

Romans 7

February 21-22, 2024

BOUNDLESS GRACE A STUDY OF ROMANS

1. Romans 7 highlights sin and the law. Reflect upon these two themes in Romans 1-6. In your own words, write a sentence defining and describing sin.

God gave Israel the law for pure living and worship. In Romans, the “law” often refers to either the specific laws given through Moses or the Torah. The Torah is the first five books of the Bible. Look back at Romans 2:17-18 and Romans 3:19-20. What are key things you learned about the law?

2. Paul opens Romans 7 with an illustration. Read Romans 7:1-4. What frees a woman to marry again?

Read Romans 7:4a. What death occurs?

Read Romans 7:4b. After dying to the law, to whom does the Christian belong?

3. Read Romans 7:4-6. What do these verses teach about the life of a person living in the flesh and not dead to the law?

Which of these phrases you wrote most grieve you? If any of the descriptions resonate with your life before becoming a Christian, include those experiences.

4. Reread Romans 7:4-6. How is the life of a Christian described differently than someone not yet dead to the law?

What does serving by the Spirit and bearing fruit for God look like in your life?

5. Read Romans 7:7-12. List the three adjectives describing the law in Romans 7:12. Write a definition for each.

Use your definitions and write a sentence about the law.

6. Based on Romans 7:12, is the law good or bad?

Read Exodus 20:3-17 which include some of the Mosaic laws. Choose one of the verses and explain why you think that law is “good.”

7. Reread Romans 7:7-12. Is sin good or bad?

Sin misuses God’s good gift of the law and creates even more sin in our lives. Share about a time in your life you knew a rule/law and felt compelled to rebel against it.

What negative consequences did you experience, including how it affected your relationship with God?

8. Paul paints a picture of a battle between his sin and his good desires. Read Romans 7:13-20. Rephrase Romans 7:18-19 in your own words.

Consider Romans 6:12, Romans 8:13, and Galatians 5:16-18. What encourages you from these verses, and why?

9. Spend time reflecting on your internal struggle with sin. Describe a specific area in which you know the right thing to do but have trouble doing. Why do you think obedience in that struggle is difficult for you?

Reflect also on a sin struggle where you have seen improvement. What steps did you take and truths did you rely on that helped you make progress?

10. There is good news! Read Romans 7:21-25. In verse 22, what does the law of God bring to Paul?

Find a law or commandment of God from the Scripture that delights you. Write the verse and explain why it brings you joy.

11. Paul shares the reason we all have hope. In verse 25, Who is that hope?

Write a prayer of thanksgiving to God for Jesus your Lord.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Romans 8

February 28-29, 2024

BOUNDLESS GRACE A STUDY OF ROMANS

1. The eighth chapter of Romans begins and ends with a promise. Read Romans 8:1 and Romans 8:38-39 and summarize each amazing promise. How do these truths impact your life today?
2. Read Romans 7:21-25 where Paul explains the deliverance we receive from Jesus when confronted with the sins that would defeat us. Romans 8:1 teaches us the result of this truth. What is it?

What more do we learn on this subject when reading Jesus' words in John 5:24?

3. Although the law of God is holy and righteous, it is powerless to free people from sin because of the weakness of the flesh. How does Paul describe this law and the law of faith received through Christ in Romans 8:2?
4. Read Romans 8:3-4 along with Colossians 2:13-14 and explain how Jesus fulfilled the righteous requirement of the law.
5. Paul continues by contrasting the work of the Spirit and the work of the flesh. Read Romans 8:3-11 and list all you learn from these verses.

The Flesh

The Spirit

What assurances do we have that the Holy Spirit lives within us? Read Ephesians 1:13-14.

6. Read Romans 8:12-17. Paul is discussing our obligation in light of his previous teaching. What point is he making in these verses?

How is it possible to live as a child of God according to 8:13-14?

Consider who you were before you were indwelt with the Spirit of God at your salvation. Jot down some of the many ways you have changed since that moment.

7. Read Romans 8:17-25. What hardships should we expect as children of God living in a fallen world?

What encouragement do we find in these verses?

8. While we wait patiently for our eternal home, God meets our needs in many ways. Read the following verses and summarize how He works in our lives.

Romans 8:26-27

Romans 8:28-30

Briefly share a time when God recently met your needs in one of these ways.

9. In Romans 8:31-39 Paul asks seven questions to affirm the reality that a believer's salvation is secure in the hands of God. Record and answer each question from what you have learned in this chapter and from what Paul might continue to teach in these verses.

