

FORGIVEN & FREE



from Romans, a letter in the Bible

Through this series we'll be working our way through the Biblical letter of Romans. We'll explore themes of forgiveness, freedom, hope and grace.

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Title: All have sinned, all are welcome

Date: 30th April 2023

Speaker: Paul Hatton

Site: City West

Bible reference: Romans 1:18-3:20

Overview

In Romans, Paul unpacks the gospel and the implications for us personally and as a community. But, before Paul gets to the good news he seeks to level the playing field: he wants to establish that no one has an advantage when it comes to salvation - that all have sinned, all are under sin, all are accountable to God and will face judgement. Paul levels the field through a stripping of our defences: the things we might say to 'justify' ourselves.

The righteousness of God

- Read 3:21-26 - What is the righteousness of God and how do we receive it from God? (It's his perfect holiness, justice and goodness. It's received by faith)
- Encourage people to speak personally about their experience of receiving his righteousness by grace. Do people find that easy? Does their desire to justify themselves get in the way?

Slavery and sacrifice (vs 24-25)

- Read verses 24 and 25 again.
- 1/3 of the population would have been slaves in the 1st century AD. Many captured in foreign lands, brought to Rome as human machines. How would they have received the news of this spiritual liberation in Christ?
- In what ways can we make sure we live from a position of liberation rather than enslavement? How does the exodus story & the passover point towards Jesus?

It's completely 100% FREE! (vs 24-25)

- Read verse 24
- **Grace analogy:** Imagine a drowning man. He is struggling to stay afloat, and he is about to give up hope. Suddenly, a rescuer jumps into the water and pulls him to safety. The man is grateful for the rescuer's help, but he did not earn it. He did not do anything to deserve it. The rescuer simply gave his help freely, out of love. It would be ridiculous for the drowning man to claim he did anything to save himself.
- How does this protect us from boasting or judgmentalism? Are we ever tempted to do this things? If so, why? And how does this message of grace protect us from it?
- Pray together, thanking him for his gift of grace, through Jesus and pray for one another to walk in the good of it.

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