

Bible Studies

Term 4 2025



This Bible Study booklet has been produced for our series in Romans.

These are available for Quirindi Anglican Parish bible study groups & individuals.

Many of us believe the best way to get the most out of God's word & the preaching of it is to be familiar with Sunday's passage before we arrive at church. Hence, the bible studies are usually studied before the preaching on any given Sunday.

ROMANS 1-5

The Gospel of God

12 Oct

Romans 1:1-7

God's Call

19 Oct

Romans 1:8-17

God's Power

26 Oct

Romans 1:18-32

God's Wrath

2 Nov

Romans 2:1-29

God's Judgement

9 Nov

Romans 3:1-20

God's Standard

16 Nov

Romans 3:21-31

God's Righteousness

23 Nov

Romans 4:1-25

God's Promise

30 Nov

Romans 5:1-11

God's Peace

7 Dec

Romans 5:12-21

God's Grace

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

Romans 1:16

FLOWCHART OF THE LOGIC OF ROMANS 1-5

THE ROADMAP TO RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH

THE PROBLEM

GOD'S WRATH

Revealed against all ungodliness
Humanities universal sin

GOD'S JUDGEMENT

Impartial: based on truth
not background

GOD'S STANDARD

The law proves all guilty;
none measure up



THE VERDICT

All are guilty

THE SOLUTION

GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

(Romans 3:21-31)



BUT NOW!

God's righteousness is given
freely as a gift ...

... BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH IN
JESUS CHRIST

THE RESULTS

GOD'S PROMISE

Abraham justified by faith
- the pattern for all believers

GOD'S PEACE

We have peace with God
& hope in suffering

GOD'S GRACE

Grace reigns over sin



THE NEW REALITY

Peace & Eternal Life in Christ

THE GOSPEL OF GOD

Historical Background

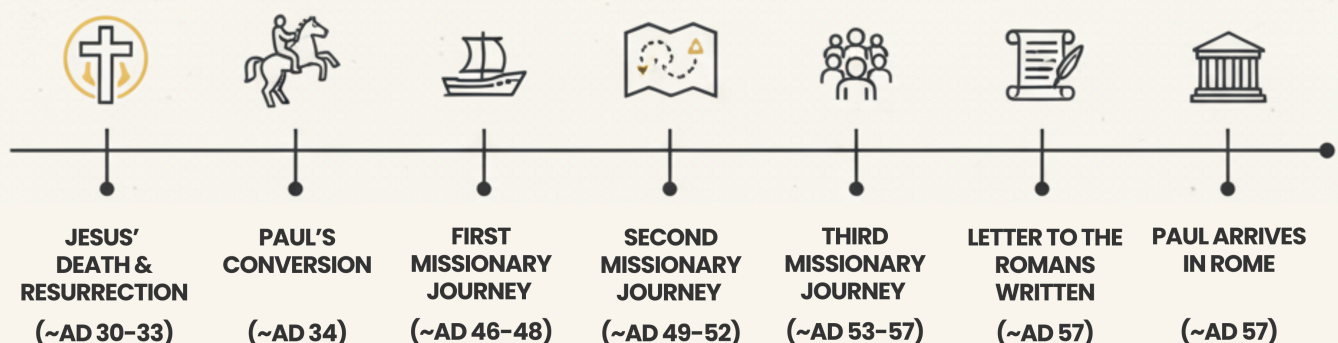
The Apostle Paul most likely wrote his letter to the Romans in AD 57, while on his third missionary journey (see Acts 20:2–3), probably while in Corinth. Notes left by copyists at the end of two early manuscripts identify Corinth as its place of composition. Also, both Phoebe (Rom. 16:1–2) and Gaius (Rom. 16:23) had connections to Corinth.

The epistle to the Romans is one of at least two letters Paul wrote to a church he had not visited or founded. Perhaps the church had been founded by inhabitants of Rome who had been in Jerusalem at Pentecost in Acts 2, had become believers, and had then returned to Rome (see Acts 2:10).