8:31a

8:31b

8:32

8:33

8:34

8:35a

8:35b

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Romans 9:1-29

March 6-7, 2024

BOUNDLESS GRACE A STUDY OF ROMANS

1. In Romans 9, Paul shifts his focus to Israel's rejection of the gospel. Read Romans 9:1-5. What statement does Paul make as he begins chapter 9 in verse 1?

What do you learn about Paul's feelings for his fellow Israelites in verses 2-3?

Compare Paul's words in verse 3 to Moses' words in Exodus 32:31-32. What similarities do you see in these two men who have been called by God to shepherd His people?

As an Israelite himself, Paul knows the blessings given by God to His people, Israel. List the spiritual privileges that Israel graciously enjoyed according to Romans 9:4-5.

As you read this list, what do you think it reveals about:

God

Israel

Christ

2. Paul's anguish over Israel's rejection of the gospel reminds us of the lost people in our lives as well. Spend a few moments praying for God to give you a heart for the lost. Because "nothing becomes dynamic until it becomes specific," write down an action plan to reach out to a lost friend or family member with the good news of salvation.

3. Before continuing in Romans 9, define the following in your own words:

Sovereign

Sovereignty of God

4. Read Romans 9:6-9. Even though the Jews had failed to respond to the gospel of Christ, what point does Paul make in verse 6a concerning God's Word and His promises to Israel?

Read Genesis 15:4-6 and 21:9-12. Although Abraham fathered eight children, through whom was the promise of being a great nation fulfilled according to Romans 9:7?

Look back at your definitions of sovereign and sovereignty of God. How does the choice of only Isaac to fulfill the promised covenant reflect your definitions?

5. Read Romans 9:10-13 along with Genesis 25:21-26. When Isaac's wife Rebecca conceived, what was she told about her children?

In Romans 9:13, the words love and hate are an expression of God's choosing or rejecting rather than emotions of the heart. What unique elements of Jacob and Esau's birth illustrate God's sovereignty?

6. Read Romans 9:14-18. In response to Paul's affirmation of God's sovereignty, what question is raised about God's character in verse 14?

Explain Paul's response to the question of God's fairness in verses 14-18. Read Jeremiah 9:23-24 and 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

What purpose did Pharaoh serve in God's sovereign plans?

7. Read Romans 9:19-21. Rewrite Paul's question in verse 19 in your own words.

Why does Paul's audience place blame on God?

Through the metaphor of the potter and the clay, what does Paul teach about our relationship with God as His creation?

8. Read Romans 9:22-26. Paul describes two vessels or objects in verses 22-23. What words does he use to identify each of them?

Why does God endure the vessels or objects of wrath?

Describe God's purpose for His vessels or objects of mercy in verse 23.

In verse 24, Paul uses the pronoun "us" to describe those God has chosen in advance to display His glory. Who is included under the umbrella of "us"?

9. Read Romans 9:27-29. What do we learn about the Israelites' future as Paul quotes the Old Testament prophet in verse 27?

10. In what way does recognizing God's sovereignty in our salvation free you from the burden of "failure" when you share the gospel?

Does God's sovereignty bring you comfort in life's circumstances and challenges? Why or why not?

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Romans 9:30-10:21

March 13-14, 2024

BOUNDLESS GRACE A STUDY OF ROMANS

1. Examine Romans 9:30-10:4. Contrast the differences between the Gentiles and Israel.

Read Romans 9:33 again. Now look at 1 Peter 2:4-8. Who is the stumbling stone?

Why does faith in Jesus keep us from being ashamed or disappointed at their eternal judgment?

2. Even today, for some Jesus is the means to salvation while others stumble over Him. What is something you have heard or read recently that includes errors about who Jesus is and what He has done?

If you know a verse of Scripture that communicates the truth about Jesus to correct that error, please share.

3. Consider Romans 10:5-8. In Romans 10:5, how do some strive for righteousness?

How does someone obtain righteousness in Romans 10:6?

Why does no one need to ascend into heaven to find Jesus and bring Him to earth? See John 1:14.

Why does no one need to go to the abyss to find Jesus and bring Him up from the dead? See Romans 8:11.

In contrast to the distance to heaven and the abyss, what is our proximity to the message of faith according to Romans 10:8?

4. Consider memorizing Romans 10:9-10.

Choose what you think are three key words or three important phrases in Romans 10:9-10. Describe the significance of each of the words or phrases you chose.

