

NOT ASHAMED

**LIVING
AND
TELLING
THE
GOSPEL**

NAME:

**FOR I AM NOT ASHAMED
OF THE GOSPEL, BECAUSE
IT IS THE POWER OF GOD
THAT BRINGS SALVATION TO
EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES**

ROMANS 1:16

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THE LINK
CONNECTING THE JIGSAW



THE TRUTH
THE SEAT BELT TEST



THE MESSAGE
THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE



SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS
THE TIME TO APPLY

INTRODUCTION

In the opening verses of Romans, what we have is the seedbed and foundation of all that will follow. One helpful way of looking at the Bible is to view it as a medicine cabinet with sixty-six different medicines. All will be needed at some point in the Christian's life, but some medicines are required far more regularly than others. The book of Romans is one of those medicines that need to be taken at regular intervals.

Every important Bible doctrine is found in Romans, so it's essential we understand its message. If we understand the major themes of Romans, then we will be able to clearly proclaim God's gospel, not ashamed (*1:16*).

STUDY 1

GOD'S GOSPEL ABOUT GOD'S KING

ROMANS 1:1-7



THE MESSAGE

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. Who is the author of the gospel? Why is that important?**

Look up 1:1. How does it relate to Psalm 2?
How should that give you confidence?

- 2. What important truth's about Jesus does Paul start his book with? Look up 1:2-4, 7.
How should that give you confidence?**

- 3. What is the debt a follower of Jesus owes to their friends, family and whoever they meet? Look up 1:5,8, 14.**

Think of one person you are in debt to. Pray that you would have the opportunity to pay the debt this term.

4. What was happening in all of the world then and now? Look up 1:8.

**What was the reason for that? Look up 1:16.
How should that give you confidence?**

STUDY 2

THE GREAT EXCHANGE: MR & MRS HEDONIST

ROMANS 1:18-32



THE LINK

CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Having started with the person of Jesus, Paul now shows us the kind of people he's come to save.

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THE TRUTH

THE SEAT BELT TEST

- 1.** Our knowledge of God is great.
- 2.** Our rejection of God is deep.
- 3.** We stand condemned before God.
- 4.** Our only hope is Christ's righteousness.



THE MESSAGE

THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. What truths about God do we know by nature? Look up 1:18-22, 32.
In what way do you see this in the life of your friends or displayed in the media?**

- 2. What do we do with what we know? Look 1:18-25.
In what way do you see this in the life of your friends or displayed in the media?**

- 3. In what way does this quote describe what Paul is trying to say in Romans 1?**

“When the creation points to the goodness of God it is directing us to One - mysterious, unmanageable and infinitely threatening, upon whom we are totally dependent and to whom we are unconditionally accountable.” Donald Macleod.

- 4. What are the effects of exchanging the truth of God for a lie? Look up 1:24-32.
In what way do you see this in the life of your friends or displayed in the media?**

**5. In the light of what we know and how we respond, what is our standing before God?
Look up 1:18, 20.**

6. How should this affect how you view your debt? Look up 1:14.

7. What is Mr & Mrs Hedonist's only hope? Look up 1:16-17.

STUDY 3

JUDGING WITHOUT A MIRROR: MR & MRS PRIVILEGE

ROMANS 2:1-16



THE LINK

CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Last week Paul outlined to us the character of Mr & Mrs Hedonist, showing us why they were condemned before God. This week he reveals the character of Mr & Mrs Privilege and why they are also condemned before God.

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THE TRUTH

THE SEAT BELT TEST

1. Israel's spiritual privilege should lead to humility not pride, but instead it lead to pride.
2. Whether we are a Gentile or Jew, we stand before God guilty and condemned.



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5. What truths mark God's judgement? Look up 2:1-11, 16.

6. Which person are you most like, Mr & Mrs Hedonist or Mr & Mrs Privilege?

7. What is The Privilege's only hope 1:16-17?

STUDY 4

PRIVILEGED PRIDE: MR & MRS PRIVILEGE

ROMANS 2:17-29



THE LINK

CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Whether Jew or Gentile, we are guilty and without excuse before a holy God (*1:20, 2:1*).



