
Engage

Dear Lord, thank You for the power that saves us from the slavery of sin. May we continue to live in this power that overcomes challenges and struggles of the world. Grant us Your power to share the gospel and draw others back to You. In Jesus' Name we pray and ask, Amen.





SERMON SUMMARY

Note to Word Facilitator: The sermon notes below is a summary of the sermon. You may choose to further summarize it according to the needs and context of your CG members. The goal is not just to go through it “verbatim” but to prepare well, allowing members to recall and engage the message in the best possible way.

Faith Unleashed: Turning Life Right-Side Up

Romans #1: The Power of God

Pastor Mike Ngui

(Romans 1:1-17)

Reading Romans 1:14-17

*I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.
That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are in Rome.*

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

Introduction

The book of Romans is written by the apostle Paul, and it is about the gospel of Jesus Christ. The gospel of Jesus is centred-upon Jesus Christ - on who Jesus is and what He has done. It essentially captures God’s plan and purpose for saving sinners through the gospel of Christ. Paul reminds us of our sinful nature and eternal condemnation, until God, through His grace, offered us justification by faith in Jesus. And this gospel of Jesus is offered to both Jews and Gentiles, so all can be saved. Our salvation is not the end of our faith in Jesus, it continues with a transformed life. The

Book of Romans thereby, also presents practical implications on how Christians should live their lives, one that is marked by humility, love, and in serving others. It teaches us to live a transformed life through faith in Jesus Christ.

BIG IDEA: The Gospel is the power of God to save everyone who trusts in Christ Jesus.

1. The Gospel of God is centred in Jesus Christ *Romans 1:1-4; Acts 4:12, John 14:6*

Paul has made it very clear that the Gospel is centred on Jesus. It echoes what Peter said about who Jesus is (*Acts 4:12*), and what Jesus himself has revealed about his identity (*John 14:6*). Paul puts Jesus at the heart of salvation.

(a) God's plan had always been the Messiah *Romans 1:1,2; Acts 2:23*

God had no other plans other than the Messiah. Jesus was THE plan, never the next plan. Jesus was in the original plan all along; God planned this and anticipated this through His prophets. Jesus was God's deliberate plan for humanity.

(b) Jesus the Messiah, both man and God *Romans 1:3,4; Philippians 2:6,7*

Jesus the Messiah was both God and man, reflecting the dual nature of Christ as fully God and fully man. *"Christ became like us in order that we might become like Him. It is only as we grasp Christ's dual nature – fully God, fully man – that we begin to understand the fullness of our salvation - Charles Spurgeon"*. Therefore, in Jesus, we see a man just like us but filled with the Spirit of God. This encourages us to live as Jesus lived and follow His example.

2. The Gospel is the Power of God to save humanity *Romans 1:16a*

The gospel of Jesus edged all other powers known to mankind. While mankind and their mighty empires (i.e., Rome in those days) may have the greatness of military, economic power, and political power; they did not have the power to save themselves from sin and death. This power can only be found in the gospel of Jesus. The Gospel is the Power of God to not just save humanity from eternal damnation and purposelessness, but to bring salvation.

(a) The Power of God to save us from eternal death *John 5:24*

The gospel of Jesus has the Power of God to save us from eternal death. Jesus took us from death to life, saving us from the penalty of sins which is death **(Romans 6:23)**.

(b) The Power of God to make us new **2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5b; John 10:10; Romans 15:13**

The Power of God is not to just save us, but to also make us new. This is to give us a new start where the new has come and the old has gone. The new life given is a completely transformed life, no longer enslaved by sin. The Power of God is the power that sets us free from sins. *"He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit-MSG".* Jesus came so that we may have life and have it in full. *"In John 10:10, Jesus doesn't just promise life after death; He promises a life that is truly life. He offers us a life of meaning, purpose, and joy that begins now and extends into eternity -Tim Keller".*

3. The Gospel is experienced by trusting in God **Romans 1:16**

The gospel of Jesus is experienced by trusting God. *"...this extraordinary Message of God's powerful plan to rescue everyone who trusts him, starting with Jews and then right on to everyone else! - MSG".* Trust is greater than believe, as trust demands that we act in accordance with what we believe is true. By trusting God, we admit that the Gospel is the Power of God, and we can only experience this power by obeying Him.

(a) The Gospel is the Power of God, not ours! **Ephesians 2:8-9**

Understand that the Gospel is the Power of God and not of us. This means that salvation is from the grace of God, not by our own power. It is not about what we do to earn our salvation.

