

MARCH

2021

ORCHARD ROAD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BIBLE FOR ALL (BFA) MATERIAL FOR SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION

Romans – God’s Righteousness Revealed

Sermon Series

07 Mar 2021	Romans 7:1-6	In Freedom from Condemnation of the Law
14 Mar 2021	Romans 8:1-13	In the Hope We Celebrate
21 Mar 2021	Romans 8:14-30	Through the Glory of Sonship in Christ
28 Mar 2021	Romans 8:31-39	Through His Unfailing Love

14 Mar 2021

Romans 8:1-13

God's Righteousness Revealed – in the Hope We Celebrate

If you had the ability to live someone else's life instead of your own, whose life would you choose, and why?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read Romans 8:1-4.

(a) According to Paul, what has been done for those who are in Christ Jesus and what was the result?

(b) Why was this action necessary?

(c) How and why is this good news for us? (Consider also Rom 3:9-29, 7:6, 7:9-11)

2. Read Romans 8:5-8.

(a) What is the difference between those who live “according to the sinful nature” and those who live “in accordance with the Spirit”?

(b) Who are the ones who are able to obey God's law and please God? Why?

(c) What does living “according to the sinful nature” look like? Correspondingly, what does living “in accordance with the Spirit” look like?

3. Read Romans 8:9-13.

(a) What is the result of belonging to Christ?

(b) Paul tells us that we have an obligation – who or what do we have an obligation (or a debt) to? How are we to fulfil our obligation?

4. In Romans 8:1-13, what sort of life does Paul say that Christians should live?

APPLICATION

5. How are we setting our minds on what the Spirit desires instead of what the sinful nature desires? Consider our daily habits, routines and environments; what we hear, do and say, and our mindfulness and attitude in all of this.

6. In what way does this text challenge you in your discipleship? How will you continue to put to death the misdeeds of the body by the Spirit?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- Christ has done all that is needed for us to be saved from condemnation under the law of sin and death
- We who believe in Christ have now been freed to set our minds intentionally on what the Spirit desires – i.e. to obey God and submit to God's law
- Without Christ's work, we are unable to obey God; without obedience to God, we are unable to please God and be in a right relationship with Him – Christ has enabled all this, he has given us salvation
- Because of what Christ has done, we are God's, we are led by God's Spirit, and we should then live according to our new identity

21 Mar 2021

Romans 8:14-30

God's Righteousness Revealed – through the Glory of Sonship in Christ

Promises form part of the framework of our everyday life – whether it is the bank promising that your money is with them, or your friend promising to keep your secret, or people promising to meet you for a meal at a specific time and place. What makes us trust these promises?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read Romans 8:14-17.

(a) What is the status of those who are led by God's Spirit?

(b) What does it mean to be led by God's Spirit? (cf. Rom 8:5-9, Gal 5:18)

(c) What does it mean that we are co-heirs with Christ?
(read in context of Rom 8:18-25; cf. Gal 4:1-7)

2. Read Romans 8:18-25.

(a) How does Paul describe the current state of things?

(b) What is the end point that both creation and us are waiting for? What is so important about this end point?

3. Read Romans 8:26-30.

(a) How does the Spirit help us? Why is this important? Consider this in light of Rom 8:14-17.

(b) How does Paul describe those who love God? How is the Spirit involved in this?

4. How does the Holy Spirit make sure that the promise of our future glorification will be fulfilled?

APPLICATION

5. What does it mean for us to depend on the Holy Spirit? How much do you depend on the Holy Spirit to live the Christian life?

6. Reflect on Romans 8:14-17 and 8:26-30. How does this affect your daily life?

REFLECTION

Write down a key lesson that you have learnt from this study.

What is a key verse that you would like to take to heart?

DISCIPLESHIP POINTERS

- As Christians, we live according to the Spirit, are led by the Spirit and are helped by the Spirit
- The presence of the Holy Spirit within us marks us as God's children, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ
- Our hope lies in the final day of glorification which has not yet come but will come: this is the final point towards which all of creation has been straining towards
- God knows who His children are – not one will be lost; He will keep us safe until the final day of glorification

28 Mar 2021

Romans 8:31-39

God's Righteousness Revealed – through His Unfailing Love

Describe what you think the life of a someone who will be ultimately saved should look like. What is the smallest set of criteria for such a person?

OBSERVATION AND INTERPRETATION

1. Read Romans 8:31-34.

(a) What has God already done? Is there anything that we still need for salvation (i.e. which may condemn us) that God will not do for us?

(b) Romans 8:28-30 tells us that “God works for the good of those who love him,” and these are the ones who he foreknew, predestined, called, justified and glorified. What assurances do Romans 8:31-34 add to this?

(c) Read also Isaiah 50:4-11. Who is the “I” speaking in Isaiah 50:4-11 (consider also Isa 49:5-7)? Is anyone able to condemn this person?

(d) Romans 8:34 alludes to Isaiah 50:7-9 – is there anyone who is able to condemn those who believe? Why?

2. Read Romans 8:35-39.

(a) What candidates does Paul suggest we might think would come between us and Christ's love? What does he conclude about their success rate?

(b) What does Paul say about suffering in the lives of those who believe in Christ here? (cf. Ps 44:17-22, John 16:33)

(c) Consider Paul's life (e.g. 2 Cor 6:3-10). Did he live out what he proclaimed here? What difference does this make in our understanding of Rom 8:38-39?

(d) Reflect on your life as a believer up to this point. What would be your version of Rom 8:38-39?

