

LIFE Groups: Autumn 2025

Week 4 - The Heart of Romans



The Faith of Jesus & Faith in Jesus

As Pastor Tim continues this series studying Paul's letter to the believers in the church at Rome, we now move into chapters 3 & 4, where Paul shares the heart of the Gospel message he has been called by God to proclaim - to both Jews and Gentiles!

1 - "Check-in" with your Group -

Invite each person to share briefly about how their week is going. Remember that your group is a safe place to share in a supportive community!

2 - Watch Pastor Scott's Video #4 on "The Heart of Paul's Message"

3 - Sermon discussion & Scripture reading

Consider Pastor Tim's message together -

- What parts of this Sunday's message spoke to your heart?
- What were some vital "Holy Spirit insights" for us at EagleNaz as a church?

Have someone read Romans 3:21-24 -

- **"Now"** God has revealed and disclosed His righteousness and faithfulness, through what Jesus has done. It's interesting that Paul, a Jew trained in interpreting Scripture, notes that the revelation is not through the written word, but through the life and death of Jesus - what does this say to you?
- Paul writes that "the Law and the Prophets" (the Hebrew Bible) does point to God's righteousness, but now Jesus fully discloses it. Paul uses a Greek phrase in v.24 (*dia pisteous iesou Christou*) that can be read as "the faith of **OR** in Jesus Christ". Paul appears to use this phrase on purpose to create a dual meaning:
 - **"faith of Jesus"** - Because Jesus was faithful to obey all that God asked Him to do, it shows us the depth of God's righteousness and faithfulness...
 - **"faith in Jesus"** - When **we** have faith in Jesus' finished work, we receive His salvation and are declared righteous - not by our work, but through Jesus'.
 - **How do these readings, taken together, speak to you about the Gospel?**

Now read Paul's full thought in Romans 3:21-27 -

- **Redemption** is available because Jesus faithfully offered Himself as our "atoning sacrifice" (*hilasterion*) so we could be saved by faith through God's grace. Paul says "there is no distinction, since all have sinned" meaning that both Jews AND Gentiles can **only** be saved by faith in Jesus.
- **Redemption** is a term from the Exodus story, when God used the blood of the Passover lamb to redeem His people from slavery to Pharaoh, AND to rescue them from Death! Jesus' blood now sets us free from slavery to sin, and from Death in the life-to-come.
- Think about The Harvest - how do these ideas guide our thinking about non-believers and how to share the Gospel with them?

Pray together!

- Pray for each other! Pray that the message of Romans 3 is alive in us.



Visit the EagleNaz YouTube Channel for more!

Pastor Scott has recorded additional brief teachings on Paul and Romans on the "Gospel Seeds" YT Playlist, reviewing current discussions among Bible scholars about Paul, his message, and how Paul's Jewish background influenced his writings.

Look for the video called "Gospel Seeds Week 4 - Extra Seeds"!