(b) We experience the Power of God in the Gospel by obeying Him **Romans 1:5; 4:20-21**

We experience the Power of God by obeying Him for through Him we receive grace for obedience that comes from faith. Obedience and faith are two sides of the same coin and cannot be separated. Allegiance to God can only come from obedience, and we cannot truly obey without faith. Obedience without faith is not the obedience God desires.

Conclusion

The Book of Romans has aptly pointed out that the Gospel is the power of God to save all who trust in Jesus. Therefore, the Gospel must be rooted in Jesus Christ - on who Jesus is and how He has always been in God's plan to save us (sinners) from eternal damnation. We are saved not just from death but to be renewed and transformed to live a full life free from sin. And to live out such a transformation would demand our complete obedience and faith in God. Indeed, the Gospel is the power of God to save everyone who trusts in Christ Jesus, and this can only be received by the grace of God through the gift of faith (and not by our own works) and evidenced by a transformed life.



APPLICATION

Note to Word facilitator:

As you prepare for this session, this is a great time to pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you to use the questions efficiently. You can select, modify or entirely create your own questions, according to the needs of your CG, especially if you feel that there are too many questions than required for the allocated time. The questions below are crafted with a certain flow in mind. You could use these towards the end or insert them in between your own sermon reflection and summary.

Suggested Icebreaker Activity/Questions

- If you are given the ability to have a special power, what power would you like to have, and why? [NOTE to facilitator: It can go beyond economic, political, military, and gospel, as long as members pick a power and are creative about the power they would like to have].

- Name any games (board games, on-line games, virtual games, etc) that have a “Get out of jail free card/pass”. Share if you have used the card/pass and how it made you feel. [NOTE to facilitator: This activity gives members the opportunity to share about how they feel when “saved” or given a “free pass from punishment”].

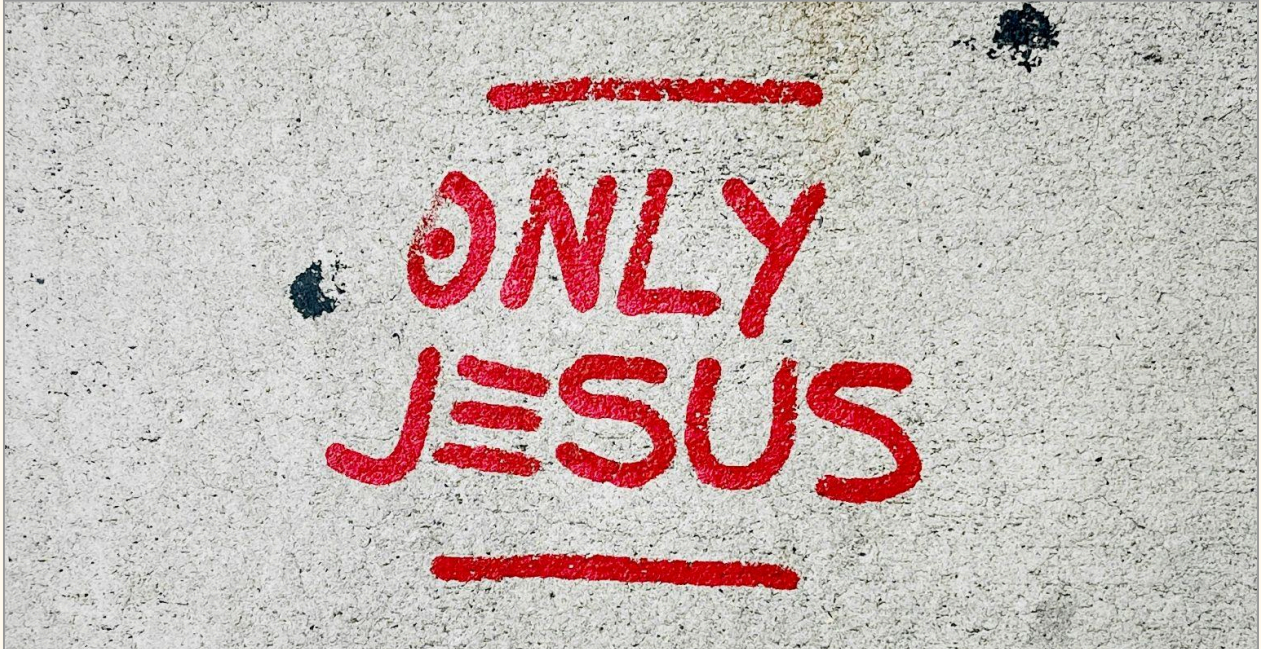


Photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash

Suggested Word Introductory Questions

- How would you describe the gospel of Christ? What did the Holy Spirit impress upon your heart in this sermon?
- Revisit the first time you heard of the Gospel. Do you remember who shared the Gospel with you, how did it impact you, and was your life transformed after hearing the Gospel? Share your stories to encourage one another.

