



Romans (Strengthened by the Gospel) (Week 14/18) The Proclamation of the Gospel

Small Group Discussion Questions

Connect *Where are you tempted to rely on your heritage, morality, church involvement, or your own effort rather than Christ, and what would it mean for you to trust Christ instead?*

Warm-Up

1. Who first shared the gospel with you? Who shared the gospel with them? (And as a stretch goal: who shared the gospel with them?)

Read Romans 10:1-8 (Two Types of Righteousness)

2. What is Paul's desire? How should that shape how we read this whole section in Romans?
3. What is positive about the Israelites' approach to God? What is problematic about the Israelites' approach to righteousness? What were they trying to do?
4. Why can it be appealing to focus on our own efforts and works? Why will this never be enough?
5. How is righteousness made available to everyone who believes?
6. What is the point of the Old Testament references in verses 5-8? In what ways do they highlight the need for Christ to fulfil the law?

Read Romans 10:9-13 (The Guarantee of Salvation)

7. How do you know if you are saved?
8. What specifically does verse 9-10 say about Jesus? What are important truths to belief about Jesus?
9. What does our response need to be to Jesus? Why should our faith in Jesus as our Lord include our whole lives?
10. When have you ever felt shame or embarrassment for being a Christian? What helped you at that time?
11. Why will we not be put to shame for our faith when Jesus returns? How can that motivate us today?
12. Who is able to access salvation? What is the guarantee?
13. Who is an unlikely person you've seen come to faith? Who is someone right now, who you can't imagine coming to faith? How can you be praying for them?

Read Romans 10:14-16 (Our Role to Proclaim)

14. How does someone come to believe in Jesus?
15. Why is preaching the gospel not just for paid gospel workers? What are we equipped with?
16. Who might you be sent to? (Consider people for whom you might be the only Christian there).

Apply *Think of three people in your life who don't yet know Jesus. Pray each day this week for soft hearts, for opportunities for them to hear the gospel, and courage for yourself to share the gospel.*

Pray *Gracious Father, thank you for our Saviour Jesus Christ. Help us to see the confidence we can have in our salvation, and convict us of our role to proclaim it. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

GOING DEEPER

Romans (Strengthened by the Gospel) (Week 14/18) The Proclamation of the Gospel

Small Group Discussion Questions

On Your Frontline this Week

Who are three people you know, you are not yet following Jesus? Pray for them all week - for soft hearts, opportunities to hear the gospel, and courage for you to share the gospel.

For Families

- *Download:* some of the family resources to use at home: stbartskids.org

Listen, Watch, and Read

- *Listen (sermon):* “Everyone Who Calls On the Name of the Lord Will Be Saved” by Wei-Han Kuan: stalfreds.org/podcasts/media/2011-10-30-everyone-who-calls-on-the-name-of-the-lord-will-be-saved
- *Listen (sermon):* “God’s Word Has Not Failed (3)” by Luke Ijaz: https://www.allsouls.org/Media/AllMedia.aspx?show_media=151411&show_file=162839
- *Listen (sermon):* “Go Forth and Tell (God’s Commission to Evangelise)” by John Stott: https://www.allsouls.org/Media/AllMedia.aspx?show_media=50073&show_file=55419
- *Listen (sermon):* “Paul’s Desire and Prayer for Israel” by Gwilym Davies: <https://www.st-helens.org.uk/resources/talk/55505/>
- *Read (Report):* “An Undercurrent of Faith” by McCrindle: https://mccrindle.com.au/app/uploads/reports/An-undercurrent-of-faith_McCrindle-2025.pdf

Series Resources

- *Read:* “Strengthened by the Gospel” by Brian Rosner. 
- *Read:* “The Story of God Bible Commentary: Romans” by Michael Bird.
- *Read:* “Into the Heart of Romans” by N. T. Wright. 
- *Read:* “Epistle of Paul to the Romans” by F. F. Bruce. 
- *Read:* “The Message of Romans” by John Stott. 
- *Read:* “The Epistle to the Romans” by Leon Morris. 
- *Watch:* “Romans” by the Bible Project: <https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-romans/>

 Available to borrow from the St Bart’s Library (Toowoomba): stbarts.com.au/library

ROMANS (STRENGTHENED BY THE GOSPEL)

*Week 14/18 “The Proclamation of the Gospel”
by Amy Norman (16/08/2026, Toowoomba)*

복음 선포 | 福音的宣讲 | சுவிசேஷம் அறிவிக்கப்படுதல்

Bible Passage: Romans 10:1-21

*Gracious Father, thank you for our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Help us to see the confidence we can have in the salvation you bring,
and convict us of our role to proclaim it.
In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.*

- As we arrive at chapter 10, Paul has been pouring out his heart, with great tears and anguish, that *his people* would come to put their trust in Jesus.
- That's what Paul longs for, and no doubt what we long for too - that the people *we love* would be saved.
- We can sometimes feel helpless when people aren't interested in faith in Jesus. It can be hard to know what to do, or where to start.
- When people we know reject Jesus, it can weaken our confidence, and discourage us from sharing God's good news of salvation.
- Yet in chapter 10, Paul shows why we shouldn't be discouraged. For here he addresses:
Two Types of Righteousness,
The Guarantee of Salvation, and
Our Role to Proclaim.

