

Paul wrote this letter to bring about the obedience of faith in Jesus Christ for the glory of God. (Cf. Rom. 1:5; 16:25-27)

ESV Outline:

Romans 1:8–15	Paul's Longing to Visit Rome
Romans 1:16–15	The Righteous Shall Live by Faith
Romans 1:18–32	God's Wrath on Unrighteousness
Romans 2:1–11	God's Righteous Judgment
Romans 2:12–29	God's Judgment and the Law
Romans 3:1–8	God's Righteousness Upheld
Romans 3:9–20	No One Is Righteous
Romans 3:21–31	The Righteousness of God Through Faith (Next Week)
Romans 4:1–12	Abraham Justified by Faith
Romans 4:13–25	The Promise Realized Through Faith
Romans 5:1–11	Peace with God Through Faith
Romans 5:12–21	Death in Adam, Life in Christ
Romans 6:1–14	Dead to Sin, Alive to God
Romans 6:15–23	Slaves to Righteousness
Romans 7:1–6	Released from the Law
Romans 7:7–25	The Law and Sin
Romans 8:1–11	Life in the Spirit
Romans 8:12–17	Heirs with Christ
Romans 8:18–30	Future Glory
Romans 8:31–39	God's Everlasting Love
Romans 9:1–29	God's Sovereign Choice
Romans 9:30–10:4	Israel's Unbelief
Romans 10:5–21	The Message of Salvation to All
Romans 11:1–10	The Remnant of Israel
Romans 11:11–24	Gentiles Grafted In
Romans 11:25–36	The Mystery of Israel's Salvation
Romans 12:1–2	A Living Sacrifice
Romans 12:3–8	Gifts of Grace
Romans 12:9–21	Marks of the True Christian
Romans 13:1–7	Submission to the Authorities
Romans 13:8–14	Fulfilling the Law Through Love
Romans 14:1–12	Do Not Pass Judgment on One Another
Romans 14:13–23	Do Not Cause Another to Stumble
Romans 15:1–7	The Example of Christ
Romans 15:8–13	Christ the Hope of Jews and Gentiles
Romans 15:14–21	Paul the Minister to the Gentiles
Romans 15:22–33	Paul's Plan to Visit Rome
Romans 16:1–16	Personal Greetings
Romans 16:17–23	Final Instructions and Greetings
Romans 16:25–27	Doxology

Sermon Notes

Sunday, September 13, 2020

The Gift of Knowing Our Sin

Romans 3:9–20

ROMANS

A Backdrop for the Gospel

o Two Sons Who Fail to Love & Honor their Father **Luke 15:11–32**

Luke 15:29–32

²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, *that I might celebrate with my friends*.³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.' ³² It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.' "



The Importance of Knowing Your Sin

I. **For the Non-Believer:** "Everybody is a sinner."

A. **Know** your own wickedness...

B. See **your need** for Christ...

C. **Especially for the religious unbeliever...** (ESV Outline)



Romans 2:1 (Cf. Romans 2:17–24 "Jews")

Therefore you have no excuse, O man, every one of you who judges. For in passing judgment on another you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, practice the very same things.

Romans 3:1–2

¹ Then *what advantage has the Jew?* Or *what is the value of circumcision?* ² Much in every way. To begin with, the Jews were **entrusted with the oracles of God**.

Romans 3:9–10a, 19

⁹ What then? *Are we Jews any better off?* No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, ¹⁰ **as it is written...**

¹⁹ Now we know that **whatever the law says** it speaks to those who are under the law, so that **every mouth may be stopped**, and **the whole world may be held accountable to God**. ²⁰ For **by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight**, since **through the law comes knowledge of sin**.

Romans 3:21–26 – "the righteousness of God through faith..."

II. **For the Christian:** (Paul is writing to Christians...)

A. For Sobering Humility, Compassion, Gratitude & Joy

B. Pursue Sanctification by Faith

Apart from Grace...Heart Failure

Romans 2:28–29

²⁸ For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. ²⁹ But *a Jew is one inwardly*, and **circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit**, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

I. No One Loves God (10-12, cited from Ps. 14:1–3/53:1–3)

^{10b} “None is *righteous* (does good), no, not one;

¹¹ no one understands;

no one **seeks for God**.

¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless;

no one *does good*,

not even one.”

II. No One Honors God (18)

¹⁸ “There is **no fear of God** before their eyes.” (cited from Ps. 36:1)

✓ If not for love & honor of God than for what?

○ We want God’s stuff...

Out of the Abundance of the Heart (Cf. Luke 6:45)

I. Our Speech is Death (13-14)

¹³ “Their *throat* is an open grave; (cited from Ps. 5:9)

they use their *tongues* to deceive.”

“The venom of asps is under their *lips*.” (cited from Ps. 140:3)

¹⁴ “Their *mouth* is full of curses and bitterness {Hb. **deceit**}.” (Ps. 10:7)

Psalm 5:7–9 (1–3 help me...; 4–6 you don’t delight in the wicked...)

⁷ But I, *through the abundance of your steadfast love*, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. ⁸

Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.

⁹ For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue.

II. We Don’t Know the Way of Peace (15-17, cited from Isa. 59:7-8)

¹⁵ “*Their feet* are swift to shed blood;

¹⁶ in *their paths* are ruin and misery,

¹⁷ and **the way of peace** they have not known.”

(Cf. **James 4:1–4**)

Knowing Our Own Sin is Precious:

✓ It leads us to Jesus

✓ It protects us from being self-deceived

✓ It teaches us humility and compassion

Questions for Reflection and Discussion

1. Is your daily life often driven by guilt? Have you conceded that this may be prideful boasting on your part?
2. Do you find yourself angry at the sin of those in our culture? Do you think this anger grows out of a love for God? If not love for God than what?
3. Have you ever been struck by how bad your sin is before God? In what ways has this enriched your walk with the Lord? (**Recommendation:** Discuss this with a brother or sister.)
4. Do you avoid the topic of your sin? If so, why?
5. How is the gospel the perfect answer to our sin? (**Recommendation:** Discuss this with a brother or sister.)