The circumstances giving rise to the letter are not entirely clear, but it seems that Paul was addressing theological questions that had been posed to him. One main cause for these questions was simmering hostility between Jewish and Gentile believers in the Roman church. The Apostle intended to visit Rome (Rom. 1:11–13), and this letter was meant to serve as an introduction to his teaching. Paul also hoped his letter would give rise to a broader missionary operation with Rome as its home base.

At the time of Paul's writing, Nero was emperor. Rome was not just the base of the Roman empire but was considered the base of civilization itself. It is no wonder that The Apostle hoped to see his readers' world turned upside down for the sake of God's kingdom. Politics and paganism freely merged in the capital city. In its day, Rome was New York, Los Angeles, London, and Paris rolled into one. But in every way the claims of the Apostle Paul's gospel transcended those of imperial Rome. *(From: Knowing the Bible: Romans - A 12-week Practical Study Series on the Book of Romans. Written by Jared C. Wilson)*

Key Events in the Life of the Apostle Paul



A Book That Changes the World

It's hard to overstate the influence of this single book on world history. Time and again, God has used Romans to light a fire in people's hearts and change the course of the church. In the 4th century, a troubled teacher named Augustine was converted after hearing a child's voice say "take up and read," and opening the Bible to Romans 13. His life and theology were transformed, shaping Christian thought for over a thousand years.

Centuries later, in the 16th century, a German monk named Martin Luther was wrestling with his own spiritual despair. It was while studying Romans, particularly chapter 1 verse 17, that he finally understood that God's righteousness is a gift to be received by faith. This discovery not only saved his soul but sparked the Protestant Reformation, which reshaped Europe and the world. Two centuries after that, a failed missionary named John Wesley went reluctantly to a meeting in London where someone was reading from Luther's preface to Romans. Wesley famously felt his "heart strangely warmed," an experience that led to the birth of the Methodist movement and widespread revival. From ancient Rome to the modern world, Romans continues to be God's powerful tool for personal conversion and church renewal.



Romans 1:1-7

Getting Started: How do you usually introduce yourself to someone new? What are the key things you want them to know about you right from the start?

Read Romans 15:22-33

From this passage at the end of the letter, what clues can you discover about why the Apostle wrote, & what was on his mind?

Read Romans 1:1-7

1. In the opening verse, the Apostle uses three phrases to describe himself. What are they, and what do they tell us about Paul's identity and purpose?
2. The Apostle was "set apart for the gospel of God" (v. 1). What does he immediately tell us about the origin and subject of this gospel in verses 2-4?
3. Who is the absolute centre of this good news? Look closely at verses 3-4 and list the things we learn about Jesus. What's the significance of him being both "descendant of David" and "Son of God"?
4. What powerful event declared Jesus to be the Son of God? (v. 4). Why is the resurrection so essential for the Christian faith?
5. Through Jesus, what did the Apostle receive, and for what purpose? (v. 5). What do you think "the obedience that comes from faith" means?

6. In verses 6-7, how does the Apostle describe the Christians in Rome? He says they are "called to belong to Jesus Christ" and "called to be his holy people" (or "saints"). What does this divine call tell you about how a person becomes a Christian?
7. How does it make you feel, sitting here in rural NSW, to know that God's call has reached across the world and across the centuries to include you?
8. The Apostle's greeting is "Grace and peace to you..." (v. 7). How are grace and peace the perfect blessings for those who have answered God's call?

Living it Out

9. The Apostle's whole identity was shaped by God's call. How does your identity as someone "called and loved by God" change the way you see yourself, your work, your family, and your place in our town?
10. The Apostle sees himself as a servant (or slave) of Christ. How might this challenge our view of Christian service today?
11. If God's call is what brings people into His family, how should this affect the way we pray for our friends and neighbours who don't yet know Jesus?
12. How can we, as a group, encourage one another to live lives worthy of the calling we have received? (Ephesians 4:1).

Romans 1:8-17

Getting Started: Think about something you're really passionate about—your family, a hobby, a footy team. How easy is it for you to talk about it with others? Why?

