



Book of the Month: Romans

History

Romans was written by the apostle Paul while he was in Corinth around 57-58 A.D. This was about the time that Paul would have been on his third missionary journey, just before he reached Jerusalem.

Purpose

Paul writes to the church in Rome, expressing his desire to preach the gospel in Rome before heading to Spain. His purpose in writing this is quite simple, he aims to combat those Judaizing teachers who preached religion, trying to suggest that the gospel was not good enough on its own. He does so by explaining discussing the power of the gospel, and its transformative powers, which are not only for the Jew, but also the Gentile (1:16). The gospel of Christ is God's plan revealed, and it has the power to save all those who believe in Christ.

Discussion + Questions

Q: What has the Holy Spirit revealed to you through this reading?

Q: Did anything stand out?

Q: Do you have questions about anything?



As we can see in Romans, Paul preaches heavily on justification by faith apart from works (Rom 3:28), and God's righteousness through faith (Rom 3:21-31). With this in mind, answer the following questions.

Q: What does it mean to be justified by faith through grace?

Q: If all we need is faith in Christ to be made righteous in God's sight, why are works necessary?

In Romans 6, Paul explains how we believers have died to sin, so how can we live in it anymore (1:2). He also explains how our old selves died on the cross with the Lord, so that our old bodies, which were ruled by sin, are "done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin (6:5-6)."

Q: Despite knowing this, how many of you still feel that you are a slave to sin?

Q: What is keeping you from the realization that your sin is not who you are?

Open Discussion

Ask the group if they have anything that stood out to them, what God revealed to them, or for any questions they might have.

Prayer

Take the last 15 minutes to take prayer requests, and pray over them together right then.

