

GOOD NEWS

Rises Above the Noise

an encounter church study on Romans



Daily devotionals, Week 4 of February 2026, Romans 3

How to use these devotionals:

Pull out your Bible. Preferably a real, paper version rather than a digital copy. Each day, read the assigned passage(s) slowly. Read a key verse or two out loud if you can. Notice a word or phrase that stands out. Sit with it. Let it shape your prayer. Underline. Write in the margins. Re-write a verse on a notecard so it can become a part of your meditation and memorization of God's Word. This month, we are focusing on the message of the gospel. When we lose sight of this simple message, our faith becomes little more than empty religion. Jesus sought us in our sin, and this changes everything and is what makes our faith unique. We will give you 5 days of study this week so you can grow deeper and we will largely focus on Romans, which we are studying together as a church. Please dig in and talk about this with a spiritual mentor if that's helpful. Write down your questions.

Day 1 – Monday

Scripture: Romans 3:1–4; Matthew 5:20

God's faithfulness does not rise and fall with human performance. Paul reminds us that even when people are faithless, the Lord remains true — and that immediately exposes our tendency to measure righteousness by comparison. Jesus' words about a righteousness that exceeds the Pharisees press on that same nerve: outward goodness is not the same as a transformed heart.

This is where the tension begins to do good work in us, because it moves us from managing appearances to seeking real change. Today, resist the urge to evaluate your spiritual life by how you stack up against others and instead ask the Lord to make you honest before Him. Challenge: take one minute of quiet and simply tell God the truth about where your heart actually is.

Pray —

- Family/friends
- Self
- Church
- City and world

Day 2 – Tuesday

Scripture: Romans 3:5–8; Matthew 5:21–24

We often justify ourselves in subtle ways — explaining our anger, softening our words, or convincing ourselves that our motives were pure. Jesus goes beneath the surface and shows that reconciliation matters as much as religious activity. Paul dismantles the idea that our sin somehow makes God look better and is therefore excusable. The gospel calls us out of self-justification and into humble ownership. Today, think about a strained relationship or a harsh word you've spoken and take one practical step toward peace. Challenge: reach out to someone you need to be reconciled with, even if it's just to begin the conversation.

Pray-

- Family/friends
- Self
- Church
- City and world

Day 3 – Wednesday

Scripture: Romans 3:9–12; Matthew 5:27–30

“No one is righteous” levels the ground for all of us. Jesus’ teaching on lust shows that sin is not merely an external action but a matter of the heart and the eyes and the imagination. This is not meant to crush us but to free us from pretending. When we stop managing our image, we can finally pursue real purity with the Lord’s help instead of hiding behind spiritual language. Today is an invitation to radical honesty and to removing whatever consistently pulls your heart away from Christ. Challenge: identify one habit, app, pattern, or environment that feeds sin and take a concrete step to limit its influence.

Pray —

- Family/friends
- Self
- Church
- City and world

Day 4 – Thursday

Scripture: Romans 3:13–18; Matthew 5:23–26

Paul’s description of the tongue, the feet, and the path of our lives shows how deeply sin affects our everyday actions — especially our words. Jesus connects worship and relationships, reminding us that intimacy with God flows into the way we treat people. The gospel creates communities where confession is normal and grace is tangible. Instead of using our words to defend ourselves or elevate ourselves, we can use them to bring life. Today, pay close attention to what you say and how you say it, and let gratitude reshape your speech. Challenge: intentionally speak encouragement to at least two people and pray for the Spirit to make your words truthful and gentle.

Pray —

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- Self
- Church
- City and world

Day 5 – Friday

Scripture: Romans 3:19–20; Matthew 5:48

The law silences our self-reliance and shows us our need for rescue. “Be perfect” is not a ladder to climb but a mirror that drives us to Christ, the One who is our righteousness. When we stop trying to earn our standing with God, obedience becomes a response of joy rather than a performance for approval. This is where real freedom begins — not in trying harder, but in trusting deeper. Today, when you feel the familiar pressure to prove yourself, preach the gospel to your own heart: your hope is not your progress but Jesus’ finished work. Challenge: spend five unhurried minutes thanking Him for being your righteousness.

Pray —

- Family/friends
- Self
- Church
- City and world