

Romans 1:1-17

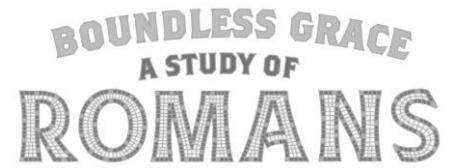
January 10-11, 2024

BOUNDLESS GRACE A STUDY OF ROMANS

1. Briefly share about a time you wrote or received a meaningful note or letter.
2. The book of Romans is a letter written by the apostle Paul to churches in Rome. Apostle means “sent one,” so Paul was sent by God to the early churches. However, prior to his conversion, Paul went by his Hebrew name, Saul. Read Acts 7:54-8:1; 8:3 and Philippians 3:4-6. What was Paul like before he became an apostle?
3. Read Acts 9:1-19. Summarize what happened to transform Paul’s life.
4. After encountering Jesus, Paul became a prolific apostle to the early church and is credited with penning nearly half of the entire New Testament. Read Romans 1:1-7. In verse 1, what is the first phrase Paul uses to describe himself? Why is it surprising he uses this title?
5. According to Romans 1:2-4, who does Paul say Jesus is?
6. In Romans 1:7-8, to whom is Paul writing? List the ways he describes them.
7. Read Romans 1:8-15. In these verses, Paul tells those in Rome how he longs to be with them. According to verses 11-15, why does Paul want to go to Rome?
8. How do you imagine the Roman Christians would have felt to receive a letter from Paul stating the news of their faith had reached him?
9. Read Romans 1:16-17. Gospel means “good news,” and Paul is talking about the good news of Jesus Christ’s perfect life, death on a cross for the penalty of sin, and resurrection from the dead. List all the descriptors Paul uses to describe the gospel.
10. In the opening of Paul’s letter to the Romans, he repeatedly takes a position of humility and solely exalts Christ. When are you most tempted to exalt yourself rather than Christ? What can you learn from Paul’s example?

Romans 1:18-2:16

January 17-18, 2024



1. As a review, read Romans 1:1-17. Record a truth that stands out to you as important to remember.
2. Carefully read Romans 1:18-23. God's wrath is His holy anger against sin and evil. Who are the objects of God's wrath in verse 18?
3. According to Romans 1:20, what can we know about God through observing the created world?

What are some ways you personally see these attributes of God in creation?

Look back at Romans 1:21-23. Paul methodically describes the progression of suppressing God's truth. Record this sequence of increasing ungodliness.

4. Romans 1:22-25 describes idolatry, which is exchanging the right worship of God for anything lesser. Read Colossians 3:5-6 and 1 John 5:20-21. Take some time and ask God to show you an idol in your life. What is an action you can take today to turn from worshipping and serving this idol to worshipping and serving the living God?

5. Read Romans 1:24-32. Identify two reasons God chooses to give the people up or remove His hand of protection from their lives.

What changes might occur in a person's heart and mind when God gives them over to their persistent sinful choices?

Summarize some categories of sin in Paul's list of "what ought not to be done."

After looking at this list as a whole, what is one conclusion you can draw about yourself?

6. Look again at Romans 1:32. In addition to personal sin, what else is offensive to God?

Honestly assess your own words and actions. In what circumstances do you tend to encourage rather than discourage others' sin? What are some reasons for this tendency?

7. Read Romans 2:1-5. According to verse 1, why do we condemn *ourselves* when we judge others?

8. Read Romans 2:4-5. What is the right response to God's kindness and patience toward us as we struggle with sin?

The opposite of a hard and impenitent heart is a soft and repentant heart. Read Psalm 51. What are some practical ways you can cultivate a soft and repentant heart toward God?

9. Read Romans 2:6-11. The Jews and Greeks living and worshipping together in Rome struggled to be unified in their new faith. How does Paul teach them they are all equal in Christ Jesus?

2:6

2:9

2:10

2:11

How do you see God's completely equal treatment of all people as evidence of His divine nature?

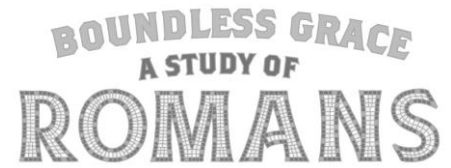
10. Read Romans 2:12-16. Throughout Romans, Paul articulates that no person other than Jesus Christ is perfect. According to verse 16, what is the hope of every imperfect person? Also review Romans 1:16-17.

11. Look back at the passage we are studying this week. What is one important truth you glean about humanity and one important truth you glean about God?

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

Romans 2:17-3:20

January 24-25, 2024



1. Read Romans 2:17-24. To whom is Paul speaking in these verses?

What religious or spiritual advantages do the Jews have according to verses 17-18?

Look again at verses 19-20. Because of their supposed spiritual superiority, what do Jews assume is their responsibility to the Gentiles and pagans around them?

Describe the accusations Paul levels at them in verses 21-24.

