

CONNECTGROUPGUIDE

ROMANS

chapters 1-8

... from grace to **glory**



Deeply Transformed | Serving Together

ROMANS

... from grace to **glory**

May 31	Romans 1:1-32	Unashamed of the Gospel
June 7	Romans 2:1-3:20	The Universal Need
June 14	Romans 3:21-31	Righteousness Revealed
June 21	Romans 4:1-25	Example of Faith
June 28	Romans 5:1-11	Peace and Hope
July 5	Romans 5:12-21	The Two Adams
July 12	Romans 6:1-14	Dead to Sin Alive to God
July 19	Romans 6:15-23	Slaves to Righteousness
July 26	Romans 7:1-25	The Struggle Within
August 2	Romans 8:1-17	The Spirit-led Life
August 9	Romans 8:18-39	More than Conquerors

INTRO

The Epistle to the Romans, written by Paul, is the theological masterpiece of the New Testament. The first eight chapters unpack the core of the Christian gospel. Paul addresses a church made up of Jewish and Gentile believers in Rome, and seeks to unite them through a clear understanding of faith. It moves from a diagnosis of human failure, to the gospel of **grace**, to the triumphant reality of spiritual liberation (**glory**), establishing the basis of Christian doctrine.

Paul starts his argument by establishing the universal need for salvation, declaring that both Gentiles and Jews are equally guilty of sin and are separated from God. He strips away any grounds for human boasting by showing that morality and law are powerless to rescue humanity from divine judgment. The narrative then pivots to the doctrine of justification by faith. Paul explains that God has dealt with human rebellion through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, available to anyone who believes.

The climax of these eight chapters explores the transformation experienced by the justified believer. From being slaves to sin, to becoming living participants in Christ's resurrection life, dead to the old self and alive to God. Ch 8 concludes with a celebration of life in the Holy Spirit, where the believer is adopted into God's family. Paul finishes by assuring his readers of their ultimate security, promising that absolutely nothing in creation can separate them from the love of God.

Some guidelines for Connect Group ...

- Come to the study prepared; preparation will greatly enrich your time together; it is recommended to take notes during the Sunday sermon, and to write down your thoughts as you prepare
- As part of your preparation, why not listen to the sermon again during the week (most sermons are recorded and available on **Apple Podcasts**, and also on the **website**)
- As you prepare, pray that God will speak to you through his word
- Be willing to participate in your group. Your sharing will greatly encourage all the other members as you grow together
- Stick to the topic - this allows everyone to participate on level ground and to go deeper into the Bible
- Be sensitive to others and listen attentively; affirm others, especially those who may feel timid or don't often share
- Your leader won't be lecturing, but helping members to think through the questions. Some of the questions don't have a 'right' answer, especially those that apply the Bible to our lives
- Be careful not to dominate, as it could inhibit others from sharing
- Expect God to teach you through the passage and through other members, and always pray that it will be a profitable time together

Unashamed of the Gospel

Romans 1:1-32

INTRO

What kinds of things make people feel ashamed or embarrassed today? Why do people sometimes feel hesitant about publicly identifying as Christians?

1. What does Paul say about himself, his calling and purpose?
2. What stands out in Paul's description of the gospel?
3. Why is Paul not ashamed of the Gospel?

Sermon Notes

4. What has God revealed about Himself through creation?

6. Why is idolatry at the heart of sin?

5. What do you understand by “the wrath of God”? How does God’s wrath relate to His love?

7. Why do people have no excuse? Does that hold true today?

8. How does this passage prepare us for the good news of Jesus?



- Pray for the gospel, the power of God, to be evident through our lives, wherever go.
- Thank God for the faith of others in our church, in your past churches, and for the faith of others being reported all over the world.
- Praise God for His Holy Spirit at work within us, and ask Him to clear out old habits and idolatries

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love for Jesus and intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my servant heart and make a difference in the world?

The Universal Need

Romans 2:1–3:20

INTRO

Why do people often believe they are “basically good”?

1. What distinction does Paul make between hearing and doing the law?
2. Why is having God’s law not enough?
3. What is the problem with outward religion without inward transformation?

