

It has been a year (March 16, 25) since I started the Roman Series and I have been waiting for right time to jump back in. Casey and I are both really excited to preach through the rest of this book which holds heavenly insight that we need. I highly encourage you to get the Revive App if you do not have it and listen to the six sermons previously taught with notes included so you are prepared moving forward. Today I Will spend time doing a recap to get us back in the flow of the book.

Romans unfolds spiritual truths and theology unlike any other book in the Bible. Romans opens up spiritual truths that will establish you in the gospel and empower you to live by faith in what Jesus Christ has accomplished. Sometimes we undermine the delivering and healing power that's presented in the truth of God's written word. The word of God by the Spirit of God will set you free and root you in the truth to make you unshakable.

I read this statement a few years ago in a book called the Apostolic ministry and it really stuck with me. This is something we need to remember as we study and look at the book of Romans as well as all Scriptures. Paul was unquestionably one of the great builders of the New Testament church. More than anyone else Paul's theology and revelation set a true course for Christianity: even so Paul is not the foundation of the church, Jesus is. We have wrongfully use Paul to interpret Jesus rather than the other way around. **The true foundations of Christian truth are the teachings of Jesus not Paul.**

- **This is not to imply that in any way that Paul's epistles are not essential or that they are not true,** they are completely true and entirely inspired by the Holy Spirit, it's just a matter of where they are to be placed in the building. We will misinterpret and misapply them if they're not rightly built upon the foundation of the teachings of Jesus; likewise the teachings of Jesus will be misinterpreted and misapplied if we try to view them through the teachings of anyone else rather than as the foundation for all other understanding. *Sometimes when we begin to grow in theological truths, we can get puffed up so we read them through the lens of the tenderness, beauty and excellence of Christ.*

Main theme of Romans 1

*Romans 1:16-19 16For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17For in it the **righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."** 18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.*

-The righteousness of God is revealed (primary point)

-Mans depravity and sinful nature is revealed

Humanity has repeatedly exchanged the glory of God, suppressing His truth by our unrighteous lives. **Three times in Romans 1 (Vs 23-36) Paul uses a similar phrase to denote God's judgment by using the phrase (God gave them over).**

1. **First level judgment** **God gave them over to lust and uncleanness** because they *exchanged the glory* of God for images. Idolatry!
2. **Second level judgement** **God gave them over to vile passions** They worshipped and served the creature rather than the creator. Exchanging Gods created order for sexuality which is male with female, to unnatural passions women with women and men with men. *They exchanged the truth of God for a lie.*
3. **Third level judgment** **God gave them over to a debased/depraved mind.** This is humanity no longer retaining God in their knowledge. Complete and utter rebellion. Paul then lists 23 sinful behaviors that follow the depth of this depravity. They fail to even acknowledge God.

Main theme of Chapter 2

Paul's Emphasis now turns to the religious person (Jew who has the law) **who were in full agreement of Paul's assessment of the sinner in chapter 1 and willing to judge others.** He says to them- *you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.* **So not only is the sinful Gentile guilty before the Lord and deserves to be judged so is the righteous Jew.** They're both equally without excuse. There is no favoritism, no partiality.

Main theme of Chapter 3

One of the great turning points in the letter to the Romans occurs in chapter 3 verse 21. Paul has marked this out with the phrase "but now"!

21But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

The word now points out the important new era that has dawned upon the world. Everything is different because God has worked in a totally just and gracious way through Jesus Christ. **This is the era of the Kingdom of God. Having been inaugurated by Christ when He walked this earth/died/rose again. His Kingdom is now present by the Holy Spirit's continuing work on earth through His servants.** The new covenant brings with it the end of empty religious observance and has ushered the season where the spirit of God circumcises the heart and transforms human behavior from within. **The present work of God is not through law, but rather faith.** Paul's argument hinges on recognition of the total inability of making sinful

people righteous through religious observance and keeping the law. It moves on to the new and gracious provision of God to a bankrupt people. This is the good news.

The word **now** is used throughout the book of Romans so we'll have a greater understanding of what is in our **current possession in Christ Jesus.**

1. God **now** provides atonement (3:25,26)
2. God **now** justifies by the blood of Jesus (5:9)
3. but **now** we are set free from sin (6:22)
4. there is **now** no condemnation for those in Christ (8:1)
5. we are **now** delivered from the law (7:6)

It clear that Paul uses this little word to indicate the dramatic turn of events. *The word first appears in Romans 3:21 and provides a beautiful marker to a new area that is **not defined by the law but by the grace of God through faith.***

Main theme of Chapter 4- Is Faith

Romans 4 can be understood in two parts.