2. Write out your definition of a hypocrite.

In what way does your definition apply to Paul's Jewish audience?

What is the ultimate consequence of the Jews' hypocrisy according to Paul in verse 24?

Share some consequences of religious hypocrisy that you have witnessed in our culture.

3. For the Jews, circumcision is an outward sign of God's covenant with the nation of Israel. Read Romans 2:25-29. What gives circumcision true value in the lives of Jews?

Read Romans 2:26-29 along with 1 Corinthians 7:19 and Galatians 6:15. In your own words, explain Paul's point to his Jewish audience concerning outward, physical signs versus inward obedience.

4. What are some symbols, actions, or attitudes that you rely on to seek God's approval?

What changes can you make to ensure that your relationship with God is based on a transformed heart rather than superficial actions or outward appearances?

5. Read Romans 3:1-4. Paul gives a distinction God Himself made between the Jews and the Gentiles. What one important advantage is given to the Jews according to verse 2?

Paul's next question to his audience in verse 3 addresses the issue of faithfulness of the Jews. He asks whether the unfaithfulness of some Jews cancels God's faithfulness to His people. Read the following Scriptures and write down what it says about God's faithfulness.

Lamentations 3:22-23

1 Corinthians 1:9

Hebrews 10:23

Reread Paul's declaration in Romans 3:4. How do his words line up with the truth from these verses?

6. In Romans 3:5, Paul uses the words "unrighteousness" and "righteousness" in his next question to his audience. Righteousness means to have a right standing before God. Unrighteousness signifies sin and wrongdoing. Read Romans 3:5-8. What human behaviors actually highlight God's righteous character according to verses 5 and 7?

Share how the phrase, "The end justifies the means," describes the twisted logic Paul is addressing in verses 5-8.

7. Despite the argument God's light shines brighter because of sin, what is Paul's conclusion in verse 8 concerning God's judgment on sinners?

8. Read Romans 3:9-20. Paul finishes his arguments that all people stand guilty before God by naming the guilty parties. Identify who stands guilty before God according to verse 9.

In verses 10-18 Paul quotes the Old Testament which the Jews would be familiar with. What do the words “none,” “no one,” and “all” in verses 10-12 reveal about sin in the world?

Reread verses 13-18 taking note of the sins and categorize them in these categories:

Talking

Conduct

9. Paul concludes by giving the purpose and ministry of the law in Romans 3:19-20. What truths do you learn about the law from these verses?

In your own words, share how becoming conscious of sin can lead us to repentance and salvation through the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Read Romans 3:23 and 6:23.

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

Romans 3:21-4:25

January 31-February 1, 2024

BOUNDLESS GRACE A STUDY OF ROMANS

1. Review Romans 3:10-11 from last week's lesson and then read 3:21-22. With the words "But now," Paul makes a sharp transition from a dark picture to something wonderful God does for us. What does Paul talk about after opening this section with "But now"?
2. Read Romans 3:21-26. Righteousness can be defined as a right standing before God. Justification is the action of declaring someone righteous and treating them as such. How many times do you see the word righteousness in these six verses? How many times do you see the word justified or a form of it?

List what you learn about righteousness from these verses.

If a just and holy God must punish sin, explain how God can be both just and the justifier of the sinner who has faith in Jesus. Along with Romans 3:21-26, read Romans 5:8, 1 John 4:10, and Isaiah 53:6.

3. Read Romans 3:27-31. Paul continues by asking questions to explain God's amazing gift of righteousness by grace alone, not works. Write Paul's answers next to the following questions.

"What becomes of our boasting?"

"By what kind of law?"

Whom does God justify by faith according to verses 29-30?

4. Read Romans 4:1-5. How does Paul describe Abraham in verse 1?

What does Scripture say about Abraham's righteousness according to verse 3? Also, read the conversation between God and Abraham in Genesis 15:1-6.

Why is Abraham unable to boast about his righteousness?

In your own words, explain the difference between receiving something as a gift and receiving payment for work.

Think about your own faith life. How often do you try to add works to your righteous standing before God which comes by grace through faith in Jesus? What are some reasons you do this?

5. Read Romans 4:6-8. David was the king of Israel centuries before Jesus came to Earth, so his words are important to the Jews. In verse 7, Paul quotes Psalm 32. Who does David credit for the forgiveness of sin?

Consider God's forgiveness of your sin because of Jesus' sacrifice on your behalf. What is your overriding emotion?

6. Read Romans 4:9-12. What argument does Paul use to prove circumcision was *not* necessary for righteousness?

Why is this good news for Gentiles according to verse 11?

7. Read Romans 4:13-17. The promise God made Abraham did not come through the law but through the righteousness that comes by _____.

Because the promise comes by grace through faith, Abraham is the spiritual father of whom?

Why do you think Paul might be pointing out this truth to the Jewish and Gentile Christians he is writing to?

What is the promise God gave to Abraham which Abraham believed according to verse 17? Also read Genesis 15:1-6.

