



ROMANS

the power of the gospel

Part 2

‘Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand.’

- Romans 5:1-2 -

ROMANS

In the first part of our Roman series, we looked at the opening four chapters which have taken us on a journey into the heart of the Gospel. Paul has shown us that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation, because in it the righteousness of God is revealed. We have seen how all are under the power of sin and the great truth that we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ, not by our own effort. The ground is level: whether Jew or Gentile, religious or non-religious, rule-keeper or rule-breaker, all stand in need of God's grace. But Paul doesn't stop there.

In Romans 5–8, Paul begins to explore what the Gospel means for the life of someone who has been made right with God. If we have been justified by faith, what difference does it make? What has actually changed?

The second part of our series moves from the foundation of the Gospel to its transforming effects. We begin with peace with God and the confidence that comes from being reconciled to him. We then consider how one righteous act of Christ brings life where Adam's sin brought death. In Romans 6, Paul asks what it means to be dead to sin and alive in Christ, and what it means to no longer be slaves to sin but to belong to Christ.

Romans 7 wrestles honestly with the struggle of living under the power of sin, while Romans 8 brings the wonderful declaration: "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Finally, we discover what it means to live by the Spirit and to have confidence that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ.

Over these next seven weeks, we'll explore not simply what we believe, but how the Gospel reshapes the way we live, our identity, our freedom, our struggles, our hope and our relationship with God.

In Christ,

Rev'd Christopher Bate
Holy Spirit Algester Anglican Church



WEEK 1

What do you Boast in?

Warming up:

If someone asked you, "what are you most proud of in your life?", what would you say? What do the things we are proud of reveal about what we value?

Read: Romans 5:1–11

1. In vv.1–2, Paul describes three blessings that flow from being justified by faith: peace with God, access to God's grace, and hope of sharing in God's glory. Which of these stands out to you most? Why?
2. In v.3 Paul says, "not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings." Why would Paul say that Christians can 'rejoice' or 'boast' in suffering?
3. Look at the progression in vv.3–5: suffering → perseverance → character → hope. How have difficult experiences sometimes developed perseverance or character in your own life? What role does hope play when we are going through suffering?
4. In v.5 we read "God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit." How is Christian hope different from wishful thinking? What does God's love have to do with our future?
5. In vv.6–8, Paul reminds us that Christ died for us "while we were still sinners." What does this tell us about the nature of God's love?
6. Paul uses several different descriptions of our situation before Christ: 'powerless', 'ungodly', 'sinners', and 'enemies' (vv.6–10). Why is it important that Paul is so honest about our former condition? How does this make God's grace even more astonishing?
7. In vv.9–11, Paul moves to having confidence in our future salvation. What does this teach us about the security of our relationship with God?

Rubber hits the road:

What are you currently tempted to boast about or place your confidence in more than Christ? It may be our achievements, possessions, relationships, abilities, reputation, or even our religious activity. This week, identify one thing you normally use to measure your worth or security and deliberately bring it before God in prayer.

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Heavenly Father,
thank you that through faith in Jesus we have peace with you. Help us
to boast in your grace rather than our achievements. Strengthen us
through suffering and deepen our hope. Thank you that Christ died for
us while we were still sinners. By your Holy Spirit, help us live confidently
in your love and point others to Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Warming up:

Thinking back over Romans ch.1-5, how would you describe the words: sin, righteousness, justified and grace to someone who asked you?

Read: Romans 5:12-21

- 1.What does Paul say entered the world through Adam in v.12? What were the consequences of this?
- 2.The Jewish people valued their unique heritage from Abraham. Why is it important that Paul points them back to Adam?
- 3.In vv.12-14, Paul writes about sin and death being in the world before the law. Why is Paul suggesting this is significant?
- 4.Paul calls Adam a “pattern of one to come”. In what sense is Adam like Jesus, and in what sense are they completely different?
- 5.In vv. 5-19 Paul goes on to compare “one man Adam” with “one man Jesus”. Make a list of the differences between Adam and Jesus.
- 6.What does v.17 say is given by Jesus? Who can receive it?
- 7.How would you describe vv.18-19 in your own words?
- 8.How does Paul describe the purpose of the law in v.20? What do you think Paul means by this? Do you think the law was necessary?
- 9.What do you think Paul means when he says “where sin increased, grace increased all the more”? Do you think that means that we should keep on sinning? (hint: see the start of ch.6).
- 10.How does v.21 summarise Romans ch.1-5?

