

ROMANS | *unfiltered* - Pastor Doug Page

The gospel according to the Apostle Paul is full of rich theology and practical application. John Calvin wrote, “If we gain a true understanding of the Epistle of Romans, then we have an open door to all the most profound treasures of scriptures.” Over several months, we took an unfiltered look at these timeless truths of scripture found in this letter to the church family in Rome.

Each week, we watched in wonder as the Holy Spirit applied these truths right into the middle of our lives, our relationships, and our current culture. God is stirring His people and preparing us for this exciting season ahead. May we take the words of this incredible letter and allow the Holy Spirit to inspire and empower us in our everyday lives. May we, the First Baptist Grapevine family, live these truths among this generation and be known for impacting our world with the Gospel of Jesus for the glory of God! I love serving with you! – Pastor Doug (September 26, 2021)

Mankind’s Corruption (1:1 – 3:20)

- First, the Good News (1:1-17)

The Gospel of Jesus is the power of God to save us and set us apart for His glory. As His servants, we are sent and set apart: obligated to, eager for, and not ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus.

- Man’s Need for God (1:18-23)

The glory of God is evident in nature and in humanity. We are without excuse. God’s wrath is in response to mankind’s godlessness and unrighteousness. God’s righteousness is in response to mankind’s receiving the Gospel.

- How the Fall Affects us All (1:24-32)

We must stop playing God and choose to place God’s design above our desires. Sin separates us from God and His magnificent design for our lives. Perhaps we have redirected our allegiance and exchanged God’s design for our fleshly desires.

- Every Secret Exposed (2:1-29)

At the judgment of God, every secret will be exposed. God sees what motivates our actions. The heart in right relationship with God is fertile ground to produce good and lasting fruit. However, sometimes our actions don’t tell the true story. Good deeds can appear to be beneficial but are shallow and unfruitful if not produced from a heart in fellowship with God.

- Guilty as Charged (3:1-20)

There is no one whose way of thinking, feeling, and acting is totally conformed to the will of God and therefore, has no need for redemption. We all miss God's target of righteousness. Our response will either be to continue appealing the verdict or to accept the verdict and receive God's pardon. Stop the appeal and receive the pardon!

God's Cure (3:21 – 5:21)

- Jesus Christ: The Sinner's Advocate (3:21-31)

God's righteousness demands punishment for sin. Jesus absorbed the wrath to satisfy the demand. Redemption + Propitiation = Justification. By faith our pardon is applied!

- By Grace (4:1-16)

By grace God offers a pardon. Through faith we receive it. Jesus stands at the crossroads of history. Before Christ (BC), people came to God by faith in His promise to send a Messiah to save them. Jesus is that Messiah. After Jesus (AD), people come to God as before, by placing their faith in God's promise of a Messiah who we now know as Jesus! All who are saved come by faith to receive His grace.

- Strengthened by Faith (4:19-25)

Because we have placed our faith in Jesus, we can be assured that what God promised, He is able to perform. We begin the journey with baby steps. Even when it doesn't make sense, when it looks impossible, or when our faith begins to waver, we can trust Him. He gives us the faith to keep walking.

- The Fruit of Forgiveness: Reconciliation (5:1-11)

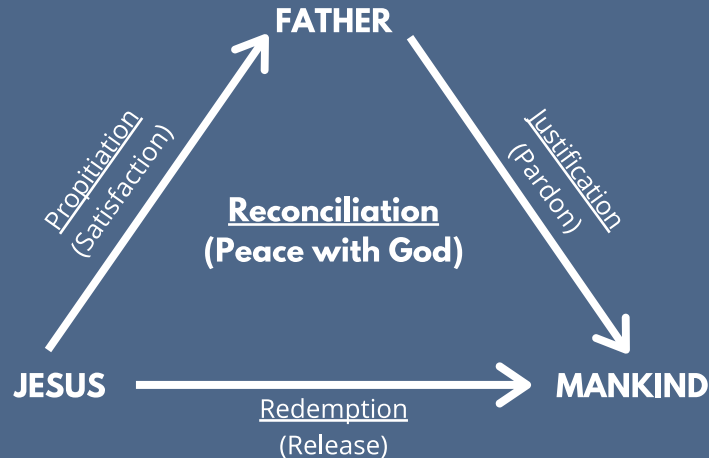
We receive pardon and reconciliation because Christ died for us! We can rejoice in hope during our time on earth because perseverance in tribulation reveals proven character and leads to hope in Jesus that cannot disappoint.

- The Power of One (5:12-21)

Two men. Two choices. Through Adam's sin, we received contamination, condemnation, and certainty of death. Through Jesus, we receive justification and eternal life with Him. Whose camp are YOU in?

JESUS CHRIST: THE SINNER'S ADVOCATE

Grace- Undeserved Favor



Faith- Dependence

New Life in Christ (6:1-8:39)

- Made Alive (6:1-11)

The astounding, abounding grace of God offers pardon for sin and newness of life. Because Christ died for us, we receive pardon and reconciliation with God. Through the power of Christ's resurrection, we are given a new beginning.

