

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

8th-13th April 2013
Romans



Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

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Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn
Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1

reading Romans 1:1-15 - Who Wrote Romans?

notes We re going to be studying Romans using the commentary *The Gospel As It Really Is* by Stuart Olyott. Who writes this letter? It is from a Christian. Paul describes himself in verse 1 as a servant of Christ, and in verse 5 as one who has received grace . Paul is writing to his fellow Christians.

This letter is from an apostle as we are told in verses 1 and 5. There are no apostles today. From the men who are witnesses to His resurrection, the risen Lord chooses some to be His specially appointed teachers and interpreters of spiritual things. They are the foundation of the church, and their authority is unique. Their written words are to be received in exactly the same way as we would receive the Saviour s spoken words. What Paul is writing is the Word of God.

This letter is written by a zealous missionary. In verse 1 Paul explains that he is set apart for the gospel of God. In verse 5 he tells us that he has been commissioned to bring people of all nations into the obedience of faith. In verse 9 he assures us that he serves God in the gospel of His Son. Verses 14 and 15 show us that Paul regards the preaching of the gospel to others as an obligation which he can not shake off. He is unreservedly committed to the gospel. He has to preach it. This is a letter from a man who has been through prison, shipwreck, riot, hunger, disease, slander, and loss - all for the sake of the message he preaches. It is a letter from a man who can not be held back.

Finally, this is a letter from a man who has the interests of the churches at heart. Look at verses 9-13. Paul constantly prays for the Christians at Rome. Although he has never met most of them, his love for them is immense, and his desire to do them good motivates him to write.

- questions**
1. Who wrote Romans?
 2. What kind of man is he?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 25:13-17
1. Pray for our sister churches.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 - 3 Pray for family matters.



Let's Worship God

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Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1

reading Romans 1:18-32 - The Wrath of God

notes This passage plainly declares that God is angry. Look at verse 18. Our situation is grave, and the anger of God proves it. He is angry, not only with some sin, but with all sin. This anger is directed not just towards the sins themselves, but towards the ungodliness and unrighteousness of men which produce them. God is not indifferent to sin. He hates it. He responds to sin personally and intensely. His is a holy anger. It is neither malicious nor spiteful. But it is anger. He is a consuming fire, and it is a fearful thing to fall into His hands. Verse 18 does not simply say that this anger will be revealed at some time in the future. God is angry now!

Look at verses 23-24. Men prefer to honour the things that they have made, rather than to worship God. God gives them over to their desires. He actively abandons them. They become enslaved to their own ungodly desires, and reap the consequences.

Look at verses 25-27. Verse 25 shows that men love what God has forbidden. Their desires mean more to them than the truth. They love what they have made, more than they love their Maker. Because of this, God gives them over to unrestrained desire for sin (v.26-27).

Look at verse 28. Men simply do not want God in their thoughts. So God gives them over to the mind that they do want. A chaos of evil follows, as verses 29-32 make so clear. When they have ruled God out of their minds, there follows the wrong treatment of those made in the image of God. Sin against God leads to sin against fellow men.

These are the judgements of God upon wicked men. If men cry out against the light, God judges them by taking it away. All that is left is the darkness they have chosen. There is no answer except a return to God. There is no way of returning, except that which is revealed in the gospel.

- questions**
1. What does God think of sin?
 2. How does He judge sin?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 29:all
1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God s Word tomorrow.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 - 3 Pray for family matters.



Fri.
12th April

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1

reading Romans 1:21-32 - The Results

notes What are the results of man's walking out on God? The main point is that man is a perverted being. His nature is twisted, and therefore so are his actions. He is perverted within - wrong on the inside. This perversion affects all his judgements and desires, and therefore influences his choices. His actions are consistent with his inward nature. The human mind is not a vacuum. Man banishes the truth about God from his mind and replaces it with lies. His thought processes become ungodly and empty. Yes, he still reasons, but he does not come up with the truth. He is more ready to embrace evil than he is to embrace God's revelation. This does not stop him thinking that he is wise (v.22)! He thinks what he wanted to think when he ate the forbidden fruit in Eden - that he is like God. He thinks that nothing is impossible to him, and that there is nothing he cannot discover. But, in fact, he is incapable of having a true knowledge of anything. For example, in examining God's universe, he leaves God entirely out of the reckoning! And so his whole understanding of it is wrong. Man has a reprobate or debased mind (v.28). It is a mind devoid of godly judgement and incapable of understanding, appreciating, or loving the things of God. Instead, it is set on the things which displease God.

