

Romans Bible Study Recap - January 23, 2025

1. ****Introduction (Romans 1:1-17)**** - Paul's Greeting - Desire to Visit Rome - The Righteousness of God Revealed 2. ****The Need for Righteousness (Romans 1:18 - 3:20)**** - The Guilt of the Gentiles - The Guilt of the Jews - No One is Righteous 3. ****Justification by Faith (Romans 3:21 - 5:21)**** - Righteousness through Faith - Abraham Justified by Faith - Peace with God Through Faith 4. ****Freedom from Sin (Romans 6:1 - 8:39)**** - Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ - Slaves to Righteousness - Life in the Spirit 5. ****God's Sovereign Plan (Romans 9:1 - 11:36)**** - Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose - The Remnant of Israel - God's Mercy on All

1. Introduction (Romans 1:1-17)

(3-5 minutes)

Paul begins by introducing himself as a servant of Christ and an apostle called to share the gospel (1:1-7). He emphasizes that the gospel is God's plan, promised through the prophets, and centered on Jesus Christ, who is both fully human and fully divine.

Paul shares his longing to visit Rome to strengthen the believers and be mutually encouraged by their faith (1:8-15). He concludes this section with the theme of the letter: The righteousness of God is revealed through the gospel, and it is received by faith (1:16-17).

Key takeaway: Salvation is by faith from start to finish, available to all who believe.

2. The Need for Righteousness (Romans 1:18 - 3:20)

(5-6 minutes)

Paul builds the case that all people, both Gentiles and Jews, are guilty of sin:

- The Guilt of the Gentiles (1:18-32): Gentiles have suppressed the truth of God, leading to idolatry, immorality, and depravity. Despite knowing God through creation, they exchanged His glory for idols.
- The Guilt of the Jews (2:1-3:8): Jews cannot rely on their heritage or possession of the law for righteousness. They are judged by the same standard and have also fallen short.
- No One is Righteous (3:9-20): Paul concludes that no one is righteous on their own—"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (3:23).

Key takeaway: Every human being needs the righteousness of God because no one can attain it through their own efforts or works.

3. Justification by Faith (Romans 3:21 - 5:21)

(5 minutes)

- Righteousness through Faith (3:21-31): Paul reveals the good news: righteousness is a gift from God, received through faith in Jesus Christ. Christ's sacrifice is the atonement for our sins, satisfying God's justice and demonstrating His grace.
- Abraham Justified by Faith (4:1-25): Abraham is the model of faith—he was declared righteous not by works or the law, but by believing God's promise. This was credited to him as righteousness.
- Peace with God Through Faith (5:1-21): Justification brings peace with God, access to His grace, and hope in His glory. Paul contrasts Adam's sin, which brought death to all, with Christ's obedience, which brings life to all who believe.

Key takeaway: Justification is by grace through faith, not by works. It results in peace with God and eternal life.

Next Week with Talk about this!

4. Freedom from Sin (Romans 6:1 - 8:39)

(6-7 minutes)

- Dead to Sin, Alive in Christ (6:1-14): Believers are united with Christ in His death and resurrection. This means they are no longer slaves to sin but alive to God.
- Slaves to Righteousness (6:15-23): Paul explains that while believers were once slaves to sin, they are now slaves to righteousness, leading to sanctification and eternal life.
- Life in the Spirit (7:1 - 8:39): In chapter 7, Paul discusses the struggle with sin and the law, showing that the law cannot save. Chapter 8 offers the solution: life in the Spirit. The Spirit empowers believers to live according to God's will and assures them of God's love. Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

Key takeaway: Through Christ, believers are set free from the power of sin and live victoriously by the Holy Spirit.

5. God's Sovereign Plan (Romans 9:1 - 11:36)

(5 minutes)

Paul shifts to address God's plan for Israel and the Gentiles:

- Israel's Rejection and God's Purpose (9:1-29): Although many Israelites rejected Christ, God's promises to Israel have not failed. God's plan is based on His mercy and sovereign choice.
- The Remnant of Israel (9:30 - 10:21): A remnant of Israel remains faithful, and salvation is available to all who call on the name of the Lord.
- God's Mercy on All (11:1-36): Paul explains that Israel's rejection of the gospel has allowed the Gentiles to be included. However, God's mercy is extended to all, and He will one day restore Israel.

Key takeaway: God's sovereign plan reveals His mercy and faithfulness. Salvation is for everyone—Jew and Gentile alike.

Closing Thoughts

(2 minutes)

Paul's letter to the Romans reveals the depth of the gospel:

1. Humanity is lost and in need of salvation.
2. Righteousness is a gift of grace through faith in Christ.
3. Believers are freed from sin's power and live by the Spirit.
4. God's plan is sovereign, and His mercy extends to all people.

Encourage reflection on Romans 1:16-17 as the central message of the book: the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.