



Reading through the New Testament—Week 25

June 25-July 1

Reading Plan available on
YouVersion Bible App
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Becoming more like Jesus—growing in His Word

We believe that God’s Word contains both Law and Gospel. In simple terms, the Law “shows us our sins,” and the Gospel “shows us our Savior.” Throughout the book of Romans, Paul clearly speaks words of Law, but he also speaks clear words of Gospel. Look for “Law” language and “Gospel” expressions throughout your reading of Romans.

Law – The question naturally arises, “If we are saved by grace through faith, why care anymore about the Law?” Since we can’t live the Law perfectly, and we are forgiven anyway by the grace of God through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, why not break every law in the book and enjoy ourselves while we can? How does Paul answer this perfectly logical question in Romans 3:31 and 6:1-2, 11-14?

Is God’s Law, then, something that forces us to live dispirited, regimented, and glum lives? Or, is God’s Law a gift which teaches us how to live the most joyful and fulfilling life possible in a fallen world?

Gospel – Read Romans 3:21-24. Who gives us righteousness, or goodness? How did God bring us that goodness according to vv. 24-25?

Can we take credit for the faith we possess? Consider what Paul says in Romans 3:27, then see how Paul underscores the source of faith in Ephesians 2:8-9. From where does Paul say faith comes?

See the sermon outline on page 2

THIS WEEKEND'S SERMON OUTLINE

"What is the word 'Therefore,' there for?"

Romans 7:14-8:4

"Matthew 6:9 says, 'Our Father which art in heaven, _____ be thy name.'"

"The basic distinction we must keep in mind in order to understand the Bible and our Christian faith."

The Law

a) the law _____

"We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual." (7:14)

b) the _____ is real

"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do now want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do – this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it." (7:15-20)

c) the conclusion we reach doesn't sound _____

"What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?" (7:24)

d) we plead for _____

"Who will rescue me from this body of death?" (7:24)

The Gospel

a) the gospel offers _____






"Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (7:25)

b) the gospel puts us in a new _____

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." (8:1)

New Testament in a Year—June 25-July 1

Romans

Chapter 4  5  6  7  8 

Additional Reflections from this week's reading

Romans 4 Looking specifically at vv. 3-8, on what basis is a right relationship with God given to us, or credited to us?

Romans 5 From vv. 15-19, list in two columns the comparisons and contrasts between Adam and Jesus. What results from each one?

Romans 6 What does it mean to practice the teaching of vv. 11-13? What is our motivation for doing this?

Romans 7 Read vv. 15-20. As you read these verses (especially out loud), it can almost sound like a tongue twister the way it is worded. But reread it again now slowly for meaning. Do you agree or disagree that these verses accurately describe your life?

Romans 8 From vv. 1-4, how would you explain the gospel to someone who senses they are not "good enough" for God? How is "no condemnation" related to the idea of "justification"?

Blessing the World

Monday begins a week of fun and excitement as our building is overrun with kids connecting to Jesus. Historically, only half of the children that attend VBS call St. Michael their church home, while the other 50% either name a different church or no church home. This week, will you lift up the VBS children and their families? Pray that they would be connected to Jesus and find a place to nurture their faith.

Belonging in Community

Connect Groups are a group of Christians who meet together regularly, where we intentionally share in our faith walk. Connection is created through commitment and presence in fellowship, discussion, and prayer.

- Begin your time together by following up on anything that was shared during your last time together.
- Take some time to share any reflections of aha's you had from your reading.

One way to think of Romans is like a roller coaster. In his writing Paul brings us to the depths and hopelessness of sin and then responds with the beautiful and encouraging promise of the Gospel.

The turning point for Paul is often the word "therefore." It is used 7 times in chapters 5-8. A lot of small ups and downs in chapters 5 and 6 and one huge THEREFORE in the transition from chapter 7 to 8.

Take some time to read the scripture around the "therefore"s to get a sense of the impact of this word. (Romans 5:1, 5:9, 5:12, 5:18, 6:4, 6:12, and 8:1)

What stands out to you about how this word is the pivot point?
Which of these sections of scripture resonates with you?

The reality of God is a "therefore" that we live out every day. Yes, in our salvation, but also in the stories we live out in with our family, friends, and even strangers we engage with.

What are some times in your life where God has taken the heavy and seemingly hopeless and swung it into a story of His glory?

What is a place in your live right now that could use a "therefore"?

As you end your time together, take some time to thank God that He takes the broken, chaotic, and hopeless world and creates beauty and stories for His glory out of it!