THE TRUTH

THE SEAT BELT TEST

Israel's privilege led to pride instead of humility, arrogance instead of repentance.

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. How does Paul describe Mr & Mrs Privilege's attitude in light of what God had given them? Look up 2:17-22.

What was Israel's history marked by?

- Compare 2:21 with Malachi 1:8, 3:8-9

- Compare 2:22 with Malachi 2:11-13

- Compare 2:23 with Malachi 3:6-7

2. Circumcision served the same purpose as a wedding ring; it was a reminder of who you belonged to. How had Israel completely misused this reminder? Look up 2:25-29.

3. If we were to look at our own attitude to the privileges God has given to us, would it be similar to Israel to different? Why or why not?

4. What is The Privilege's only hope 1:16-17?

STUDY 5

**THE GOSPEL
IN TWO
WORDS:
'BUT NOW'**

ROMANS 3



THE MESSAGE

THE MEAT OF THE PASSAGE

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. What images and words does Paul skillfully use to reveal mankind's universal rebellion? Look up 3:9-18.**
- 2. Think back to the news you have watched and listened to, the things you have seen on social media, or situations at school or college. How do they reflect what Paul says in 3:9-18?**
- 3. What is God's verdict on your and mankind's rebellion as a whole? Look up 3:19-20.**
 - What hope does Paul give to condemned rebels? (3:21-31)**
 - Why is it so important for God to give us Christ's righteousness? (3:21-22)**
 - Why is it so important for God's justice to be satisfied? (3:25-26)**

4. How does Jesus sacrifice satisfy God's justice? (3:25-26)

5. What's God's motive in giving these gifts to us? Look up 3:24.

6. Faith = Trust . What does a person need to do to receive Christ righteousness and the forgiveness that comes through Christ's sacrifice?

**7. What is the right response of someone who puts their trust in Christ? Look up 3:27-31.
Pray for an opportunity to boast this week.**

STUDY 6

PROMISE OR PERFORMANCE

ROMANS 4:1-25



THE LINK

CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Paul has shown us that the only way to deal with our rebellion is to trust in Christ's righteousness and sacrifice. Today Paul will show from the Old Testament that it has always been God's way.

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THE TRUTH

THE SEAT BELT TEST

Whether it's the message of the Old or the New Testament, salvation is by faith in God's promise to be forgiven.



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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. What would you say was the major difference between the Old & New Testaments?**

- 2. What's the link between what Paul says in 3:27-31 and what he says about Abraham in 4:1-5? Here's a hint, it's based on boasting.**

- 3. Circumcision worked like a wedding ring. It was a reminder of who you belonged to. How does Paul use Abraham to expose Israel's wrong thinking about circumcision? Look up 4:9-12.**

- 4. How does this quote help us to further understand Paul's illustration of Abraham?**

"Abraham is the father of uncircumcised believers, for he himself was in that condition when he was justified. And he is the father of circumcised believers. This is not because they have a circumcision like his, but because they have a faith like his." S. Olyott.

5. The purpose of the law was to reveal our sin, therefore showing us our need for forgiveness. How does Paul use Abraham to expose Israel's wrong thinking about the law? Look up 4:13-15.

6. Why is it such a relief that our salvation is based upon the promise of God's forgiveness and not upon our performance? Look 4:16-17, 23-24.

7. How has the way Paul explained the story of Abraham changed the way you understand the links between the Old and New Testaments?

STUDY 7

LIVING IN THREE TIME ZONES

ROMANS 5:1-11



THE LINK

CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Having understood how we were at war with God, now Paul reveals the peace God has brought through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross.

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THE TRUTH

THE SEAT BELT TEST

Live now in the reality of what God has done and what God will do.



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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1.** Before we get stuck into Romans 5, have a look back over chapters 1-4 and remind yourselves how God views our rebellion against him?

