person according to what he has done... This will take place on the day when God will judge men's secrets through Jesus Christ, as my gospel declares..." – Romans 2v 6 & v16

IN THE DOCK: The Coming Judgement of God

In this study we will see how Paul describes the coming judgement of God, who it implicates and how God will both reward and punish accordingly.

Read: Romans 2v 1-16

- **Sin: The Great Leveller: 2v 1-4**

No one has the right to judge others, as each one of us has sinned. Whatever religion (or not) we must all one day stand before God.

- **God: The Great Adjudicator: 2v 5-11**

There can only be one truly righteous judge and that is God. Beyond bribery and partiality, He will ultimately judge everyone justly.

- **Life: The Great Indicator 2v 12-16**

Spiritual sanctity is not measured by heritage or knowledge of God, but rather by godly obedience demonstrated in everyday life.

**Reflecting on Romans Together:**

- *Are you prone to judging others?*
- *Do you live for this life or the life to come?*
- *Are you ready to stand before God?*
- *Do you have any questions about today's study?*

Responding to Romans Personally:

- **In:Sight** - *What have I learned today from God's Word?*
- **Heart:Felt** - *How does this truth make me feel?*
- **Life:Change** - *What is my response going to be this week?*