TWO TYPES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS | VERSES 1-8

두 가지의 의 | 两种义 | இருவகையான நீதி

- First, Paul longs for everyone to be saved, so he shows there are **two types of righteousness**, two common ways people try to be set right before God and be saved.
- And what Paul desperately wants people to know (and what we need to hear), it that only one of these approaches leads to salvation, and the other does not. *Let's look from verse 1 ...*

Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God's righteousness. Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes. *verses 1-4*

- The first approach to be saved is *righteousness by effort*. Paul can see that many of the Israelites are zealous for God, but their zeal and passion is ignorant, misguided, and not submissive. The problem isn't that they don't care, but the problem is *where* they are placing their confidence.
- Many of the Israelites are setting up their *own righteousness*,

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one that is focused on themselves, on *their* ability to keep the law, and do all the right things.

- We can so easily fall into that trap too. Focusing on all the nice things we've done, allowing our confidence to be in ourselves and our ability to do good.
- But trying to be saved for your own efforts is a dead end. Relying on your ability will never be enough. It not only does not work (and can never work), but it also rejects just how God has provided.
- The second way to be saved is *righteousness by faith*. This is God's way of salvation, a righteousness that is by faith in Jesus Christ, for as it says in *verse 4* "Christ is the culmination of the law".
- There are different views on how to understand verse 4, but one of the most helpful ways to approach it is by what Jesus taught. He taught that he did not come to abolish the law, but to fulfil it. So at the very least, it means the law wasn't pointless, but was fulfilled in Christ.
- Paul goes on to reference Leviticus 18 and Deuteronomy 30, to highlight ways which Israel has failed at doing and obeying the whole law.

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The first way (righteousness by effort) is problematic, for no one has been able to fulfil the law, so righteousness can't be obtained by the law.

But rather than continuing to search high and low for how to be made right, Paul says the solution is right here.

- It is Jesus who has fulfilled the law.
Righteousness by faith is not trusting in *what we* can do, but it is trusting in what God has done in Christ.
- We live in a world and in a society where we are so often valued by what we've done, what we've achieved, and what we've earned.
We are always being evaluated by our efforts.
- So it feels very natural that when it comes to faith, we think we need to rack up the points, prove we're better than others, or look down on people who don't seem to have done enough.
- But the gospel is not like our world.
You are not saved by what you do, you are saved by faith.
- Not faith in yourself, but faith in Jesus.

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THE GUARANTEE OF SALVATION | VERSES 9-13

구원의 보증 | 救恩的确据 | இரட்சிப்பின் உத்தரவாதம்

Second, belief in Jesus is **the guarantee of salvation**. Verse 9...

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. *verses 9-10*

- If you have ever wondered if you really are saved, then here is one of the clearest statements in the whole Bible:

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. *verse 9*

- Salvation is by faith. Faith in Jesus, and Jesus alone.
Faith is trusting in him as the risen Lord of all.
- Notice that here, there is nothing here about us, our theological knowledge, our intellectual ability, how well we can define righteousness, what we've done or haven't done, or even our age.
Salvation is found by trusting in Jesus. >

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- It's not believing *anything* about Jesus.
It's not just believing that he lived or was a good teacher or role model.
But it is a profession that Jesus is the LORD - that he is God.
And that he is alive - for he truly defeated the grave,
was victorious over sin and death, and rose to life.
- In Rome, it was the emperor who claimed he was the Lord,
that he was the one that was owed ultimate allegiance by everyone.
Signs around Rome and the empire read "Nero is Lord."
- But Nero, or Caesar, or any human ruler can't offer you salvation.
Salvation can only be found by trusting in Jesus as your Lord.

- *Verse 11 ...*

As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame." For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. *verses 11-13*"

- The guarantee of believing in Jesus, is that you will never be put to shame.
- Here, this points to what will ultimately be revealed.
Paul doesn't mean that *today* you won't be embarrassed, wrongly accused, or humiliated

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because of your faith in Christ.

- Paul means that on that day Jesus returns,
when all things are put right and made new,
your trust in Jesus will be vindicated.
- Your faith in Christ won't be revealed to be wrong or embarrassing,
- Just like Paul, today you may still encounter deep opposition for your faith,
but when Jesus returns, there will be no shame for those trusting in the risen King. /
- Note again that this is not just a promise for some,
but there is no shame *for anyone* who believes in him.
- No shame for Jews or Gentiles,
or as Paul continues in Galatians,
slave or free, male or female.
- Anyone can come to the Lord,
for *everyone* who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.
- Anyone can have faith in Jesus, and
everyone who trusts in Jesus will be saved.
- If you haven't yet trusted in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, then you still can,
maybe even today. For this assurance is also for you:
"Everyone who calls on the same of the Lord will be saved."