- The Power Not to Sin (6:12-23)

Our salvation is secure, but Satan will continually challenge the rule of Jesus in the life of a Christian. We all choose to serve somebody. As a citizen of heaven, we are ruled by grace, not by sin! God can give us the strength not to sin. Will we choose to serve sin or serve our Savior?

- The Battle Within (7:1-25)

The conflict within each of us is between depravity and the truth of God. We are free from the penalty of sin and power of sin, and one day we will be free from the presence of sin! Until then, in the power of the Holy Spirit, we must resist our enemy, reject earthly temptations, and obey our Heavenly Father.

- Freedom in the Spirit (8:1-11)

Having been set free from the power of sin, we are liberated to follow God's best for our lives. God has given us the promise, permission, and power to live the Holy Spirit led life! Are you living the flesh fed life or the Holy Spirit led life?

- Dying to Live (8:12-14)

There is a life that leads to death and a death that leads to life. The life that leads to death is lived apart from the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The death that leads to life is the life fully surrendered to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. When we follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, we find spiritual direction and traction for our journey.

- Children of God (8:15-17)

The Spirit of God testifies that we are God's children. If our first allegiance is to anyone or anything other than God, we are enslaved to that substitute god. That is why we become fearful again! When we are fighting His battles, He fights for us.

- Hope for a Hurting Generation (8:18-25)

No one is immune to suffering. Suffering is part of living in a messed-up world among messed-up people. As a community of disciples whose life is shaped around the Gospel of Jesus, we have hope in God through the Holy Spirit.

- Praying in the Spirit (8:26-27)

Praying in the Spirit is a divine endeavor. As we cry out to the Father, the Holy Spirit intercedes, Jesus intercedes, and the Father searches the heart and knows the mind of the Spirit. Gratitude, repentance, and surrender are essential to praying in the Spirit.

- Called with Purpose (8:28-32)

God's purpose is for us to be conformed to the image of Jesus for the glory of God! God's Word and the Holy Spirit shape us by giving us boundaries, freedom, help, and correction. The judgment for sin is settled. The payment for sin is complete. The pardon for sin is applied.

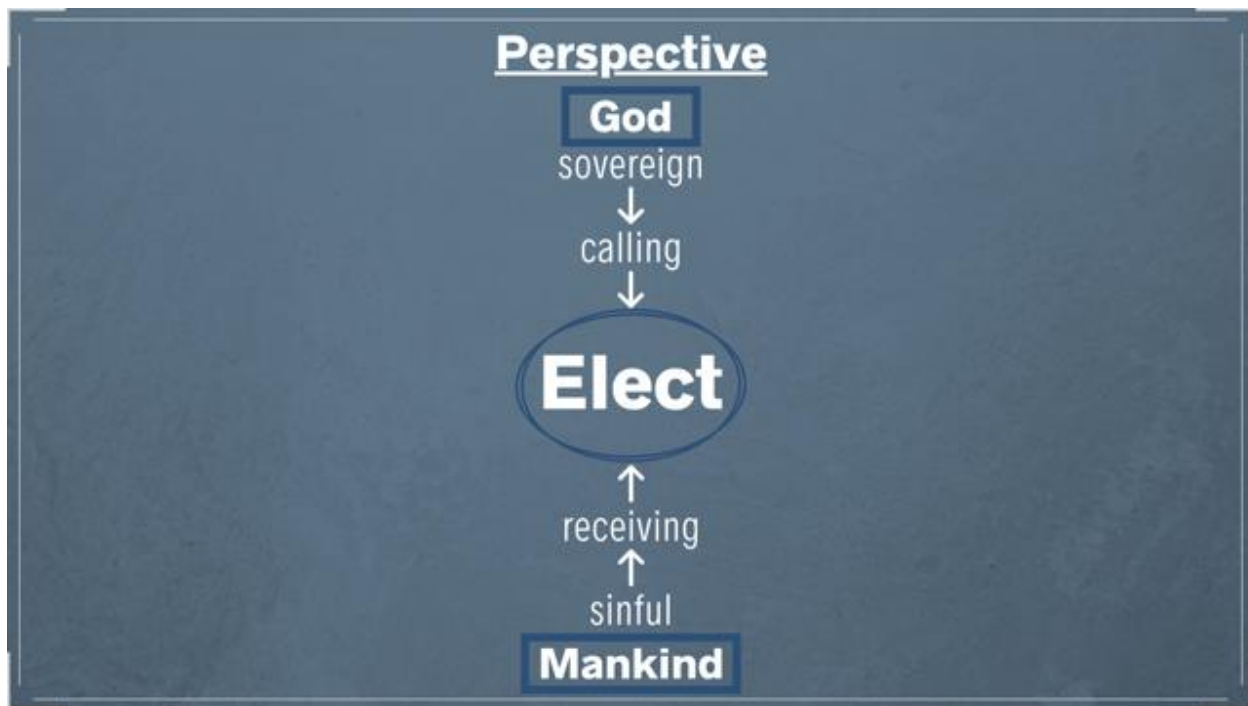
- Victorious Love (8:33-39)

God is for us. He proved this by sparing no expense to meet our great needs. In Christ, our need for pardon was met and God will continue to supply everything else we need to live for His glory. The judgment for our sin is settled. The payment for our sin is complete. The pardon for our sin is applied. According to the Bible, nothing can separate us from the love of God.

