

Auckland Chinese Baptist Church (English Sunday School, 16-08-2015, 1145-1245)
New Testament Survey: Romans (6/27)

Invitation Materials

Author:

1 The Apostle Paul

Date:

Probably A.D. 56-57, but no later than A.D. 59

Theme:

Being right with God through faith in Christ.

Historical Background:

- 1 Paul wrote to introduce himself to the church at Rome. He intended to stop there en route to Spain.
- 2 He was eager to assure the Roman Christians that, in spite of any rumors they might have heard, his message was indeed the gospel of grace of God in Christ Jesus.
- 3 The church in Rome had not been planted by Paul. It may have been started by Roman Jews who were converted on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2.10).
- 4 The church was a mixture of Jewish and Gentile believers. At that point in time they were experiencing some tensions between two groups of believers.

Characteristics

- 1 The big issue in this letter is how anyone can be right with God on the final day of judgment.
- 2 In his most precise theological statement in the NT, Paul asserts that right standing comes through faith in Jesus Christ who died for us as a sacrifice for sin.
- 3 In light of the Jewish-gentile tensions in the church, Paul makes it clear that no one has an "edge" on God; rather all stand condemned before him because no one has kept his Law.
- 4 Paul also declares the good news that forgiveness, acceptance, and the new life of the Spirit come to all of us as God's gift to be received by faith.
- 5 Chapters 1-11 speak of what God has done for all who believe, while 12-16 show how believers ought to live in response to the lavish grace of God.

Outline

- 1:1-17 The Gospel of Christ
- 1:18-2:29 The Bad News
- 3:1-31 The Good News
- 4:1-25 An Example of Faith
- 5:1-21 Grace Reigns!
- 6:1-7:6 Alive with Christ
- 7:7-25 The Law of Sin
- 8:1-39 God Loves Us
- 9:1-11:36 God's Word is True
- 12:1-21 Responding to God
- 13:1-14 Love
- 14:1-15:13 Life Together
- 15:14-16:27 The Living Church

Discussion Questions

Open

- 1 What are the differences between Mandarin and Cantonese speaking groups at Auckland Chinese Baptist Church?

Dig

- 1 Tensions between Jews and Gentiles in this church were one reason Paul wrote. Read 2:17-29; 11:11-24; 14:5-13.
- 2 Look at 1:16-18 and 3:9-24. What things does Paul say all people have in common?
- 3 Read these "gospel summaries": 3:21-26; 5:1-8; 8:1-4. What does each one emphasize about what Jesus has done for us?

Reflect

- 1 On a scale of 1 (It is really on the shelf) to 10 (My life revolves around Christ), where are you now in your response to the Gospel? Why?

Invitation materials and discussion questions are taken from Serendipity Bible