8. Read Romans 4:18-22 along with Genesis 17:15-17,21. Describe Abraham's life situation when God gave him this promise which could have made it hard for Abraham to believe God.

Read Romans 4:18-22 again. What words describe Abraham's great faith?

What strengthened Abraham's faith according to verse 21?

Record a time when reading God's Word strengthened your faith as you waited or currently wait on the Lord in a difficult situation.

9. Read Romans 4:22-25. This sums up all the verses we studied this week. What is the good news for us in 4:23-25 and what difference does it make in your life? Also read Matthew 20:17-19,28 and John 3:16.

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

Romans 5

February 7-8, 2024

BOUNDLESS GRACE A STUDY OF ROMANS

1. Write down some words that come to mind when you consider the benefits you experience daily as a follower of Jesus.
2. In chapter 5 of Paul's letter to the Romans, Paul is continuing his teaching from chapter 4. Read Romans 4:24b-25. What did the resurrection of Jesus accomplish for all who believe?

One simple definition of justification is the action of declaring someone to be made right with God. How are these words specifically true when it comes to your salvation?

3. Read Romans 5:1-11 with the intent of recognizing the results of being justified by faith. Make a list of the gifts that are connected to our justification in Christ from verses 1,2,5,9 and 11.

Justification is not an ongoing process but a one-time act of God in our lives. What can we learn from these verses?

Hebrews 10:22-23

1 Peter 3:18

Jude 24-25

4. Read Romans 5:3-5 again. How would you describe the life of a justified individual from these verses?

5. According to Romans 5:6-8, what part do our good works and intentions contribute to a right standing with God?

What words are used to describe the unsaved in 5:6-10?

What one word repeatedly describes our new position before God in 5:10-11?

6. Read Romans 5:12-17. Explain all you learn about sin in verses 12-14.

Now explain all you learn about the gift of God's grace in verses 5:15-17.

7. Romans 5:12-14 explains that sin existed even before the laws God gave Moses. What was the result of Adam's sin of disobedience in the Garden of Eden according to these verses? Also read Genesis 2:16-17 for more insight.

Read Romans 5:17 again along with 1 Corinthians 15:47-49. What encouragement do we find?

8. Read Romans 5:15-21 and contrast the work of Jesus Christ and the work of Adam.

The Work of Adam

The Work of Jesus

9. How would you explain the following sentence after studying these passages in Romans?
Humans are not sinners because they sin, but rather they sin because they are sinners.

10. How would you describe Jesus in your own words after reading 5:18-21 again?

Jesus' mission

Jesus' character

Jesus' submission

Jesus' love for you

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

Romans 6

February 14-15, 2024

BOUNDLESS GRACE A STUDY OF ROMANS

1. Begin by reading Romans 6:1-2. What is written in Romans 5:20-21 that prompts Paul to ask the question recorded in Romans 6:1?

In your own words, write Paul's response to the question recorded in Romans 6:2.

What are some ways we justify our ongoing struggle with specific sins?

2. Read Romans 6:3-5. The Greek translation of the word "baptism" means "to immerse." Explain what Paul means by being immersed into Christ. Look at 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 and Galatians 3:27.

Romans 6:4 tells us we identify with Christ in His death. According to Romans 6:4-5, what other way do we identify with Christ when we place our trust in Him?

3. Continue by reading Romans 6:6-9. What does Paul mean by "the old self"? Look at Ephesians 4:22-24 and Colossians 3:9-10 for insight.

How does our relationship with sin change when we identify with Christ in His resurrection?

4. Read Romans 6:10-14. What do the following portions of Scripture say about being dead to sin and alive to God?

1 Corinthians 10:13

Galatians 2:20

Galatians 5:24

What instructions are recorded in Romans 6:12-14 for living a life dead to sin and alive to God?

What would this look like for you in your home, school, workplace, and with friends and family?

5. Continue by reading Romans 6:15-16. Explain in your own words the truth in verse 14 which prompts Paul to ask the question recorded in verse 15.

According to verse 16, what two options do we have as followers of Christ?

Explain what it means to be a slave to sin. Look at John 8:34 for insight.

What does it mean to be a slave to righteousness? Look at Romans 6:22 and 1 Peter 2:16 for insight.

6. Read Romans 6:17-18. In your own words, describe what Paul is thankful for in these two verses.

What emotions do you feel knowing this truth?

7. Finish by reading Romans 6:19-23. What descriptive words does Paul use to describe slaves to sin?

According to verses 19 and 22, what is the result of offering ourselves as slaves to righteousness?

Sanctification is God's ongoing work of separating a believer from sin and transforming her life toward holiness and purity. What does sanctification mean to you as a follower of Christ?

8. List some ways you have personally experienced God using your sanctification to give you victory over sin and bring glory to His name.

What verse or verses in Romans 6 challenges or encourages you as you live a life dead to sin and alive to God?

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