

CEC Bible Study: Romans

Session 4: Romans 4 – 6
Aug. 26, 2020
Christ Episcopal Church
Cape Girardeau, MO

Group Introductions

- Any newcomers?
- Recap of previous week(s)
 - Discussion Notes: [Week 1](#); [Week 2](#); [Week 3](#)

Opening Question: What Role Should the Law of Moses Play in the Life of a Christian?

Romans 4: The Example of Abraham

- Faith(fulness) vs. Works (of the Torah): What “justifies” a person to God? ([4:1–25](#))
- Abraham’s faith(fulness): [Gen. 15:1–6](#)
- Abraham’s circumcision (fulfillment of covenantal Law): [Gen. 17:1–14](#)
- Which came first? Which is more important?

Romans 5: Sin, Reconciliation, and the Grace of God in Christ

- How Jesus reconciles us to God ([5:1–11](#))
 - Justified by faith *in* Christ? Or justified by the faithfulness *of* Christ?
 - The Greek phrase πίστις χριστοῦ (*pistis christou*) may be translated *either* as “faith *in* Christ,” *or* as the “faithfulness of Christ”
 - Which option makes the most sense to you?
- The Sin of Adam vs. the Gift of Christ ([5:12–21](#))

Romans 6: If We Are Justified by Faith(fulness) and Not the Law, then What Good Is the Law in the First Place?

- Paul: If God has shown God's power in overcoming sin and death by the giving of his Son, does this mean we should intentionally transgress the law so that God's grace might be “worth it”? ([6:1–4](#))
 - “By no means!” ([6:2a](#))
- Moral Exhortation: “Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies...” ([6:12](#))
 - What does Paul understand “Sin” to be?
 - Beverly Roberts Gaventa: [“The Cosmic Power of Sin in Paul’s Letter to the Romans”](#) (YouTube video)
- Christ has freed us from slavery to sin ([6:15–23](#))
- “The wages of sin is death...” ([6:23](#))
 - How do you interpret this claim? If you were raised in the church, how was this verse explained to you?
 - Is this a divine threat, or a simple statement of fact?
 - What is this “free gift of Christ,” and to whom does this gift belong?