Sermon Notes

4. In what ways are Christians today tempted to rely on outward religion rather than genuine faith?

6. The law makes us conscious of sin. How is the awareness of sin a gift?

5. What is the purpose of the law? Why can't humans become righteous through our own efforts?

7. In Romans chapters 1-3 Paul is trying to strip away any confidence that our own goodness, good works or law-keeping could save us. How does this help us cling to Jesus? Are you convinced? Why or why not?



- Thank God for His kindness, and pray that it would be revealed clearly through us as we witness to Him.
- Thank God for the gift of the law, the conviction of sin and the way of salvation made clear in Jesus.
- Pray for yourself and others to daily see more clearly that we cannot do it ourselves but One has done it for us, and He is trustworthy.

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love for Jesus and intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my servant heart and make a difference in the world?

Righteousness Revealed

Romans 3:21-31

INTRO

What is a free gift you have received, when you expected to pay something?

1. v.21 What do you think Paul means by “the righteousness of God”?
2. According to v.22-24, and from what you have learnt in chs 1-3, what is humanity’s problem, and what solution has God provided through Jesus Christ?

Sermon Notes

3. What does v.23 teach about the human condition and our need for grace?
4. Paul uses words like “justified”, “redemption”, and “atonement/sacrifice of atonement” in v.24-25. What do these terms mean, and how do they help explain the gospel?
5. Why do you think Paul stresses that salvation is received “by faith” and not through works of the law?
6. In v.27-28 Paul says boasting is excluded. Why does the gospel leave no room for spiritual pride?
7. What do v.29-30 teach about God’s relationship to both Jews and Gentiles? Why was this such an important point in the early church?



- Thank God that we are justified freely by His grace through Jesus Christ, not because of our own goodness or achievements.
- Pray that God would remove pride, self-righteousness, and comparison from our hearts, helping us rely fully on Christ

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love for Jesus and intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my servant heart and make a difference in the world?

Example of Faith

Romans 4:1-25

INTRO

Have there been times when you find yourself 'boasting' or taking credit for your good deeds or spiritual life?

1. How would you describe the difference between "earning a wage" and "receiving a gift"? How does this apply to our standing before God?
2. Paul quotes Genesis 15:6: "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." In your own words, what does it mean for faith to be "credited" (or imputed) as righteousness?
3. Why does a works-based salvation ultimately lead to pride, whereas faith leads to humility and grace?

Sermon Notes

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>4. vv.7-8 How do the words of King David in Ps 32 bring comfort and assurance to a believer struggling with guilt?</p> | <p>7. v.18 Paul says “against all hope, Abraham in hope believed”. What does this mean, and how does it challenge our modern ideas about faith?</p> |
| <p>5. v.10 Paul points out that Abraham was counted righteous before he was circumcised. Why would this be crucial for the original Jewish audience to understand?</p> | <p>8. vv.19-20 Abraham did not waver in his faith, even though his circumstances seemed impossible. What circumstances are you facing where you need to trust God's promises regardless of what you see?</p> |
| <p>6. v.14 Paul warns that if salvation is based on keeping the law, faith is meaningless and the promise is void.
Why is it dangerous to mix law and grace for our salvation?</p> | <p>9. Is there an area in your life right now where you are striving to earn God’s approval rather than simply resting in His grace?</p> |



- Pray for each other to truly rest in God’s grace and let go of any pride or desire to boast
- Pray that each member of your group may be able to ‘hope against hope’ and fully trust God’s promises
- Thank God together that Jesus was ‘delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification’.

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love for Jesus and intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my servant heart and make a difference in the world?

Peace and Hope

Romans 5:1-11

INTRO

Can you think of any good examples of one person sacrificing themselves for another?

1. What three consequences of justification do we see in verses 1-2?
2. What do you think is the difference between peace with God and the peace of God? Which one is Paul speaking about here?
3. According to verses 3-4, why can Christians “glory in our sufferings”?

Sermon Notes

4. What do you think Paul means by “glorying” in suffering?
Can you think of a time in your own life where suffering produced perseverance, character, or hope?

5. How has God demonstrated his love for us according to verses 6–8?

6. Paul describes humanity as “ungodly,” “sinners,” and even “enemies” of God. In what ways do you see those realities in yourself and in the world around you? Do you think Paul’s description is fair?