1:18

2:5

2:8

4:15

- 2.** How should chapters 1-4 affect how we understand positive words like peace, access and reconciled, but also negative words like enemies, powerless and ungodly?

- 3.** The key to understanding Romans 5 is to see it within three different time zones. Paul draws our attention to these time zones to lay the foundation for Christians assurance.

Read through Romans 5:1-11 and fill in the table below:

TIME ZONE 1
The past: Christ's Life

TIME ZONE 2
The present: Our Life Now

TIME ZONE 3
The Future: Reign of Christ

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4. Have you ever thought of your life as three time zones? Sum up in a tweet, hashtag or Insta each time zone.

5. Which time zone do you think you spend the most time thinking about and why?

6. What would it look like to live life now in time zone 2 in the light of time zones 1 & 3?

- For you and your gospel team/ community?

- How would it give you a deeper confidence to live out your Christian life?

7. What strategies or disciplines can you work into your life so that time zones 1 & 3 control how you live in time zone 2?

- How can you do this not merely as an individual but as a gospel team/community?

Prayer

Pray that God would help you remember the time zones this week and live in the light of them.

STUDY 8

THE GLORY OF SUFFERING

ROMANS 5:1-11



THE LINK

CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Having established the three time zones, we now focus on the link between suffering and glory.



THE TRUTH

THE SEAT BELT TEST

Live now in the reality of what God has done and what God will do.

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Last session, we looked at how the cross brings us back into friendship with God. Today, our aim is to see how the cross helps us live in a fallen and broken world and what it means to 'glory in our suffering'.

1. Think back to the time zones we thought about in the last session.

The primary role of the Holy Spirit is to focus our attention on time zones 1 & 3. As we learn to look back to the cross and forward to Christ's return, we learn to face suffering in time zone 2. To fully appreciate what it means to 'glory in suffering', we need to look forward.

How do you think suffering & glory, perseverance and hope fit into those time zones?

Look up 5:1-5.

Remember - that when the Bible uses the word hope, it means something guaranteed.

TIME ZONE 1 *The past*

Christ death guarantees:

- Peace (5:1)
- Access (5:2)
- Glory (5:2)

TIME ZONE 2 *The present*

Jesus suffering brings us peace (5:1).

Jesus suffering guarantees us access into God's presence (5:2).

Zones 1 & 2 control how we face all suffering now (5:1-5).

TIME ZONE 3 *The Future*

Jesus suffering guarantees future glory (life with God) (5:2).

2. It is important for all of us to have heroes, especially young people. A great hero to have when it comes to suffering is Joni Ericson. Her life is a testimony to an amazing courage and seemingly unshakable trust in God. At the age of 19, she broke her neck and was confined to a wheelchair. More recently, in her early sixties, she suffered from breast cancer.

Read these quotes and discuss how time zones 1 & 3 helped Joni persevere in developing her character development.

“Real satisfaction comes not in understanding God’s motives, but in understanding His character, in trusting in His promises, and in leaning on Him and resting in Him as the Sovereign who knows what He is doing and does all things well.”

“God is more concerned with conforming me to the likeness of His Son than leaving me in my comfort zones. God is more interested in inward qualities than outward circumstances - things like refining my faith, humbling my heart, cleaning up my thought life and strengthening my character.”

“The best we can hope for in this life is a knothole peek at the shining realities ahead. Yet a glimpse is enough. It’s enough to convince our hearts that whatever sufferings and sorrows currently assail us aren’t worthy of comparison to that which waits over the horizon.”

3. Think of three ways your life would be different from your friends if you followed Joni’s example and lived life now in the light of time zones 1 & 2.

4. How should these three time zones shape your prayers?

STUDY 9

WHO ARE YOU STANDING BEHIND?

ROMANS 5:12-21



THE LINK

CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Paul continues to build a foundation that leads to a confident faith.

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THE TRUTH

THE SEAT BELT TEST

God divides history into two. You are either standing behind Adam or Jesus.



