

God creates a new humanity.

In Romans we see that we are not being brought back to the garden of Eden, we are going forward to become a new creation.

Why does this matter?

Where would you want to go back to?

It is a place of comfort, relaxation, fun.

We know it.

We don't need to trust.

Church in Rome lived in a very uncertain world.

Written by Paul in the middle to late 50s of the first century.

When Paul wrote this letter to the church in Rome, he was writing to a community living a very tense environment.

A few years earlier in the late 40's CE, the people of Rome had rioted and forced most of the Jewish residents to leave the city.

Eventually, in 54AD under a new Emperor named Nero, they were allowed to come back.

But imagine the tension : you return to your church community, but the people who stayed behind have changed how everything works.

On top of that, you are living under a political leader who is increasingly volatile and going mad with power. It was an incredibly uncertain, anxious world. Does any of that sound familiar?

If you've looked at the news in 2026 and felt a heavy weight of anxiety about the future, you are feeling exactly what the first readers of Romans felt.

I looked back at the last time I preached on this passage and it was in the summer of 2020. I begin with the line "we are not out of it yet."

The world is still a deeply troubled and uncertain place.

According to the Children's Commissioner report (issued June 2026), over **1 million young people** in England were referred for NHS mental health treatment in the preceding 12 months—a figure that has **nearly doubled** since 2018–19.

The January 2026 Oxfam report (Resisting the Rule of Rich) reveals that global billionaire wealth has surged to an unprecedented \$18.3 trillion—the highest peak in human history. In 2025 alone, billionaire wealth jumped by 16%, growing three times faster than the previous five-year average. Since 2020, billionaire wealth has increased by a staggering 81%.

This massive capital concentration occurred while **1 in 4 people globally face severe or moderate food insecurity**, regularly skipping meals, and nearly half the world's population remains trapped in structural poverty.

How do we respond?

First and foremost choose to trust each day in Christ. Choose to lean and stand upon him as our foundation.

Matthew reading: Lots of people's expectations.

Lots of people who will say that you should do this, or that.

Yet Jesus is not another person.

He is God "All things have been handed over to me by my Father."

He does not weigh us down with unreasonable demands. But instead says "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Secondly, all our faith in Christ to become part of all that we do.

School visits - baptism like moving to God's country.

Yet, we still remember the habits of the old country.

We might still drive on the wrong side of the road, or speak in the wrong language.

We are still in the new country, but the habits of the old country take time to change.

This is what Paul is speaking about.

He is absolutely certain of him being part of Christ's family, through baptism.

Yet he sees in himself that he still does things that he knows are not what a follower of Christ should do.

This is a very honest passage in Romans, and we can sense Paul's frustration.

We have all had moments where we do things that we do not want to do.

Perhaps we know we should be patient but respond with frustration and snap at someone.

Perhaps we know we should forgive and be the better person, yet we choose to hold on to bitterness towards someone.

It can be an encouragement to us all.

Following Jesus is a life long calling.

Allowing the Holy Spirit to change our hearts and minds so that our words, actions and thoughts align with Christ is a journey.

One which we don't always get right.

As you walk through this week, when you find yourself about to make one of those mistakes, maybe pause, take a breath, and pray "Lord Jesus, I'm driving on the wrong side of the road again. Thank you that I am still in your country. Help me turn around."

And when we make those mistakes we can give thanks that our salvation is not from our own strength or success, but that we are rescued by Jesus Christ our Lord.

This is a result of God's astonishing, unchanging, self giving love, expressed completely and fully in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Both passages speak of the burdens we can feel in life.

Yet we see that when Paul cries out "Who will rescue me?" the answer is given by Jesus "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

In an uncertain world we can lean on Christ as our rock and as our foundation.

And we can be encouraged by Paul's example to try each day to follow Christ more closely.