
Calvary Church: Coordinated Curriculum 2007-2008

Romans: The Transforming Power of the Righteousness of God

Interlude

Brief Review

Having told them of the bondage to and guilt of sin that all humanity is confined in (1:18-3:20) and the glory of salvation by grace through faith (3:21-5:20.) Having challenged them with their new relationship in the sphere of righteousness (6:1-14) as slaves of God rather than sin (6:14-23), who need to understand their total inability to overcome sin's seductive pull by their own will power (7:1-25) but they must remember they have been adopted into God's family (8:12-17) and provided the presence of the indwelling Spirit to empower the transformation process (8:1-11) in the face of suffering (8:18-25.) God has a plan for their transformation and ultimate glorification (8:26-30) which nothing or no one can prevent (8:31-39).

Full Review

Romans 1:1-17

Paul received a special calling from God to proclaim Jesus for the obedience of faith, for the sake of His name among all nations.

He writes to the church in Rome to explain his mission and ask for their participation because the gospel is the transforming power of God in which God's righteousness is revealed.

Romans 1:18-3:20

Paul makes it clear that all humanity (Gentile and Jew) are without excuse before God because they have:

1:18-32

Suppressed the truth of God's self revelation and replaced it with idolatry, immorality and all kinds of sin revealing the folly of:

- worshipping something other than God
- seeking fulfillment in unnatural relations

God has made Himself known through creation and conscience so that men are without excuse when they suppress the truth of who God is and reject the natural order. They are therefore subject to God's wrath and death.

2:1-29

Even those (Jews) who have a privileged position by having God's Word and promises, rather than dealing uprightly have become judgmental and self-righteous, condemning the sinfulness of Gentiles but make excuses or diminish their own sinfulness. God, on the other hand, is righteous and judges everyone (Jew and Gentile) impartially according to their works not their heritage, religious rights or religious rites. No one is immune from judgment.

Inward righteousness, the transformation of heart is the key issue. External behavior should be a result of inward change.

3:1-20

Simply stated:

- All are without excuse and under sin
- All turn from God
- None seeks God

Key point from the first section—all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God—all are justly condemnable and separated from God because of sin.

Romans 3:21–5:21

Understanding the wonder of our salvation—the totality with which God provides salvation to those who are sinners (1:18-3:21; 5:8), ungodly (5:6); enemies (5:10) by nature condemned (5:12-21) solely on the basis of Christ’s cross work of justification, redemption and propitiation (3:21-31) provided by simple faith (chapter 4) allow us to have assurance of our reconciliation with God (5:1-11)—we should seek to honor God with our lives.

3:21-31

God has revealed His righteousness

but mankind has rejected it and they find themselves enslaved to sin

“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested. . .”

in Jesus Christ

through faith

for all who believe

it is a gift of God’s grace which

justifies (declared righteous in Christ)

and redeems man (purchased through exchange)

and satisfies God’s righteousness (propitiation)

so man can claim no personal accomplishment—it’s all of God

4:1-25

Paul uses Abraham as a test case of the main point of 3:27-31

—a right relationship with God—a righteous God—is only made possible by the substitutionary death of Christ which is obtained through faith

Abraham, in spite of his lofty status has nothing to boast about for he was justified by faith alone (4:1-8) not circumcision (4:9-12) nor the law (4:13-17)

Abraham’s faith was firm, despite circumstantial evidence, allowing him to enjoy God’s promises (4:18-21)

Christians receive Christ’s righteousness through that same faith (4:22-25)

5:1-11

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. (ESV)

In light of what God has done through Christ, we can have assurance of a present and permanent relationship with Him.

Christ’s payment on the cross for our sins (debt) has settled the claims against us and judicially declared us righteous, therefore without a barrier between us and God—we have full access.

The salvation God provides is permanent because of how it was provided and it is able to withstand trials. The Holy Spirit’s presence is an assurance of the future and of God’s love in the present.

5:12-21

Sin’s entrance into the world by Adam resulted in death for all men.

The entrance of the Law revealed the sinfulness of man’s sin but this is surpassed by the sufficiency of God’s grace and results in eternal life.

Sin affects everyone and everything.

Justification is available to everyone, everywhere.

The Gospel

What we just reviewed is the gospel.

Mankind is alienated from God due to sin. Sin must be punished (death).

God provide a substitutionary sacrifice for man in the God-Man Jesus Christ, Whose death enables anyone, through faith to be declared righteous in God's eyes, to be credited with Christ's righteousness, to have full access to God based on the removal of sin's guilt—to be in a right relationship with God.

Romans 6:1–8:39

6:1-23

In chapter 6, Paul taught us that believers are dead to the controlling authority (domination) of sin (6:1-14) and that we must be slaves to God (6:15-23). We have been transferred from the realm of sin to the realm of righteousness; we are not in a neutral state.

7:1-25

In chapter 7, Paul explained that neither the Law nor our will is capable of overcoming the allure of sin. Our struggle with present sin—even though we are dead to sin and dead to the Law (7:1-6), is heightened through the Law which arouses in us desires by making something forbidden. On our own we have a great struggle with sin and an inability to overcome sin (7:13-25). We are therefore incapable of either doing what we desire to do, or what we do not want to do.

8:1-39

Chapter 8 has 19 references to the Spirit—it is the Spirit that enables the believer to walk in a manner that pleases God. Paul seeks to help believers understand how to live out the freedom from sin that they have been granted through faith in Christ's cross-work.

8:1-11

The indwelling presence of the Spirit provides the empowerment for the transformation process which we were incapable of doing on our own and which the Law was too weak to accomplish because of sin.

8:12-25

We are children of God, with the presence of the indwelling Spirit to enable us to overcome sin—but the motivation is relationship, not rules. We have an intimate relationship with our adopted Father (Abba) which should motivate us to maintain that relationship even when suffering, in light of the wonders yet to come of our ultimate salvation and glorification.

8:26-30

God's sovereign plan is for our transformation into the image of His Son resulting in ultimate glorification.

8:31-39

We can rejoice in the certainty of our transformation and glorification because it is God who will make it happen.