Suggested Questions linked to the Sermon:

- The Gospel is centred on Jesus and the concept of the dual nature of Christ that Jesus is fully God and fully man. How does this impact your understanding of who Christ is, what He can do and how He fits into God's purpose and plan? Why is it important for Christians to understand the dual nature of Christ?
- The Gospel is the power of God to save humanity from death and to make us new for a life no longer enslaved by sin. Have you struggled (or are struggling) in a life enslaved or gripped in sin? How can the power of God in the Gospel set you free?

- The Gospel is experienced by trusting in God. Would you say that it is easier to believe, or to trust in God? What are some of the reasons holding you back from believing or trusting in God? How can you overcome this and learn to trust God to fully experience the power of God?

Question Bank *(Extra questions that you can use to bring your discussion further as you see fit):*

- Salvation is the gift of faith received through grace. Revisit the time you received your salvation. Share your story to encourage one another in remembering the grace of God and the power of God.
- Are you saved by theology or are you saved by trusting in Christ? What are your thoughts on this?
- Having experienced salvation, would Jesus remain as your go-to-person when you need help, or is He your plan B, C or D in your list? How can we put Him at the top of our list?
- The Gospel is the Power of God to save humanity from eternal damnation. How do we, in our capacity as followers of Christ, help spread this Gospel and bring more/others to experience the Power of God?
- We have often heard of people saying, "I need to pray harder, believe harder, so I can experience God better". What would you say is the problem here? Does praying harder and believing harder get you where you want to be? What is the missing connection here and how can we make this right?
- Obedience and faith are two sides of the same coin. Obedience without faith is not the obedience God desires. What do you understand from this? Would you say we struggle more with obedience, or with faith?



