

# GOOD NEWS

## *Rises Above the Noise*

*an encounter church study on Romans*



### Week 3 of February 2025

#### 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 week, we are focusing on the message of the gospel. We would like for you to have a birdseye view understanding of the gospel so that you can understand why it is Good News. We will only give you 5 days of devotionals this week as there is a lot more reading than normal each day. The first 6 weeks of 2026 were more reflecting/ meditative reading of the scriptures. This study will be more of an intellectual/ foundational reading. Both are valuable. This one might be challenging for some of you. Please dig in and talk about this with a spiritual mentor if that's helpful. Write down your questions if you have them.

#### Day 1: Overview of the Gospel

*Read: (Use the Message paraphrase if possible today) Romans 1-8*

Yes, we are reading 8 chapters today which is a lot!!! Read them; get an overview of the "gospel." And write down the following as you learn:

- What **questions** do I have to talk about with a group or do dive deeper into?
- What did I **observe** that stuck out to me?
- What **applications** does God want me to take home?
- Who do I need to pray for today?

#### Day 2: Understanding Sin

*Read: Re-read Romans 1:18-3:20, this time ESV, NIV, not a paraphrase like the Message yesterday). Here are a few questions to help you dig deeper into the message of the gospel.*

- What do you observe about sin from 1:18-32? We will get deeper tomorrow, but what sticks out?
- In Romans 2, who is Paul confronting — and why? How does Romans 2 challenge the idea that being "more moral" or "more religious" makes us right with God?
- What sticks out from 3:9-20? How do you react to the words "All." "No one." "None is righteous." "Every mouth stopped."
- Why is it important that Paul establishes that everyone — religious and irreligious — is under sin before introducing the gospel solution?

#### Day 3: The Root of Sin

*Read: Romans 1:18-32. Today we are honing in and getting deeper on one aspect of sin. And this passage is deep rooted. Take your time on these verses today.*

- According to Romans 1:18–32, what is the root of sin?
- List the things Paul says we “exchange” in these verses.
- Where do you see “exchange” happening in your own life — subtle ways you trade trust in God for something more controllable or immediate?

## Day 4: Sin and Religious People

*Read Romans 2. Again, today we are going to get deeper into our understanding of sin. But Paul is speaking to a different group of people in this chapter. There is a different felt need.*

- **Who is Paul addressing in chapter 2, and how is this different from chapter 1?**  
What shift do you notice from obvious rebellion to moral or religious confidence?
- **According to verses 1–4, what danger comes with judging others?**  
How can focusing on someone else’s sin blind us to our own?
- **What does Paul say God is really looking at (2:6–11, 16)?**  
How is God’s judgment different from outward appearances or religious identity?
- **In verses 17–24, what was the mistake of those who relied on the law?**  
What’s the difference between knowing God’s truth and being transformed by it?
- **How does 2:28–29 redefine what it means to truly belong to God?**  
What does Paul mean by “circumcision of the heart”?

## Day 5: Wait- Everyone is Guilty... Really?

*Read Romans 3:1-20. He is wrapping up the major first section of Romans. The discussion of an understanding of what sin actually is. It is also deep. And its OK if you don't understand everything. Discuss with others and pray about this section so*

*the Lord can deepen your appreciation for the Jesus.*

- **In verses 1–8, what objection is Paul responding to?**  
What does he clarify about God’s faithfulness, even when people are unfaithful?
- **According to verses 9–12, who is “under sin”?**  
Why is it significant that Paul says “no one is righteous” — not even one?
- **What do verses 13–18 reveal about the depth of sin?**  
How does Paul describe sin affecting speech, relationships, and even our view of God?
- **In verses 19–20, what is the purpose of the law?**  
What does it mean that the law makes us “conscious of sin” rather than justified?
- **Why is it important that “every mouth may be stopped” (v.19)?**  
What happens in our hearts when we stop defending ourselves before God?