

WEEK 5 | ROMANS 2:1-29

ROMANS | THE GOSPEL OF GOD'S POWER

OTHER HELPFUL PASSAGES.

The following passages may be helpful to you as you consider this text.

- Philippians 3:1-11 – Our only hope is faith in Jesus Christ.
- Matthew 23:1-11 – God desires humble faith, not self-glorification.

THEMES.

The overarching theme of Romans is the gospel—salvation through Jesus Christ. That is important to remember and keep in front of your group, because the letter is a theological masterpiece. But as with any work of art, each brush stroke's true beauty is best seen when the piece as a whole is realized. To that end, we will deal with many sub-themes, but remember that each one weaves together to give the “fullest, plainest and grandest statement of the gospel in the New Testament.”¹

1. All men and women are born with a sin nature, actively oppose God, and need salvation. (Rom. 2:1-24; Ps. 51:5; John 3:1-15; Rom. 3:23-24; Rom. 5:12-14; Eph. 2:1-3)
2. Righteousness is not attained by human action; it is graciously given to men by God, who shows no partiality. (Rom. 2:25-29; Gen. 15:1-6; Acts 16:30-31; Rom. 5:17-19; Eph. 2:4-9; Phil 3:8-11; Titus 3:4-7)
 - a. Another way we could say this is that salvation is by faith alone.

QUESTIONS.

Feel free use any, all, or none of these questions as you facilitate your group. Their purpose is to be an aid to you as you consider how to teach the implications of the week's Scriptures.

1. Did the Holy Spirit use last week's passage or sermon to convict, challenge, or encourage you in any way? Did he use it to confirm or answer a prayer in any way? If you're willing, share with the group.
2. Do you consider yourself to be a moral person? Why or why not? Do you think your morality brings you closer to salvation or not?
3. Read Romans 2:1-5. Why (in v. 1) does Paul say that when we judge others, we condemn ourselves?²

Note: It's important to note that condemning sin is not forbidden. We ought to agree with God and judge sin as deserving of his wrath. Rather, “what the Jews are condemned for is not merely judging but also practicing the very evil that they denounce.”³

Verses 21-24 detail some of the ways the Jews engaged in the same sinful activity that they were judging the Gentiles over. Unfortunately, how often do we see that same narrative play out—especially in the church? Pastors and Christians are routinely caught engaging in the same sin they preach against. It doesn't make the sin any less sinful. It's proof that all people are sinners and deserve judgement.

¹ John R. W. Stott, *The Message of Romans: God's good news for the world*. (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994), 19.

² Jared C. Wilson, *Knowing the Bible: Romans*, The Gospel Coalition., Retrieved from <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-romans/#week-3-gods-righteousness-in-his-wrath-against-sinners-rom-118-320>.

³ Thomas R. Schreiner, *Romans*, Baker Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2008), 107.

4. Romans 2:4 says, “God’s kindness is meant to lead you to repentance.” What was your personal experience with this aspect of God’s kindness like?
5. Some Jewish teaching at the time of Paul asserted that physical circumcision was necessary for salvation. What does Romans 2:25-29 say God is concerned about? (cf. Deut. 30:6)
6. Read ahead in the book a little bit. According to Romans 4:22-25, how is it that God is a just judge toward all sin, and yet, men and women experience salvation?
7. Have you turned from your sin? If so, what was it like to be convicted of your sin? What was it like to repent and trust in Jesus?

PRAY TO CLOSE.

Here are a few prayer points to posture your heart as you close.

- Allow a place for confession in the group, and pray for one another.
 - It’s probably good to do this in a gender-specific groups.
- Thank God for the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—the clearest display of God’s love and justice intertwined.
- Ask the Lord to answer your prayer requests. Do you need healing? Ask. Do you need wisdom? Ask.