



Foundations: PT II | The Book of Romans

Mark Allen | 08.09.26

Opening Prayer

Open your time together in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and help each person apply these truths personally. Encourage members to bring their Bibles and be ready for honest, open conversation.

Key Takeaways

- The gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, both Jew and Gentile, without distinction.
 - No one is made right with God through their own goodness, religious effort, or moral record. All have sinned and fallen short of God's standard.
 - Justification means being declared righteous by God, not because of what we have done, but because of what Christ has done. We receive this through faith alone.
 - Sanctification is the lifelong process of the Holy Spirit working in the life of a believer after justification.
 - God has not rejected the Jewish people. As Gentile believers, we have been grafted into something that was already God's plan, and we should remain humble about that reality.
 - There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. The price was paid in full.
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Discussion Questions

Opening Question

1. When you were growing up, how did you understand the idea of getting into heaven? Was it based on being good, going to church, or something else?

Digging Into the Sermon

2. Pastor Mark described three groups of people who might think they do not need saving: the wicked, the good, and the religious. Which of those three groups do you think is hardest to reach with the gospel, and why?
3. Romans 1:20 teaches that God's invisible qualities have been clearly seen through creation, leaving people without excuse. How have you personally seen evidence of God through the created world? How might this truth shape the way you talk about faith with someone who has never heard the gospel?
4. Pastor Mark made a distinction between justification and sanctification. In your own words, how would you explain the difference between the two? Why does it matter that justification is instant while sanctification is a process?
5. Read Romans 3:23-24 together as a group. Pastor Mark described grace using the phrase "God's riches at Christ's expense." What does it mean to you personally that righteousness is credited to your account as a free gift rather than something you earned?
6. Pastor Mark referenced Romans 8:1, which teaches that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ. Is there an area of your life where you have struggled to fully receive that truth? What makes it difficult sometimes to live in the freedom that verse describes?
7. Romans 11 warns Gentile believers not to become arrogant toward the Jewish people, reminding us that we were grafted into something we did not originate. How does this passage challenge the way Christians sometimes think about their relationship to Israel and the Jewish people?

Going Deeper

8. Pastor Mark said that religion can send a person to hell if they are trusting in their religious activity rather than in Christ alone. How do you guard your own heart against trusting in church attendance, service, or good behavior rather than in Jesus himself?
 9. Pastor Mark described the sanctification process using a personal example about the temptation to gossip. He said the Holy Spirit would prompt him and he would have to choose whether to listen. Can you share an example from your own life where you sensed the Holy Spirit prompting you to stop or change course? What did you do, and what did you learn from it?
 10. If someone came to you and asked, "I have done terrible things. Can God really forgive me and let me in?" how would you use what you learned from Romans to answer them?
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Practical Applications

This Week, Choose One or More of the Following:

- **Examine Your Foundation.** Take some time alone this week to honestly ask yourself: What am I trusting in for my standing before God? Write down your answer and compare it to what Romans teaches about justification by faith.
- **Share the Good News.** Think of one person in your life who falls into one of the three groups discussed in the sermon: someone living in open sin, someone who considers themselves a good person, or someone who is religious but may not know Christ personally. Pray for an opportunity to have a conversation with them this week.
- **Practice Listening to the Holy Spirit.** Identify one specific area of your life where you know the Holy Spirit has been prompting you to change. Make a deliberate decision this week to respond to that prompting and share what happened with your group next time you meet.

- **Study Romans on Your Own.** The pastor described Romans as the greatest doctrinal book in the New Testament. Commit to reading through the entire book of Romans this week, one or two chapters at a time. Journal one thing that stands out to you from each section.
 - **Pray for Israel.** Following the biblical principle that God has not rejected His people, set aside intentional time this week to pray for the Jewish people and for the peace of Jerusalem..
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Closing Prayer

- Any group member who is still working through what it means to put their full faith in Christ
 - One another's sanctification journeys and the specific areas where the Holy Spirit is working
 - Boldness to share the gospel with the people in your life
 - The Jewish people and God's ongoing plan for them
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Memory Verse for the Week

Romans 8:1 teaches that for those who are in Christ Jesus, there is now no condemnation. Commit this truth to memory and return to it whenever guilt or shame tries to speak louder than grace.