7. In verses 9–10, Paul argues that if God loved us while we were his enemies, how much more will he save us now that we are reconciled. Why is that such a strong basis for Christian assurance?

8. Is there anything that makes you doubt you will finally reach glory with Christ? How do these verses encourage and reassure us?



- Pray for those in our church or community who are currently suffering, discouraged, or struggling and ask God to help them grow in character and hope through these trials.
- Pray for friends or family who do not yet know Christ, that they too would be reconciled to God.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with the hope and love described in this passage

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love for Jesus and intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my servant heart and make a difference in the world?

The Two Adams

Romans 5:12-21

INTRO

Who has influenced your life the most in a good way?

1. Draw two columns on the opposite page. Title the first “Adam” and the second “Christ”. List all the things that flow out of Adam and all that flows out of Christ. What could you do to live more in Christ?
2. v.12 ‘death comes because of sin’. How does Genesis 2:17 support what Paul is saying here.
3. vv.13,14 Between Adam and Moses, the law of God had not yet been revealed, however people should have known there is a God because of creation (Rom 1:18-20), and, they had their conscience to reveal moral wrongdoing (Rom 2:15,16). How does this apply today to people who have no knowledge of the law of Moses (ie 10 Commandments)?

Sermon Notes

4. vv.15-17 What does the one man Adam bring? What does the one man Jesus Christ bring?

5. v.18 appears to teach universalism (ie everyone is saved in the end). However there is so much in the book of Romans and the rest of the teaching of Paul that is opposed to this idea. (e.g. 1:18, 2:5-12). Paul has also been at pains through ch 3-4 to emphasise justification by faith in Christ alone. Faith is necessary. How might we hold in tension passages like v.18 with the rest of Romans?

6. vv.19-20 In your own words, why is grace so much more abundant than Adam's sin?

7. v.21 ends with the goal of grace reigning "through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." How should this truth shape the way Christians live today?



- Ask God to help you live each day under the reign of Christ rather than the sin of Adam.
- Pray for grace to know the hope and joy of the gospel rather than the guilt and fear of the sinful nature

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love for Jesus and intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my servant heart and make a difference in the world?

Sermon Notes

3. According to verses 4, 5, and 8, what does Jesus' resurrection mean for believers now and in the future?
4. Verse 7 says, "anyone who has died has been set free from sin." What do you think Paul means by this? What does freedom from sin mean – and what does it not mean?
5. What do you think Paul means when he says, "count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus" (v. 11)? How is this different from simply trying harder to be a better person?
6. According to these verses, why should we offer ourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life? How can we encourage one another to keep doing this?



- Thank God for his grace, forgiveness, and patience with us as we grow in holiness.
- Pray for freedom from sinful habits, patterns, or struggles that still seek to hold us back.
- Pray that our small group and church family would encourage one another to keep following Jesus faithfully.

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love for Jesus and intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my servant heart and make a difference in the world?

Slaves to Righteousness

Romans 6:15-23

INTRO

Share some times in your life when you have felt truly 'free'.

How would you define 'freedom', and what does our culture think freedom is?

1. Paul starts v.15 with a warning. Why might someone wrongly think that grace gives them permission to sin?
2. v.16 Paul argues that you are a slave to the one you obey. How does repeatedly giving in to a specific sin eventually lead to a sense of spiritual or emotional bondage?
3. v.17 What is the difference between obeying God out of obligation versus obeying Him "from your heart"?

Sermon Notes

4. v.19 Why is slavery to righteousness the only real path to true freedom?
5. v.21 When you look back at past sins, what were the immediate 'fruits' versus the long-term consequences?
6. v.22 What does it look like in everyday life to reap the benefit of holiness?
7. v.23 What do you think is the theological significance of contrasting 'wages' and 'gift'.
8. How can the truth of eternal life being a free gift change the way we deal with the daily struggles of temptation?
9. If you look at your diary, your television viewing, your spending and your thoughts, which 'master' (sin or righteousness) received more obedience?



PRAY

- Pray for each other to choose the 'right master' in everyday life
- Pray that you would each present yourselves to Christ as tools for holiness, and that you would all walk away from what brings shame, and towards the fruit of eternal life
- Give thanks to God through Jesus Christ for the wonderful gift of eternal life which His death and resurrection brings

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love for Jesus and intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my servant heart and make a difference in the world?

