

# 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*

## 8. The Joy of Justification

*The difference Jesus makes*

Romans 5v 1-21



*“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](http://www.sladebrook.org.uk)

**Introduction:**

At the end of one notorious quiz show, it was often left to the rueful host to say to his hapless contestant; *“Now let’s see what you could’ve won...”* In that pained, but necessary moment, a startling realisation flashed across the face of the empty handed individual, who, only moments earlier, had high hopes and the possibility of taking home the prize. In Romans chapter 5 Paul reveals both the spoils of Calvary, describing all that Christ has achieved there for those who believe, whilst, at the same time, reminding any would be Christ rejecters of the danger of shunning such generous grace and missing out on the heavenly prize. Justification, Paul clearly states, removes the dread curse of sin and the consequence of death, offering instead freedom in Christ and future hope of heaven. Paul explains the entire, eternal package: The prize, he says, is there for the taking; but to possess it in full, we need to let go of all human endeavour and embrace it by faith in Christ alone.

In this section of Paul’s letter, he reminds the Roman church of what Christ has done and how it should impact their outlook and refine their Christian character. He points to the cross as the centre stage of human history, where sin’s price has been paid by the sacrifice of Jesus. In mentioning the significance of His death and resurrection, Paul presents us with some stark contrasts that result from the cross of Christ: He compares Law with grace, Adam with Jesus and highlights both the penalty of death and the possibility of life.

It is only in realising the joy of justification that we leave Calvary’s cross with the confidence to trust in Christ and finally know peace with God. However, the wonder of this passage of Scripture can only be matched by its sober warning to any in Rome (and beyond) who yet resist grace and rely on works. Paul warns of the real danger of missing out on God’s offer of salvation and of the dread consequences of struggling on in sin. Paul also appeals for faith in the righteousness of the risen Christ as he celebrates the joy of salvation and as he continues to explain the good news to the church in Rome.

**Key verses this week:**

*“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.” - Romans 5v 1-2*

**THE JOY OF JUSTIFICATION: *The difference Jesus makes***

This week we will examine what justification means for those who have faith in Christ as we see what He has achieved for us through His death and resurrection.

**Read: Romans 5v 1-21**

- **The Joy of Justification: *what we have because of Christ* - 5v1-11**  
*Paul recounts what the gospel has saved us from, as well as what it has saved us for, because of the intervention of Christ.*
- **The Sequence of Sin: *what we were because of Adam* - 5v 12-14**  
*Paul reminds the Romans why sin is so serious and such a universal problem by pointing to its origins and its consequences.*
- **The Gift of God: *what we gain because of grace* - 5v 15-21**  
*Paul concludes this section by contrasting the purpose of the Law with the eternal rewards that come from grace.*

**Reflecting on Romans Together:**

- *Do you appreciate all that you have in Christ? How?*
- *How does gospel hope affect your outlook in this life?*
- *Have you understood the role of the Law in God’s purposes?*
- *How will you share God’s grace with someone today?*
- *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?*