

A Devotional Guide for Individuals, Families, and LifeGroups to Accompany the Sermon Series

Volume 2: October 28-November 18, 2017

#### WEEK 6 ROMANS: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL Not Even One! Romans 3:9-31 Justification/Righteousness October 28-29, 2017

### DAY 1

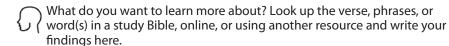
Sermon Notes:


Romans 3:9-20, Psalm 14:1-3, Mark 7:14-15

What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

As you study these verses, how does the phrase "none is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God" impact you? How does it frame the way you look at the people around you? The world? Your relationships? What else stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 3:19-20, Galatians 3:19-22, Romans 2:14-16



What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 3:21-26, Galatians 3:23-29, Hebrews 7:18-19,

Consider studying the concept of a "gift" (Greek - dorea). How does the fact that it is freely given impact the meaning of this passage? What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.



This section starts with a big "But now..." How is the state of humanity before this 'but' changed by God's action as told in the verses that follow? What else stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 3:21-26, 1 Corinthians 1:27-31

Consider studying faith/faithfulness/believing (Greek: pisteos/ pisteuontas) more in depth. How does Christ's faithfulness affect our faith? What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Pause. Pause. Take time to reflect on the past two days of study and consider the freedom given through Christ's sacrifice. To whom is God prompting you to tell this Good News? What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

### **DAY 6:**

Romans 3:27-31, Ephesians 2:8-10, Galatians 6:13-15

What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.



Are there any "works of the Law" with which you try to find justification? What leads you to do this? Ask God where your faith can be strengthened and for His help. What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.



All humans are sinful, so how can this study help you be a witness to those who think being a "good person" is enough? What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

DAY 7 Grace day and Scripture memorization Romans 3:24-25

### LIFEGROUP GUIDE FOR WEEK 6

Not Even One (Justification/Righteousness) Romans 3:9-31



What do the quoted Old Testament passages in verses 10-18 teach us about the nature of sin?

What is the effect of the law according to verses 19-20?

How are Christians justified and how does this prove God's righteousness?

How do you respond to the claim that all are sinners and that all are accountable to God for their actions and thoughts?

The passage today says "there is no distinction" between Jews and Gentiles because we are all sinners and are all justified by grace. Where do you sometimes draw distinctions between people that shouldn't be there?

How easy or hard is it/has it been for you to accept grace as a gift?

Paul challenges boasting of the privilege of being a Jew. In what areas do you need your boasting and privilege challenged, so you can see others with the eyes of Christ and openly welcome them to him?



What people in your life could you offer grace as a gift to?

How can you take time each day this week to remind yourself that salvation is by grace, not by our own effort? What disciplines could you practice to remind yourself of this?

#### WEEK 7 ROMANS: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PAUL Promises, Promises! Romans 4:1-25 Faith/Covenant November 4-5, 2017

DAY 1 Sermon Notes


Romans 4:1-8, Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 32:1-2

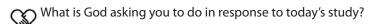
The root of the words for "just/justify" and "righteous" are the same (Greek - dikaios). How does this connection between terms shed light on God's action through Christ? (Look back at 3:21-26 for more on Christ's justification and our righteousness.) What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 4:9-12, Acts 13:47, 1 Corinthians 7:18-19,

Consider studying "credited" (Greek - logizomai) which occurs 9 times in Romans 4:1-12. What is being credited in these verses and how does it reflect God's grace? What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.



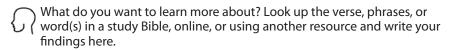
Romans 4:13-15, Genesis 12:1-3, II Peter 1:3-4

What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

) What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.



Romans 4:16-22, Hebrews 11:8-13





Romans 4:18 states, "He believed in hope against hope" (italics added). Is there a situation in your life where your current state or circumstance and God's plan seem incompatible? Where are you being called to believe in hope against hope? What else stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 4:23-25, Isaiah 53:10-13, Hebrews 2:14-18, 2 Corinthians 5:21

What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

) What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

**DAY 7** Grace day and Scripture memorization Romans 4:3

### LIFEGROUP GUIDE FOR WEEK 7

Promises, Promises (Faith/Covenant) Romans 4:1-25

What does the example of Abraham teach about the place of faith in salvation?

What is the promise to Abraham and by whom is it inherited?

How was the covenant to Abraham passed to his offspring?

This passage speaks of Abraham "in hope believing against hope." Where do you need to hold on in hope despite the odds?

What seemingly impossible circumstances do you need your Christian brothers and sisters to stand alongside you in prayer right now? Take a moment right now to pray together for those areas.