Read Romans 1:8-17

1. For what does the Apostle thank God when he thinks of the Roman church? (v. 8). What a great reputation to have!
2. How does the Apostle express his deep, persistent desire to visit them? (vv. 9-10). What does this tell you about his love for these people he's never even met?
3. What are the Apostle's reasons for wanting to visit? (vv. 11-13, 15). How is the encouragement he hopes for a "mutual" or two-way street?
4. The Apostle says he is "obligated" (v. 14). To whom does he feel this debt, and what is it?
5. This sense of obligation leads to his bold statement in verse 16: "I am not ashamed of the gospel." Why isn't he ashamed? What does he say the gospel is?

6. Unpack that phrase: "the power of God that brings salvation". What kind of power is this? What does it save people from? Who is this power for?
7. According to verse 17, what key thing is revealed in the gospel?
8. This "righteousness from God" is "by faith from first to last" (v. 17). What does this tell us about the role of our own efforts or achievements in being right with God?

Living It Out

9. The Apostle wasn't ashamed of the gospel. What things can sometimes make us feel ashamed or hesitant to talk about Jesus in our community—at work, at the sports club, or with our neighbours?
10. How does remembering that the gospel is the very "power of God" (v. 16) give you courage? How does it take the pressure off you to have all the right words or be a perfect salesperson for Jesus?
11. The Romans' faith was famous. What would we want the faith of our church to be known for here in our region? Let's be specific.

Romans 1:18-32

Getting Started: Have you ever tried to ignore something you knew deep down was true because you didn't like where it would lead? (e.g., a strange noise in the ute's engine, a health symptom). What happened?

Read Romans 1:18-32

1. In 1:17, the Apostle said the gospel reveals God's righteousness. Now in verse 18, what else is being revealed from heaven? Against what and whom is this wrath directed?
2. According to verses 19-20, what can every single person know about God? How can they know it?
3. What is the result of this clear revelation in creation? (v. 20). Can anyone say on judgement day, "I didn't know"? Why not?
4. Verse 21 gives the root of the human problem. What two things did people fail to do, and what happened to their thinking and their hearts as a result?
5. Verses 22-23 describe "The Great Exchange." What did humanity trade away, and what did they get in return? What are some modern "idols" (created things) that people worship instead of the Creator?

6. Three times Paul says, "God gave them over" (vv. 24, 26, 28). What does this tell us about the nature of God's wrath? Is it just God losing His temper, or is it His settled, judicial response of letting people have the sin they desire?
7. The list of sins in verses 29-31 is pretty full-on. How do these sins show the breakdown of our relationship with God and our relationships with each other?
8. What's the shocking final twist in verse 32? What does it reveal about the darkness in the human heart when it's turned away from God?

Living It Out

9. This is a tough passage. How does it challenge the popular idea that "people are basically good"? How does it help us understand why the world is so broken?
10. Understanding the reality of God's wrath can be sobering. How should this reality fuel our compassion and our passion to share the good news of Jesus, who is the only one who can save us from it? (See Romans 5:9).
11. Looking at the beauty of a sunrise over the hills or the stars on a clear night can point us to the Creator (v. 20). How can we use the world around us to start conversations about the God who made it all?

Romans 2:1-29

Getting Started: Is it easier to spot the faults in other people or in yourself? Why do you think that is?

Read Romans 2:1-11

1. After describing the pagan world's sin in chapter 1, who does the Apostle turn his attention to in 2:1? What is this person's big mistake?
2. What do verses 2-3 tell us about God's judgement? What is it based on? Can anyone, even a "good," religious person, escape it?
3. According to verse 4, what is God's kindness intended to do? How do people sometimes misunderstand or "show contempt for" His kindness and patience?
4. On what basis will God's judgement of each person take place? (v. 6, 16). How does this contrast with how we often judge each other?
5. Verses 7-10 describe two ultimate destinies based on two different ways of life. What are they?
6. What is the Apostle's key principle for God's judgement in verse 11? How does this rock the boat for anyone who thinks their heritage or religious affiliation gives them a special advantage?

