

# DEEP SIX STUDY

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## ***Jesus in the Letters – “Romans: God’s Surprising Big Idea Revealed”***

**MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS** (You can view the full message on Facebook or at [live.capecodchurch.com/live](https://live.capecodchurch.com/live))

**Opening:** We wrap up the *Jesus in the Letters* series this weekend with a look at Paul’s masterpiece, Romans. *Jesus in the Letters* has showed us how the story of Jesus became the way of Jesus, and Romans captures that like no other letter – it’s the summation of God’s “big idea” for the world!

### **1. Salvation is Here!** (Romans 1:16-17 NIV)

- Paul writes to a church he didn’t plant, to people he doesn’t know, in a place that is hostile to anyone who doesn’t give their allegiance (worship) to the Roman Emperor. In that context, he sums up God’s “Big Idea” for saving people in one verse (1:16): The Gospel is the *power of God* that brings salvation to *everyone who chooses to believe it*.
- Interestingly, we tend to think of salvation as something that was (past event) and something that will be (future reward). “Now you’re saved, and one day something really good is waiting for you.” But we miss the reality that salvation is here and now; we are *being saved*, in an ongoing way.
- The gift of eternal life in Christ comes in a moment of decision, when we choose to believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came to save us from our sins. But then what? Jesus’ answer: “Let’s get started with the renovation I have planned for your house (life)!”
- When Jesus renovates, he doesn’t want to just “tidy up the mess” in our house by cleaning out sinful behaviors, addictions, bad habits, etc. – he wants to totally remake us into a whole new house, filled with abundant life. Our natural question when he does is, “What am I supposed to do with the abundance you’ve given me?” Jesus: “Bless others by living a life of generosity!”

### **2. ...But Not How You Expected...** (Romans 3:21-25, 6:23)

- Paul goes on to clarify a truth that many of us get wrong: salvation (then, now and future) is *not* about what we do...it’s all about what Jesus has done, is doing, and will do. Our job is just to let him in, stay out of his way, and let him do his work. We’re simply called to accept his “free gift.”
- We tend to think we have to “do stuff” (works) to help pay for our salvation. Jesus: “You can’t afford to pay for what I’m doing in your life, so I paid the entire price for you. Just accept the gift!”

### **3. ...And It’s For Everyone, Everywhere!** (Romans 4:9, 10:9-13, 15:5-7)

- Jews and Gentiles were deeply split in Rome – the Jews had actually been expelled from the city for a time. Paul goes straight to the heart of the division and attacks it: all people are saved in the same way – by calling on and believing in the name of Jesus – so all are equal in Christ.
- The family (church) that Jesus is building is made up of all ethnicities, genders, races, and classes; it’s meant to “un-divide” all the divisions that we’ve created in the world. This unified church has one purpose: to display the grace and power of God to a lost and broken world, for his glory.

## ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

*These passages may provide additional insights related to the subject of this week's message. Verses from NLT unless otherwise noted.*

Matthew 25:31-40; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 2:8-10; Ephesians 3:6-7; Titus 3:4-7; Revelation 3:20

Videos of the Week: [Romans 1-4](#) and [Romans 5-16](#) by the Bible Project

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

1. Thinking back as we wrap up the *Jesus in the Letters* series, what were the highlights for you? What letter/message stood out?
2. Before today's message, would you have said that salvation is something that has happened, is happening, or will happen to you? Explain your answer.
3. Many people believe that "being saved" is simply about getting a ticket to heaven when we die. How would you respond to someone who says that being a Christian is just about "believe and wait"?
4. Read Romans 3:21-25 again. Clearly, Jesus "paid it all" for our salvation...but how would you summarize *our* role in the "renovation work" that Jesus wants to do in our lives once we're saved? What does that look like from a practical perspective?
5. How would you respond to someone who asserts that Christianity is a "divisive and exclusive" religion because we insist that there's only one way to be saved and draw close to God?
6. What is the ultimate purpose of our salvation? In other words, why does Jesus take the time and effort to do all the "renovation work" in our lives that he promises to do?