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OUR ROLE TO PROCLAIM | VERSES 14-15

복음 선포하는 우리의 역할 | 我们宣讲的使命 | அறிவிப்பதில் நமது பங்கு

So if we can only be saved by faith, a faith which is only in Jesus,
and is available to everyone - that means we have to tell everyone we can!

Finally, **we have a role to proclaim.** Verse 14 ...

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"
verses 14-15

- If salvation is offered to *everyone* by believing in Jesus - then Paul asks the obvious question: *how are people going to hear about him?*
They need people to tell them.
- He steps through what might prevent people from being saved.
In order to call on Jesus,
they need to believe in him,
which means they need to hear about him,
which means someone need to preach to them,
which means someone needs to send people to preach.

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- We need to send people to preach in schools and in hospitals,
in prisons and in aged care,
in remote villages and in the middle of bustling cities,
to people in the bush and to people on the beach.
We need to send people to churches, and workplaces, and homes.
Wherever there are people, there is a need to send people *with* the gospel.
- But preaching the gospel is not just a role for *others out there*,
but it is for every single Christian.
- On Tuesday night, you should have answered some questions for the census.
Five years ago, just over 11 million people identified with Christianity.
Imagine if just 5% of those shared the gospel with
and prayed for one person this year, and next year, and the year after that.
People would inadvertently hear the gospel in homes, in cities, and in the bush.
The effect on our society would be extraordinary.
- You have networks of people that no other Christian organisation will reach.
At work, at your retirement village, in your classroom, just on your street there are people
who have not yet heard the gospel.
- Even if we wanted to, we can't rely only on Christian missionaries to preach the gospel.
Jesus sends out all Christians to make disciples, wherever we go. >

We have been given all we need.

- The message of salvation is simple, you have been equipped by his Spirit, and you have been assured that there is no shame. //
- Paul says “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring the good news.” Paul doesn’t have an obsession with shoes or feet.
- In the ancient world, any one who travelled would have pretty grimy feet. They would have been far from beautiful, possibly even the most filthy part of a person.
- In Greek the word translated as “beautiful” most commonly means “timely”, like fruit that has come in the appropriate season.
- Paul isn’t saying that the people who bring the good news are especially beautiful, or they’ve somehow avoided the dust, dirty, exhausting travel to bring the gospel, but the timely message they bring about Jesus is beautiful. //
- Often it does not feel like the news about Jesus is timely. We can feel awkward to share the gospel, anticipate that it’ll be unwelcome, or even suspect that sharing good news may ruin a relationship.
- But Jesus is returning. And you might be the only Christian someone knows, then it is a timely and beautiful message to share.

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CONCLUSION

- But not everyone will come to believe. Paul still has this grief, which we see in verse 16.
- Here Paul is both realistic and heartbroken, for he addresses (and will continue to address in chapter 11) how not all the Israelites have accepted the good news of their Messiah.
- With Paul, we too can be full of sorrow when those we love, reject Christ and reject the only way of salvation.
- But their rejection shouldn’t stop us praying and longing for those we love to trust in Jesus.
- If you consider all the people you’ll see this coming week, those you know well or have brief interactions with (at the supermarket or dog park), there will be people who don’t yet know Jesus.
- This week, choose three of those people. All week, just pray for their hearts to be open, that they would have opportunities to hear the gospel, and pray for courage - if you have that chance to share the gospel with them.
- Three people, praying for open hearts, opportunities, and courage.

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- Research in Australia consistently shows that people are far more open to spiritual conversations, than we might first think.
A survey by McCrindle last year indicated 45% are extremely or very open to spiritual conversations that involve different views to their own,
and 19% are extremely or significantly open to changing their current religious view.
- So at least one of the people you are praying for is likely more open than you think!
- To help, there are some practical opportunities coming up to invite people to explore faith.
- Our next Alpha Course is in October,
where people can explore who Jesus is, week by week.
They can ask their own questions,
in a safe, judgemental free environment.
- But even before we invite someone to a course,
We need to be praying for them.
- Sometimes it can feel like there is no way God will change someone's heart.
But it's not up to us. As the Lord says through Isaiah:

"I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me." v. 20

- Peter Adam, the former principal of Ridley, came to faith in his last year of high school.

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He prayed each day for his brother to come to faith.
50 years after he began praying, his prayer was answered.

- When I was at University, I really had no idea how my sister, my Mum, and my Dad,
would ever get to hear and believe the gospel.
But in ways I could never anticipate,
God used *this community* to bring them the good news of Jesus.
- We might not know who the Lord will use,
or when our prayers may be answered,
but we know the power of faith in Christ,
and so we can continue to pray for and proclaim the good news of Jesus.

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