Rubber hits the road:

Paul’s focus is not on the size of our sin, but on the immense power of God’s grace in Jesus. Is there an area of your life where you find it hard to trust God’s forgiveness and grace? How would it change your week to trust that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ?

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Amen.



Warming up:

Where does your moral code come from? Who taught you right from wrong and what are your basic rules for life?

Read: Romans 6:1-14

1. How does this passage make you feel?
2. What misconception is being challenged in this passage?
3. In v.2, what does it mean that “we are those who have died to sin”?
4. What do vv.3-4 say about baptism? Why is this important?
5. According to this text, how does the Christian life differ from a life outside of Christ?
6. What does it mean that Christians “will be united with [Jesus] in a resurrection like his” in v.6?
7. What is the connection between the resurrection of Jesus and sin?
8. Do Christians have better morals than others? What difference does Christ make in our struggle against sin?
9. How are vv.11-14 meant to influence how we live?
10. What sort of things do followers of Christ need to die to in order to follow him?
11. What would it mean for you to be an ‘instrument of righteousness’?
12. What does v.14 mean when it says “you are no longer under the law but under grace”?
13. Are Christians trying to earn their way to heaven, avoid hell, or be nice? What do vv.12-13 say about what should motivate how we live?
14. How would the church change if all Christians applied this passage to their lives?

Rubber hits the road:

Find one word or idea in this passage that encourages you, and one that challenges you. Share them with someone you trust and why you chose them. Spend the coming week meditating and praying about these words and asking God to help you die to sin and live for Christ.

[illegible]

Lord Jesus Christ,

you have died for me, risen to conquer sin and death, and thanks to you those things no longer have a hold on me. Show me how to die daily to sin, and live for your glory. Holy Spirit, help me not to offer myself to sin as an instrument of wickedness. Instead, create in me a clean heart, renew a right spirit within me, and guide me to offer every part of myself to you as an instrument of righteousness. Amen.



Warming up:

If you are/have been married, what changed for you after the wedding day? How did your marriage change the way you lived and interacted with other people? Why is this so?

Read: Romans 6:15-23

1. Why would people argue that we can sin freely because we are under grace?
2. Why does Paul answer this using the example of slavery? Who can we be slaves to according to Paul?
3. Based on Paul's logic, is 'freedom to sin' freedom at all?
4. What does it mean then to be free as a Christian?
5. Why is it important to work as slaves to obedience to God? What is the outcome? What is the alternative?
6. Why does Paul mean when he talks of the wages of sin? Is he talking about merely punishment for sin, or does he mean something more by 'wages'?

Read: Romans 7:1-6

7. What does the Law have to do with what Paul has previously said?
8. How does Paul continue the metaphor of 6:15-23 with the image of marriage?
9. What is the new reality for Christians that Paul explains in v.4?
10. Consider v.6 and then return to Paul's first question: if the Law has no hold on us any more because of grace, why should we not sin?

Rubber hits the road:

Paul talks about how the Christian obeys the pattern of teaching that has now claimed our allegiance (v.17). How does this impact the way we think about Christian obedience? If Jesus is now our master, how far does his call to amend our lives reach?

[illegible]

we thank you that you have set us free from the power that sin held over us. Help us always to look to you as our new master. Help us to spurn sin and live and word for righteousness alone. By your Spirit, help us to be faithful in our whole lives to you. Amen.



Warming up:

Think about a rule or law that you have sometimes found frustrating or restrictive. Why do we sometimes feel that rules are there simply to stop us doing what we want? Can rules actually be helpful?

Read: Romans 7:5–25

1. What does it mean to "serve in the new way of the Spirit" (v.5)?
2. In v.7 Paul asks, "is the law sinful?" How does he answer? What does Paul say the Law actually does for us? Why is it important to recognise that God's Law itself is not the problem?
3. Paul says that he would not have known what coveting was if the Law had not said, "You shall not covet" (v.7). How can God's commands reveal things about our hearts that we might otherwise overlook?
4. Why can knowing what is right sometimes make us more aware of our desire to do wrong? What does this teach us about the power of sin? (vv.8-11)
5. Vv.12–13 emphasise that the Law is 'holy, righteous and good'. If the Law is good, why can't it save us? What does this teach us about the difference between knowing God's standards and being transformed by God's grace?
6. In vv.14–20, Paul describes a painful struggle. Why is it important that Scripture speaks honestly about the reality of sin in the Christian life?
7. Paul reaches a point of desperation in v.24. Why is Paul's question here important? How does Paul's answer in v.25 point us towards Jesus rather than towards trying harder?

