

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE
TERM 1 2024



PART 2

AMAZING GRACE

ROMANS 1 - 11

Study 6: Romans 5:20 - 6:23

1. **Quick warmer question:** Think of a time when you invented a rule, or somebody gave you a rule to follow. What was the purpose of the rule?

Through all of Romans, the topic of the law of Moses has been in the picture. The law is a good thing in itself - "the embodiment of knowledge of truth" (2:20) and the "very words of God" (3:2). However: "No one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin." (3:20). In today's passage he picks up this topic, and then deals with a possible mis-application of it.

Read Romans 5:20 - 6:1

1. According to this passage, why did God give Israel the law?
2. As sin increased, what else happened?
3. Does the question asked in 6:1 make sense to you? Have you ever asked this kind of question?

Read Romans 6:1-14

- 4. “Jesus died, so you don’t have to”. Is that what this passage is saying? Explain.

- 5. According to this passage, what does Jesus share with us?

- 6. What does this passage say about Jesus’ resurrection? (See verses 9-10)

- 7. Elsewhere, the Bible explains that Jesus’ bodily resurrection is the grounds for our bodily resurrection in the future. But this passage is speaking about a different kind of resurrection in our lives. What is it?

- 8. “We no longer have to keep the law to be right with God. You don’t have to do anything – just have faith in Jesus”. Discuss.

Read Romans 6:14-23

- 9. How does Paul describe our previous identity? What did it lead to?

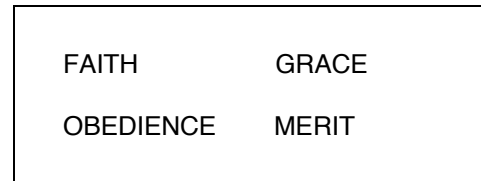
- 10. How does Paul describe our current identity as Christians? What does it lead to?

- 11. Paul says “when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey” (verse 16). What does it look like to “offer yourself as a slave to sin”?

Consider the whole of chapter 6

- 12. “A true gift comes with no strings attached”. Do you agree? How does this passage address this claim?

- 13. On the diagram below, draw a circle around ideas that belong together. Draw a double-headed-arrow ↔ to indicate ideas that are opposites.



- 14. This passage has urged us to “offer every part of ourselves to God as an instrument of righteousness” (verse 13). Reflect privately and think about the different aspects of your life. Can you think of an area where you are still “offering yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness” (verse 13)? Pray about these things.

Notes & Prayer Points

Study 7: Romans 7:1-25

This chapter is all about 'the law' - that is, the first five books of the Bible known as 'torah'. Paul is speaking in this chapter to 'those who know the law' (verse 1), to explain the effect of sin on the law and our need for rescue.

Read Romans 7:1-6

1. Which group of people is Paul addressing this passage to?
2. Verses 1-3 make the point that a person is only legally bound to something until they die. In what sense has Paul's readers 'died'? (See verse 4)
3. If they have died (in Christ), what does that mean to their binding to the law? (See verses 5-6)
4. We Christians today have never been bound by the law, but we were bound by our sinful nature. Read back over Romans 6:17-19. What has happened for us and what does that mean for our life now?

Read Romans 7:7-13

Paul now addresses the question of whether the law is sinful. In verse 12 he says it is holy, righteous and good. It reveals God's good will for his Old Covenant people. However, that's not all the law does to the people...

5. What happens when sin meets the law/commandment?

6. How does a law that should bring life actually bring death? What type of death do you think is being referred to here?

Read Romans 7:14-25

There is much debate over who the "I" is in this passage.

7. Go through the passage and list the ideas and phrases that suggest that the person being referred to may be...

...a Christian	...not a Christian

8. While this passage probably isn't referring to a Christian, it certainly may resonate with our personal struggles with sin. Spend a few moments of quiet reflection and write down the areas of life and the sins where you struggle most.

9. Split into groups and read one of the passages below. What truth is being communicated? How does that assist us in times we feel helpless in our struggle with sin?

- Titus 2:11-14
- Colossians 3:1-4
- Titus 3:4-8
- Ephesians 2:8-10

Notes & Prayer Points

Study 8: Romans 8:1-17

1. **Quick warmer question:** If you hear the phrase “Holy Spirit”, what 1-2 words come immediately to mind?

Read Romans 8:1-4

These verses are a bit of summary of what Paul has said so far.

2. What is the problematic situation that God has addressed?
3. What has God done? Summarise it in your own words.
4. How are Christians described here? Do you feel like this describes you?

Read Romans 8:5-11

5. What different labels does Paul use for the Holy Spirit in verses 9-11? What does this teach us about him?

Paul describes two “realms” in this section – the “realm of the flesh” and the “realm of the Spirit”. Importantly, this is not a contrast of “physical” vs “spiritual”. “Flesh” is a word Paul uses to refer to the sinful unredeemed state of humans, in contrast to the renewed bodily existence that we will experience in Christ by the Holy Spirit.

6. What are the main characteristics of each realm?

Realm of the flesh	Realm of the Spirit

Notes & Prayer Points

7. Do Christians currently experience *all* the blessings of the realm of the Spirit?

8. Some people claim that there are two kinds of Christians – regular Christians and “Spirit-filled” Christians. How does this section undermine such a view?

Read Romans 8:12-17, then consider the overall passage we’ve read today

9. What works of the Spirit are mentioned in today’s passage?
Which one are you most appreciative of?

10. What does this passage urge us to do, and how does it encourage us in this task?

Study 9: Romans 8:18-39

In the first half of Romans 8 last week, we heard about all the blessings we already have in the 'realm of the Spirit'. As we read on today we will explore the blessings that are yet to come, and the difference that makes today.

Read Romans 8:17-27

1. How does Paul describe the current state of creation?
2. Does this description of the created world line up with your own observation and experience?
3. Where does Paul mention the work of the Holy Spirit? What do you think he means?
4. What lies in the future for creation, and what lies in the future for Christians? What is the connection between them?

5. Verse 23 mentions Christians 'groaning' as we await the 'redemption of our bodies' (v23)? How could this impact the way we deal with sickness and frailty in life? How would this contrast with the way others respond to these challenges?

Read Romans 8:28-30

6. How does verse 28 make you feel?
7. Verse 29 begins with "for", showing a logical connection with the previous sentence. How do verses 29-30 help us understand the "good" mentioned in verse 28?
8. Verse 30 describes a "golden chain" of God's saving activity. How does this impact our sense of security as Christians?

Before reading the final passage, discuss:

9. What are you most inclined to fear:
 - being excluded?
 - being condemned?
 - being unloved or forgotten?
 - being poor/hungry/in need?

Read Romans 8:31-39

10. How does this passage address the fears listed above?

In verse 36 Paul quotes from a psalm about inexplicable suffering. In the psalm, God's people were being defeated by their enemies and were crying out: "Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep? ... Why do you hide your face and forget our misery and oppression?" (Ps 44:23-24).

11. How does what Paul writes in Romans transform our experience of suffering?

12. Finish by turning this paragraph into a prayer of thanks and praise. Assign a verse to each person to work on. You can turn rhetorical questions into statements – for example verse 31 "Thank you Father for being for us, so that no one can stand against us". After everyone has had a few minutes to work on their allocated verse(s), pray the combined prayer together.

Notes & Prayer Points