Read Romans 2:12-16

7. How does God justly judge both those with the written law (Jews) and those without it (Gentiles)?

Read Romans 2:17-29

8. The Apostle now speaks directly to his Jewish countrymen. What were some of the things they were proud of and relied on for their standing with God? (vv. 17-20).
9. What is the sharp challenge the Apostle gives in verses 21-24? What is the danger of knowing the right thing but not doing it?
10. What's the Apostle's point about circumcision in verses 25-29? What is the difference between an "outward" physical sign and the "inward" reality it's meant to point to?
11. According to verse 29, what does God look for in His judgement? What does a "circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit" mean?

Living It Out

12. It's easy for us "church people" to look at the world and judge it, just like the people in 2:1. In what areas are we tempted to do this? How does this passage call us to look in the mirror first?
13. This chapter shows that just coming to church or owning a Bible doesn't make us right with God. In His judgement, He looks at the heart. How can you actively cultivate a genuine, "of the heart" faith this week?

Romans 3:1-20

Getting Started: Imagine a high jump competition where the bar is set at 3 metres. How many people do you know who could clear it? What does the bar's height prove about the average person's ability?

Read Romans 3:1-8

1. After chapter 2, a listener might ask, "So is there no advantage to being a Jew?" How does the Apostle answer this in verse 2? What was the great privilege given to them?
2. The Apostle raises another potential question in verse 3: "What if some were unfaithful?" Does human failure to meet God's standard cancel out God's faithfulness? What is the Apostle's emphatic answer in verse 4?

Read Romans 3:9-20

3. In verse 9, the Apostle asks the big question his whole argument has been leading to: "Are we [Jews] any better?" What is his final, devastating verdict on all of humanity?
4. The Apostle now unleashes a series of quotes from the Old Testament to prove his case. As you read verses 10-18, how do they describe humanity's failure to meet God's standard in every area of life (thought, speech, action)?

5. What is the overall picture of humanity "under the power of sin" that the Apostle paints with these verses? Is anyone left out?
6. According to verse 19, what is one of the main purposes of the law (God's standard)? Who does it silence? What does it make the whole world?
7. Verse 20 delivers the knockout blow to anyone trying to reach God's standard on their own. Why is it impossible for anyone to be "declared righteous in God's sight" by observing the law?
8. If the law can't save us, what is its purpose? (v. 20b). How is the law like a perfect measuring stick that shows us how far short we fall from God's standard?

Living It Out

9. This passage is the ultimate leveller. It shows that no one measures up to God's standard. How does this truth demolish our pride and our tendency to compare ourselves to others?
10. If the law's job is to show us our sin, how should we feel when we read God's commands? Should we feel crushed, or can it lead to something good? (Hint: what does a diagnosis make you seek?).
11. Spend a moment reflecting on this bad news. Why is it absolutely essential to understand our failure to meet God's standard before we can truly appreciate the good news Paul is about to reveal?

Romans 3:21-31

Getting Started: Think of a time you received a gift that was completely unexpected and that you could never have afforded or earned. How did it make you feel?

Read Romans 3:21-26

1. Verse 21 begins with two of the most hopeful words in the Bible: "But now...". After proving no one can meet God's standard, what has now been made known?
2. This righteousness is from God (v. 21). How is it different from the self-righteousness people try to achieve through law-keeping? How do we receive God's righteousness? (v. 22).
3. Who is this righteousness for? (v. 22). What reason is given in verses 22b-23 for why this is the only way for everyone to be saved?
4. Verse 24 is packed with incredible gospel truths. Unpack the key terms:
Justified:

Freely by his grace:

Through the redemption:
5. How did God provide this redemption and make it possible to give us His righteousness? (v. 25). What did Jesus become for us?

6. Verse 25 uses the phrase "sacrifice of atonement" (NIV) or "propitiation" (ESV). This means Jesus' death satisfied God's justice against sin. How does this show that God is both "just and the one who justifies"? (vv. 25b-26).

