

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE
TERM 1 2024
PART 1



AMAZING GRACE

ROMANS 1 - 11

8. According to these verses, what two things does the gospel message do?

9. According to these verses, who is the gospel for? Which factor matters and which factors don't matter?

10. If someone asked you to define "the righteousness of God" (v17), what would you say?

Consider all we've read today.

11. What reasons and motivations can you see here telling others the news about Jesus?

Notes & Prayer Points

Study 2: Romans 1:18-27

We usually don't like the idea of an angry God. But the apostle Paul doesn't hesitate to describe the depth of God's anger and wrath against humankind. It shows the hopeless state we're in and the wonder of salvation which we will see from 3:21 onwards.

1. When we think of our non-believing neighbours, colleagues and friends, why is it often hard to believe that God is angry with them?

Read Romans 1:18-20

2. God's wrath (his righteous anger) is against those who *suppress the truth by their wickedness*. From the passage, what truth about God is being referred to and how do people know this truth?
3. Why does this mean that people are without excuse before God, even if they haven't heard the gospel of Jesus?

Read Romans 1:21-27

4. In the following verses, how do people relate (or fail to relate) to God?
 - a. 1:21 -
 - b. 1:23 -
 - c. 1:25 -
 - d. Where do we see these things occurring in our modern world?

- e. How does this help us appreciate the seriousness of the offense towards God?
5. What is the consequence that God grants in response to humanity's dishonour of God (see vv. 24, 26, 28)? What do you think about the fairness of this consequence?
6. Paul does not discuss the grace of God (3:21-5:21) until he has discussed the judgment of God (1:18-3:20). Why would he follow this order?
7. What do these verses have to say about the notion that people are basically good?
8. How might this passage make you less ashamed of the gospel (1:16) and more eager to share it?
9. If verses 21, 23 and 25 outline a life that deserves the wrath of God, what might a life that is pleasing to God look like?

Notes & Prayer Points

Study 3: Romans 2:1 - 3:20

1. **Quick warmer question:** As humans we often judge other people and think they are worse than us due to their opinions or their behaviour. What are some flashpoint areas where we see people judging others in today's world?

At the end of chapter 1 the apostle Paul has explained how the wrath of God is being revealed against wicked people ("them"). In this next section he reveals how all people ("you") fall under the wrath of God without Jesus. This is a long passage so we won't cover every section.

Read Romans 2:1-4

2. We ourselves are often tempted to look at other people and condemn their way of thinking or their behaviour. What does this passage say to us in those moments?
3. Why is God's judgment of people different to our judgment of people (vv. 2-3)?

Read Romans 2:5-11

4. The criterion for God's judgement is clear: God 'will repay each person according to what they have done' (v. 6). Fill in the table of God's judgement

	People's actions	God's action
v. 7		
v. 8		

5. Without Jesus's salvation, is there anyone who qualifies for the first category (v. 7)?
6. From this paragraph, why is God's judgment described as righteous (v.5)?
7. How does it make you feel when you realise that you are deserving of God's wrath because of the way you have treated him and lived your life?

Read Romans 2:17-24

8. Paul now turns his attention to the Jews of the first century. Why are they too under the wrath of God, despite being God's original chosen people?
9. Read verses 28-30. What is the criteria for being a true Jew? How might this apply to Christians today?

Read Romans 3:9-18

10. Paul uses the Pharisees' technique of quoting lots of scriptures to make his point. What is the point he is making here?
11. How must this change the way we see...
 - a. ourselves?
 - b. other people?
 - c. the gospel of salvation?

Notes & Prayer Points

Study 4: Romans 3:21 - 4:25

1. **Quick warmer question:** If you were a boastful person, what personal characteristic would you be inclined to boast about?

Read Romans 3:20-26

2. This is a dense paragraph! Are there any words you don't know, or are vague about their meaning? Discuss these with the group and work out some clear definitions.
3. What has God done to deal with the problem of our sin? Which different aspects does Paul mention and how do they fit together?
4. How could you use these ideas about Jesus' death to comfort a believer who feels guilty or ashamed about their sin?
5. Paul is keen to show God's righteousness – that God does what is right. According to Paul, what “unjust” situation is resolved by the death of Jesus?

Read Romans 3:27-31

6. Paul says that boasting is excluded. In his original context, what kind of boasting is he talking about? Why is it unfounded?

7. What kinds of boasting does the gospel undermine today?

8. A friend says “anyone who is sure they will go to heaven is arrogant and presumptuous”. How could you use this passage to answer this objection?

9. Paul is talking in this chapter about being justified only by faith. What does he say about how the law of Moses relates to this?

In chapter 4, Paul shows how the idea of justification by faith actually goes all the way back to the beginning of Jewish history in the Old Testament. We'll try to walk through this quickly without getting bogged down in the details.

10. To get the back-story clear, quickly look up the Old Testament references and fill in the blanks in this timeline

Genesis 12:1-3	Genesis 15:6	Genesis 17:10		Exodus 20-23
God calls _____ and promises to make him into a g_____ n_____	With the promise still unfulfilled, “Abraham _____ the Lord, and he counted it to him as r_____”	C_____ is given as sign of the covenant	(Gap of about 430 years)	The _____ is given through Moses

Read Romans 4:1-8

11. According to Paul, on what grounds was Abraham justified?

Read Romans 4:9-17

12. In Paul's argument here, who are the people who truly have Abraham as their father, and are counted as righteous like him?

Read Romans 4:18-25

13. How does the description of Abraham's trust in God's promise make you feel?

14. Paul has been responding to the idea that something extra, beyond faith in Jesus, is necessary to be counted as righteous. How has the example of Abraham countered this? Put into your own words.

15. Paul says "the words 'it was credited to him' were written not for him alone, but for us, to whom God will credit righteousness – for us who believe... (v23-24). Finish by giving each group member a chance to own this truth by saying "[my name] believed God, and it was counted to [him/her] as righteousness".

Notes & Prayer Points

Study 5: Romans 5:1-19

1. **Quick warmer question:** Imagine someone asked you: “I need you to help me with something. It will involve dying.” What kind of person would it have to be for you to agree to this request?

Read Romans 4:23 – 5:5

2. Fill in the table with things mentioned in the passage. You might like to add arrows to show the connections between them.

What has happened in the past	What we have now	What we will have in the future

3. Paul says “suffering produces perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope”. Has that always been the case for you and for people you know? What do you think we need to do for this sequence to actually take place?
4. Do you “glory in your sufferings” (v3)? Why or why not? Is there some perspective from Romans 5 that can help you?

Read Romans 5:6-8

5. How does Paul describe our state before Jesus died for us?

6. Is this how you see yourself apart from Christ, and others who don't trust in Jesus? What makes it hard to believe this? What can help us hold to this truth?

7. How does Jesus' death reveal the extent of God's love?

Read Romans 5:9-11

8. Imagine a friend says "I do trust Jesus, but I'm worried that on judgement day I might miss out and not be saved". How could you use this part of Romans to reassure your friend?

Before reading on, consider this:

9. What are some situations in life where the actions of a representative leader have implications for the whole group under him or her?

Read Romans 5:12-19

10. Why is death in the world?

11. How are Adam and Christ similar?

12. How is Christ's gift different to Adam's trespass?

13. What reasons to rejoice are we given in this chapter? Spend some time praising God for all we have in Christ.

Notes & Prayer Points