Rubber hits the road:

Choose one specific area where you struggle to obey God. Write down the situation, the response God calls you to make, and one practical action you will take this week. Ask a trusted friend to check in with you during the week, and spend a few minutes each day asking the Holy Spirit to help you put this step into practice.

[illegible]

Heavenly Father,
thank you for your Law, which reveals what is good and exposes our
need for you. Forgive us when we know what is right, but choose our
own way. Help us to turn to Jesus in our weakness and rely on your
grace. Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and strengthen us to live for you.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



WEEK 6

No Condemnation

Warming up:

How do you define 'family'? What situations or actions might change who you consider part of your family?

Read: Romans 8:1-17

- 1.Ch.8 begins with 'Therefore'. What is Paul building on from ch.7?
- 2.In vv.1-2, who does Paul say is free from 'condemnation'?
3. What has the "law of the Spirit done" and how has it been done?
Why couldn't the law do this? What is the significance of this truth?
- 4.Compare vv.5-8 with vv.9-11. What two ways of living is Paul describing? Write down the characteristics of each one.
- 5.What does Paul say that the Spirit does in the life of a Christian? How does this transform and shape the way we live?
6. In vv.12-13, what do we have an obligation to? What does this mean?
What type of life do you think Paul is referring to?
- 7.What new identity does Paul say we receive in v.14? How do we obtain this new identity?
- 8.What contrast does Paul give in v.16? What impact should this have on a Christian's whole self (mental, emotional, physical, spiritual)?
- 9.What do you think v.16 means?
- 10.What is the significance of v.17?
- 11.In this passage, Paul has moved from 'no condemnation (v.1) to being 'children of God' and 'heirs of God' (vv.16-17). What does this progression tell us about what salvation means?

Rubber hits the road:

Remind yourself this week that you are God's child, and that he wants to love, care and provide for you and your needs. Ask him to help you understand what it means to be adopted as his child and filled with his Spirit. Abide in him and welcome his Spirit's action in your life.

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Abba Father,

thank you for adopting me as your child and for giving me your Spirit. Help me to set my heart on you and live in your provision - seeking to put sin to death and live as your child. When I fail, remind me that I belong to Christ and that there is no condemnation. Empower me to live in the fullness and freedom you give. Amen.



Warming up:

Who is your biggest helper in life? How has this person helped you?

Read: Romans 8:18-25

1. What is the focus of this passage?
2. What are the “present sufferings” referred to in v.18?
3. What frustrates you in life? What explanation does this passage give for the frustrations we experience?
4. According to this passage, what is God doing with our ‘groaning’?
5. What does v.23 mean in saying we ‘have the first fruits of the Spirit’?
6. How does the Holy Spirit help us to wait patiently for God’s full redemption to come?

Read: Romans 8:26-39

7. How does this section of Romans make you feel?
8. What difference does the Holy Spirit make in our lives?
9. V.28 gives a lot of people hope today. How could you apply it when caring for a friend?
10. What is the flow of vv.29-30? How does the foreknowledge of God bring about glory? What is glory?
11. According to vv.31-34, how can the example of Jesus help us?
12. Can you see the Holy Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) working together in this passage? Where?
13. In what way are “we more than conquerors” (v.37)? Do these verses mean that Christians are immune from suffering? Why / why not?

Rubber hits the road:

Pick your favourite verse from this passage and share it with the group. Write it down on a piece of paper and stick it somewhere in your house where you will see it often.

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Father God,

we groan inwardly at the sin and frustrations of our world. Thank you that you sent your only Son into our world to show us how to live, to die in our place, and to rise to eternal life, making a way for us to live with you forever. Holy Spirit, sanctifier, thank you that in you we are more than conquerors. Help us, Lord, to live in step with the Spirit. Amen.

For I am convinced that
neither death nor life, neither
angels nor demons, neither
the present nor the future,
nor any powers, neither
height nor depth, nor
anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God that is in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Romans 8:38-39 -



HOLY SPIRIT
ALGESTER



HOLY TRINITY
KAWANA



GLADSTONE
ANGLICAN CHURCH



stanthorpe
ANGLICAN CHURCH