

Bible Study Romans chapters 1-8:

Understanding our Reformation Heritage

The book of Romans has been described as a 'high water mark in biblical theology'. It was central to the Reformation. As Christians in the 21st century we can learn a lot from the apostle Paul's masterpiece. This study of eight weeks will focus on Romans chapters 1-8. Wednesday 11-12 noon (beginning March 5, but note *not* every week). Feel free to join at any time and to attend when you can.

Week 1 Romans Chapter 1 Wednesday 11am March 5

Introduction to the book. Why is Romans an important letter? Historical and current perspective. The Question of a Natural Theology (1:18-32). Do we see evidence of God in nature?

Week 2 Romans Chapters 2-3 11am March 12

Paul using the literary style of diatribe. Jews with an overconfidence in the law. The divine offer of grace clearly outlined. The renewal of creation is the big picture.

Week 3 Romans Chapters 4-5 11am Note it is March 26

Paul built his distinctive theology on Jewish foundations. The use of midrash. Abraham in Genesis. The two Adams. A perspective on humanity: fallen and redeemed.

Week 4 Romans Chapters 5-6 11am April 2

Why are Christians different? (5:32-5) The suffering of those who follow Christ understood in terms of last things. Identification with Christ in his death and resurrection. Must we be slaves to something?

Week 5 Romans Chapter 7: 14-25 11am April 9

Paul's failure to live the Christian life; he appears almost human. Christian ideals and the inner struggle. Are we helpless before the power of sin?

Week 6 Life in the Spirit Romans 8:1-17 11am April 16

No condemnation. Compared to credit card debt. Abba Father! A wonderful inheritance in Christ.

Week 7 Future Glory Romans 8:18-30 11am April 30

Creation set free from the bondage of sin. Creation portrayed as a woman giving birth. Do we experience the 'messianic woes'? Does Paul believe in predestination? Profound assurances.

Week 8 More than Conquerors Romans 8:31-39 11am May 7

Saving the best for last. The cosmic scope of Romans, the BIG picture. What God guarantees...

Studies led by **Rev Dr Bruce Stevens** (PhD), Wicking Professor of Ageing and Practical Theology CSU 2015-2019, supply Minister Wesley 2024-2025.