Read Romans 3:27-31

7. If God's righteousness is a free gift received by faith, what happens to human "boasting"? Why?
8. What is the Apostle's great conclusion in verse 28? This is a summary of the whole Christian message!
9. How does this gospel of justification by faith apply equally to both Jews and Gentiles? (vv. 29-30).
10. Does this new way of faith cancel out or abolish the law? What does the Apostle say instead? (v. 31).

Living It Out

11. The heart of the gospel is that we are declared righteous not because of what we do for God, but because of Jesus. How does receiving God's righteousness as a gift free you from the pressure of trying to be "good enough"?
12. What does it look like, practically, to put your faith (your trust, your reliance) in Jesus for God's righteousness day by day this week?
13. This glorious truth leaves no room for boasting. How can this gospel make our church a more humble, gracious, and welcoming community for people from all walks of life?

Romans 4:1-25

Getting Started: When you want to prove a point to someone, what's a powerful way to do it? (e.g., use a real-life example, quote an expert).

Read Romans 4:1-8

1. The Apostle now calls his star witness to prove his case: Abraham. What does Genesis 15:6 say about how Abraham became righteous? (quoted in Rom 4:3). Was it because of something he did, or something he believed?
2. The Apostle explains the difference between wages and a gift in verses 4-5. How does this illustrate the difference between trying to be saved by works versus receiving righteousness based on God's promise?
3. To whom does God "credit righteousness" apart from works? (v. 5).

Read Romans 4:9-12

4. The Apostle tackles a crucial question of timing. Was Abraham declared righteous before or after he was circumcised? (v. 10).
5. Why is this timing so important for the Apostle's argument about faith in God's promise? If righteousness came before the ritual, what was the purpose of the ritual? (v. 11).
6. Because of this, who can now rightly call Abraham their father? (v. 11-12). How does this blow the doors wide open for non-Jewish believers?

Read Romans 4:13-25

7. Did the great promise to Abraham (that he would be heir of the world) come through the law, or through faith? (v. 13).
8. Why does the way of salvation have to be by grace through faith in God's promise? (v. 16).
9. What was the seemingly impossible situation Abraham faced when God gave him the promise? (vv. 17-19).
10. How did Abraham respond to this impossible promise? (v. 20-21). What was he convinced of?
11. How does the Apostle apply Abraham's story directly to us? (vv. 23-25). What is the specific promise that we are called to believe for our justification?

Living It Out

12. Abraham was "fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised" (v. 21), even when it looked impossible. What situations are you facing right now that require you to trust in God's promise and power?
13. This chapter shows that being a child of God isn't about heritage or religious performance. It's about trusting God's promise. How should this shape the way we view and welcome people into our church family?

Romans 5:1-11

Getting Started: Think about a time when a broken relationship was properly restored. What did it feel like to be at peace again?

Read Romans 5:1-11

1. The Apostle begins with "Therefore...", connecting to everything he's just said. What is the first and most foundational result of being justified? (v. 1).
2. What's the difference between "peace with God" and the "peace of God"? Why is having peace with God the necessary foundation for everything else?
3. What else have we gained through Jesus? (v. 2a). What does it mean to have "access by faith into this grace in which we now stand"?
4. And what do we "boast" or "rejoice" in? (v. 2b). How is this hope a direct result of having God's peace?
5. Verse 3 seems crazy: "we also glory in our sufferings". How can someone with God's peace face hardship differently? Trace the chain reaction that suffering produces in a believer's life according to verses 3-4.
6. Why is our hope a sure thing? (v. 5). How does the Holy Spirit confirm God's love for us, which is the anchor for our hope?

7. To prove the incredible nature of God's love, Paul describes what we were like when Christ died for us. What words does he use in verses 6, 8, and 10 to describe our former state (i.e., when we were not at peace with God)?
8. What does verse 8 highlight as the ultimate demonstration of God's love for us, the very act that made peace possible?
9. If God did the hardest thing (dying for us when we were his enemies to secure God's peace), what confidence can we have for the future? (vv. 9-10).
10. What is the final result and our ultimate response to all this? (v. 11).

