



ROMANS

Strong faith for life



- Romans destroys our “box” of understanding God and allows us to **discover** the depths of God we have been missing.

Discovering who Paul is:

Acts 8-28

They rushed at him and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. Acts 7:57-58 (NLT)

Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord’s followers. Acts 9:1 (NLT)

As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?” Acts 9:3-4 (NLT)

How do we deal with a sinful past?

- The way we deal with our sinful past is with **God’s grace**.

God’s grace is this:

God has given us what we **need**, not what we deserve.

God has removed our sins as far from us as the east is from the west. Psalm 103:12 (NLT)

I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins. Hebrews 8:12 (NLT)

If we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness. 1 John 1:9 (NLT)

Until I finally admitted all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide them. I said to myself, “I will confess them to the Lord.” And you forgave me! **All my guilt is gone**. Psalm 32:5

- God’s grace is needed for my **current** condition.

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. 1 Timothy 1:15 (NLT)

Religion will make us prideful, while relationship with Jesus will make us **humble**.

For I owe a great debt to you and to everyone else, both to civilized people and uncivilized alike; yes, to the educated and uneducated alike. So, to the fullest extent of my ability, I am ready to come also to you in Rome to preach God’s Good News. For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is God’s powerful method of bringing all who believe it to heaven. This message was preached first to the Jews alone, but now everyone is invited to come to God in this same way. Romans 1:14-16 (TLB)

Two ways we can be indebted to someone:

We can be indebted to someone because we **borrowed** something from them.

We can be indebted to someone because they gave us something to **give to others**.



TO CREATIVELY LOVE AND LEAD PEOPLE IN A GROWING RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS.

Questions that can be used in Connection Groups:

These questions also work well for personal time with God.

- What scripture and/or point spoke most to you from the Talk on Sunday? Explain why?
- How do we put our understanding of God in a “box”? Are you guilty of “boxing” your understanding of God?
- What are some things that were shared in the Talk that stood out to you about Saul/Paul?
- Put yourself in Saul’s shoes for a moment. After he experienced the blinding light on the road to Damascus, he spent three day alone. What might Paul have been dealing with?
- We all have a sinful past. How does God’s grace help us to not live in guilt or shame?
- Why is shame and guilt so dangerous?
- Read 1 Timothy 1:15. Why do we need God’s grace for our current condition? Why didn’t Paul say “I used to be the worst of them all” ?
- Paul’s life was marked by pride until He met Jesus. How does our encounter with Jesus create humility within us?
- Read Romans 1:14-16. What does Paul say that stands out to you?
- Do you, like Paul, feel indebted to those that don’t know God’s grace?

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Today's Talk..



Our Need For God's Grace

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