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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The clearest way of understanding this section of Romans is to see how Paul divides the whole human race into two halves. The image of standing behind Adam or Jesus will be used throughout this study.

1. Read through Romans 5:12-21 and ask what's true of Adam and how has it affected your standing and condition?

TEXT	TRUE OF ADAM	HOW IT AFFECTS YOU

2. If a person remains standing behind Adam then their state and condition is SIN, DEATH and JUDGEMENT. How should that affect the way you view your family and friends? You might want to remind yourself of Romans 1:14.

3. Read through Romans 5:12-21 and ask, what's true of Jesus and how could it affect your standing and condition?

TEXT	TRUE OF JESUS	HOW IT AFFECTS YOU

4. If we are standing behind Jesus then your state and condition is **RIGHTEOUSNESS, JUSTIFICATION and **LIFE**. What guarantees this state of being?**

- Righteousness (5:15-19)

- Justification (5:16,18-19)

- Life (5:20-21)

5. Why should this give you great confidence?

6. Think of three friends you really care about that are presently standing behind Adam

STUDY 10

YOU GOTTA SERVE SOMEBODY

ROMANS 6



THE LINK

CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Having shown us the foundation of our new state and condition, Paul explores how it affects our relationship to sin.



THE TRUTH

THE SEAT BELT TEST

My new identity and master set me free from sin and its power.

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

The key issue Paul is dealing with here is the radical nature of grace. If Jesus has done everything to save me, and change my state and condition, then why can't I carry on enjoying my sin (6:1)?

1. What are the two illustrations Paul uses in 6:1-14?

2. What is Paul seeking to illustrate here?

- What are we baptised into?

- What has been crucified?

3. Paul's argument is: now that you stand behind Jesus, everything that is true of him, is now true of you.

TRUE OF CHRIST		TRUE OF US
6:2	Jesus died to sin	We die to sin
6:3, 5	Jesus died	We die
6:6-7, 11	Jesus deals with our sin	We are now free from sin's slavery
6:4	Jesus was buried	We are buried
6:4, 5	Jesus is raised	We are raised
6:4, 8	Jesus has resurrection life	We have resurrection life

4. Before you belonged to Jesus, who was your master? Look up 6:15-18.

5. Who is your new master? Look up 6:15-18.

6. What radical effect should your new master have upon your lifestyle? Look up 6:19-23.

7. What wages does your old master pay? Look up 6:16, 21, 23.

STUDY 11

GRACE & THE SINFUL IMPOSTER

ROMANS 7



THE LINK

CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

- ◆ Our new status changes our whole approach and relationship to the law.
- ◆ Once we were married to the law, so facing God’s wrath.
- ◆ We are now married to Christ, so protected by his righteousness.

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THE TRUTH

THE SEAT BELT TEST

1. My Master changes how I view the Law of God.
2. The law is no longer able to crush me, for I now look to my righteous saviour.



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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

We have seen the last few weeks that the gospel is centred on God's grace and not obedience to the law. When we forget this, our Christian lives become joyless and reflect a law approach to living rather than a grace approach to living. In this great chapter, Paul gives us the tools to make sure we stay grace centred therefore joyful, instead of law centred and lifeless.

- 1. Take a quick backward glance at what Romans chapters 1-6 has said about God's Law and its purpose.**

What has Paul said about the law so far in Romans?	
2:12	
2:13	
2:14-15	
2:17-26	
3:19	
3:20	
3:21	
3:27-31	
4:15	
4:13-16	
5:13	
5:20-21	
6:14-15	

- 2. How Christians relate to God's Law the Ten Commandments is Paul's big theme in Romans 7. When you hear the word law or Ten Commandments, what thoughts instantly come to mind?**

- 3. What are the key words or phrases that Paul uses to describe God's Law?**
Look up 7:7, 12-13, 14, 16, 22.

- 4. If the law is holy, righteous and good, why did Israel rebel against it?**
A close look at the words used in 7:7-13 brings this out clearly.