Living It Out

11. Which of the blessings that flow from God's peace do you need to focus on and rejoice in the most this week? (access to grace, hope, God's love, salvation from wrath).
12. The Apostle says we can rejoice even in suffering because we have peace with God. Think of a past trial. Can you see, looking back, how God used it for your good? How can this give you strength for future struggles?
13. God made peace with us when we were His "enemies." How can the reality of God's peace in your life empower you to be a peacemaker in your own relationships?

Romans 5:12-21

Getting Started: Think about something you've inherited from your family—it could be a physical trait, a personality quirk, or even a reputation. How has that inheritance affected your life?

Read Romans 5:12-21

1. According to verse 12, what did humanity "inherit" from Adam? What was the result for all people?
2. In verse 14, who is Adam a "pattern" or "type" of? This sets up the big contrast for the rest of the chapter.
3. Now the contrast begins. Notice the phrases "how much more" and "not as." What is the massive difference between Adam's one act and the free gift of God's grace in Christ? (v. 15).
4. Verse 16 highlights another contrast. Adam's one trespass led to... what? But God's grace (the free gift), following many trespasses, led to... what?
5. Verse 17 gives the contrast again. Through the one man, Adam, what reigned? Through the one man, Jesus Christ, what do those who receive the abundance of grace do?
6. The Apostle sums up the argument in verses 18-19. Contrast the results of Adam's disobedience with the results of Christ's obedience.

7. What, then, was the purpose of the law being introduced? (v. 20a). Did it fix the sin problem or make it more obvious?
8. Verse 20b gives one of the most amazing statements in the Bible. What is it? What does this reveal about the unstoppable, overwhelming nature of God's grace?
9. What is the final summary in verse 21? Sin reigned in death, but now grace reigns through righteousness. What is the final destination that the reign of grace leads to?
10. Looking back over this whole passage, how is God's grace shown to be far more powerful than Adam's sin?

Living It Out

11. This passage teaches that we are all born "in Adam." But through faith, we can be "in Christ." How does it change your perspective to know that your fundamental identity is no longer defined by sin and death, but by God's grace and eternal life?
12. "Where sin increased, grace increased all the more" (v. 20). This isn't an excuse to sin! (The Apostle deals with that in chapter 6). But it is a massive comfort. How can this truth give hope to someone who feels they've messed up too badly for God to forgive them?
13. The story of the Bible and all of human history boils down to these two men: Adam and Jesus. Your eternal destiny depends entirely on which man you are united to. How does the super-abundant nature of God's grace in Jesus make the gospel the best news you could ever share?



HOW TO BE A GOOD BIBLE STUDY MEMBER

BE THERE

1 The power of just turning up to encourage others is phenomenal. We don't think of our groups as events we might go to, but people we do life with. Seek to commit yourself to your small group family weekly. The blessings we give and get from one another are of eternal value!



BE ACTIVE

2 It's true, the more you put in, the more you'll get out of your small group. Look through the study or passage before the group meets. Engage in conversation, answer questions, share opinions, be willing to pray, read, lead, help set-up or pack- up. Jesus wasn't lying when he said "it is more blessed to give than to receive".



2

BE OPEN

3 Be open about yourself, your joys and your struggles. One of the greatest blessings of a small group is knowing others and being known more personally. So share and listen openly. Similarly, be honest about when you don't understand a question or part of scripture. Chances are, someone else has been through a similar experience and appreciates you sharing it, or had a similar question to you but were too shy to ask it



BE CONCERNED for others

4 Resist the temptation to think "the group must serve my needs" before asking, "how can I serve the needs of others?" It's also not just the leaders' role to care for the needs of the group; Each member plays their part as we all care for one another. Be concerned for how people are travelling. Ask questions about their week and their life and be active in caring for them as they share. Seek to connect with members outside of the meeting.



4

BE ON ABOUT GOD

5 One of the temptations of a good small group is to get caught up in each other's interests and end up talking about lots of not-so-meaningful things. Be on about God and what He's doing in each other's lives. Share His word with each other, pray for each other, encourage mission and godly living, rebuke, correct and train one another in righteousness.