SERMON REFLECTION

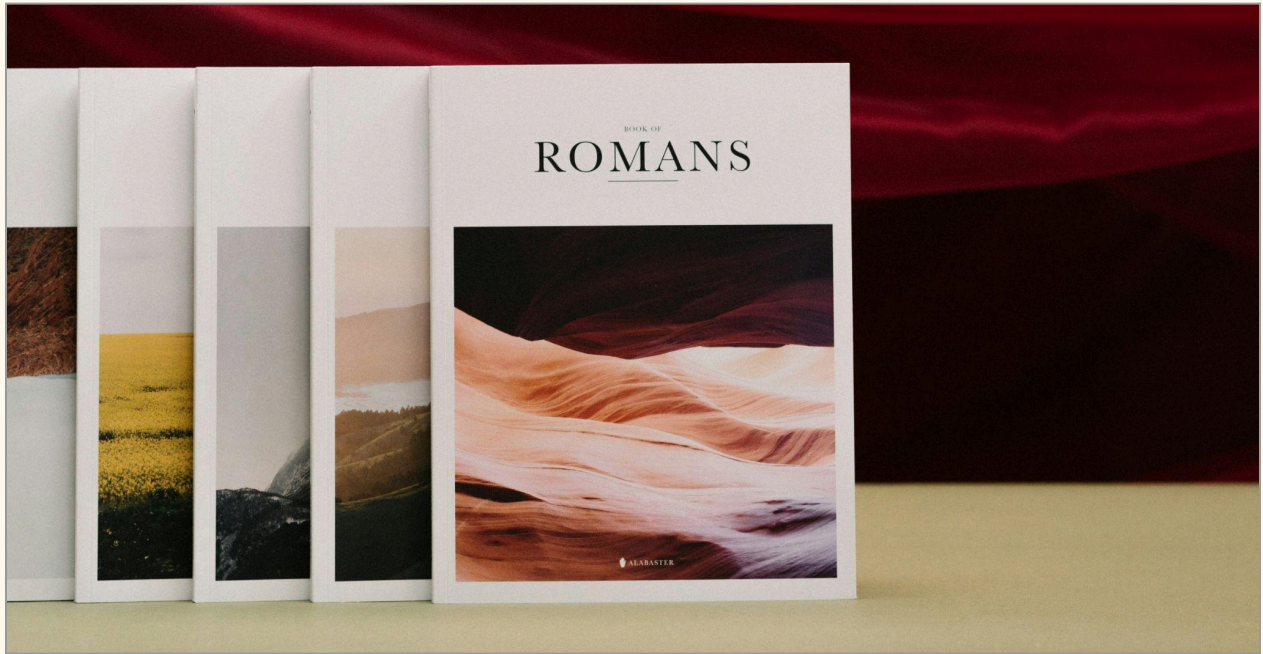


Photo by Alabaster Co on Unsplash

The book of Romans is a tough book to read. It is considered as Paul's greatest letter ever written, and the pinnacle of Christian theology. It is packed with doctrine, it summarises the Gospel, and guides believers in living a life that is right in the eyes of God. Personally, it is a hard book to read as it also reminded me of how our sinful nature has condemned us to death, but God has graciously justified us through faith in Christ Jesus. As we have been redeemed and saved, our life is now set apart and will continually be transformed by the Holy Spirit to live a life free from sin and to grow in Christlikeness. The message in the book of Romans goes on to encourage us to pursue God and to encourage us to live our daily lives reflecting our faith in Jesus.

As I reflect on this, there are several profound messages in the Gospel that speak to me. Firstly, it is the story of Christ's sacrificial love who in His death, reconciled all sinners to God. This led me to examine the love I have for others. Have I been graceful and compassionate to others as God has been to me? Secondly, it is the story of Christ's redemption. Christ's redemption is offered to all who believe in Him, to Jews and Gentiles alike, so there is hope for all. It instils a deeper sense of gratefulness for Christ's love and redemption as it reminds me that there is hope even if I have gone astray. There is also hope for all, no matter our background and differences. Thirdly, to grow in faith and obedience. Appreciation for Christ's love and redemption can only be reflected by having greater faith and obedience to the will of God. I am reminded that it is not my will, but God's will that is to be done. I pray that I can learn to walk in faith with Him every day. It is my hope to learn to surrender, obey, and trust in God more and more with each passing day.

I get this sermon. I understand that the Gospel is rooted in Jesus Christ, and the doctrine, and how the gospel is the power of God to save humanity for all who believe in Christ. I am challenged to shape and transform my life into a life that demonstrates faith and obedience. May God give us the wisdom and the courage to share with others the power of God through the gospel of Christ.

Contributed by Adeline Ting



PRAYER

Note to CGL: You (or someone you assign this portion to), may lead by praying OR reading these prayers together as a CG during worship.

Child Abuse

Cases of child abuse have increased significantly following the Covid-19 pandemic and there are reported cases almost every day. Pray for:

- Parents to realise that their children are gifts to be treasured and nurtured.
- Assistance for households with financial problems, so that the children do not fall prey to problems of lack.
- Protection of children in our society to be given high priority by the authorities.
- Child welfare organisations to be adequately resourced to offer intervention and other support services.

Tadika Juara Cerdik (TJC)

We have 32 staff (teachers & admin) in TJC. Pray for:

- TJC teachers to work together to encourage and inspire their students to grow holistically (spiritually, physically, emotionally, academically).
- The teachers to continue to make a difference in the community, building good connections with parents and impacting their families.
- Parents to recognise the importance of discipleship at home and of building family altars.
- More sign-ups for the academic year 2024/2025 before the start of term on 11 March 2024.



MISSIONAL

Note to CGL: Inspire and encourage the Cell Group members to participate in the activity suggested below (from our CrossFields, Missions department) together to cultivate a culture of being a missional church.

CrossFields

MOBILISATION FOR SHORT-TERM MISSIONS



Cambodia

28 May - 4 June 2024



Myanmar (Mae Sot)

15 - 22 June 2024



Sabah (Tenom)

4 - 9 July 2024



Sarawak (Penan)

3 - 10 September 2024

Sign up here

bit.ly/crossfields_stm

Closing date: 10 March 2024

Mobilisation For Short Term Missions

We're inviting you to join us on a journey of faith and service as we answer the call of the Great Commission.

Don't miss this opportunity to participate in spreading the gospel message, becoming active vessels of God's love and grace.

👉 Visit bit.ly/crossfields_stm to learn more about our short-term missions.