The Struggle Within

Romans 7:1-25

INTRO

Why do you think people often struggle to change, even when they truly want to?

1. In what ways does Paul use the illustration of marriage to explain our relationship to the law and to Christ? (vv. 1-4)
2. What are the primary differences between the old life under the Law and the new life in the Spirit? (vv. 4-6)
3. What is the main point Paul is making in verses 7-13?
According to these verses, is the Law itself sinful? Why or why not?

Sermon Notes

4. What role should God's written law play in a Christian's life today?
5. Can you relate to Paul's struggle in verse 15?
In what ways do vv.14-25 help Christians who feel discouraged by ongoing sin?
6. How do verses 16-23 describe the inner battle between the desire to do good and the power of sin?
7. How does Paul describe himself in verse 24?
Why do you think this cry leads Paul to thankfulness and hope in Jesus Christ?
8. What do God's desire, plan, and rescue through Jesus reveal about his character and purposes? Why is it important that Romans 7 does not end with despair, but points us toward Jesus?



- Give thanks to God for his mercy, power and compassion. Pray that we can say "Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"
- Pray for encouragement for Christians who feel weary, discouraged, or defeated in their struggle against sin.
- Pray that our small groups and church would be places of honesty, grace, repentance, and encouragement.

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love for Jesus and intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my servant heart and make a difference in the world?

The Spirit-led Life

Romans 8:1-17

INTRO

Reflect on the times you have felt shame and guilt. How did you deal with it, and where did you turn?

1. v.1 What is the difference between feeling **convicted** by the Spirit and feeling **condemned**?
2. v.3 Why can external rules never truly fix our internal sin problem?
3. vv.5-6 What does a mind governed by the flesh look like in everyday life? (e.g. thoughts, anxieties, priorities)

Sermon Notes

4. v.6 How have you experienced this kind of peace in a situation you have surrendered to God?
5. v.11 How can this truth - that the same Spirit who raised Jesus now lives in you - change the way you face persistent habits or temptations?
6. vv.12,13 What does it mean practically to 'put to death the misdeeds of the body'? Why is it a daily battle?
7. v.15 Abba is an intimate term for a parent. As adopted children, how does viewing God as 'Abba' change the way you approach Him in prayer?
8. v.17 What kind of suffering might a believer experience today for following Christ?
9. How can you actively 'set your mind' on what the Spirit desires when you first wake up tomorrow morning (and every morning)?



- Thank the Lord for the incredible promises that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus
- Ask God to help you, and all the members of your group, have minds governed by the Spirit
- Pray that the Holy Spirit continually reassures you that you belong to God, now and for ever

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love for Jesus and intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my servant heart and make a difference in the world?

More than Conquerors

Romans 8:18-39

INTRO

On a pessimist-optimist scale, where would you position yourself?

1. Note v.17. What sort of suffering does Paul have in mind in this second half of chapter 8?
2. What frustrates you most about living in a fallen world?
3. What is the difference between hope and wishful thinking?

Sermon Notes

4. Can you recall a time when you did not know how to pray in a particular situation, and the Holy Spirit helped you?

6. Of the enemies mentioned in vv38-39, which one is the most real to you? How has the gospel message of Romans helped you overcome this enemy?

5. When has it been the hardest for you to believe Romans 8:28?

7. What has been your favourite passage in this series? How does it relate to the glory Paul talks about in ch 8?



- How could your group especially pray for you this week?
- Give thanks for the power of the Gospel, and that God freely gives us grace, and takes us to glory

Sermon Notes

PERSONAL GROWTH PLAN

Spend some time talking about the Personal Growth Plan.
What can you share this week about the steps you are taking?

LIVING TO LOVE JESUS

#Christ-centred

#Bible-based

Deeply Transformed

How will I fuel my love for Jesus and intentionally grow as a disciple of Jesus?

LIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS

#Spirit-led

#Mission-shaped

Serving Together

How will I develop my servant heart and make a difference in the world?



*Living to Love and
Proclaim Jesus*
tewantin sunshine peregian