

**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.