**Session 3 Outline – Mike Bird**

Backwards through Romans

**Romans 9-11: The Olive Grove Chapel**

* Not doctrine of election.
* Not establishment of Israel in end times.

Romans 9 – Israel in the past  
Romans 10 – Israel in the present  
Romans 11 – Israel in the future

Application

* Christian attitudes towards Jews and Israel – have you seen your local rabbi lately?
* Jewish evangelism (Jews for Jesus, Nostra Aetate, etc.)
* God has washed his hands of no-one (Jews)
* Dangers of presumption (Gentiles).

**Romans 5-8: The Pauline Cathedral**

* Unique to the Pauline Corpus
* Dearth of OT Citations

Rom 5.1-11

* Bridging section
* Recapitulation and preview
* Holy Spirit and hope of glory
* Reconciliation
* Application
  + Evangelism
  + Discipleship in hardship
  + Hope

Rom 5.12-21

* Law did not fix Adam!
* Christ is the new Adam and he alones the Old Adam
* All of humanity in Adam or in Christ
* Super-grace
* 5.20-21 – theme for Rom 6-8
* Application
  + Origin of sin
  + Don’t be in Adam, be in Christ
  + Grace is bigger than your sin

Rom 6.1-23

* Not in Sin (vv. 1-13)
* Not under Law (vv. 14-23)
* Themes of baptism, union with Christ, transformation, and who you serve.
* Application
  + Remember you baptism
  + You are what you serve!
  + Counting yourself dead to sin.

Rom 7.1-25

* Freedom from the law via marriage illustration
* 7.5 = 7.7-25 (law)
* 7.6 = 8.1-39 (Spirit)
* 7.7-25
  + Defence of the Law
    - Is the Law sin? (7.7) & Is the Law death? (7.13)
  + The law reveals sin, but it does not save you from sin.
  + The I/Wretched Man is not a Christian (he’s a slave to sin, no Spirit)
  + The ‘I’ is a composite of Adam, Israel, Paul, God-fearers who with the hindsight of the faith see the struggle they had with the Law.
  + Application
    - The horrifying view backwards (Campbell)

Rom 8.1-39

* Rom 8.1-11: Assurance, and Spirit over the Flesh
* Rom 8.12-17: Adoption to sonship
* Rom 8.18-39: God triumphs over suffering
* Application
  + Spirit and ethics
  + Adoption
  + God works all things for greater good
    - Groaning and grieving
    - Hope amidst hurting

**Romans 1-4: The Citadel of the Gospel**

Rom 1.1-7: Apostle, gospel, greetings

Rom 1.8-15: Travel plans, apology, and grace gift.

Rom 1.16-17: Proposition

Application

* Paul gospelizes the Romans
* Righteousness of God = comprehensive saving power of the gospel

Rom 1.18-32

* Stereo-typical denouncement of Gentile idolatry, immorality, and impurity.
* Knowledge of God in nature
* People exchanged/God handed them over
* Homoerotic behaviour in 1.12-27
  + See William Loader and Preston Sprinkle
  + Homoerotic acts not part of God’s purposes for humanity
  + Not reason for God’s wrath, but an expression of it.
  + Preach to (1) 16 year old boy with SS desire; (2) 50 year old lady with gay daughter; and (3) LGBTI activist who wanders in.

Rom 2.1-29

* Presiding in Judgment (2.1-11)
* Performing works (2.13-16)
* Privileged inherited (2.17-24)
* Partaking of circumcision (2.25-29)
* Themes: Jews and Gentiles are condemned
* Application:
  + Judgementalism
  + Superiority complex
  + I’m a little closer to the throne of God because
  + If you call yourself a Christian.

Rom 3.1-20

* Premise: Divine impartiality and divine faithfulness
* Theme: If God doesn’t judge Israel, then how can he judge the world
* Jews and Gentiles under sin (3.9)
* List of sins in 3.10-18
* Conclusion
  + Law holds world to account
  + No-one justified by works of the law
  + Law only brings knowledge of sin, not its solution.
* Application:
  + Inherited privileges only get you so far.
  + You suck, I suck, everyone sucks in sins, we are suckiness unto death.

Rom 3.21-29

* But now = new moment of redemptive history
* Righteousness of God = Isaiah 51/Psalm 51
* Apart from Torah (not in it), but points to it (prophetic function of Torah)
* All sinners, Jew and Greek
* Three images for salvation: court-room, commercial, and cultic.
* Justification of sinner and of God.
* No boasting!
* Application
  + Preach like Luther
  + End of racism

Rom 4.1-25

* How is Abraham your daddy and grace for the godless (Rom 4.1-8)
* Abraham the father of Jews and Gentiles (Rom 4.9-17), esp. 4.16
* Abraham’s faith (4.18-22)
* Meaning for believer (4.22-23)
* Application
  + Believing means belonging
  + The nature of faith
  + God has one family, not two or three.