(1)

(2)

(3)

5. Read Joel 2:32 and then Romans 10:11-13. How many times is the word “all” or “everyone” included in Romans 10:11-13?

What does the repetition of these words emphasize?

6. Read Romans 10:14-15. What are the steps Paul mentions that can lead to someone’s salvation?

Choose one of those steps and explain how it was a part of your salvation story. Or, if during the study this week, you realize you are not yet saved, express your faith and trust in Jesus!

7. Ponder Romans 10:15 and Isaiah 52:7. Why do you think the feet of those who preach the good news are beautiful?

8. God sends all Christians to share the gospel with those who do not know Jesus. Share about a time you told someone the gospel, knowing that someone’s salvation or response is not in your control.

9. Examine Romans 10:16-21. Paul clearly communicates what the Israelites have heard and what their response has been. Read Romans 10:16 along with Isaiah 53:1-3. Did Israel obey the gospel?

Read Romans 10:18. Had Israel heard the gospel?

Read Romans 10:19 and Deuteronomy 32:21. How did Israel respond to non-Israelites who had heard and believed the Gospel?

Read Romans 10:20 and Isaiah 65:1. How are the non-Israelites who found God described?

Based on these verses and your study of Romans, describe God's heart for non-Israelites.

Read Romans 10:21 and Isaiah 65:2. What does God do for Israel?

Based on these verses and your study of Romans, describe God's heart for Israel.

How does Israel respond to God's kind offer?

10. Look back at Romans 9:6 where some suggested that God's promises and Word had failed. Based on this week's study, how would you answer someone who questions the trustworthiness of God's character, promises, and plan?

What can you remind your own heart about God's faithfulness?

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Romans 11
March 20-21, 2024

BOUNDLESS GRACE
A STUDY OF
ROMANS

1. Chapter 11 concludes Paul's teaching on God's plan for Israel which began in chapter 9. Think back on last week's lesson. How is Israel described in Romans 10:21?

Paul opens Romans 11:1 with the question on everyone's mind after chapter 10. What is this question?

How does Paul answer the question?

Why is Paul himself a good illustration to support his answer?

2. Read Romans 11:2-6. For his next illustration, Paul reminds his audience of God's prophet Elijah who ran for his life from the pagan wife of Israel's King Ahab. How does Elijah describe his situation and his concern to the Lord?

How does Paul apply the Lord's response to Elijah to Paul's present time?

Look up a definition for the word "remnant."

How did God choose the faithful remnant of Israel according to verse 5?

Think of an illustration you could use to help explain verse 6 to a friend.

3. Read Romans 11:7-10 and 9:30-32. What was Israel trying to obtain according to Romans 9:30-32?

Why did the majority of Israel not obtain it?

In your own words, describe the result of Israel putting their faith in keeping the law according to 11:8-10.

Why do you think we tend to rely on our own works instead of God's grace in our everyday lives?

4. Read Romans 11:11-12. Paul asks another rhetorical question to explain God's wise and merciful plan of salvation. What is Paul's answer in verse 11? What does this ultimately mean for Israel? Also read 11:26

What was God's good plan in 11:11-12 that comes from Israel's rejection of Jesus? Also see Isaiah 49:6.

From what we have learned about the Jews and Gentiles in Romans, explain how salvation for the Gentiles will make Israel jealous.

5. Read Romans 11:13-16. What is Paul's desire for his fellow Jews?

What phrases show Paul's love and high regard for Israel?

6. Read Romans 11:17-24. The olive tree symbolizes Israel and the root represents Abraham and the patriarchs. Unbelieving Jews are branches broken off and Gentiles are wild olive branches grafted in the olive tree. What warning does Paul give the Gentiles in verse 18 and why?

7. Read Romans 11:17-24 again. What are some ways our words and actions today convey arrogance concerning unbelieving Jews?

What are some ways to combat a proud attitude? See Philippians 2:3-8; Colossians 3:12.

What is the amazing truth found in Romans 11:23 which highlights God's sovereign power?

8. Read Romans 11:25-32. These verses refer to Israel's future salvation when Christ returns. What is the mystery Paul explains in verses 25-27?

How do these verses also warn us about spiritual pride and arrogance?

What are some specific connections you see between God's mercy and your salvation?

9. Read Paul's beautiful closing words of praise and worship in Romans 11:33-36. How does Paul describe God's wisdom and knowledge?

Which phrase in verses 33-36 is most meaningful to you, and how will it make a difference in your walk with Jesus this week?

10. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.