God's Chosen People (9:1-11:36)

- God's Sovereign Choice (9:1-33)

Because God is sovereign and all knowing, He is aware of who will receive Him. All who are Elect will be saved. Not one will be lost. The Elect is comprised of those who are called by God and receive His invitation to salvation through faith.



- A Strategic Adjustment (10:1-21)

God generously offers salvation for all who will receive His calling. The world will hear the message of forgiveness as God's people share His good news with others. As followers of Jesus, we are compelled to care for, pray for, go to, and speak to those in need of the Gospel.

- A Never Forgotten People (11:1-32)

Our God is a promise maker and promise keeper. God will never abandon His promise to His people. When you see a rainbow remember this: the world is filled with sin, God always judges unrepentant sinners, and God always rescues His people.

- Wonder and Worship (11:33-36)

We see the wonder of God in creation and in our circumstances. Worship is our response to the wonder of God. God allows disobedience to demonstrate His mercy. All things are from Him, through Him, and for Him. We were designed for the wonder and worship of God.

God's Moral Ethics (12:1-15:13)

- Living Sacrifice (12:1-2)

It is God's will for us to be transformed into the image of Jesus for the glory of God. We are transformed as we offer ourselves to God as a living sacrifice and do not allow culture to shape and determine lifestyle. If we trust God with our eternity, can we not trust Him with our short existence on this earth? We can do as our hearts desire if we have the mind of Christ and fully surrender to Him. In this, our lives become living sacrifices as a display of worship to our God.

- Equipped to Serve (12:3-8)

As the body of Christ, we are called to unity, diversity, and interdependence. We are gifted by the Holy Spirit to serve within a community of believers. A sure test of how we are growing in our transformation into the image of Jesus is the way we love and serve one another.

- Love in Action: Friends (12:9-13)

“Love on display in the church is Jesus’s final apologetic to the world.” - Francis Schaeffer. God calls us to have a genuine love for each other. We are to be devoted to, honor, care for, and experience life together as a family of followers. Church is not an event to attend, but a family to embrace.

- Love in Action: Opponents (12:14-21)

Culture wars, political correctness, and cancel culture must not lead Christians to bitterness and hate. By blessing others, showing empathy, and exhibiting true humility we are displaying Christ-like character. Decide to love. Don’t seek revenge. Do what is good. Continue to develop a dynamic relationship with Jesus.

- Our Highest Authority (13:1-14)

Governmental authority is from God, by God, under God, and for God. According to Scripture, government is to promote the good and punish the bad. A citizen is to be subject to authority, honor authority, and do good under authority. Is civil disobedience ever acceptable? If the state commands what God forbids, or if the state forbids what God commands, then civil disobedience is our Christian duty.

- I Can’t Believe You Did That (14:1-23)

As believers in Christ, we are free. Our personal freedom is held in check by our commitment to love. We function within the boundaries of God’s Word and our personal preferences. Our actions are to build others up not tear them down. As believers in Jesus, we are to co-exist with our differing opinions and remember our one calling: To live for Jesus.

- A Place to Belong (15:1-7)

Our personal and collective purpose as followers of Jesus is to impact our generation with the Gospel for the glory of God. Following the example of Jesus and the Word of God, we are to carry, and build up one another. Our Creed: Christ died, was buried, and rose again according to the Scriptures. Our Confession: Jesus is Lord, Savior, and the unique Son of God. When we keep God’s Word as foundational and our opinions as optional, we find freedom and comfort in the Scriptures!

- The God of Hope (15:7-13)

We find hope in God, hope in the Word of God, and hope in the Holy Spirit. In difficulty, when joy and peace are elusive, we keep our trust in Him. When Christianity burst into the world after the

death and resurrection of Jesus, it found the world an extremely divided place. A fractured world can be brought together through Jesus. God has not given up on this world. He desires for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Final Thoughts (15:14-16:27)

- The Future of Fishing (15:14-33)

The church is to worship and witness, fellowship and “fish.” As we live out the Gospel in front of others, we should brag on God, be a credible witness, demonstrate the power of God, make plans to share the Gospel, and gather to celebrate what God has done.

- Romans Unfiltered (16:1-27)

The mystery of the Kingdom of God is found in the words and life of Jesus. This Gospel is rooted in the Old Testament, revealed in the New Testament, and reflected in the people of God. The mystery of the Gospel is a mystery of mercy. Jesus pardons our sins, reconciles us to God, and restores what is broken in this world. To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever!



A PLACE TO BELONG