

Looking Back

Reflect on what you heard in the sermon on last week's Scripture text.

- What key truths did you learn?
- How will you apply these truths to your life?

Scripture Text

Romans 6 to 8

Context

After explaining the Gospel of justification by faith in God's grace, Paul continues to elaborate on the implications of the Gospel by showing how God's grace also changes us through the Holy Spirit.

Observation and Meaning

1. Look at the four questions raised in Romans 6:1, 6:15, 7:7 and 8:31. What do they tell us of the common objections or misunderstandings of the Gospel?
2. In addressing each of these questions, Paul moves from the indicative (what is true) to the imperative (what to do). How would you summarise the indicatives and imperatives of these four sections? What are their relationships to one another?
3. What are Paul's conclusions to these questions? How do they point us to Christ and our eternal hope in the Gospel?

Big Idea

Through the Gospel, we have power over sin and freedom to walk in righteousness. Because we are united with Christ, adopted by God, and indwelt by the Spirit, we have an eternal security and hope.

Connecting to the Bible's storyline

In Eden, God's law was broken and sin entered the world. In Christ, the law is fulfilled and sin is broken. Because believers are joined to Christ, we receive the blessings of God's sonship and are secured in Him forever.

Application

1. How have you personally experience the struggle described in Romans 7:15–23 in your own life?
2. What are your primary means of encouragement, hope and strength during such struggles, according to Romans 6 to 8?
3. What are some practical ways we can do to encourage one another to set our minds on the "things of the Spirit" (8: 5-8)?
4. What are some of "these things" (8:31 and 8:37) in your life that tempt you to doubt God's love? How can you overcome them?

Guide for Study Leaders

Use the C.O.M.A. (Context, Observation, Meaning, Application) method to work through the biblical text.

Context

Pay attention to the surrounding verses, paragraphs, chapters, events, etc. to see how this passage fits within the context of this particular book of the Bible.

Note how this passage fits within the larger storyline of the whole Bible, i.e. how God is saving a people through Jesus Christ to live under his rule in his place.

Observation & Meaning

Make careful observations of the biblical text. Notice details such as linking words (eg. "for", "if", "therefore"), repetition, dialogue, narrative, OT quotations, etc.

To understand the meaning of the biblical text, we need to discern the author's purpose or intent: Why is the biblical author writing this?

Helpful questions to ask include:

Who is writing and to whom?
What is the situation of the author and of the readers?
Are we made aware of any problems that need to be addressed?
Are there any repeated themes, or a single idea that holds everything together?

Application

Apply God's word to the heart. Move beyond merely addressing circumstances and behaviour by asking good "heart" questions. For example: Why do we do what we do? What do we really desire?

Always connect the gospel to application. For example, what difference does knowing Christ make to our obedience to God?

Ask what the passage teaches us about God, ourselves, salvation in Christ, the church, the world, etc.