When have you seen God increase your faith while you were waiting for something?

How can you, as a group, practically remember this week to pray for one another's situations or need for hope? Have you tried using Chapel Hill Connect, group emails, or the Echo Prayer App?

Take a moment to reflect on the words "it was counted to him...not for his sake alone, but for ours also" and offer up a prayer of thanks!

#### WEEK 8 Romans: The Gospel According to Paul I Hope So (In This Way) Romans 5:1-5 Hope November 11-12, 2017

**DAY 1** Sermon Notes


Romans 5:1, Ephesians 2:8-9



What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 5:2, Colossians 1:19-20, Ephesians 2:18-22

Note the use of the preposition with in the phrase "peace with God." This is different from the familiar "peace of God" (Philippians 4:7). What needed to be reconciled in order to have peace with God? How does this shed light on this passage and Christ's sacrifice? What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 5:3, Philippians 3:8-9; James 1:2-4



What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.



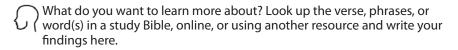
Have you ever "rejoiced" in suffering? Are there situations in your life right now where suffering is present that God can use to make himself known? What else stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 5:4, 1 Peter 1:6-7

Think about the progression of suffering producing endurance, then character, then hope. How does this progression bring one closer to God? Consider reading about the suffering servant of Isaiah 53 and think about how Christ's suffering brought us ultimate hope. What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 5:5, Jeremiah 31:33, Acts 2:32-36



What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

**DAY 7** Grace day and Scripture memorization Romans 5:3-5

### LIFEGROUP GUIDE FOR WEEK 8

I Hope So (Hope) Romans 5:1-5

What are the consequences of being justified by faith? What can believers rejoice in?

Thinking about this passage in the context of all we have read so far in Romans, how big is the contrast between the hope of the gospel versus the despair of the law?

How is justification by faith good news to you right now?

How have you experienced rejoicing in suffering?

Where do you see hope in your life right now?



Who in your life needs to feel hope right now? How can you share hope with them this week?

Is there anyone in your group who doesn't feel confident of their salvation? Ask if anyone would like to pray that by faith they would "enter into this grace...and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God" today. If this doesn't apply to anyone in your group, spend some time praying together for those in your lives that need to experience this.

### WEEK 9 Romans: The Gospel According to Paul The Power of One Romans 5:6-21 Reconciliation (cf. 2 Co 5) November 18-19, 2017

**DAY 1** Sermon Notes


Romans 5:6-8, Luke 7:36-50, John 3:16

What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

Read the story of the woman anointing Jesus' feet (Luke 7:36-50), and let the weight of the statement "while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (verse 8, italics added) set in. What does this show about God's mercy and love? How does this change the way you approach those who have not yet professed faith? What else stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 5:9-11,1 John 4:10, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 5:9-11 says that we have received reconciliation by God. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 calls us to then pass on the reconciliation of God to others. Who will you see today that is separated from God? Pray for them when you see them, that they might know God.

Romans 5:12-14, Genesis 3:17-19, 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.

) What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

Romans 5:15-17, 1 John 2:2, Romans 10:9-13

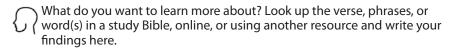
Look back to the study on Romans 3:21-26 and the word gift (dorea). How does this passage deepen your understanding of this freely given gift and humanity's need of it? What do you want to learn more about? Look up the verse, phrases, or word(s) in a study Bible, online, or using another resource and write your findings here.



What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.



Romans 5:18-21, Romans 8:34-39



What stands out to you? Ask God what He has for you today.

What is God asking you to do in response to today's study?

**DAY 7** Grace day and Scripture memorization Romans 5:6

### LIFEGROUP GUIDE FOR WEEK 9

The Power of One (Reconciliation) Romans 5:6-21

How did Christ achieve our salvation on our behalf?

How does the image of reconciliation help us to understand what was achieved on the cross?

How is the work of Adam different from the work of Christ?

How does the image of reconciliation make you feel about the work of Christ on the cross? How do you relate to this image?

What recent story can you tell of the power of the gospel at work in your life? Perhaps you are inspired by the contrast between death and life, condemnation and freedom, sin and righteousness, law and grace...

Verse 17 speaks of those who receive the gift of grace and righteousness "reigning in life." How have you seen this to be true?



Respond with thankfulness in prayer together that "while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."

This passage repeatedly talks about the power of the one man (Adam or Christ). Consider where, with God's Spirit at work within you, He could use you as just one person to make a difference in the world.



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