

ROMANS NEVER ENDS | DEVOTIONAL | WEEK 2

Viewing the gospel as a story means understanding that the story God has authored is still being written today. As we saw last week, God had a plan from the moment the world was created to the moment Jesus walked out of the tomb, triumphing over sin and death. But the story didn't end there! It continued to unfold through the apostles like Peter and John and, years later, through the life and transformation of Paul, who was once Saul, a persecutor of Christians.

Here's the most amazing part: You and I are part of that same story. The gospel isn't just an ancient narrative; it's alive and active, playing out in real time through our lives. The same God who called Paul to share His message with the world is calling you to live out His truth in your own unique way.

This week, I want to invite you to delve deeper into the story—not just Paul's or the stories in Romans, but your own. As you read through Romans Chapters 1–3, reflect on how your personal life connects with the themes and people described:

- Do you resonate with Paul's passion for the gospel and his longing to share it boldly?
- Are you convicted by the descriptions of sin and humanity's brokenness in Romans 1 and 2?
- Does Chapter 3's message of God's righteousness and grace remind you of the transformative power of the gospel in your life?

Wherever you find yourself, remember this: You are a character in God's ongoing story of redemption. The same power that raised Christ from the grave is at work in you today. The same grace that saved Paul is extended to you. And the same God who authored this story invites you to walk with Him as it continues to unfold.

Let's explore Romans Chapters 1–3 this week with this question in mind: *How is God's story intersecting with my story right now?* As you reflect on the truths in these chapters, allow them to shape not only your understanding but also your daily actions, thoughts, and decisions. The story isn't just about Paul or the Roman church—it's about you, too. How will you step into the role God has for you in His great story?

Day 1 and Day 2: Read Romans Chapter 1

As we examine this "story" or retelling of Paul's instruction to the churches of Rome, we find the key exposition laid out in Chapter 1. Paul begins by introducing himself, stating

who he is, what his role is, and ultimately by whose authority (God's) he ministers to the church congregations of Rome.

As you build a picture of Paul and his character, what stands out to you about his background? In what ways do you relate to Paul or his story?

Reflection Questions

1. What does Paul mean when he says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel"? Why do you think he begins with this statement?
2. How is the righteousness of God revealed through faith (v. 17)? What does this mean for your personal faith journey?
3. According to verses 18–20, why is humanity without excuse when it comes to knowing God?
4. What does Paul identify as the root cause of humanity's sin (vv. 21–23)? How do you see this play out in the world today?
5. Verses 24–32 describe the consequences of turning away from God. How can you guard your heart against these pitfalls?
6. What does this passage teach about the seriousness of sin and God's judgment? How does it highlight the need for the gospel?

Personal Reflection

This past week, Pastor Chris visualized Romans as a courtroom. In Romans 1:21-23, Paul writes:

"For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles."

Where in your life do you see "good" things being misused or distorted from God's design? Are there areas where you've allowed these things to take the role God should have in your life?

Application

Pastor Chris described the "heathen" as the first character in this part of the story. When you think of this character described in verses 21–27, what image comes to mind? In what ways do you relate (or not relate) to this character?

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for making me a part of Your story of redemption. Help me trust You, surrender my heart, and live boldly for the gospel. Open my eyes to areas that need transformation, and give me courage to reflect Your grace in my life. Thank You for Your mercy and love. Let my life honor You and shine Your light to others.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 3 and Day 4: The Hypocrite

Read Romans Chapter 2. Paul confronts the trap of hypocrisy, reminding us that when we judge others, we condemn ourselves because we often do the same things.

Reflection Questions

1. How does Romans 2:1-3 compare with Jesus' teaching in Matthew 7:1-5 ("Judge not, that you be not judged")?
2. In Romans 2:2, God's judgment is described as righteous. How does His standard for justice differ from human judgment?
3. Romans 2:4 emphasizes that God's kindness leads us to repentance. Why is kindness, rather than fear, a significant motivation for repentance?
4. How does Romans 2:3 challenge the belief that outward morality or religiosity can shield someone from God's judgment?

Personal Reflection

What areas in your life are easy to judge in others but harder to admit in yourself? How can you ask God to reveal these areas to you?

Day 5 and Day 6: Read Romans Chapter 3

Paul emphasizes in Romans 3:23-24 that everyone, no matter their background, is in need of grace:

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus."

Reflection Questions

1. How does Paul highlight that both Jews and Gentiles are equally in need of grace?

2. Romans 2:4 and 2 Peter 3:9 reveal God's patience and kindness. How do these verses change your understanding of His character?

Personal Reflection

How does the courtroom imagery in Romans 3 help you understand the gravity of sin and the gift of grace?

Application

How does knowing that God's gift is free inspire you to share the gospel? Reflect on how grace transforms your daily life in terms of how you think, act, and love.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for Your endless kindness and grace. While I was still lost in sin, You sent Jesus to take my place. Help me live each day with a heart full of gratitude, reflecting Your love to others.

In Jesus' name, Amen.