This twist in his nature means that mankind is also perverted without. Because his thoughts are wrong, so are his actions. The explanation for man's moral failures, selfishness, and inhumanity to man, is to be found in his perverted nature. The idolatry, lusts, and other evils of these verses are the bitter fruit of man's depraved nature. Yet he enjoys his sins and enjoys seeing others doing them too (v.32), although he knows full well that they will be judged. This shows the depth of his ungodliness and unrighteousness and how utterly incapable he is of saving himself.

questions

1. How is man twisted on the inside?
2. How is man twisted on the outside?

praise pray Ps. 28:all

1. Pray that you would respond in love to God.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
9th April

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1

reading Romans 1:6-13 - To Whom Is It Written?

notes To whom is the letter of Romans written? In verse 7 Paul pronounces a blessing upon those to whom he is writing. They are the inhabitants of Rome who have certain characteristics. The first is that they are loved by God, and He has called them to be saints. Those whom God has loved eternally, He calls. The gospel has been preached at Rome. People have heard it with their ears. But some have received it in their hearts, have turned from their sins, and have freely embraced Jesus Christ as He has been offered to them in the gospel. This is the call which is referred to in verses 6 and 7. Every person who has received such a call is a saint - someone set apart for God, and chosen by Him to be a holy person.

People who have received such a call have faith, as verse 8 makes plain. Faith is taking God at His word. The faith of the Roman Christians is of such a quality that wherever Paul goes in the world at that time, he hears people talking about it. It is to those who have such faith that he is now writing. They are those for whom he never stops praying (v.9), and with whom he already feels a unity (v.10-12). Most of them are Gentiles (v.13), although there are some Jews among them as well.

The readers are the ordinary men and women of the local church at Rome. This is not a letter just for academic experts or even just ministers and elders. It is a letter to ordinary people. Romans is the gospel which the ordinary believer loves, and lives by. It is the gospel which is believed by the men and women, boys and girls, who are saved by God's grace there in Rome.

questions

1. Who are saints?
2. What had Paul heard about the Romans' faith?

praise pray Ps. 26:all

1. Give thanks for the forgiveness of sins in Christ our Saviour.
2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
3. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
10th April

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1

reading Romans 1:1-17 - What Is The Letter About?

notes What is this letter about? It is about the gospel. Why does Paul want to go to Rome? To preach the gospel. Why is he writing instead? Because it is not possible for him to go to Rome, so he does with his pen what he can not do with his lips. Romans is an explanation and summary of the gospel.

What is the origin of this gospel? It is not a human invention, it is the gospel of God (v.1). It is not an afterthought by God, but something to which all the Old Testament has been pointing (v.2).

What is the centre of this gospel? It is the Son of God, Jesus Christ our Lord (v.3). His real identity is powerfully declared when He is raised from the dead (v.4). He is the centre and focus of the gospel.

What is the content of this gospel? It is not simply a declaration of who Jesus Christ is, it is also a declaration of what He has done. Verses 16-17 show to us that the key word in gospel preaching is righteousness. In the gospel of Jesus Christ it is made clear how men and women may be put right with God. For God Himself is holy and righteous. Men are sinful. How can people like that be put in a right relationship with such a God? The gospel tells us. It is in the gospel that the righteousness of God is revealed. It is not a righteousness which you can earn. It is a righteousness which is revealed from faith to faith. It is all about how men and women may get right with God by means of faith. By faith in whom? In Jesus Christ. It is the person who is righteous by faith who will be saved.

What is the power of this gospel? Its power lies in the fact that it is the means which God uses to save people. Whom does He save? Everyone who believes, Jew or Gentile (v.16). It is not everyone who hears who is saved, but everyone who believes. By the preaching of the gospel God actually brings men and women into a right relationship with Himself.

- questions**
1. What is this letter about?
 2. What is the message of the gospel?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 27:1-8
1. Give thanks for God's grace and mercy.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.



Thur.
11th April

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Romans 5:1

reading Romans 1:18-32 - Human Sin

notes The first point Paul makes here is that human sin is deliberate (v.19-21, 28, 32). Everybody knows that God exists. Every man has a knowledge of God written within him by God Himself. However stubborn he is, this inward knowledge is too clear to escape (v.19). The creation which surrounds him tells him the same message. It testifies that there exists an eternal, powerful, and majestic unseen Person (v.20). Nobody can plead that he is ignorant of the existence of God. Besides this, it is written on everyone's heart that those who do evil will be judged (v.32). Yet, knowing all this, man unrighteously suppresses the truth (v.18). He knows the truth about God, but exchanges this for what he knows to be untrue - and gives his first and highest loyalty to the things which he can see and make (v.23, 25). Not all the sins in verses 26-27 and 29-32 are found in every person on earth. But they are found in every human community. Man does these things knowing that he should not. His sin is deliberate.

Paul's second point concerning human sin is that it is inexcusable. Every person on earth knows that God exists. He knows a little of what God is like. He knows that there is such a thing as absolute right and absolute wrong. He knows that there will be a judgement. The depth of man's sin is seen in the fact that although he knows such things, he makes excuses for his actions, continues in his sins, and even enjoys doing them (v.32). Man has become like this by refusing to glorify God as God (v.21), by refusing to recognise Him as the Author of all good who should be thanked (v.21), and by refusing to acknowledge the true God (v.28). Man is unrighteous because he is ungodly. He has walked out on God. This is how wickedness began, and this is why it continues.

- questions**
1. What does man know about God?
 2. Why is man unrighteous?

- praise pray**
- Ps. 27:9-16
1. Pray for the parents in the congregation as they teach their children.
 2. Pray for a member of your church as per the congregational list.
 3. Pray for family matters.