1. The first half unveils the truth of justification by faith alone. In short, the first half of Romans 4 shows how we are saved. Justification is a legal declaration by God, acting as judge, that a sinner is righteous,
2. The second half shows the principle of inheritance by persistent faith. It shows how believers come into their inheritance.

Romans 4:1-8 1What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? 2For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 4Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt. 5But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness, 6just as David also describes the blessedness of the man to whom God **imputes righteousness** apart from works: 7"Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, And whose sins are covered; 8Blessed is the man to whom the Lord shall not impute sin."

- I. **First aspect of faith=Justified by faith** (Faith that is imputed)

The word impute means to credit. It's a free gift. If you embrace the promise and the gospel that Jesus Christ died for your sins, His righteousness is imputed to you; that is, you are treated by God as if His righteousness were yours. **Jesus righteousness is put to your credit and are reckoned by God himself to be righteous.** This comes by faith, trust, relying on the promise

and faithfulness of God. This means you are saved and will go to heaven and not to hell when you die. You have been justified by his blood and saved from the wrath of God (Romans 5:9).

The doctrine of Justification by faith-

1. **This is by the merit of Christ himself.** Jesus lived the perfect life. He kept the law for us.

Imputed righteousness is not a feeling it is what God does when you believe! Our only hope of going to heaven is in Jesus blood. You may not feel righteous, it may feel hard to accept that God sees you as righteous merely because you believe the gospel, It is not a feeling, it is the way God sees you.

- It is legal and it is what is declared in heaven. It is the way a most holy God regards you when you trust His word, **He regards you as totally righteous because the righteousness of His Son has been put to your credit.**

I. **Second part of Faith is persevering faith**

*18*who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "So shall your descendants be." *19*And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb. *20*He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, *21*and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. *22*And therefore "it was accounted to him for righteousness."

*23*Now it was not written for his sake alone that it was imputed to him, *24*but also for us. It shall be imputed to us who believe in Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, *25*who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.

Moving from saving faith, your entry into the Kingdom of God, **to receiving our inheritance by persistent** faith as modeled by Abraham.

- Thankfully God is not finished with us when we're first converted.
- **All Christians are called to come into their inheritance. Inheritance is a reward for our obedience.**
- **Some Christians come into their inheritance and some don't.** some will receive a reward at the judgment seat of Christ and some will forfeit a reward but will be saved by fire. (1 Corinthians 3:14-15).
- Inheritance and reward may be used interchangeably. **Abraham came into his inheritance.** God wants every believer to follow in the steps of Abraham not just with

saving faith, but persistent mature faith. In order to receive the fullness of our inheritance we must practice or live out our faith.

1. The first part of Romans 4 then is about God imputing righteousness to those who believe the gospel,
1. The second part of Romans 4 is about sanctification this is about The Holy Spirit imparting righteousness to us as we consecrate ourselves to Him. Sanctification comes by the power of the Holy Spirit and the word of God as we work in partnership with Him. This is character, godliness, it is integrity, and it is obedience. It is honoring God with our choices. It can be a struggle it can be wrestling it is overcoming temptation and resisting the flesh. We are set apart for His Lordship. Sanctification has a beginning, but it has no end. Sanctification is an event, yet it is progressive.
 - Think of it this way: imputed righteousness is what gets you into heaven, lived out righteousness is connected to your eternal reward as well as the provision of Christ that is available in this lifetime.

It is this kind of faith that will enable a believer to come into their inheritance. The letter to the Hebrews elaborates on the teaching of inheritance more than any other epistle in the New Testament. Hebrews 11 is the faith chapter and is not an illustration of how people get saved it's about persistent faith. **It is this dual message that will truly transform the church. How to be saved and how to walk out your salvation with fear and trembling over a lifetime.**

2 truths we must hold in tension.

We are saved by faith through grace. 2) true faith is transformative

Home groups

1. Discuss the beauty of Christ in Romans.
2. How do you grasp doctrine and theology yet maintain intimacy with Christ over head knowledge.
3. Paul was unquestionably one of the great builders of the New Testament church. More than anyone else Paul's theology and revelation set a true course for Christianity: even so Paul is not the foundation of the church, Jesus is. We have wrongfully use Paul to interpret Jesus rather than the other way around. The true foundations of Christian truth are the teachings of Jesus not Paul.

4. Discuss the beauty and wonder of imputed righteousness and justification by faith.
5. *Discuss the two tropes of faith mentioned. Their differences of each and the necessity of each.*