WHAT SIN DOES	WHERE SIN LEADS
7:8,11	7:5
7:8	7:10
7:9	7:11
7:11	7:13
7:13	
6:4, 8	

- 5. Having deceived a person into rebelling against God, what is Satan's next move?**
Look up 7:21-24.

- 6. What difference does the life, death and resurrection make to how you relate to God's Law today?**

- 7. When the law reveals your sin and then crushes you with guilt, what difference does Jesus make?**

ROMANS 6	ROMANS 7
6:3 United with Christ.	7:4
6:7 Freed from sin.	7:6
6:4 Raised with Christ.	7:4
6:4 New life in Christ.	7:6
6:11 New life results in holiness and eternal life.	7:4
6:23 Freed from the consequences of sin	1:16-17 8:1

STUDY 12

THE SPIRIT FILLED CONTROL CENTRE

ROMANS 8:1-17



THE LINK

CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Paul has shown us how the Christian relates to sin (*Romans 6*) and the law (*Romans 7*). In *Romans 8*, Paul shows the role of the Holy Spirit in making us like Christ (*8:29*).



THE TRUTH

THE SEAT BELT TEST

The work of the Holy Spirit is to mould our characters to the likeness of Jesus.

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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- 1. What is a Christian's joy based on? Look up 8:1-4, 11.**

- 2. How does joy differ from happiness, and why is this important to how you approach to your Christian faith?**

- 3. Paul uses the word flesh in two ways.**
 - One describes our physical bodies, which is good (8:3-4)
 - The other, our human nature, which is bad (8:5-17)

Look up 8:1-17, and follow the relationship/differences between the Holy Spirit and the flesh.

THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE	THE FLESH FILLED LIFE
8:1	8:5
8:1	8:6
8:2	8:7
8:5	8:8
8:6	
8:8	
8:9	
8:10	
8:11	
8:12	
8:13	
8:14	
8:15	
8:16	
8:17	

4. What do you think it means or looks like to have your mind set on the flesh or the Spirit? Look up 8:5-13.

- At school?

- At home?

- What you watch and listen to on social media?

- At your sports team or hobby?

5. When fighting the flesh is difficult, or you clearly fail, where does the Holy Spirit want you to turn? Look up 1:1-4 & 8:14-17.

6. What difference should that make?

STUDY 13

**NOT
ASHAMED:
THE SPIRIT
TEACHES
YOU TO
REMEMBER**

ROMANS 8:1-27



THE LINK

CONNECTING THE JIGSAW

Last session, we saw how the Holy Spirit helps us fight the flesh, so we resemble Jesus. In this session, Paul shows us how the Holy Spirit helps us look forward to the glory ahead while living in a fallen and broken world.

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THE TRUTH

THE SEAT BELT TEST

The Holy Spirit teaches us to live a live full of gospel hope.



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SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Last session, we began to explore how Paul teaches us to live like Jesus in a fallen and broken world. When we are converted, the Holy Spirit moves into the control centre of our lives, reforming both how we think (**8:5-8**) and act (**8:9-11**). With these two things in place, the Spirit seeks to turn our gaze to the future glory that awaits (**8:6**). This new hope of glory begins to shape every aspect of the Christian's life.

- 1. When Paul speaks about suffering, what areas does he highlight, and what words does he use to describe suffering? Look up 8:18-39.**

- 2. Think of examples of examples from this month's news where Paul's words apply.**

- 3. What examples in your life have you felt the power of Paul's words?**

4. How does Paul contrast our fallen world with our gospel hope?

THE SPIRIT FILLED LIFE	THE FLESH FILLED LIFE
8:18, 23	8:18
8:20	8:21
8:21	8:23
8:22	8:22-23, 18,21

5. Think about the positive words Paul uses to describe the hope we have

- Liberation & Freedom (8:19-22)
- Redemption (8:23)

How will God put these things into reality, and what do you think they will look like?

6. What truths about the Holy Spirit and God the Father should give you assurance and hope? Look up 8:26-39.

NOT ASHAMED!

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